

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

3:JER:gln
 5750
 03A21772
 4 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 of 1 July to 31 July 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8
 (c) WgO 5750.1
 (d) GrnO 5750.1D
 (e) Admin 1st MAW msg 280655Z Apr72 (U)
 (f) MAG-15 memorandum 3:JED:ss over 5750 of 14 June 1972

Encl: (1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology for July 1972

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

H. C. Ivy
 H. C. IVY

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03A21772
4 August 1972CONFIDENTIALPART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDERMarine Fighter Attack Squadron 115
(VMFA-115)MAJOR G. DEJONG
1 July - 22 July 1972LTCOL H. C. IVY
23 July - 31 July 19722. LOCATION

1 July - 31 July 1972

Nam Phong Air Base, Thailand

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj G. DEJONG	23 July - 31 July
S-1 Officer	Capt J. W. JACOBSON	1 July - 31 July
S-2 Officer	Capt C. W. HOLMES	1 July - 31 July
S-3 Officer	Capt V. M. RUSSILLO	1 July - 31 July
S-4 Officer	Capt A. B. TOZZI	1 July - 31 July
Maintenance Officer	Maj J. D. HOWELL	1 July - 31 July
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt N. J. HART	1 July - 31 July

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
34	196	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The "Silver Eagles" continued with quality and quantity during the month of July. This was the squadron's first full month in Thailand aboard the not fully developed Nam Phong Royal Thai AB. After getting off to a slow start the squadron ended the month with 540.7 combat hours and 753.6 tons of ordnance delivered. This total marks the highest number of hours flown by the squadron since deployed in April. This record was

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established under most difficult operating conditions here at Nam Phong and speaks well for the individual initiative and team effort of the entire squadron. The squadron had an average of 11.2 aircraft on hand throughout the month. From the 16th through the 28th only 11 aircraft were available, and only 10 were available for the last three days of the month. Even with aircraft assets dwindling, the squadron produced 20 sorties and 27.4 hours on 27 July.

July was a costly month in other respects. As the "Silver Eagles" continued their support of the South Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese increased their efforts against Tactical Air. This was evidenced by two aircraft damaged by enemy 50 Cal and 23MM fire. The majority of sorties flown during July took Anti-Aircraft artillery and/or small arms fire. Through strict flight discipline and employment of sound tactics aircraft attrition was held to two damaged and none lost.

While the Southwest monsoon provided relatively good weather in Vietnam, launches and recoveries at Nam Phong were hindered by low ceilings and the field's lack of IFR capability. All things considered July was a most productive month for VMFA-115.

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

On 5 July, Captain E. J. CHAPMAN and Captain J. P. BROWN left VMFA-115 to work in the operations department of MAG-15. 1stLt B. D. WILSON arrived to join the "Silver Eagles" on 9 July and began flying combat missions on 14 July to join the ranks of "First Tours". On 15 July LtGen METZGER, Commanding General, III MAF, arrived at Nam Phong to inspect the Marine Corps' new base in Thailand. On 22 July, LtCol H. C. IVY arrived and assumed command of VMFA-115 on 23 July. 1stLt M. J. GANIER joined 115 on 22 July, and flew his first combat mission on 27 July. On 29 July, CWO-3 W. L. TREECE was reassigned to H&MS-15 to establish the Group Missile Facility. 1stLt W. W. ROUND joined 115 for his first combat tour on 31 July.

2. AIR OPERATIONS

The following is a summary of air operations for the period 1 July to 31 July 1972.

Total Hours Flown 576.1

Total Sorties Flown 372

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Combat Flight Hours	540.7	
Combat Sorties	338	
High Day Hours	27.4	27 July
High Day Sorties	20	27 July
(19) Average Pilot Hours	30.321	
Average Pilot Sorties	19.5798	
(15) Average RIO Hours	38.4066	
Average RIO Sorties	24.8	
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	50.9	
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	34	

3. OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

The "Silver Eagles" provided close air support for the South Vietnamese during their counter offensive in July. This included support around Hue and Quang Tri as well as bombing known enemy areas from South of Danang to as far North as Dong Hoi, North Vietnam.

4. ORDNANCE DELIVERED

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER DROPPED</u>	<u>TONS</u>
MK-82	2637	705.4
MK-83	10	4.9
ZUNI	824	43.3

5. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

a. The following is a complete listing of BDA received by this squadron for the period of 1 July to 31 July 1972.

APC 1 Destroyed

Bulldozer 1 Damaged

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Trucks	4 Destroyed 7 Damaged
SA-2 Transporter	1 Destroyed
SA-2 Launcher	1 Damaged
SA-2 Missile	1 Damaged
Boats	3 Destroyed
Structures	35 Destroyed
KBA	15
Bunkers	13 Destroyed 7 Damaged
57MM	3 Damaged
82MM Mortar	1 Destroyed
130MM	2 Damaged
Supply Dumps	1 Destroyed
Road Cuts	4 (Average 10M)
POL Fires	1
Large Secondary Explosions	16
Medium Secondary Explosions	36
Small Secondary Explosions	14
Large Sustained Fires	6
Medium Sustained Fires	15
Small Sustained Fires	15

b. Results of 197 Sorties were not observed due to smoke, foliage, or weather.

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

3:JER:gln
 5750
 03A18472
 2 July 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 of 1 June to 30 June 1972
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 (c) Wgo 5750.1
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 G. DEJONG

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2 July 1972

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115
(VMFA-115)

COMMANDER

LTCOL K. A. MCFERREN
1 June - 23 June 1972

MAJOR G. DEJONG
24 June - 30 June 1972

2. LOCATION

1 June - 15 June 1972

DaNang Air Base, Republic of
Vietnam

16 June - 30 June 1972

Nam Phong Air Base, Thailand

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Maj G. DEJONG	1 June - 23 June
S-1 Officer	Capt J. W. JACOBSON	1 June - 30 June
S-2 Officer	Capt C. W. HOLMES	1 June - 30 June
S-3 Officer	Capt V. M. RUSSILLO	1 June - 30 June
S-4 Officer	Capt A. B. TOZZI	1 June - 30 June
Maintenance Officer	Maj J. D. HOWELL	1 June - 30 June
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt N. J. HART	1 June - 30 June

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
38	195	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 opened a new page in the history of Marine Aviation when on the morning of 16 June Lieutenant Colonel K. A. MCFERREN, and Colonel K. OKEEFE left DaNang Air Base in two of the squadron's F4B "Silver Eagles". After completing close air support missions for the embattled forces of the Republic of Vietnam the two aircraft turned west

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and some thirty minutes later recovered at Royal Thai Air Force Base Nam Phong, thus becoming the first combat elements of "Task Force Delta" to arrive in Thailand. Throughout the day other Silver Eagles repeated the procedure until the entire squadron had recovered at the expeditionary strip affectionately known as "MCAS Rose Garden". Perhaps the Commandant had not promised his Silver Eagles a Rose Garden, however... On 17 June VMFA-115 flew the first combat operations from Nam Phong thus establishing Marine Tactical Fighter aviation in Thailand.

With an average of 11.3 aircraft on board the squadron flew a total of 306 combat sorties, raining 700.5 tons of ordnance on the entrenched North Vietnamese army. The 300 miles from Nam Phong to the combat area resulted in significantly increased flight hours per sortie and another first for Marine Aviation in that Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 became the first Tactical fighter unit required to routinely aerial refuel on every combat mission flown. This was accomplished with KC-130 tankers of VMGR-152. The significant tactical lesson learned during the month was that it is entirely feasible to aerial refuel heavily laden F4Bs at a low altitude behind the slow turboprop KC-130 "Hercules".

Thus the month of June 1972 will be remembered in the annals of Marine aviation and the "Silver Eagles" led the way.

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. LtGen METZGER, Commanding General, III MAF, arrived on 2 June for a look at Marine operations in DaNang, RVN. Capt P. M. SINGLETON, 1stLt J. T. ANDERSON, and 1stLt E. H. SULLIVAN joined VMFA-115 on 4 June. All three of these officers had their first taste of combat on 12 June. 1stLt ANDERSON has added to the confusion in the squadron by being promoted to Captain. The two Capt ANDERSON's are differentiated by initials. Captain C. J. CONLON left the "Silver Eagles" on 10 June to become the Operations Officer of the new base at Nam Phong. 1stLt R. V. KRISTEAN joined VMFA-115 on 17 June and started flying regularly in combat (also his first tour) on 23 June. LtCol K. A. MCFERREN, the Commanding Officer of VMFA-115 until 24 June, has rotated back home to attend the Command and Staff College at MCDEC, MCB, Quantico, Virginia. His position is now filled by Maj G. DEJONG. 1stLt C. C. RICE joined the "Silver Eagles" on 29 June.

2. AIR OPERATIONS

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

Total Hours Flown 505.9

Total Sorties Flown 343

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Combat Flight Hours	443.0
Combat Sorties	306
High Day Hours	25.4, 20 June
High Day Sorties	14 - 1, 4, 6, 7, and 20 June
Average Pilot Hours	19.06
Average Pilot Sorties	13.17
Average RIO Hours	27.40
Average RIO Sorties	18.94
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	67.5
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	40

3. OPERATIONS SUPPORTED

VMFA-115 provided CAS for the South Vietnamese in their defense of the cities of Hue, Kontum, and Pleiku. The "Silver Eagles" also provided CAS and interdiction for the South Vietnamese in their offensive to regain territory taken earlier by North Vietnam between the cities of Hue and Quang Tri.

4. ORDNANCE DELIVERED

Type	Number Dropped	Tons
MK-82	2353	624.7
MK-83	149	73.4
ZUNI	28	1.5
ROCKEYE	4	0.9

5. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

a. The following is the complete listing of BDA received by this squadron for the period of 1 June - 30 June 1972.

APC 1 Damaged

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Bulldozers	1 Destroyed	
Tanks	2 Destroyed	
Trucks	13 Destroyed 9 Damaged	
Structures	61 Destroyed 19 Damaged	
KBA	26 Confirmed 10 Probable	
SA-2	1 Damaged	
Supply Dumps	3 Destroyed 1 Damaged	
Bridges	1 Destroyed	
130MM Gun	1 Destroyed	
Mortar	2 Destroyed	
Bunkers	3 Destroyed	
POL Dumps	3 Destroyed	
Trenches	2 Large Destroyed	
Road Cuts	13 (Average 10' M)	
Large Secondary Explosions	6	
Medium	" "	53
Small	" "	1
Large Fires	1	
Small Fires	108	
Sustained Fires	31	

b. Results of 90 sorties were not observed due to smoke, foliage, or weather.

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