


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

03:EWG:tm
5750
03A16169
10 June 1969


From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13

Subj: Command Chronology

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

Encl: (1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology for the period 1-31
May 1969

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure
(1) is submitted for the period 1-31 May 1969.


R. R. NORTON

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
1-31 May 1969

PART I1. Commander and Staff

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------|------|
| NORTON, R. R. | Commanding Officer | LtCol | 1-31 |
| PAIGE, E. C. Jr. | Executive Officer | Maj | 1-31 |
| WELSH, K. H. | Operations Officer | Maj | 1- |
| CAGLE, R. H. | Operations Officer | Maj | 2-31 |
| JACOBUS, N. E. | S-1 Officer | Capt | 1- |
| WELSH, K. H. | S-1 Officer | Maj | 2-31 |
| CRIFE, D. L. | S-2 Officer | 1stLt | 1-2 |
| CARROLL, P. A. | S-2 Officer | Capt | 2-31 |
| CANNAVA, J. L. | Logistics Officer | Capt | 1-31 |
| SHARP, H. F. | Aviation Safety Officer | Capt | 1-31 |
| LEWIS, D. A. | Maintenance Officer | Maj | 1-31 |
| WALLESTAD, J. E. | Flight Surgeon | LtCdr | 1-31 |
| HOLZKAMP, F. W. | Sergeant Major | SgtMaj | 1-31 |

2. Task Organization and Date

VMFA-115 Chu Lai AB, RVN LtCol Robert R. NORTON 1-31 May 1969

3. Average Strength

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| a. Marine Officers | 43 |
| (1) Naval Aviators | 22 |
| (2) Naval Flight Officers | 17 |
| (3) Aviation Ground Officers | 4 |
| b. Naval Officers | 1 |
| c. Marine Enlisted | 248 |
| d. Naval Enlisted | <u>0</u> |
| e. Total | 292 |

PART II

During May, VMFA-115 flew 631 Combat Sorties in support of operations throughout the I Corps area.

Operations and units supported were the First and Third Marine Divisions, First and Second ARVN Divisions, Americal Division, 101st Airborne Division, Second ROK Brigade, the 7th Fleet, Task Force Alpha, Virginia Ridge, Apache Snow, Project Delta, Massachusetts Striker, Bristol Boots, Lamar Plains and Kentucky Jumper.

ENCLOSURE (1)

While supporting these units and operations, the Silver Eagles destroyed 171 bunkers and damaged 33; they also accounted for 116 structures destroyed, 13 damaged; 1 bridge destroyed; 76 secondary fires and 26 secondary explosions; 3 tunnel complexes destroyed; 4 hootches destroyed; 20 meters of trail destroyed; 110 meters of trenchline destroyed; 2 road cuts and 2 trail cuts; 300 meters of treeline destroyed; 1 pier destroyed; 1 truck destroyed and 1 damaged; 2 gun positions silenced; six 50 cal. sites destroyed and 1 site damaged.

To achieve this Bomb Damage Assessment VMFA-115 expended 1,324.01 tons of ordnance. Ordnance dropped by type was:

| | | | |
|------|---------|-------------|-------------------|
| 11 | MK-81 | SE | 250 lb bombs |
| 2892 | MK-82 | SE | 500 lb bombs |
| 916 | MK-82 | Conical fin | 500 lb bombs |
| 579 | MK-77 | | 500 lb fire bombs |
| 241 | MK-83 | Conical fin | 1000 lb bombs |
| 27 | CBU/24 | C/B | |
| 27 | CBU/20 | ROCKEYE II | |
| 365 | 5" Zuni | FFAR | |
| 6 | Aero 7D | 2.75" Pod | |

On 12 May Lovebug 456, with Major PAIGE and Captain PECK in the lead and Captain REDMON and Lieutenant SPOON as number two, was directed to the An Hoa valley area to attack a bunker complex located in a treeline. After the initial passes the enemy were flushed from their bunkers and offered ideal targets. The flight continued to deliver their ordnance on the fleeing enemy eventually accounting for 6 bunkers and 6 structures destroyed along with 6 Killed by Marine Air.

On 25 May Lovebug 461, with Captain BUTTERFIELD and Major BRITTON in the lead and Lieutenant GARSKI and Lieutenant WHITING in the wing position, was instructed to attack an enemy controlled hill that friendly troops were preparing to assault. With friendlies in close contact (50 meters) the flight put twelve 500 lb bombs, three 500 lb fire bombs, and 20mm on the target, forcing the NVA to flee their dug in positions and leaving 3 Killed by Marine Air behind.

PART III

1. Personnel

VMFA-115 welcomed aboard Major CAGLE from VMFA-232 during the month of May.

ENCLOSURE (1)

[REDACTED]

Captain HENDERSON left VMFA-115 for the 1st Marine Division. Lieutenant WASP returned to the 2nd Marine Air Wing. Major SLONE left VMFA-115 to join MWHG-1. Captain BAKER left to take over the Group Awards Officer billet.

2. Casualties

On Sunday morning, 11 May 1969, First Lieutenant W. C. RYAN was killed during an airstrike in support of Task Force Alpha. The pilot, First Lieutenant G. L. BAIN was rescued despite having suffered a broken arm and leg.

3. Operations

During May, Captains HAYNES, PECK and REDMON reached the 100 mission mark. Lieutenants JORDAN, BOOTH and DOBEINS passed the 200 mission mark. Major LEWIS and Captain CARROLL completed their 300th mission and Lieutenant SINGLETON surpassed the coveted 400 mission mark.

4. Bonds

May saw 83% of the Silver Eagles take part in the Savings Bond Program.

5. Morale

In May, 14 officers and men from the squadron enjoyed R&R in AUSTRALIA, HAWAII, THAILAND, HONG KONG, JAPAN and TAIWAN.

6. Promotions

There were 11 Silver Eagles promoted during the month of May. The three newly promoted SNCO's were Gunnery Sergeant's BRIANT and SINGER and SSgt DOLGE. Sgt's COOPER and WOODARD achieved their present rank meritoriously. Cpl's CURTIS, PRESTON, ROBINSON, BORDEPS, OKRAY and LCpl TORRES were also promoted to their present rank.

7. Training

Numerous aircrews took part in the missile shoot at NAS Cubi Pt, Philippines. Major CAGLE, Lieutenant SPYNIOWSKI and Lieutenant BOHLIG attended the Jungle Environmental Survivor Training school also located at NAS Cubi Pt, Philippines.

ENCLOSURE (1)

[REDACTED]

8. Air Operations

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Total Hours | 786.6 |
| Total Sorties | 701 |
| Combat Flight Hours | 704.0 |
| Combat Sorties | 631 |
| High Day Hours | 41.5 |
| High Day Sorties | 34 |
| Average Pilot Hours | 35.9 |
| Average Pilot Sorties | 32 |
| Average RIO Hours | 41.4 |
| Average RIO Sorties | 36 |
| Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours | 64.3 |
| Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties | 59 |

ENCLOSURE (1)