

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

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 July 1970; submission of
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 115 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions set forth in reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. This letter is down-graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

M. Mura
M. MURA

VMAF 4 115 S&C
CONTROL NO. 0207-70

DATE REC'D 10 Aug 70

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MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Marine Aircraft Group 13
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1970 - 31 July 1970

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DesignationCommanders

Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 115

Lieutenant Colonel J. V. COX
1 - 21 July 1970Lieutenant Colonel M. MURA
22 - 31 July 19702. Location

1 - 31 July 1970, Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Major L. F. GAGNON	
Operations Officer	Major H. T. BERWALD Jr.	
S-1 Officers	Major C. R. FAIRCHILD	1 - 13 July 1970
	1stLt. G. L. McGAUGHEY	14 - 30 July 1970
	Captain G. BERTHELSON	31 July 1970
S-2 Officer	1stLt. J. R. DEMPSEY	
Logistics Officers	Captain F. J. MEIER	1 - 12 July 1970
	Captain C. R. MILLS	13 - 31 July 1970
Avn Safety Officers	Captain C. S. TUTT	1 - 29 July 1970
	Captain S. P. JOHNSON	30 - 31 July 1970
Maintenance Officer	Major R. L. HANLE	
Flight Surgeons	Lt. (USN) G. H. HUGHES	1 - 30 July 1970
	Lt. (USN) G. A. LUIKEN	10 - 31 July 1970

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
OFFICERS	ENLISTED	OFFICERS	ENLISTED	OFFICERS	ENLISTED
39	230	1	0	0	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of July the "Silver Eagles" of VMFA-115 flew 469 combat sorties in support of operations throughout I Corps and II Corps areas, Barrier Combat Air Patrols over the Gulf of Tonkin in support of the 7th Fleet, and Bomber Escort Missions, generally over Laos in support of the 7th Air Force.

Significant operations supported by the Officers and men of VMFA-115 included Texas Star, Geneva Park, Frederick Hill, Iron Mountain, and Green River. Units receiving scheduled or on call air support included the First Marine Division, 1st Recon Battalion, 5th, 7th, and 17th Infantry Army, 24th Corps U. S. Army, Special Forces, Americal Division, 101st Airborne, ROK Marine, ARVN Forces, 7th Air Force, and U. S. 7th Fleet. These included Close Air Support, Barrier Cap, MIG Cap, direct Air Support and Air to Ground Hot Pad Launches.

On 3 July 2 F4B's of VMFA-115 launched from the hot pad on a Close Air Support mission as Lovebug 212, carrying D2A's and D9's. The flight was flown in support of the First Marine Division by Major R. L. HANLE - (Pilot), Major C. R. FAIRCHILD - (RIO) and 1stLt. W. S. PANCHISON - (Pilot), 1stLt. M. B. SANDBERG - (RIO) and controlled by "Hostage Bill". With accurate ordnance delivery the flight accounted for 2 enemy troops killed by Marine Air (confirmed).

Again on 18 July VMFA-115 launched a flight of 2 F4B's from the air to ground hot pad as Lovebug 221. The flight carried D2A's and D9's on a close air support mission in support of ARVN Forces. The crews consisted of Captain C. MADSEN - (Pilot), 1stLt. B. F. ROBINSON - (RIO), and 1stLt. G. A. ZAHN Jr. - (Pilot), 1stLt. R. E. LINK - (RIO). Helix control reported by phone the next day that 2 enemy troops had been killed by the flight's accurate ordnance delivery on a tree line south of Chu Lai.

Captain C. S. TUTT - (Pilot), 1stLt. J. L. WITTER - (RIO), and 1stLt. W. L. STEVENS - (Pilot), 1stLt. S. M. SILVER launched on a close air support mission as Lovebug 502 on 29 July carrying D3DC's in support of the 101st Airborne. These 2 F4B's of the "Silver Eagles" were credited with 17 enemy troops killed by Bilk 16 in a phone call on 30 July. The devastating results of this mission attest to the accurate ordnance delivery and professionalism of the Officers and men of VMFA-115.

Bomb Damage Assessment for the month of July included 2 confirmed enemy killed, 19 probable enemy killed, 46 structures destroyed, 15 structures damaged, 74 bunkers destroyed, 10 bunkers damaged, 35 secondary explosions, 54 secondary fires, 4 fighting positions destroyed, 795 meters

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of tree line destroyed, 3 foot bridges destroyed, 2 tunnels destroyed, and 1 arms cache destroyed.

During the month of July, VMFA-115 dropped 1005.7 tons of ordnance on the insurgent enemy forces for an average daily tonnage of just over 32.4 tons. Expended ordnance was 2925 MK-82 500 pound bombs, 320 MK-83 1000 pound bombs, and 494 MK-77 500 pound firebombs.

July saw a change of command on the twenty-second, with LtCol. J. V. COX passing the VMFA-115 colors to LtCol. M. MURA. LtCol. COX moved up to Executive Officer of MAG-13.

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. The below is a sequential listing of significant events of VMFA-115, occurring during the reporting period of 1-31 July 1970.

a. Combat Missions assigned;

(1) 352 Combat Missions were assigned to the "Silver Eagles".

b. Combat Missions flown;

(1) 469 Combat Missions were flown by VMFA-115.

c. Air Operations;

(1) Total Hours	449.5
(2) Total Sorties	487
(3) Combat Hours	431.6
(4) Combat Sorties	469
(5) High Day Hours	20.3
(6) High Day Sorties	21
(7) Average Pilot Sorties	25
(8) Average Pilot Hours	23.6
(9) Average RIO Sorties	28
(10) Average RIO Hours	26.4
(11) Non-Squadron Sorties	140
(12) Non-Squadron Hours	120.2

d. Significant Operations supported;

(1) Texas Star
 (2) Green River
 (3) Frederick Hill
 (4) Iron Mountain
 (5) Geneva Park

e. Training.

(1) Major H. T. BERWALD Jr. and 1stLt. J. L. WITTER attended JEST at Cubi Point. 1stLt. S. R. MYSLIWIEC departed for Embarkation School at 3rd MARDIV in Okinawa. 1stLts. J. R. DEMPSEY and B. F. ROBINSON attended PJSS at Kadena AFB, Okinawa and Clark AFB, Philippines, respectfully. 1stLt. M. B. SANDBERG attended ABCCC Orientation at Udorn, Thailand.

g. Administration.

(1) Awards.

(a) There were no awards awarded during the month of July.

(2) Promotions.

(a) E-3 to E-4

1

(3) Morale.

(a) 2 Officers and 12 Enlisted Personnel enjoyed R&R during the month of July.

(b) During the month of July several softball games were played enhancing the morale of all personnel.

(c) Following the Change of Command Ceremony on 22 July 1970, a Squadron Party featuring a Vietnamese Cultural Exchange Floor Show was held and enjoyed by all "Silver Eagles" and guests present.

h. Personnel.

(1) The month of July signaled the departure of numerous Officers from VMFA-115 and the arrival of several new "Silver Eagles". LtCol J. V. COX was transferred to H&MS-13 to serve as Executive Officer for MAG-13. Major R. E. HEALD was transferred in-country to MACG-18. Captain L. A. STULTS departed for Quantico, Virginia. Captain F. J. MEIER, 1stLts. J. V. DUNLAP and B. L. TEBULT were transferred to MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Receiving duty with the 2nd MAW were 1stLts. J. W. LAMBERSON, A. A. VREELAND, J. F. FITZMAURICE, and J. D. BREWER. Captain J. K. FRENCH and 1stLt. J. W. ASKINS were transferred to MCAS Yuma. 1stLt. J. K. RAITHEL was transferred to H&MS-13 while Major C. R. FAIRCHILD, Captain C. S. TUTT, 1stLts. G. A. MONESMITH, S. R. MYSLIWIEC, and R. L. WISE were transferred to VMFA-122. VMFA-115 welcomed aboard LtCol M. MURA, Major C. J. RUTHVEN, Captains G. BERTHELSON, E. S. HOLMBERG, S. P. JOHNSON, 1stLts. J. L. WITTER, W. L. STEVENS, B. F. ROBINSON, J. W. CAPITO, M. L. STACY, G. W. ECKHARDT, P. C. BACON, A. BROWN, H. L. LOGAN, and R. W. WELLS.

i. Air Support.

(a) During the month of July Captains C. R. MILLS and S. P. JOHNSON reached the 300 combat mission mark. Reaching the 200 combat mission mark were Major R. L. HANLE, 1stLts. A. H. SCHEULLER, and R. C. HARTNACK.

(b) The "Silver Eagles" of VMFA-115 flew 14 Barrier Combat Air Patrol missions over the Gulf of Tonkin and 8 Bomber Escort missions were flown generally over Laos. No MIG contacts were made.