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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 211  
 Marine Aircraft Group 12  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:CFB:lgb  
 05750—  
 03A09668  
 5 April 1968  
 Copy 1 of 4

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.10

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology of Marine Attack Squadron 211, period  
 1 March 1968 through 31 March 1968.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is declassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*Leo J. LeBlanc Jr.*  
 LEO J. LEBLANC, Jr.

DISTRIBUTION: MAG-12 (Attn: S-3) (3)  
 Squadron S&C File (1)

VMA-211	734-68	10F4
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MAG-12 S&C#	COPY#
439-68	1

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VMA-211  
 CMD CHRON

MAR 1968

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VMA-211  
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1-31 MARCH 1968

“  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

1 of 7

ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART I. ORGANIZATION DATA

a. Squadron Staff

LtCol. Leo J. LEBLANC, Jr.	Commanding Officer	1-31 Mar 68
LtCol. Frederick P. SALZMAN, Jr.	Executive Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Major Carl F. BERGSTROM, Jr.	Operations Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Major William K. PARKER	Personnel Officer	1-10 Mar 68
Major Thomas R. FISHER	Personnel Officer	11-31 Mar 68
Major Gerald L. ELLIS	Maintenance Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Major Robert J. WIEDEMANN	Logistics Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Major Richard C. HOFFMAN	Aviation Safety Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Major Jimmie L. GREEN	NATOPS Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Capt. Charles G. BOWEN	Intelligence Officer	1-31 Mar 68
Lt(MC) Robert J. HOBBS	Flight Surgeon	1-31 Mar 68
SgtMaj. Robert W. CARTER	Squadron Sergeant Major	1-18 Mar 68
MSgt. Charles H. DAY	Squadron Sergeant Major	19-31 Mar 68

b. All combat operations during the reporting period of 1 March thru 31 March were conducted from Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

c. Average Monthly Strength

USMC Officers	21
USMC Enlisted	158
USN Officers	1
USN Enlisted	0

d. Important Visitor to the Command

1. Major General Frank C. THARIN - Informal visit to Squadron Flight-Operations area where he received a ten minute briefing by the squadron commanding officer concerning this units current operations. Particular area of interest was the helicopter resupply missions at Khe Sahn.

## PART II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

a. During March, VMA-211 flew 1,039 sorties for a total of 1,257.0 flight hours and dropped 1,522.7 tons of ordnance. These figures are the highest for the squadron since May of 1967. Factors that contributed to this successful month were:

1. An all hands effort.
2. Reduced aircraft turn-around times by manually loading 250 lb.

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bombs to supplement the small number of assigned SATS bomb loaders.

3. Increased familiarity with the tempo of operation in RVN since the squadron arrived back in country in December 1967.

4. A better than normal availability of aircraft during the latter part of the month.

b. One of the major missions of the squadron during the month was helicopter escort flights at Khe Sahn. The squadron flew 122 sorties for the helicopter resupply of the reinforced companies located on hills 881 South, 861, and 861 Alpha. The success of the cover given by the fixed wing aircraft was evident by the high number of missions that were completed without any of the helicopters receiving hostile fire or battle damage to their aircraft.

c. During the month twelve squadron pilots completed their 100th mission in RVN. As the combat experience of the pilots increased, the efficiency and bombing accuracy also increased. In the future, the squadron can be expected to more successfully complete its assigned missions.

d. Especially noteworthy flights for the month were:

1. On the 29th, eight sorties supported Army Special Forces in "Ranger Valley", 22 miles west of Phu Bai. Responding to an emergency request for air support, the squadron pilots delivered their ordnance in very close proximity to 180 friendly troops which were being pinned down by enemy firepower. As the last aircraft pulled off target, the FAC stated that the enemy guns had been silenced.

### PART III. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### a. Personnel

1. Administration. During this reporting period the squadron gained 6 officers and 23 enlisted men. 14 officers and 25 enlisted men were transferred during the month of March.

2. Promotions. The following promotions were affected:

- 1 Gunnery Sergeant to Master Sergeant
- 1 Corporal to Sergeant
- 1 Lance Corporal to Corporal
- 1 Private First Class to Lance Corporal

3. Awards. The following awards were presented:

Capt. BOWEN received his 3rd, 4th, and 5th Air Medals.  
 Capt. BARKER received his 4th Air Medal.

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Maj. BRAMAN received his 3rd and 4th Air Medals.  
 Maj. BERGSTROM received his 4th and 5th Air Medals.  
 Capt. BENNETT received his 1st Air Medal.  
 Capt. CONNOR received his 4th and 5th Air Medals.  
 Capt. EKLUND received his 4th Air Medal.  
 Maj. ELLIS received his 11th Air Medal.  
 Maj. GREEN received his 1st Air Medal.  
 Maj. HOFFMAN received his 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Air Medals.  
 Maj. JOHNS received his 6th Air Medal.  
 LtCol. SALZMAN received his 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Air Medals.  
 Capt. TANNER received his 1st Air Medal.  
 Maj. VAN ES received his 3rd and 4th Air Medals.  
 Maj. WIEDEMANN received his 5th, 6th, and 7th Air Medals.

b. Air Operations

1. The following is a summary of the hours and sorties flown during the month of March:

Combat Sorties	<u>1,010</u>
Non-Combat Sorties	<u>29</u>
Combat Hours	<u>1,221.3</u>
Non-Combat Hours	<u>35.7</u>
Night Hours	<u>357.9</u>
Actual Instrument Hours	<u>111.2</u>
Total Hours	<u>1,257.0</u>
TPQ Sorties	<u>503</u>
CAS Sorties	<u>372</u>
DAS Sorties	<u>67</u>
Helicopter Escort Sorties	<u>56</u>
Landing Zone Prep Sorties	<u>12</u>
Hostile Fire Missions	<u>223</u>

2. The following is a summary of the ground operations supported the number of sorties flown in their support:

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Niagara	429
a. Scotland	293
b. Lancaster	29
Kentucky	42
Napoleon	14
Saline	3
Tampa	12
Samari IV	20
Houston	3
Wheeler/Wallowa	4
Jeb Stuart	11
Grand Canyon	29
Crusher	5
DMZ and NVN	67
Laos	45

c. Logistics

1. During the month of March, all allowance property was inventoried. Survey's have been initiated on all unserviceable or missing property.

2. On 21 March the Materiel Section was inspected with only two minor errors being found. Both errors have now been corrected.

3. A new S-4 officer, Major GREEN, has been assigned to replace Major WIEDEMANN.

d. Aircraft Maintenance

1. General. The Maintenance Department completed 1,674 separate unscheduled maintenance actions in direct support of flight operations. The major problem areas for the month were the lack of personnel and ground-support equipment.

2. The Maintenance Department was headed by Major G. L. ELLIS with Major G. H. BRAMAN as Assistant Maintenance Officer.

3. Not Operationally Ready Statistics

Operationally Ready	9339.6
Not Operationally Ready	67.7
Not Operationally Ready Maintenance	5232.7

Normal NOR Percentages (IAW OPNAVINST 5442.4A)

Operationally Ready	75%
NORS	15%
NORM	10%

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NOR Percentage for VMA-211 for March 1968

Operationally Ready	63%
NORS	1%
NORM	36%

(a) NORS. No comments.

(b) NORM. Excessive NORM time was due to the lack of personnel and ground support equipment, specifically, hydraulic jenny's.

4. AACP's. 163 AACP's were requisitioned for a daily average of 6 outstanding each day. A high of 16 AACP's was reached on 13 March 1968, with a low of 0 on 27 March 1968. The month ended with 17 AACP's outstanding.

The "High 5" items were:

FSN	NOMENCLATURE	NO.
RH2620-551-9925-Y120	TIRE	10
YD1660-791-2438-Y120	VALVE ASSY	4
8RC6615-805-6117-VGEW	GYROSCOPE	6
2RQ6620-789-1638-VIKG	OIL PRESSURE TX	4
2RE6685-555-3042-V3NA	EGT IND.	4

#### 5. Present Status of Aircraft

<u>A10</u>	<u>A1B</u>	<u>E5</u>	<u>H3</u>	<u>I20</u>
14	5	1	1	1

The average aircraft availability for the daily morning launch during March was 12 aircraft for 63% of A1 aircraft.

#### 6. Aircraft Damage for March

- 3 Mar 68 BuNo 150074-1 small arms round thru centerline fuselage just aft nose landing gear, through access door, air conditioning duct, damaged hydraulic lines.
- 3 Mar 68 BuNo 150132-1 small arms round thru L/H aileron.
- 6 Mar 68 BuNo 149658-Right main landing gear door (suspect shrapnel from own ordnance).
- 16 Mar 68 BuNo 151078-Took a round thru the rudder.
- 15 Mar 68 BuNo 150046-was hit by a 30 cal. round thru the right main gear door assy.
- 16 Mar 68 BuNo 150046-Took a round on rain removal ducting and thru windscreen retainer.
- 16 Mar 68 BuNo 151060-Took a round thru tail section.

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29 Mar 68 BuNo 151096-Had a 30 cal. projectile c/l tank only.  
30 Mar 68 BuNo 151993-Hole in drop tank and left hell'hole door-  
wires and piping damaged inside.  
30 Mar 68 BuNo 150063-Hole in the right wing between gear door  
and #4 station.

7. Personnel. On 31 March 1968, there were 139 personnel assigned  
and 105 effective. Expected losses in April are 8.

e. Aviation Ordnance. The following ordnance was expended in combat  
operations during the month of March:

<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
MK12 Smoke Tank (FS)	30
CS	17
2.75" FFAR	1,603
5.00" FFAR (Zuni)	317
CBU 24/B	51
CBU 29/A	62
CBU 1A/A	14
MK77 Fire Bomb	521
ANM 117A1 Bomb	68
MK82 Bomb	2,833
MK81 Bomb	2,903
20 MM	9,496
TOTAL TONNAGE	1,522.7
TOTAL POUNDAGE	3,048,221

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