

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 122  
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (REIN)  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac  
FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602

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5750  
8 April 1969  
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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (REIN) (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1969  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8A  
(c) GruO 5750.1A

Encl: (1) Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 122 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

  
L. J. WILLIS

YMA-122

Mar 1969

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Marine Aircraft Group 15 (REIN)  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-31 MARCH 1969

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Enclosure (1)

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. COMMANDING OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICERS

| <u>BILLET</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>    | <u>INCLUSIVE DATES</u> |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|
| C.O.          | LtCol       | L. J. WILLIS   | 1-31Mar69              |
| X.O.          | Maj         | D. WOJCIK      | 1-31Mar69              |
| S-1           | Capt        | R. E. LEE Jr.  | 1-31Mar69              |
| S-2           | 1stLt       | D. W. ABRUZZO  | 1-31Mar69              |
| S-3           | Maj         | D. K. HANNA    | 1-31Mar69              |
| S-4           | Capt        | K. W. VADNAIS  | 1-31Mar69              |
| AMO           | Maj         | A. GILLESPIE   | 1-19Mar69              |
|               | Maj         | B. H. DRAFFEN  | 20-31Mar69             |
| ASO           | Capt        | P. A. CRAWFORD | 1-31Mar69              |

## 2. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

## USMC

## USN

| <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>ENLISTED</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 42              | 275             | 1               | 0               |

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Throughout the month of March 1969, VMFA-122 flew a total of 187 sorties comprising day and night conventional weapons delivery, advanced tactics, air combat maneuvering, area familiarization, instrument, test, air intercept tactical weapons, air intercepts against electronic counter measures, close air support, air-to-air missile exercises and ferry flights for a total of 243 hours.

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2. During the first two weeks of March the squadron was concluding an extremely effective weapons training deployment at NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines. During the deployment VMFA-122 flew five hundred four sorties totalling five hundred ninety six hours, qualifying all aircrew in both the air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons delivery phases.
3. Squadron aircrew received a total of 45 hours of intelligence briefings during March. The subjects covered included a FICPACFAC photo interpretation lecture, a resistance to interrogation lecture and a brief on the surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery threat in North Vietnam. The FICPACFAC brief was most informative and updated. the aircrews on recent developments uncovered by photographic intelligence in Laos and the Republic of Vietnam.
4. During the first two weeks of March the squadron concentrated on both the air-to-ground and air-to-air phase of training. The air-to-air aspect of training was highlighted by an intensive advanced tactics combat maneuvering (ACM) syllabus. Included in the training was a supersonic dash to mach two and investigation of aircraft supersonic flight characteristics and maneuverability.
5. The air-to-ground phase of training was highlighted by intensive night bombs and rockets delivery training. The squadron utilized MK-24 para-flares for target illumination, simulating combat conditions. A C-117 flareship provided by Marine Air Group 15 (REIN) and piloted by Major Hoffman and Major Warn provided outstanding illumination of the target area. The technique devised by the flareship crew consistently maintained three illuminated flares over the target throughout the missions, thereby enhancing ordnance delivery, accuracy and flight safety in the target area. The availability of the attached flareship greatly facilitated squadron mission scheduling and successful completion of the sorties scheduled.
6. On 3 March, VMFA-122 extended an invitation to the 523RD Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS), 405TH Tactical Fighter Wing, Clark AFB., Republic of the Philippines, (F-4), to utilize the Wild Horse Creek, Close Air Support (CAS) range and the services of the squadron Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) during VMFA-122 aircraft turn around and maintenance periods. Lt. Colonel WINKELMAN USAF, Commanding Officer 523RD TFS expressed his grateful appreciation for the extremely valuable training provided to his squadron and complimented VMFA-122 on the professional caliber of the TACP's control on the CAS range.

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Enclosure (3)

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7. March 13th the squadron began ferrying aircraft to MCAS Iwakuni via NAF Naha, Okinawa. The movement was completed the 15th with two aircraft remaining at NAS Cubi Point for maintenance. The two remaining aircraft returned to MCAS Iwakuni on the 30th and 31st of March. Ferry of individual aircraft was necessitated by a lack of air refueling capability within 9th MAB.

8. Squadron flight operations at MCAS Iwakuni commenced 21 March with a limited schedule allowing maintenance maximum time to place aircraft in a flyable status. The remaining portion of the month the squadron stressed the air-to-air phase of training. The squadron flew air intercept tactical weapons and electronic counter measures flights, both of which provided the utmost in air intercept training.

## PART III

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

## 1. Personnel

|                      |   |                      |    |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|----|
| Officers Joined      | 6 | Enlisted Joined      | 16 |
| Officers Transferred | 6 | Enlisted Transferred | 25 |

## 2. Administration

Squadron Orders and Bulletins published 7

Savings Bond participation 51%

Officer members of Marine Corps Association - Unknown

Awards received: None

3. Morale/Welfare Programs - a. On March 1, a squadron party was held at Dungaree Beach, NAS Cubi Point, P.I. The menu consisted of hot dogs, hamburgers, draft beer and soft drinks. The event was highlighted by the traditional "dunking" of squadron "key personnel" in the nearby bay.
- b. A deep sea fishing trip was available to squadron personnel on March 7. Ten Marines participated in the trip.

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## 4. Career Advisory/Education/Information

Number of personnel interviewed 2

Number of extensions 0

Number of reenlistments 0

New enrollments in correspondence courses 8

Correspondence courses completed 4

Officers completing Univ. of Maryland extension courses 0

Career Advisory news letters submitted 0

Number of Fleet Home Town news releases, tapes, master sorties submitted 0

## 5. Operations Department

a. The Squadron flew a total of 242.9 hours and 187 sorties for the period 1-31 March 1969.

b. The Squadron flew the following type missions during the month:

Day Bombs and Rockets, Night Bombs and Rockets, advanced tactics combat maneuvering, Area Familiarization, Instrument, Test, Air Intercept Tactical Weapons against electronic counter measures, Close Air Support, Air-to-Air missile exercises, Ferry flights.

c. The Squadron conducted 153 man-hours of aircrew training covering the following subjects:

Night Bombs and Rockets delivery Parameters, Bomb and Rocket Delivery Technique, ACM Lectures, FOD Lectures, FICPACFAC Brief, North Vietnamese Air Forces Brief, Resistance to Interrogation, Iwakuni Course Rules, Squadron Operating Procedures.

d. There were 227 man-hours of basic training conducted during the reporting period.

## 6. Intelligence Section

a. The Squadron aircrew received a total of 45 man-hours of intelligence briefings.

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## 7. Ordnance Section

a. The following ordnance was expended during the month of March 1969:

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 3716 | 20mm Rounds          |
| 89   | MK 77 Fire Bombs     |
| 120  | MK 82 G.P. Bombs     |
| 29   | MK 81 G.P. Bombs     |
| 114  | MK 76 Practice Bombs |
| 330  | 2.75 FFAR Rockets    |
| 80   | 5" Rocket Zuni       |
| 122  | MK 24 Flares         |
| 19   | Aim 9B Missiles      |

## 8. Material Section

|  | <u>BP01</u> | <u>BF09</u> | <u>BP11</u> | <u>BF50</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. Requisition Submitted               | 78          | 0           | 8           | 252         |
| b. Requisitions Completed              | 28          | 0           | 3           | 118         |
| c. Total Expenditure of BP01 for March | \$53,982.97 |             |             |             |
| d. Average Cost per flight hour        | \$ 219.44   |             |             |             |

## 9. Aircraft Maintenance

1. For the reporting period of March 1969 the following is submitted:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Aircraft Assigned   | 20    |
| Operationally Ready | 29.7% |
| NORM                | 16.9% |
| NORS                | 53.4% |

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