

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

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 10 Feb 1969

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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 January 1969

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

R. R. NORTON

VMFA 115 S&O
 CONTROL NO. 0481-69
 DATE REC'D 0-FEB-1969

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

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CONFIDENTIAL**PART I****ORGANIZATIONAL DATA****1. Commander and Staff**

NORTON, R. R.	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
WELSH, K. H.	Executive Officer	Maj	1-31
BRITTON, O. W.	Operations Officer	Maj	1-31
HENDERSON, W. A.	S-1 Officer	Capt	1-31
CRIFE, D. L.	S-2 Officer	1stLt	1-31
ACUFF, W. III	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
HUNTER, D. R.	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-31
SLONE, H. A.	Aircraft 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 Data

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

3. Average Strength

a. Marine Officers	37
1. Naval Aviators	19
2. Naval Flight Officers	15
3. Aviation Ground Officers	3
b. Naval Officers	1
c. Marine Enlisted	231
d. Naval Enlisted	0
e. Total	269

PART II**NARRATIVE SUMMARY**

During January, the Silver Eagles flew 496 combat sorties in support of operations throughout the I Corps area.

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Operations supported were: Taylor Common, Kentucky, Scotland II, Dawson River, Fayette Canyon, Nevada Eagle, Task Force Yankee and Russell Beach. VMFA-115 took part in B-52 escort missions and the BANGAP off the coast of North Vietnam along with taking its share of Commando Hunt and Steel Tiger missions.

In January, the Silver Eagles destroyed 30 structures, 155 meters of trenchline, 18 bunkers, 4 trucks, 1 sampan and 4 fighting holes. The crews of VMFA-115 also damaged or destroyed 1 automatic weapons site, 1 mortar position and 1 50 caliber automatic weapon site.

To acquire this Bomb Damage Assessment, VMFA-115 expended 997 tons of ordnance. Ordnance dropped by type was:

785	MK 81 S/E	250	1b bombs
381	MK 82	500	1b bombs
2314	MK 82 S/E	500	1b bombs
311	MK 77	500	1b fire bombs
96	CBU 24/29		
4	Rockeye		
12	MK 83	1000	1b bombs
20	D 32		

One of the outstanding missions for the Silver Eagles was Lovebug 488 led by Lieutenant KRALOVEC and Lieutenant WATSON with Captain CANHAVA and Lieutenant BLAHNIK in the wing position. The flight, working under a 2500 foot ceiling destroyed 2 structures and an enemy 50 caliber automatic weapons site along with damaging 3 structures and 1 bunker.

A classic Close Air Support mission took place later in January. Captain ACUFF and Lieutenant BOOTH with Captain HUEY and Lieutenant COUGLIN delivered ordnance with friendly troops at twelve, three, nine and six o'clock within 100 meters of the target. The friendly units, members of the 1st and 3rd Marines, carefully marked their positions with smoke, enabling Lovebug 240 to deliver 100% of the ordnance on target causing one secondary explosion and an unknown number of enemy casualties.

PART III

1. **Personnel.** On the 15th of January, First Lieutenant D. J. HOOVER returned to VMFA-115 after a tour as a Forward Air Controller with the 7th Marines. Earlier in January, First Lieutenant D. O. MARTIN left the squadron to become the MAG-13 "O" Club Officer. Captain J. R. DENTON also left VMFA-115 to take over as MAG-13 Special Services Officer.

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2. Casualties. On Wednesday morning 22 January 1969, First Lieutenant D. J. MINAHAN was killed during an air strike southwest of Hae Pm Sai. The pilot, First Lieutenant W. E. COLLINS escaped with second degree burns and a sprained ankle.

3. Operations. During January many crewmembers reached mission milestones. Captain A. F. MARSHALL flew his four hundredth mission, while Major O. W. FRITTON reached three hundred. Captains S. P. HUEY and P. A. CARROLL along with First Lieutenant D. J. WATSON reached the 200 mission mark.

4. Bonds. During January, Lieutenant WATSON reported the Savings Bond Program had a 87.2% participation rate and members of VMFA-115 participating in either the Savings Bond or Savings Deposit program was 87.9%.

5. Awards. On the 17th of January, Captain EVANS received his first Strike Flight Air Medal. Captain DENTON also received a Single Mission Air Medal at this presentation. Corporals COEN, MAY and WHITE along with Lance Corporal HAMMEL received Meritorious Pasts.

6. Promotions. January saw the promotion of 14 members of VMFA-115. Former Lance Corporals ALTAVILLA, GALLOWAY, KIMPTON, LENTZ, MASK, MCCARTHY, PAUER, RAWLINGS, SMITH and TRIPP are now Corporals in the United States Marine Corps. Private First Class ELASTON and BARNAGE were promoted to Lance Corporal. The Squadron Commanding Officer also promoted Privates DITTMAN and SURREY to the rank of Private First Class.

7. Training. Captains HARDY, RADMON and TRUE attended the Jungle Escape and Survival Training Course in the Philippines.

8. Air Operations

Total Flight Hours	619.8
Total Sorties	510
Combat Flight Hours	607.3
Combat Sorties	496
High Day Hours	31.9
High Day Sorties	26

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Average Pilot Hours	30.3
Average Pilot Sorties	28
Average RIO Hours	39.5
Average RIO Sorties	32
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	60.7
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	51