

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

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5750
03A19073
9 July 1973

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January to 30 June 1973

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>1. DESIGNATION</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>
Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115	Lieutenant Colonel H. C. IVY 1 Jan - 30 Jun 1973
<u>2. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Royal Thai Air Force Base, Nam Phong, Thailand	1 Jan - 30 Jun 1973
<u>3. STAFF OFFICERS</u>	
Executive Officer	Maj J. N. BIBLER 1 Jan - 25 Apr 1973 Maj W. J. COOPER 26 Apr - 30 Jun 1973
S-1 Officer	Capt M. P. KRONE 1 Jan - 3 Mar 1973 Capt W. J. SIMPSON 4 Mar - 30 Jun 1973
Intelligence Officer	Capt W. T. HICOCK 1 Jan - 26 Feb 1973 1stLt R. A. MADDOCKS 27 Feb - 30 Jun 1973
S-3 Officer	Capt N. G. G. KERR 1 Jan - 1 Mar 1973 Maj J. D. HOWELL 2 Mar - 28 Apr 1973 Capt M. M. JOHNSON 29 Apr - 9 May 1973 Maj P. R. KRUSE 10 May - 30 Jun 1973
S-4 Officer	Capt J. E. DERRICO 1 Jan - 10 Mar 1973 Capt J. R. BALLARD 11 Mar - 30 Apr 1973 Capt F. GAGLIARDI 1 May - 9 Jun 1973 Capt D. J. WATSON 10 Jun - 30 Jun 1973
Maintenance Officer	Maj J. D. HOWELL 1 Jan - 28 Feb 1973 Capt R. T. HAYNES 1 Mar - 28 Apr 1973 Maj G. L. POST 29 Apr - 30 Jun 1973
Safety Officer	Capt L. R. MARSH 1 Jan - 30 Jun 1973

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
32	164	0	0	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- Section 1: Operations in Vietnam and Laos 2 January - 22 February 1973
- Section 2: Training Operations 23 February - 29 March 1973
- Section 3: Operations in Cambodia 30 March - 30 June 1973
- Section 4: Missile FIREX/ACM 26 May - 8 June 1973

SECTION 1OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM AND LAOS

(C) The New Year opened with the officers and men of VMFA-115 enjoying a well deserved day off and with minds pondering the renewed peace talks and possible resumption of the LINEBACKER mission over North Vietnam.

(C) During the period from 2 January thru 27 January the squadron flew over 500 combat hours in South Vietnam and Laos. With the cease fire in South Vietnam going into effect on 27 January the Silver Eagles ended their involvement in the Vietnam conflict with a total of 33,553 combat sorties.

(C) The month of February found the Silver Eagles flying combat sorties in support of the Royal Laotian Government. During this month, VMFA-115 flew 218 combat sorties in the "Barrel Roll" and "Steel Tiger" regions of Laos. It was also during this time period that the Silver Eagles flew in support of operation BLACK LION IV. Raven 44 (Mr. Lew HATCH) presented the squadron with a plaque for outstanding support given by the Eagles during this operation. Mr. HATCH, in addition to the plaque, also presented the squadron with a Laotian flag that had been given to him by the wounded and medivaced people of Saravane, Laos. The flag was in appreciation for the squadron's outstanding close air support during a period when Saravane was being attacked by the North Vietnamese. Combat operations ended on 22 February at 1200 with a cease fire for Laos going into effect.

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SECTION 2TRAINING OPERATIONS

(U) Cessation of operations in Laos on 22 February brought a temporary halt to VMFA-115's combat activities. The next day saw 12 training sorties launched as the Silver Eagles trained for their primary air-to-air mission. This date marked the first time in almost twelve months that the Silver Eagles launched training sorties exclusively. With a daily training schedule of six day and six night sorties the aircrews were able to accomplish a great deal of refresher intercept training and meet annual flight time requirements. Training ranges were set up by the 7th Air Force, and the Silver Eagles utilized the Udorn and Nakhon Phanom ranges to accomplish their training. On 28 February the squadron flew night air refueling in addition to the regularly scheduled intercepts. These training missions continued into March as the Silver Eagles prepared for possible redeployment to Iwakuni, Japan.

SECTION 3OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA

(C) Redeployment to Iwakuni did not occur however, and on 30 March VMFA-115 once again commenced combat operations, this time in support of the Cambodian government. The squadron has since been flying a minimum of six training sorties five days a week, in addition to the six combat sorties daily. Thru 30 June the Silver Eagles have flown 449 sorties in support of the Cambodian government.

SECTION 4MISSILE FIREX/ACM TRAINING

(C) On 26 May 1973 the Silver Eagles launched six aircraft to NAS Cubi Point to conduct a missile FIREX/ACM deployment. Support was provided by a detachment from VMGR-152 which provided logistical as well as refueling services. VC-5 Det Cubi provided direct liason with the GCI/drone support personnel at Wallace A.B. Poro Point. Unable to obtain A-4 type adversary aircraft, VMFA-115 resorted to using the spare aircraft of the five plane daily missile firing flight as an ACM bogey.

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For the fifteen days of the deployment only one sortie was lost and all launches got off either on time or early. Some pertinent data of the deployment includes: 51 sorties flown, 111.7 hours, 19 AIM-7E-2's and 16 AIM-9G's fired. Eleven aircrews fired both the AIM-7 and 9 for initial qualification or refresher while four pilots and one RIO were limited to firing only one type missile. The Silver Eagles accomplished this highly successful deployment while still maintaining combat flight operations in Cambodia.

(C) June 16th marked the first anniversary of the Silver Eagles new home, Nam Phong, Thailand. Over the last six months VMFA-115 has been faced with many sudden changes, from combat operations to training and back again. In the middle of this very difficult period the Silver Eagles managed to have a highly successful missile shoot, thus once again demonstrating the can-do attitude of the finest fighter squadron in the Marine Corps.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel:

For the period of 1 January - 30 June 1973 26 officers joined the squadron from CONUS, or from other units already in WestPac. Also during that period, 30 officers departed the Silver Eagles for other duties.

2. Promotions to present rank for the period of 1 January - 30 June 1973

<u>0</u>	GySgts	<u>Meritoriously</u>
<u>1</u>	SSgt	
<u>40</u>	Sgts	SPENCER, T. to Sgt
<u>18</u>	Cpls	TRENT, M. T. to Cpl
<u>8</u>	LCpls	WADDELL, W. T. to LCpl
<u>1</u>	PFC	

3. Awards received during 1 January - 30 June 1973

Navy Commendation	12
Navy Achievement	7
DFC	4
Air Medals	32
Meritorious Mast	2
MAG-15 Marine of the Month	2

4. Air Operations.

The following is a summary of air operations for the period of 1 January - 30 June 1973.

1 January - 22 February	VMFA-115 flew in support of the Vietnamese and Royal Laotian Government.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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23 February - 29 March

The squadron flew exclusively training sorties with the emphasis being placed on ACM tactics. On 25 February the Silver Eagles launched 4 sorties in support of the Cambodian government.

30 March - 30 June

During this period VMFA-115 launched a minimum of 6 combat sorties, in support of the Cambodian government, in addition to the daily training sorties.

28 May - 8 June

The Silver Eagles conducted a missile FIREX/ACM deployment at NAS Cubi Pt.

5. Training.

During the period 1 January - 30 June 1973, the training emphasis has been placed on ACM tactics. There have been numerous briefs on F4B vs MIG series aircraft. Loose Deuce tactics have also been frequently discussed during formal training. The Silver Eagles have also flown two Air Force originated training exercises, called the "Red Baron" and "Pouncer". Both of these missions simulate a MIG CAP and BAR CAP, with adversary aircraft attacking the CAP aircraft while under GCI control. This type of training mission has further enhanced VMFA-115's ACM readiness. All ACM training finally culminated with a partial deployment of the Silver Eagles to Cubi Pt. to conduct a phase II/phase III missile shoot and conduct further ACM training.

6. Operations Supported.

During the month of January VMFA-115 continued to fly combat sorties in the Republic of South Vietnam. With the formal ending of the Vietnamese conflict on 27 January 1973, VMFA-115 had flown a total of 33,553 combat sorties since entering hostilities. From 28 January until 22 February the squadron flew combat sorties in support of the Laotian government in the "Barrel Roll" and "Steel Tiger" areas. On 25 February the Silver Eagles flew their first combat sorties in support of the Cambodian government. The squadron was not to fly another combat sortie until 30 March, and has been flying in support of the Cambodian government since then. To date the squadron has flown a total of 449 combat sorties in Cambodia.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTSTAB

- a. (C) BDA for 1 January - 30 June 1973.
- b. (C) Listing of Total Sorties and Flight Time.
- c. (C) Ordnance Expenditures for 1 January - 30 June 1973.
- d. (C) Commendatory correspondence received by this command.

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1. Bomb Damage Assessment.

a. The following is a complete listing of BDA received by this squadron since it has been providing CAS in RVN, Laos and Cambodia (1 January - 30 June 1973).

KBA	354
WIA	30
Large Secondary Explosions	18
Medium Secondary Explosions	60
Small Secondary Explosions	72
Large Secondary Fires	14
Medium Secondary Fires	55
Small Secondary Fires	36
Trucks Destroyed	26
Trucks Damaged	12
Bulldozers Destroyed	6
Barges Destroyed	2
12.7mm AA Destroyed	5
23mm AA Destroyed	4
37mm AA Destroyed	2
37mm AA Damaged	6
Mortars Destroyed	14
Mortars Damaged	1
122mm Field Gun Destroyed	1
122mm Field Gun Damaged	2
Gunpits Destroyed	17
Gunpits Damaged	1
Bridges Destroyed	5
Bridges Damaged	6

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Bunkers Destroyed	154
Bunkers Damaged	26
Military Structures Destroyed	63
Military Structures Damaged	17
Road Cuts Destroyed	16
Road Cuts Damaged	15
Trenches Destroyed	2
Trenches Damaged	2
Supply POL Storage Destroyed	36 Barrels
Supply Stacks Destroyed	18
Supply Stacks Damaged	3
Sustained Fires	38
Large POL Fires	2
River Ford	1
Machine Guns Destroyed	5
Machine Guns Damaged	3
75mm Guns Destroyed	7
Boats Damaged	3

Results were not observed on 271 sorties due to weather, smoke, foilage, and AAA activity.

2-A

Tab A
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1. Listing of total sorties and flight time.

1 January - 30 June 1973

Total Hours Flown	2,824.8	
Total Sorties Flown	1,734	
Combat Flight Hours	1,841.6	
Combat Sorties	1,045	
High Month Hours	581.0	January
High Month Sorties	396	January
Average Pilot Hours per Month	33.6	
Average Pilot Sorties per Month	21	
Average RIO Hours per Month	33.6	
Average RIO Sorties per Month	21	

1-B

Tab B
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1. Ordnance Expenditures:

1 January - 30 June 1973

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Dropped</u>	<u>Tons</u>
MK-82	8,819	2,340,942
MK-83	44	21,670
ZUNI	403	23,172
MK-20	430	105,350

1-C

Tab C
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TAB A.

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FROM: Lew HATCH
Forward Air Controller (Raven 44)

TO: Commanding Officer
VMFA-115, MAG-15
1st MAW, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, CA. 96602

I found a little problem recently, the Air Force (U. S.) strapped me with a very hurried and unexpected DEROS. As a result I did not have time to make another visit to Nam Phong before leaving. No joke intended, I truly enjoy your company, on the ground, in the air, or in the bar.

I wanted to be the one to send you a few small tokens. These tokens only partly reflect how much you did to help us during the BLACK LION operations around Pakse. When you guys say that close air support is your business, you don't kid around.

These flags that I've enclosed mean a lot to me. They were presented to me, to give to you, by a group of people who had been wounded and medivaced from Saravane. You all did shit hot work. I know it, the ground pounders know it, and the NVA know it. (The PL doesn't exist that far South).

At any rate, thanks a bunch.

LEW HATCH

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

Dennis T. Krupp
Dennis T. KRUPP
1stLt USMC

1-D

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