

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

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 5750  
 03A01069  
 10 Jan 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 December 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 December 1968.

*R. R. Norton*  
 R. R. NORTON

VMFA-115

CMDCRON

VMFA-115 S&C  
 CONTROL NO. 0126-69  
 DATE REC'D 10 JAN 1969

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 ENCLOSURE 141

DEC 1968

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115  
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam  
1-31 December 1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Commander and Staff

NORTON, R. R.	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
WELSH, K. H.	Executive Officer	Maj	8-31
KROPP, R. G.	Executive Officer	Maj	1-7
BRITTON, O. W.	Operations Officer	Maj	1-31
HENDERSON, W. A.	S-1 Officer	Capt	28-31
DENTON, J. R.	S-1 Officer	Capt	1-27
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 Dec 1968

3. Average Strength

a. Marine Officers	38
(1) Naval Aviators	18
(2) Naval Flight Officers	16
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4
b. Naval Officers	1
c. Marine Enlisted	224
d. Naval Enlisted	0
e. Total	263

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of December, the Silver Eagles flew 551 combat sorties in support of operations throughout the I Corps area.

Operations supported were: Scotland II, Kentucky, Taylor Common, Vernon Lake, Fayette Canyon, Nevada Eagle, Dawson River, Lancaster II, Victory Dragon VI, Marshall Mountain, Henderson Hill and the highly successful Meade River. VMFA-115 saw more action on the Barcaps off the coast of North Vietnam and continued to take its share of Commando Hunt and Steel Tiger missions.

It is estimated the Eagles destroyed 250 meters of trench line, 25 bunkers destroyed and 10 damaged; 70 structures were leveled with 20 damaged. VMFA-115 was credited with 4 secondary explosions and 10 fires, 2 KBA's and 2 sampans destroyed.

To acquire this BDA, the Eagles expended 899 tons of ordnance against the enemy. Ordnance dropped by type were:

574	MK-81	250 lb bombs
2653	MK-82	500 lb bombs
256	MK-77	500 lb fire bombs
40	MK-117	750 lb bombs
70	5 inch Zuni	rockets

One of the outstanding missions for the Silver Eagles was Lovebug 500 led by Major SLONE and Captain MARSHALL with Captain BUTTERFIELD and Major BRITTON in the wing position. The flight, working under a 2200 foot ceiling in mountainous terrain with friendly troops 150 meters from the target and ground fire in the area, destroyed eight structures in a fortified village located in Quang Nam Province.

Captain MAGO and Lieutenant CRIPE, with Captain CANNAVA and Lieutenant BLAHNIK in the number two position, led Lovebug 261 flight later in December and working under more favorable conditions were able to destroy two sampans, kill two enemy V.C., and initiate seven secondary explosions on an enemy held mountain.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel. The month of December saw Major K. H. WELSH join the squadron as the new Executive Officer replacing Major R. G. KROPP who returned to the 2nd MAW. The squadron also joined two Naval Flight Officers, 1st Lieutenants D. G. DOBBINS and E. P. JORDAN from VMFA-334 in Da Nang and 1st Lieutenant G. P. HAYES joined VMFA-115 from the 2nd MAW.
2. Casualties. On Saturday morning 21 December 1968, Lance Corporal T. E. NOVAK was killed during an enemy rocket attack.
3. Awards. During the month of December the flight crews of VMFA-115 were recommended for 45 Strike Flight Air Medals. Captains BAKER, BUTTERFIELD, CANNAVA, EVANS, and HUEY received their 1st Strike Flight Air Medals along with Lieutenants COLLINS, COUGHLIN, and CRIFE. Sergeant V. E. BROWN of the Silver Eagles received a Certificate of Commendation. The squadron also saw 3 Meritorious Masts.
4. Promotions. December saw the promotion of six members of VMFA-115. H. F. JASTER is now a Master Sergeant. Lance Corporals ANDREAS, KING and LEAKE were promoted to Corporal. G. J. BROWN and R. E. LLOYD were promoted to Lance Corporal.
5. Bonds. During December, Lieutenant WATSON reported the Saving Bonds had a 86.7% participation rate and members of VMFA-115 participating in either the Savings Bond or Saving Deposit programs was 88.1%.
6. Operations. During the month of December Captain TRUE and Lieutenants MINAHAN and SINGLETON flew their 200th Combat Mission with VMFA-115.
7. Training. During December, Captain CANNAVA and Lieutenant WATSON attended Jungle Escape and Survival course in the Philippines. Captain HUEY attended the Maintenance Management course in Da Nang. Lieutenant Commander WALLESTAD and Captain MAGO attended the RLT Landing Force Staff Planning course in Okinawa. Gunnery Sergeant STRANC and Sergeant GRAHAM attended the KY-28 course in Da Nang, while Gunnery Sergeant THOMAS and Corporal EARL were attending Career Advisory and Corrosion Control courses.
8. Civic Action. The highlight of December for Civic Action was the Christmas party in the village of Chu Lai New Life. Members of VMFA-115 donated candy and other gifts to the children of the village.

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9. Morale. During December 12 officers and men from the Eagles nest took advantage of R & R quotas to the favorite watering holes of the Pacific; Sydney, Australia; Bangkok, Thailand; Tokyo, Japan; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

10. Air Operations

Total Flight Hours	754.2
Total Sorties	551
Combat Flight Hours	739.7
Combat Sorties	534
High Day Hours	37.1
High Day Sorties	25
Average Pilot Hours	37.9
Average Pilot Sorties	28
Average RIO Hours	45.5
Average RIO Sorties	33
Non Squadron Aircrew Hours	98.5
Non Squadron Aircrew Sorties	65

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