

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

3:RRR:dwhs  
 05750  
 03A1249  
 4 May 1969

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~DECLASSIFIED~~

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

Subj: Command Chronology (U)

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology of Marine Attack Squadron 211; period 1 April through 30 April 1969

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

*B. B. Rutherford*  
 B. B. RUTHERFORD  
 Acting

211	0000
392-69	1

MAG-12 ENCL	COPY
563-69	1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MAG-211

CMD CHRON

APR 1969

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

CONFIDENTIAL  
DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 April 1969 TO 30 April 1969

INDEX

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA  
PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY  
PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr ser 03A1249

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED  
DECLASSIFIEDPART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. (U) UNITCOMMANDER

Marine Attack Squadron 211

LtCol E. T. GRAHAM JR.

2. (U) LOCATION

01-30 April 1969: Chu Lai, Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam

3. (U) STAFF OFFICERS

LtCol E. T. GRAHAM JR.	Commanding Officer	01-30 April 1969
Major B. B. RUTHERFORD	Executive Officer	01-30 April 1969
SgtMaj O. E. GAMBLE	Sergeant Major	01-04 April 1969
MSgt J. E. KLEE	Sergeant Major	05-30 April 1969
Capt J. C. BEEM	Admin Officer	01-30 April 1969
1/Lt R. B. LAMBDIN	Materiel Officer	01-30 April 1969
Major E. A. HOMER	Aviation Safety Officer	01-04 April 1969
Capt M. A. BEYMER	Aviation Safety Officer	05-30 April 1969
Major N. L. DERICKSON	Operations Officer	01-09 April 1969
Major A. D. MILLER	Operations Officer	10-30 April 1969
Major D. L. POSPISIL	Intelligence Officer	01-30 April 1969
Major R. F. WARREN	NATOPS Officer	01-30 April 1969
Lt(MC) J. A. STEWART	Flight Surgeon	01-30 April 1969

4. (U) AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
32	144	1	0

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr 03A1249UNCLASSIFIED  
DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL  
DECLASSIFIEDPART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. (U) All operations during the reporting period of 01 through 30 April 1969 were conducted from Chu Lai, Air Base, Republic of Vietnam.
2. (U) The following awards were recommended or awarded:

<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>
<u>DFC</u>	<u>GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS</u>
<u>END OF TOUR</u>	
LtCol WATERSTREET	Cpl ELLITHORPE
Major DERICKSON	Cpl FOSTER
Major POSPISIL	Cpl FRIESE
Major NORDELL	Cpl MAYOTTE
Captain HASTINGS	
Captain TOETTCHER	
1/Lt KENNEDY	
1/Lt SCHEFFLER	

3. (C) At 1513H on 4 April 1969, Lt Ronald D. LAYTON scrambled from the alert pad of VMA-211 as flight leader of a section of A-4E Skyhawks. He and his wingman, Lt Robert R. RIVERS, rendezvoused after take-off, proceeded to the target area, and contacted the ground FAC, Quizmaster-14, for their mission. The target was an enemy harbor site just off the Hoi An River 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. No enemy hostile fire had been reported in the area. The weather was clear, yet visibility was extremely poor due to the heavy haze layer. The nearest friendly troops were 300-500 meters southwest of the target.

After a 81mm mortar marking round, Lt LAYTON skillfully maneuvering his Skyhawk rolled in for his initial attack. With the pinpoint accuracy for which he was well known, he dropped his napalm right on target. Exhibiting quick thinking and mature headwork, he aborted his second run high and dry because of confusing corrections given by the FAC.

By now, however, his target was nearly obliterated by smoke and haze yet Lt LAYTON, exhibiting the cool expertise that marked him as a truly outstanding attack pilot, rolled in for another pass. Miraculously he acquired the target and dropped four MK-81 snake eye's precisely where Quizmaster had requested.

Lt LAYTON had started his recovery, unknown to anyone, however, was the fact that enemy gunners had opened fire on the flight. As the gallant young aviator pointed his Skyhawk at the sky, enemy guns found their mark. The

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr ser 03A1249

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

(C) Skyhawk rolled to the left and dove into the earth. Lt Ronald D. LAYTON had made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. This young Marine Aviator's conspicuous dedication to duty and uncommon loyalty to his country cost him his life. His actions were certainly in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Marine Corps and the U. S. Naval Service.

4. (U) During April the squadron flew 773 combat sorties for 868.1 combat hours, while delivering 1,140.29 tons of ordnance on enemy positions and in support of operations listed in Part III, paragraph 2.(c).

5. (U) Despite the heavy rigors of a combat environment as well as the loss of one aircraft to enemy ground fire, and the battle damage inflicted on others, the maintenance department was able to provide an availability of 72% of all aircraft for each morning's launch.

6. (U) The month of April was one of activity for the squadron S-4 department. Work was completed on the new ready room, construction was commenced on a new aircraft hangar, and a project to supply deckedge power in the squadron's parking revetments was started.

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr ser 03A1249

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED  
DECLASSIFIEDPART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. (U) PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATIONa. Promotions

Sergeant to Staff Sergeant	2
Corporal to Sergeant	6
Lance Corporal to Corporal	2
Private First Class to Lance Corporal	2

b. Awards

DFC	8
Bronze Star	1
NAM	2
Good Conduct	4

2. (U) AIR OPERATIONSa. Summary of Flight Hours

Combat Sorties	7773
Combat Hours	868.1
Non-Combat Sorties	22
Non-Combat Hours	22.7
Night Combat Hours	53.2
Total Flight Hours	890.8

b. Summary of Flight Missions

<u>Type Mission</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>
TPQ	103	78.5
CAS	421	447.9
DAS	199	213.1
LZP	4	6.9
ST	40	96.9
CAP	28	47.5

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 1tr ser 03A1249UNCLASSIFIED  
DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

c. (C) Operations Supported

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Missions</u>
Steel Tiger	40
Kentucky Jumper	38
Purple Martin	34
Oklahoma Hills	<del>22</del> 24
Maine Craig	20
Victory Dragon	16
Mass Striker	12
Cass Park	6
Italian Song	4
Bristol Boots	2
<del>Latin Rebel</del>	<del>2</del>
Project Delta	2
Miscellaneous	<u>597</u>
Total Missions	773

d. (C) Casualties Inflicted on Enemy

Trenchline Destroyed	215 Meters
Bunkers Destroyed	204
Structures Destroyed	158
Trail Destroyed	90 Meters
Secondary Fires	78
Bunkers Damaged	43
Confirmed KBA's	33
Secondary Explosions	30
Structures Damaged	23
Road Cuts	16
Tons of Rice Destroyed	8
Tunnels Destroyed	5
Probable KBA's	4
Bridges Destroyed	3
Trucks Destroyed	1
River Crossings Damaged	1
Tank Damaged	1
Bridge Damaged	1
Mortar Position Destroyed	1

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr ser 03A1249

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~e. (C) Ordnance Delivered

<u>Nomenclature</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
5.00 ZUNI	295
<del>MK-7 JATO</del>	<del>12</del>
MK-12 FS	2
MK-77 CS	16
MK-77 Fire Bomb	548
MK-81 Bomb	1678
MK-82 Bomb	2343
MK-83 Bomb	60
GBU 24	24
ROCKEYE	16
20 MM ROUNDS MK-12 GUN	7649
20 MM ROUNDS MK-4 GUN POD	6362
Total Tonnage	1.140.29

ENCLOSURE (1) to  
VMA-211 ltr ser 03A1249

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~