

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

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10 August 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MGO 5750.2
(b) WGO 5750.1C
(c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology for the period 1-31 July 1968

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

G. W. Vaughan
G. W. VAUGHAN

VMFA 115 S&C
CONTROL NO. 03686-68

DATE REC'D 11 AUG 1968

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VMFA-115

CMD CHRON

July 1968

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115

CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1-31 JULY 1968

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Part I. 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
John I. HUDSON	Executive Officer	Maj	1-31
Jay N. BIBLER	Operations Officer	Maj	1-31
William J. GRIFFIN	S-1 Officer	Maj	1-31
William A. McMAHON	S-2 Officer	Capt	1-31
Anthony A. YATSKO	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
John C. HURST	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-13
Everett H. CORSON	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	14-31
Ronald G. KROFF	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 July

3. Average Strength

a. Marine Officers	35
(1) Naval Aviators	17
(2) Naval Flight Officers	14
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4
b. Naval Officers	1
c. Marine Enlisted	252
d. Naval Enlisted	1
e. Total Average Strength	295

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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, and in the Panhandle of North Vietnam. Operations supported included Nevada Eagle, Kentucky, Houston, Mongoose Run, Lancaster II, Jeb Stewart III, Mameluke Thrust, Canton, Lancaster

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West, Dodge City, X-Ray, Eager Yankee, Thor, and Dragon Palace. Missions flown included Close Air Support, Direct Air Support, Visual Reconnaissance, TPQ, and Air-to-Air scrambles.

Bomb damage assessment included 225 meters of trenchline destroyed; 54 structures destroyed; 9 structures damaged; 61 bunkers destroyed; 15 bunkers damaged; 7 secondary fires; 16 secondary explosions; 8 road cuts; 1 boat destroyed; 11 fighting holes destroyed; 4 mortar positions destroyed; 1 gun position destroyed; 1 truck destroyed; and 8 KBMA.

During the reporting period, the squadron dropped 1364.42 tons of ordnance. The squadron dropped an average of 44.13 tons of ordnance per day. Ordnance expended included 20 MK 81 GP bombs, 2,898 MK 82 GP bombs, 111 MK 117 GP bombs, 189 MK 77 fire bombs, 16 CBU-24/B bombs, 361 2.75" rockets, 68 5" Zuni rockets, and 3,555 rounds of 20mm ammunition.

On 14 July 1968, Lieutenant Colonel G. W. VAUGHAN and Major R. G. KROPP; Captain S. P. HUEY and Captain W. A. McMAHON launched from the Air-to-Ground hot pad as mission 524. Arriving on the target, a fortified ville, the flight was directed by Cowpoke 7. Expending all their ordnance, 20 D2Y's, the flight was credited with 4 structures destroyed, 3 bunkers destroyed, and 7 structures damaged.

On 19 July 1968, First Lieutenant R. F. ABRAJANO and First Lieutenant I. A. BASSETT Jr.; Captain D. P. LIGHT and Captain W. A. McMAHON launched from the Air-to-Ground hot pad as mission 542. Arriving on the target, a fortified ville, the flight was controlled by Helix. Expending all their ordnance, 12 D2A's and 6 D9's, the flight was credited with 10 structures destroyed, 5 structures damaged, and one road cut.

Part Three: Significant Events

1. Personnel. Seven Naval Aviators and four Naval Flight Officers were joined along with one ground officer. The squadron transferred one Naval Flight Officer and one ground officer. Also during this period, the squadron joined six enlisted men and transferred 16. There were two overseas extensions, Lance Corporals Richard N. HUHN and David L. KERR. Ninety-two percent of the squadron participated in the Savings Bond Program.

First Lieutenant Steven R. MAJOR, Warrant Officer 2 Norman Miller, Corporal Peter L. BRADESON, and Lance Corporal Donald W. PRESTON were promoted to their present ranks.

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There were also two Marines who re-enlisted: Gunnery Sergeant Jan POLLY re-enlisted for two years and Staff Sergeant Ben E. OWENS re-enlisted for six years.

2. Awards. Recommendations forwarded to higher authority included six Distinguished Flying Crosses, six Single Mission Air Medals, 51 Air Medals, two Bronze Stars, and four Purple Hearts. One Purple Heart and 30 Air Medals were received from higher authority. In addition, Gunnery Sergeant Harold F. JASTER, Corporals Carlos W. HARVEY, Robert A. FINLEY, Theodore M. MATOLA, and Lawrence C. REED received the Good Conduct Medal for honorable service in the United States Marine Corps for the past three years. Corporals John W. COLWELL, Thomas E. SCHMIDT, and Edwin J. VANCE were awarded Meritorious Masts for distinguished service while in this squadron.

3. Casualties. On Saturday morning, 13 July 1968, Captain John C. HURST and First Lieutenant Leonard A. BIRD were killed in action while flying mission 302 near Khe Sanh, South Vietnam.

4. Morale Program. During the reporting period the Enlisted Club had the misfortune of burning beyond repair. Funds are being appropriated to build a new and better club for the men. However, in the interim, a temporary club has been established under an awning next to the MAG-13 Mess Hall. Due to the limited facilities available there, the services at the Group Special Services has been utilized for floor shows and movies. Movies have been regularly scheduled every Sunday through Thursday night.

5. Informational Services. The month of July saw a change in the Officer-in-Charge of VMFA-115's Informational Services. Due to a back injury, Captain Richard T. COX was medivaced and in his place First Lieutenant Thomas J. SINGLETON assumed the myriad details. In his first month at the job, 1stLt SINGLETON turned out 116 Hometown News Releases. In addition, 1stLt SINGLETON was instrumental in having an article concerning an exploit of one of VMFA-115's outstanding pilots, Captain Douglas P. LIGHT, published in the Sea Tiger and bringing to light his heroic flight.

VMFA-115 has been greatly publicized at home through 1stLt SINGLETON's efforts. Upon receiving his assignment, he set out to have individual photographs taken of each individual in the command. With this photograph a summation of the individual's work while in the combat environment was written and forwarded to his home town newspaper.

6. Civic Action. The Civic Action of this command was aided considerably by training both First Lieutenant G. T. WRASSE and his successor, First Lieutenant D. J. MINAHAN. 1stLt WRASSE was assigned to the MACV Civic Action School at Saigon. 1stLt MINAHAN received training at Danang, where

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he attended the III MAF Civic Action School. Both schools reviewed the traditions, customs, and family life of the Vietnamese people.

The increased training of the Civic Action Officers has greatly enhanced the Civic Action program of this command, both in participation and in the knowledge of the need of the people of South Vietnam.

The entire Civic Action Team of VMFA-115 assisted the Med Cap at Long Phu II on each Sunday morning of July and on Sunday, 28 July 1968, the pump at Long Phu II was removed for repairs. Also, plans are being furthered for the construction of a shower and stall at the dispensary in Long Phu II.

The end of the month saw 1stLt WRASSE relinquish his duties to the new Civic Action Officer, 1stLt MINAHAN.

7. NBC Warfare. Sergeant Rodrick M. COX attended the first session of the 1st MAW NBC school at Iwakuni, Japan from 8-13 July. The school stressed the nuclear phases of defense. All phases of field reports and plotting of fallout were thoroughly covered. The duties of the monitor and survey teams were covered in depth with practice exercises in this phase. The location, planning, and operation of a decontamination station was also included subject matter in this course.

Sgt COX had the distinction of graduating in first place in the class of 33 persons. Sgt COX has been assigned as the squadron NBC NCO and will begin a training program for the NBC teams of this unit.

8. Training. With the ever increasing need for minute exactness and constant precision, Marines from this squadron have constantly received both on-the-job training and specialized schools throughout Asia.

Throughout the reporting period, the aircrew members of this squadron have had an increased emphasis on Air-to-Air intercept training. Also, with the need for crew members to work as Forward Air Controllers, and the always present possibility of aircrew members being forced to evade the enemy on land, this command has stressed the importance of sending the officers to Jungle, Escape, and Survival Training (JEST) School in the Philippines and the 5th Air Force Sea Survival School at Numazu, Japan.

Captains D. P. LIGHT and D. J. COONON were sent to the JEST school and Captain A. A. YATSKO to the 5th Air Force Sea Survival School. However, due to adverse weather conditions at both locations neither school was able to be completed.

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For the enlisted men, an NCO leadership program at Okinawa is conducted monthly. Sergeant Andrew F. DOLDGE attended the school which reviews the qualities and concept for the making of a proficient Non-Commissioned Officer in today's United States Marine Corps.

To keep the men at a peak level of performance, technical schools are provided both in-country and out of country. Corporal Sherald TAKAHASHI and Lance Corporal Van K. McCARTHY attended the MK 36 Destructor school at Cubi Point. The school, five days in length, instructs the men in the nomenclature of parts of the MK 36 fuze and its functions. Corporal Stephen M. SIMSON and Lance Corporal Donald BENSON attended classified schools conducted at Danang for certain Avionics equipments with which they work.

The intense program for conducting a Familization Firing Course for weapons possessed by members of this command has been vigorously continued throughout the month. Eighty-three enlisted men Fam Fired the M-14 rifle and three officers Fam Fired the .38 revolver. There remains only 37 enlisted Marines in this command left to Fam Fire their issued weapons.

9. Air Operations

Total Flight Hours	607.7
Total Sorties	530
Combat Flight Hours	570.6
Combat Sorties	506
High Day Hours	30.6
High Day Sorties	27
Average Pilot Hours	26.3
Average Pilot Combat Sorties	22
Average RIO Hours	38.2
Average RIO Combat Sorties	29
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	158.9
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	153

During the month of July, LtCol G. W. VAUGHAN and Maj J. N. BIBLER passed the 300 mission mark. Maj R. G. KROPP, Capt G. B. DAVIS, and 1stLt J. C. CHURCH passed the 200 mission mark. Maj W. J. GRIFFIN passed the 100 mission mark.