

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

03:JNB:rmc
5750
03A15768
10 Jun 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 May 1968 (C)

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

G. W. Vaughan
G. W. VAUGHAN

VMFA-115 S&C
CONTROL NO. 02846-68

DATE REC'D 10 JUN 1968

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VMFA-115

CMD CHRON

MAY 1968

Part One: Organization Data

1. Commander and Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date</u>
Gerald W. VAUGHAN	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
Jacob W. MOORE	Executive Officer	Maj	1-5
John I. HUDSON	Executive Officer	Maj	6-31
Henry O. GROOMS	Operations Officer	Maj	1-20
Jay N. BIBLER	Operations Officer	Maj	21-31
William J. GRIFFIN	S-1 Officer	Maj	1-31
William A. MCMAHON	S-2 Officer	Capt	21-31
Denis L. SHORTAL	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
Jay N. BIBLER	Aviation Safety Officer	Maj	1-20
John C. HURST	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	21-31
Ehrhard K. A. WINKELBRANDT	Maintenance Officer	Capt	1-20
Ronald G. KROPP	Maintenance Officer	Maj	21-31

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 May

3. Average Strength

a. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators	12
(2) Naval Flight Officers	15
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4

b. Naval Officers 1

c. Marine Enlisted 267

d. Naval Enlisted 3

e. Total Average Strength 302

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 Mameluke Thrust, Allen Brook, Scotland II, Kentucky, Napoleon Saline, Delaware, Nevada Eagle, Jeb Stewart, Lancaster, Wheeler Wallowa, Muscatine, Burlington Trail and Brilliant Dragon. Missions

flown included Close Air Support, Direct Air Support, Visual Reconnaissance, TPQ, B-52 escort, actual and practice Air-to-Air scrambles.

Bomb damage assessment included 30 KBMA; 172 bunkers destroyed; 16 damaged; 195 structures destroyed; 50 damaged; 786 meters of trench line destroyed; 3 bridges destroyed; 16 secondary explosions; 7 secondary fires; 4 road cuts; 2 trail cuts; 1 cave opened; 1 A/A/A position destroyed; 6 mortar positions destroyed; 1 truck destroyed; 13 fighting holes destroyed; 15 rocket motors destroyed; and 1 booby trap destroyed.

During the reporting period, the squadron dropped 1,232.25 tons of ordnance. The squadron dropped an average of 39.75 tons of ordnance per day. Ordnance expended included 1062 MK81 GP Bombs, 3327 MK82 Bombs, 386 MK117 GP Bombs, 468 MK77 fire bombs, 35 CBU-24/B Bombs, 63 2.75" rocket pods, and 468 5.00" rocket pods, and 3,745 rounds of 20mm ammunition.

On 6 May 1968, Lieutenant Colonel G. W. VAUGHAN and Major R. G. KROPP; Captain R. C. SPRINGER and Second Lieutenant S. R. MAJOR launched on a scheduled Close Air Support mission in support of the 27th Marines. Receiving their target from Cowpoke 2, the flight directed their attack against a fortified village. Expending their ordnance of 6 D2A and 6 D9, the flight was credited with 12 structures destroyed and 3 damaged, 3 bunkers and 20 meters of trench line destroyed.

On 13 May 1968, Major J. I. HUDSON and Captain A. F. MARSHALL; Captain J. M. McENCROE and First Lieutenant R. E. HENRY launched from the Air-to-Ground Hot Pad as mission 516. Arriving on target, the flight was directed against a fortified village by Cowpoke 12. Expending all their ordnance, 12 D1A and 6 D9, the mission accounted for 15 structures destroyed and 10 damaged, 20 meters of trench line destroyed, 3 bunkers destroyed, 1 KBMA (confirmed), and numerous secondary fires.

Part Three: Significant Events

1. Personnel. Two Naval Aviators, two Naval Flight Officers, and one ground officer were joined. One Naval Flight Officer and four Naval Aviators were transferred. There were four overseas extensions. Ninety-eight percent of the squadron participated in the Savings Bond Program.
2. Awards. Recommendations forwarded to higher authority included thirteen Air Medals, five Single Mission Air Medals, nine Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Bronze Star, one Navy Commendation Medal, one Navy

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Achievement Medal and two Purple Hearts. Twenty Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, and one Distinguished Flying Cross were received from higher authority.

3. Civil Action. During the reporting period, the VnFA-115 Civic Action Program was able to proceed on its pre-determined course of well cleaning. Two new land pumps were delivered, providing Long Phu II with two wells with hygenic water.

Maximum use was made of the villagers for assistance in well cleaning. In addition Mr True, the village chief, was able to supply a small gasoline-driven pump to extract the polluted water from the well.

The next project is the construction of a tank shower for use of the school children.

4. Air Operations

Total Flight Hours	680.6
Total Sorties	612
Combat Flight Hours	665.2
Combat Sorties	602
High Day Hours	31.4
High Day Sorties	27
Average Pilot Hours	45.1
Average Pilot Combat Sorties	42
Average RIO Hours	44.2
Average RIO Combat Sorties	40
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	140.7
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	146

During the month 1stLt R. E. HENRY passed the 300 mission mark; LtCol G. W. VAUGHAN, Capt J. C. HURST, Capt J. R. PFALZGRAF, Capt R. C. SPRINGER, 1stLt L. A. BIRD, and Capt A. R. EASTMAN all passed the 200 mission mark; Maj J. I. HUDSON, Maj R. G. KROPP, 1stLt J. C. CHURCH, Capt M. C. CONWAY, and Capt A. F. MARSHALL all passed the 100 mission mark.

5. Training. Aircrew training was conducted throughout the reporting period.

6. Maintenance

Aircraft Assigned	18
Average Aircraft On-Board	14
Average Aircraft Availability	8

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