

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 15
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
FPO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July to 31 December 73

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MAAB-15

Sub-Air 73

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Air Base Squadron 15

COMMANDER

LTCOL. J. C. BYRAM, JR.
 (9 July - 31 December 1973)
 Major H. F. Pyle, JR.
 (4 July - 8 July 1973)
 Major D. J. Kiely, JR.
 (1 July - 3 July 1973)

2. LOCATION

MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

PERIOD

(19 September - 31 Dec 1973)

Relocation to MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan

(1 September - 18 Sept 1973)

RTAFB NAM PHONG, Thailand

(1 July - 31 August 1973)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major J. W. SANDERS
 (1 November - 31 DEC 1973)
 Major J. L. CLARK, JR.
 (5 Aug - 6 Oct 1973)
 Major J. H. BUCHANAN
 (3 July - 7 July 1973)
 Major H. F. PYLE, JR.
 (1 July - 2 July 1973)
 (8 July - 4 Aug 1973)

Administrative Officer

CWO-2 R. A. CASTERLINE
 (16 Nov - 31 Dec 1973)
 CWO-3 G. LANE
 (1 Oct - 15 Nov 1973)
 2ndLT R. P. GWINN
 (1 July - 30 Sept 1973)

Legal Officer

1st LT J. F. HUZL
 (21 Aug - 31 Dec 1973)
 2ndLT R. P. GWINN
 (1 July - 20 Aug 1973)

Material Officer

2ndLT C. A. WEBER
 (1 July - 31 Dec 1973)

Communications Officer	CAPT V. L. BURGESS (1 July - 31 Dec 1973)
Training Officer	CAPT C. R. PINO (27 Dec- 31 Dec) 1st LT. R. B. BICKERT (2 JULY - 26 DEC)
Weather Officer	CWO-4 G. W. CHAMPION (1 July - 31 Dec)
TAFDS Officer	WO-1 V. S. CIEPLONSKI (19 July - 31 Dec) 1st LT L. B. COPELAND) (1 July - 18 July)
MATCU-62 Officer-in-charge	CAPT. C. L. LOTT (1 Aug - 31 Dec) CAPT. H. D. HOLLIS (1 July - 31 July)
Maintenance Officer	2nd LT J. C. HALBURNT) (10 Sep - 31 Dec) 1st LT R. ANTI (1 July - 9 Sep)
Assistant Communications Officer	2nd LT N. J. WORREL (1 July - 31 Dec)
Assistant MATCU-62 Officer-in-charge	2nd LT L. D. STAAK (18 Oct - 31 Dec) 1st LT J. T. CANTWELL (1 July - 17 Oct)

4. AVERAGE STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
13	298	3	14	0	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the period 1 July - 31 August 1973, Marine Air Base Squadron 15 continued to provide essential services in support of MAG-15 and Task Force Delta units at RTAFB Nam Phong, Thailand.

The administrative section diligently continued to support the units aboard the base joining 96 new personnel and transferring 52 personnel. Legal processed 35 office hours and 18 court martials.

The Material section continued to improve their requisition efforts. The section's storage area was moved into the newly constructed warehouse providing a much more secure and efficient operation. All accounts held against the units were kept up to date and on schedule.

The utilities section constructed an overhead in the CG Task Force Delta office and living area during the month of July. MABS-15 Material section warehouse was also completed. All other work orders received were also completed during July and August.

TAFDS issued more than 3,010,200 gallons of fuel and worked very closely with the Air Force testing fuel weekly vice the previous policy of testing every 10 days.

During July Crash Crew and Recovery definitely were put to test of professionalism and efficiency. Crash crew responded to a fire at the mess hall as a back up for the fire department. A T-28 crash landed 150 feet short of the runway. The Crash crew responded with four crash and support vehicles, 55 gallons of light water and 575 gallons of water were utilized, the fire was extinguished immediately with only minor injury to the aircrew and minimum property damage. The Recovery section had 139 arrestments of which three were emergencies and 2 were alerts during July. August saw Recovery provide service for 65 arrestments.

Base Operations provided round the clock airfield facilities required to support combat missions. All Nav aids were at peak efficiency and all out efforts were continued to provide safe and efficient flight operations. Necessary minor repairs to the taxiways and runways were continued.

The Food Services Section maintained the dining facility providing a wide range of choice meals and prompt feeding techniques. The section served more than 144,150 meals and over 9,300 midrats to units aboard the station.

Sub Unit One had the task of providing the station with adequate perimeter security and protection. Bunkers and fields of fire were constantly being improved.

Customs effectively processed over 632 passengers and inspected more than 876 pieces of baggage. Customs also forwarded to the U. S. Customs office 50 letters suspected of containing contraband.

The Communications section continued to maintain a highly efficient phone patch capability between onboard units and parent command in Iwakuni. Comm handled 20,763 incoming messages and 7,766 outgoing messages during July and August. Radio maintenance opened 90 TERO's. The wire section answered over 200 telephone trouble calls. During this period a back-up switchboard and field phones were installed to priority numbers. Over 100,800 calls were handled by the Nam Phong Phone system.

The Training section continued to function and implement programs to keep its personnel up to par on the various education, and technical training programs.

During the period of 1 Sep to 18 Sep 1973 all units were involved in the movement from RTAFB Nam Phong to MCAS Iwakuni. Squadron departments and sections reorganized into new working areas, and continues to operate at maximum efficiency completing the retrograde on schedule.

After 18 September through 31 December 1973 the Squadron began to function as a garrison unit and reestablish various priorities.

The Administrative section performed the task of transferring personnel to WETS-17, WERS-17 and the Fleet Augment Program.

The Material Section continued to provide support as required and assisted other sections in the movement, repair, replacement and transfer of equipment. The section conducted extensive training required for the change to the SASSY system. An inventory was held to determine serviceable and unserviceable on hand.

The Crash Crew and Recovery sections transferred the majority of their personnel, maintaining cadre personnel to return equipment to a fully combat status.

TAFDS continued to receive and issue a moderate amount of fuel. Issued fuel for this period amounted to some 1,143,337 gallons of fuel. Various projects were continued and commenced to maintain the unit in a highly professional state of readiness. Projects continued during this period included berm maintenance, fuel sample checks by Naval POL, checking and repair of 150 pound fire extinguishers, and cleaning of gear. A calibration team completed calibration of two-thirds of TAFDS two inch and three inch meters. TAFDS staged a complete system for possible mount out and updated their SOP.

PART III
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

19 Sep to 31 Dec 1973	MABS-15 continued and completed transfer of personnel to WERS-17 WETS-17 and the Fleet Augment Program.
1 Sep to 18 Sep 1973	MABS-15 supported MAG-15 and Task Force Delta in the retrograde to MCAS Iwakuni.
1 July to 31 Aug 1973	MABS-15 continued support of MAG-15 and Task Force Delta at RTAFB Nam Phong, Thailand.
9 July 1973	LtCol J. C. BYRAM Jr. assumed command of MABS-15