

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

3:RBG:gda
5750
SerNo. 03A09670
6 April 1970

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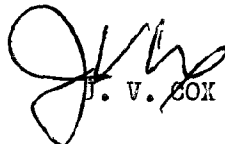
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) WgO 5750.1C
(c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 March 1970.
2. This letter is down-graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).


J. V. COX

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VMFA-115

MAR 1970

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Donald P. BOWEN	Commanding Officer	LtCol.	1-2
John V. COX	Commanding Officer	LtCol.	2-31
Ronald E. HEALD	Executive Officer	Maj.	1-31
Harry F. SHARP II	Operations Officer	Maj.	1-25
Conrad W. HEINZERLING	Operations Officer	Maj.	25-31
Larry A. STULTS	S-1 Officer	Capt.	1-31
Lester E. AMICK	S-2 Officer	1stLt.	1-31
Fredrick J. MEIER	Logistics Officer	Capt.	1-31
Christopher J. TELGE	Avn. Safety Officer	1stLt.	1-9
Christopher MADSEN	Avn. Safety Officer	Capt.	10-31
Conrad W. HEINZERLING	Maintenance Officer	Maj.	1-25
Ray L. HANLE	Maintenance Officer	Maj.	25-31
George H. HUGHES	Flight Officer	Lt. (USN)	1-31
William F. SEARS	Sergeant Major	SgtMaj.	1-31

2. Task Organization and Date

VMFA-115, Chu Lai Air Base, RVN, LtCol. Donald P. BOWEN, Commanding 1-2 March, LtCol. John V. COX Commanding 2-31 March 1970.

3. Average Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators	24
(2) Naval Flight Officers	21
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	2

b. Naval Officers	1
c. Marine Enlisted	258
d. Naval Enlisted	0
e. Total	<u>306</u>

PART II

During the month of March VMFA-115 flew 596 combat sorties and 610.9 combat hours in support of operations throughout I-Corps, Laos and the Gulf of Tonkin.

(C) Units supported during the period 1-31 March were the First Marine Division, 5th, 7th and 17th Marines, III Marine Amphibious Force, Special Forces, 1st Battalion 5th Mechanized Infantry Brigade 24th Corps, 1st Reconnaissance, Americal Division, 7th Fleet, 101st Airborne, 7th Air Force, ROK Marines and ARVN Forces.

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(C) Operations supported during the period 1-31 March include Iron Mountain, Fredrick Hill, Geneva Park, Randolph Glenn and AIS; an area of special interest.

(C) While supporting these operations and units, the Silver Eagles of VMFA-115 achieved the following Battle Damage Assessment:

Bunkers Destroyed	86
Bunkers Damaged	3
Structures Destroyed	36
Structures Damaged	16
Hootches Destroyed	25
Hootches Damaged	4
Tree Line Destroyed	445 Meters
Road Cuts	7
Secondary Fires	18
Secondary Explosions	18
Fighting Positions Destroyed	12
Sustained Fires	3
Trucks Destroyed	2
Caves Destroyed	1
Road Slides	250
Storage Areas Destroyed	1
Naval Vessels Destroyed	1
Trail Destroyed	105 Meters
Confirmed Kills by Marine Air	10
Probable Kills	2
Spider Holes Destroyed	3
Gun Positions Destroyed (50 Caliber)	1
Trail Cuts	13

Typical of the missions flown by VMFA-115 crews during the month of March, was that of Major HANLE/Lieutenant BREWER and Lieutenant CALLAHAN/Lieutenant HIERSCHE during the afternoon of 11 March. Launched off the Air to Ground Hot Pad as Lovebug 202 at 1556, the flight reported into their controller, Bilk 31, at 1615. During the next 15 minutes the flight expended their ordnance load of 10 Mark-83 Conical bomb on target and departed the area at 1632. A resulting BDA of 16 Bunkers destroyed and 5 KBMA's was reported by Bilk Control the following day. The mission was conducted east of Hue/Phu Bai and the flight returned to Chu Lai Air Base at 1655.

On 2 March LtCol. John V. COX assumed the position of Commanding Officer, relieving LtCol. Donald P. BOWEN. Notable guests present at VMFA-115's Change Of Command included Brigadier General SPANJER and Brigadier General MILLER. The 1st MAW Band displayed their talents for those at the Change of Command.

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(C) This damage was accomplished by expending 1141.50 tons of ordnance of the following types and amounts:

1649	MK-81	CON	250 lb. Bombs
315	MK-81	SE	250 lb. Bombs
649	MK-82	SE	500 lb. Bombs
1715	MK-82	CON	500 lb. Bombs
291	MK-83	CON	1000 lb. Bombs
320	MK-77	MAPALM	500 lb. Fire Bombs
51	CBU-24		Cluster Bomb Units
15	CBU-49		Cluster Bomb Units
33	LAU-10 (ZUNI)	FFAR	5.00" Rockets
76	AERO 7D	19 Shot Pack	2.75" Rockets

PART III1. PERSONNEL

a. In March the Silver Eagles said goodbye to LtCol. Donald P. BOWEN, returning to CONUS upon completion of his tour in WESTPAC. Captain STANFORD was transferred to MABS-13 and Lieutenant GOETT to HMS-13.

b. In March VMFA-115 welcomed aboard its new Commanding Officer, LtCol. COX, from MABS-13. Also joining VMFA-115 from MCAS, El Toro, was Captain MADSEN, the new Aviation Safety Officer, and Captain McMULLIN from MCAS Beaufort. Lieutenants VREELAND, FITZMAURICE and HIERSCHE came from Marine Aircraft Group 11.

c. Promotions

E1-E2	3
E2-E3	1
E3-E4	1
E4-E5	9
E5-E6	1
E7-E8	1

2. Awards. Three 1st Strike/Flight Air Medals and one Single Mission Air Medal were awarded during the month of March.

3. Morale. 18 Officers and Enlisted men enjoyed R&R during the month of March.

4. (C) Air Operations

a. During March, Major SHARP and Lieutenant BARTEL flew their 300th combat mission. Lieutenants TELGE and BRIWER their 200th combat mission and Lieutenants DUNLAP, GOODMAN, GRBAC, MCGAUGHEY, HIERSCHE, FITZMAURICE and HARTNACK completed their 100th combat mission. A job well done goes out to all.

CONFIDENTIALb. Statistics

Total Hours	619.5
Total Sorties	607
Combat Flight Hours	610.3
Combat Sorties	597
High Day Hours	28.7
High Day Sorties	28
Average Pilot Hours	25.8
Average Pilot Sorties	25
Average RIO Hours	29.5
Average RIO Sorties	28
Non-Squadron Hours	101.3
Non-Squadron Sorties	65

5. (C) Air Defense. The Silver Eagles flew 9 Barrier Cap Combat Patrol Missions over the Gulf of Tonkin in support of the 7th Fleet. Also 20 Bomber Escort missions were flown, generally over Laos, in support of the 7th Air Force. No MIC contacts were made.

6. Training. Major HEALD attended JEST School at Cubi Point, while Lieutenants CALLAHAN and MONESMITH attended PLSS at Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa.

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