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

5750
03A30972
4 November 1972

COMMAND SECTION CHRONOLOGY

1 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 1972

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VMFA-115

Oct 1972

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>		
Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115	LtCol. H. C. IVY		
	1 October - 31 October 1972		
<u>2. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>		
Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nam Phong, Thailand	1 - 31 October 1972		
<u>3. STAFF OFFICERS</u>			
Executive Officer	Maj. J. N. BIBLER	1 October - 31 October	
S-1 Officer	Capt. J. W. JACOBSON	1 October - 31 October	
Intelligence Officer	Capt. C. W. HOLMES	1 October - 31 October	
S-3 Officer	Maj. G. DEJONG	1 October - 31 October	
S-4 Officer	Capt. J. E. DERRICO	1 October - 31 October	
Maintenance Officer	Maj. J. D. HOWELL	1 October - 31 October	
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt. N. J. HART	1 October - 25 October	
	Capt. L. R. MARSH	26 October - 31 October	
<u>4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH</u>			
USMC	USN	OTH _{LR}	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
37	299	Ø	Ø
		Ø	Ø

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 6 October 1972, LtCol. H. C. IVY, Commanding, cited a message from General CUSHMAN, Commandant, congratulating the "Silver Eagles" on being selected to receive the Robert M. HANSEN Award as the "Number 1" fighter squadron in the Marine Corps. As this news was passed to all hands it was a visible morale booster for all personnel.

(C) During October, the "Silver Eagles" continued to fly daily Barrier Combat Air Patrols (BARCAP) in support of U. S. operations against North Vietnam. Through training, more crews were qualified for BARCAP missions, and those already qualified kept proficient by conducting air combat maneuvering training on the return leg of these missions "North". On 24 October 1972, the BARCAP mission was terminated by higher headquarters in conjunction with cessation of strikes above the 20th parallel. The last Marines and "Silver Eagles" to fly the BARCAP on 22 October 1972 were: Captain Kevin O'MARA and Captain Robert RENIER, Flight Leader; Major Jay BIBLER and Captain Mel JOHNSON, Wingman; and Captain Joe ANDERSON and Captain James BALLARD, Airborne backup.

(C) VFA-115 continued to support the South Vietnamese forces with Close Air Support and Direct Air Support missions in Military Region I, Military Region II, and the Steel Tiger and Barrel Roll areas in Laos.

(C) VFA-115 flew 447.6 combat hours and dropped 449.4 tons of ordnance. This rate shows an increase of 10 hours/140 tons over September, but ordnance tonnage remained significantly below the pre-BARCAP months.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

1 October	Sergeant K. W. BAUDRIE was promoted to his present rank.
9 October	Captain W. J. HOLVERSTOTT departed VFA-115 for the Advanced Training Command.
10 October	Captain L. R. MARSH joined VFA-115 from 2nd MAW.

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17 October Major General L. E. BROWN Jr., CG 1st MAW, viewed VFA-115's operations.

17 October Captain J. E. RICHARDSON departed for Cubi Pt to become OIC HAW-15 Det B.

18 October 1stLt. D. A. ECHTERNACH from 3rd MAW.

23 October Captain B. D. WILSON was promoted to his present rank. 1stLt. F. S. LENTZ joined from 2nd MAW.

26 October Captain N. J. HART departed for Amphibious Warfare school.

30 October Sergeant N. YBARRA and Sergeant J. A. LOGAN were presented the Good Conduct Medal.

31 October Sergeant J. B. MIDDLETON was promoted to his present rank.

2. TRAINING

13 - 14 October Safety and Maintenance "Stand Down". Ground training and Aircrew training were conducted on various subjects.

16 October All officers were briefed on the legal and Medical aspects of "Drug Usage".

3. OPERATIONS

1 - 24 October VFA-115 provided Barrier Combat Air Patrols (BARCAP) in support of U. S. Operations in North Vietnam.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The summary of air operations for the period 1 October to 31 October 1972 is enclosed as tab A.
2. The complete listing of bomb damage assessment received by this command is enclosed as tab B.

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3. CMC message 041743Z Oct72 (U) - Notification of selection as recipient of the Robert M. HANSEN Award for fiscal year 1972.

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1. Summary of air operations for the period 1 October to 31 October.

a. Resume of Flight Operations

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	507.0
TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN	351
COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS	447.6
COMBAT SORTIES	303
HIGH DAY HOURS	21.9 29 October
HIGH DAY SORTIES	16 29 October
AVERAGE PILOT HOURS	27.8
AVERAGE PILOT SORTIES	18.4
AVERAGE RIO HOURS	36.4
AVERAGE RIO SORTIES	24.0
NON-SQUADRON AIRCREW HOURS	57.8
NON-SQUADRON AIRCREW SORTIES	42

b. Ordnance Delivered

TYPE	NUMBER EXPENDED	TONS
MK-82	1365	362.4
MK-83	161	54.2
ZUNI ROCKETS	530	31.2
ROCKEYE	7	1.6

TAB A
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2. Bomb damage assessment.

a. The complete listing received by this squadron

Ammo Stacks	2 Destroyed
Trucks	3 Destroyed 5 Damaged
Bunkers	23 Destroyed 6 Damaged
Military Structures	13 Destroyed
KBA	37
Large Secondary Explosions	5
Medium Secondary Explosions	35
Small Secondary Explosions	23
Medium Sustained Fires	10
Small Sustained Fires	11
23MM AA	1 Damaged
37MM AA	1 Damaged
122MM Gun	2 Destroyed
130MM Gun	4 Damaged 1 Destroyed
Field Gun	1 Destroyed
12.7 Gun	1 Destroyed
14.5 Gun	1 Damaged
Bridge	1 Destroyed
Supply Stacks	25 Destroyed 1 Damaged 6 Uncovered

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Caves 1 Destroyed

b. Results of 37 sorties were not observed due to smoke, foliage, or weather.

2-B

TAB B
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RTTUZYUN RUEOFTA0875 2781743-UUUU=RHAHAAA,
ZNR UUUUU ZFF=6
R 041743Z OCT 72

FM CMC
TO RHAHAAA/VMFA ONE ONE FIVE NAM PHONG THAILAND
INFO RUHHFMA/CG FMFPAC CAMSMH HI
RUEOLFA/CG FMFLANTNORVA
RUEBJHA/CG MCDEC-QUANT VA
RHARSGG/CG FIRST MAW IWAKUNI JAPAN
RUEOAZA/CG SECOND MAW CHERPT NC
RUWJGFB/CG THIRD MAW EL TORO CA
RUEDGGA/CG FOURTH MAW/GLEN ILL
RUEGATA/COMCABEAST CHERPT NC
RUNJGFA/COMCABWEST EL TORO CA
RUHHFAA/CG FIRST MARBDE KANEOHE HI
RUHHFAA/MAG TWO FOUR KANEOHE HI

BT

UNCLAS//NO1650//

ROBERT M. HANSON AWARD.

I TAKE PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT YOU ARE THE WINNER OF THE ROBERT M. HANSON AWARD AS THE OUTSTANDING MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON OF FY 1972.

PAGE 2 RUEOFTA0875 UNCLAS

2. THE AWARD IS PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF THE SQUADRON IN FURTHERING FIGHTER TACTICS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE MARINE CORPS. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN TRAINING AND IN COMBAT YOU DISPLAYED NOTEWORTHY RESOURCEFULNESS, FLEXIBILITY, DETERMINATION AND PROFESSIONALISM.

3. I EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL THE MARINES OF VMFA-115. WELL DONE. ROBERT E. CUSHMAN, JR., GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.

BT

#0875

NNNN

2 NOV 1972

TAB C