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VMFA-115

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco 96602

S+O 0192-72

COPY 1 OF 7

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10 August 1972

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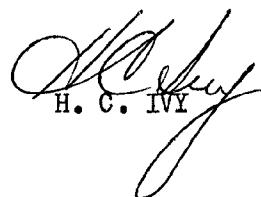
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15
(2) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 January to 30 June 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) WgO 5750.1
(d) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: (1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.


H. C. IVY

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Maintenance Officer	Capt J. J. RICHARDSON	17 April - 19 May
	Maj J. D. HOWELL	20 May - 30 June
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt N. J. HART	1 January - 30 June

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
38	192	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

VMFA-115 started the new year by deploying to Naha, Okinawa on 7 January. While at Naha, the "Silver Eagles" conducted training in four areas - Air Combat Maneuvering, Air to Ground Ordnance Delivery, Electronic Countermeasures, and Radar Intercept/Missile Firing. ACM was conducted within the squadron and against A-4E's from VC-5, while the bombing was done at local ranges. ECM training was conducted with the aid of EA-6A's from VMCI-1 and USAF EB-57's from Kadena AB. Intercept practice was completed with Marine Air Control Squadron 4 acting as the GCI controller. A very successful missile shoot against maneuvering targets was conducted with 16 Sparrow and 4 Sidewinder missiles launched. Air to air gunnery training was also accomplished using the TDU 10/B, Dart towed target. The completion of such varied training at Naha increased the skills and knowledge of all personnel involved and greatly aided the squadron in becoming combat ready.

VMFA-115 received orders to commence an immediate move to DaNang AB, RVN on the morning of 6 April. The "Silver Eagles" were in DaNang to provide close air support for the defending South Vietnamese by the evening of the 6th. After 2 days of briefings by the USAF, 115 flew 12 combat sorties on 9 April. April was almost over when the "Silver Eagles" were greatly saddened by the loss of our Executive Officer, Major T. K. DUFFY, who was killed in a mid-air collision with a VNAF O-1.

On the morning of 11 May, 115 received a request for the scramble of two aircraft ASAP for an emergency mission in Military Region III. Capt. W. J. HOLVERSTOTT, Capt. A. B. TOZZI, Capt. S. R. TOMLINSON, and 1stLt. S. A. HEINRICH were sent to provide CAS in the vicinity of An Loc. Being re-armed and refueled at Bien Hoa AB, these crews flew a total of eight CAS sorties. May was also a good month for BDA. Capt. TOMLINSON, 1stLt. LONG, 1stLt. TRECKER, and Capt. TOZZI received credit for 100 KBA in MR I after the completion of one mission.

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AVERAGE PILOT SORTIES PER MONTH	16.3
AVERAGE RIO HOURS PER MONTH	28.8
AVERAGE RIO SORTIES PER MONTH	21.7

3. OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

After arriving "In Country" on 6 April, the "Silver Eagles" supported the South Vietnamese in their defense against the invading North Vietnamese Army by providing CAS. VMFA-115 provided the majority of this support around the cities of Quang Tri, Hue, Pleiku, Kontum, and Phu Cat. The squadron continued with CAS and also provided interdiction against NVN when the South Vietnamese began their counter-offensive to regain lost territory in May.

VMFA-115 was one of the units participating when the Commandant of the Vietnamese Marine Corps congratulated all units providing close air support for the amphibious landing and helicopter assault, SONG THAN 6-72.

4. ORDNANCE DELIVERED

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER DROPPED</u>	<u>TONS</u>
MK-76	813	9.6
MK-77	50	13.0
MK-82	9592	2546.7
MK-82 (SNAKEYE)	48	13.6
MK-83	198	97.5
ROCKEYE	94	22.3
20 MM	9010	3.6
2.75 FFAR	258	2.4
ZUNI	2645	141.5
MK-110	<u>110</u>	<u>2.8</u>
TOTAL	22,818	2,853.8

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On the morning of 16 June, VMFA-115 began another move. The "Silver Eagles" flew eleven combat sorties leaving from DaNang and recovering at the newly established Nam Phong Royal Thai Air Base. VMFA-115 became the first combat squadron of Task Force Delta to arrive at Nam Phong. On the 17th, our first full day in Thailand, the "Silver Eagles" flew a full combat schedule and began refueling with VMGR-152's KC-130 tankers. This was to become commonplace, as the distance between our home base and the target areas in Viet Nam precluded flying missions with more than a few minutes of loiter time.

VMFA-115 completed the first six months of 1972 with a successful deployment at Naha, Okinawa, and then three months of intensive combat flying in RVN. The "Silver Eagles" led the way into combat at DaNang and in the move to Thailand. The squadron continues to display its typical "Can Do" attitude in our new place of residence, MCAS "Rose Garden", Thailand.

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

For the period of 1 January - 30 June, 29 officers joined the squadron from CONUS, and from other units already in WestPac. Also during that period, 19 officers left the "Silver Eagles" for other duties; including our former Commanding Officer, LtCol K. A. MCFERREN.

2. AIR OPERATIONS

The following is a summary of air operations for the period of 1 January - 30 June 1972.

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	2592.0
TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN	1955
COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS	1128.0
COMBAT SORTIES	900
HIGH MONTH HOURS	505.9 (June)
HIGH MONTH SORTIES	381 (May)
AVERAGE PILOT HOURS PER MONTH	21.6

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a. The following is a complete listing of BDA received by this squadron since it has been providing CAS in RVN (6 April - 30 June).

APC's	1 Damaged
Bulldozers	1 Damaged
Tanks	4 Damaged/4 Destroyed
Trucks	35 Damaged/35 Destroyed
Half Tracks	2 Destroyed
Structures	19 Damaged/10 Destroyed
KBA	116 Probable/297 Confirmed
Bridges	2 Damaged/4 Destroyed
Bunkers	28 Damaged/38 Destroyed
Caves	2 Opened
Trenches	3 Large Destroyed
Road Cuts	19 (Avg. 10 M)
Supply Dumps	8 Destroyed
SA-2	1 Damaged
Large Secondary Explosions	19
Medium Secondary Explosions	106
Small Secondary Explosions	45
Large Fires	1
Medium Fires	45
Small Fires	108

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