

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115  
 Marine Aircraft Group 13  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 96602

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 5750  
 03A10168  
 10 April 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
 (b) WgO 5750.1C  
 (c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl:  (1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology for the period 1-31 March 1968 (C)

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 March 1968.

*G.W. Vaughan*  
 G. W. VAUGHAN

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10 April 1968Part One: Organization Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date</u>
Gerald W. VAUGHAN	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
Carl L. BATTISTONE	Executive Officer	LtCol	1
Jacob W. MOORE	Executive Officer	Maj	2-31
Jacob W. MOORE	Operations Officer	Maj	1
Henry O. GROOMS	Operations Officer	Maj	2-31
Darryl R. GRIFFING	S-1 Officer	Capt	1-31
Robert E. BARKER	S-2 Officer	1stLt	1-31
Denis L. SHORTAL	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
Jay N. BIBLER	Aviation Safety Officer	Maj	1-31
James E. THROGMORTON	Maintenance Officer	Maj	1-31

2. Task Organization and Data

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>	<u>Date of Office</u>
VMFA-115	Chu Lai, RVN	LtCol Gerald W. VAUGHAN	1-31 Mar

3. Average Monthly Strength

## a. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators	14
(2) Naval Flight Officers	15
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4

b. Naval Officers	1
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c. Marine Enlisted	243
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d. Naval Enlisted	4
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e. Total Average Strength	281
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Part Two: Narrative Summary

During the reporting period, VMFA-115 was active in supporting operations throughout the I Corps Area, within the DMZ, in the Panhandle of North Vietnam and Laos. Operations supported, included Kentucky, Niagara, Scotland, Wheeler Wallowa, Lancaster II, Samurai IV, Salina,

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03A10168  
10 April 1968

Muscatine, Jeb Stuart, Worth, Houston, and Napoleon. Missions flown included Close Air Support, Direct Air Support, Visual Reconnaissance and TPQ.

Bomb damage assessment included 61 KBA confirmed and 34 probable, 145 structures destroyed and 33 damaged, 118 bunkers destroyed and 14 damaged, 11 secondary fires and 2 secondary explosions, 13 road cuts, 1055 meters of trenchline destroyed, 1 mortar position destroyed, 8 automatic weapons positions destroyed, 1 anti-aircraft position destroyed, 1 artillery piece destroyed, 2 recoilless rifles destroyed, 1 bridge damaged, 7 baskets of rice destroyed, 1 NVA command post damaged, 1 truck destroyed and 1 truck damaged, and 2 pieces of road equipment destroyed.

During the reporting period, the squadron dropped 1249.02 tons of ordnance. The squadron dropped an average of 40.29 tons of ordnance per day. Ordnance expended included 1630 MK81 GP bombs, 3364 MK82 GP bombs, 176 MK117 GP bombs, 470 MK77 firebombs, 17 CBU 24/B bombs, 19 2.75 inch rocket pods and 29 5 inch Zuni rockets.

On 3 March 1968 Lieutenant Colonel G. W. VAUGHAN, First Lieutenant R. E. BARKER, Captain R. C. SPRINGER, and First Lieutenant A. L. SHERWIN flew a TPQ mission controlled by Plutocrat Bravo. They dropped their bombs on a NVA Regimental Command Post and bunkers destroying 3 bunkers and 3 structures. They also had one secondary explosion and 4 KBA confirmed and 10 KBA probable.

On 8 March 1968 Captain D. L. SHORTAL, First Lieutenant L. A. BIRD, Captain J. W. PROCTOR, and First Lieutenant G. T. WRASSE launched off the hot pad on a mission 8 miles southwest of Quang Ngai. Jake 45 directed the flight against enemy in bunkers. They delivered their ordnance on target resulting in 12 bunkers destroyed, 40 meters of trenchline destroyed, 6 KBA confirmed, and 15 KBA probable.

### Part Three: Significant Events

1. Personnel. One Naval Aviator and three Naval Flight Officers were joined. One Naval Aviator and two Naval Flight Officers were transferred. There was one overseas extension. Ninety-eight percent of the squadron was enrolled in the Savings Bond Program.

2. Awards. Recommendations for forty-one Air Medals and four Distinguished Flying Crosses were forwarded to higher authority. Two single mission Air Medals and one Distinguished Flying Cross were received. There were also nine Meritorious Masts awarded.

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10 April 1968

3. Civil Action. VMFA-115 has been carrying out the Civil Affairs program with increased progress during the month in Long Phu II. The village lies 4 miles southwest of Chu Lai in the district of Ly Tin. The program now consists of road improvements (the widening of several roads along with the digging of drainage ditches), partitioning of the newly constructed dispensary for more efficient use by the doctors, and, of course, the always welcome Med-Cap. The Med-Caps are conducted on a regular basis with the most noted turnout occurring on 25 March 1968. First Lieutenant A. L. SHERWIN, First Sergeant A. G. RICHMOND, and several enlisted volunteers accompanied the Navy Medical doctor, Lieutenant B. A. MALLIN, the dentists, Lieutenant S. W. FISHER and Lieutenant D. C. DAVIS to the village of Long Phu II, and there received over 100 patients.

The results are visible in the good will of the people. On 6 April 1968 Mr Van TRUE, Village Chief of Long Phu II, invited all the senior members of the Med-Cap team to dinner at his house at 1500. The gesture speaks for itself.

4. Air Operations

Total flight hours	693.0
Total sorties	591
Combat flight hours	672.2
Combat sorties	578
High day hours	44.5
High day sorties	31
Average Pilot hours	40.2
Average Pilot combat sorties	34
Average RIO hours	43.2
Average RIO combat sorties	36
Non-Squadron aircrew hours	115.3
Non-Squadron aircrew sorties	99

Captain J. D. WEBER passed the 300 mission mark; First Lieutenant R. P. ROBSON passed the 200 mission mark; First Lieutenant L. A. BIRD, Lieutenant Colonel G. W. VAUGHAN, Captain J. C. HURST, Captain J. R. PFALZGRAF, Captain J. W. PROCTOR, and First Lieutenant A. L. SHERWIN passed the 100 mission mark.

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10 April 1968

5. Training. Aircrew training was conducted throughout the reporting period. Emphasis was placed on In-flight refueling practice.

6. Maintenance

Aircraft Assigned	18 (1-3 Mar)
	19 (3-31Mar)
Average Aircraft On-Board	14
Average Aircraft Availability	9

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