

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 214  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:TGL:hma  
5750  
5 Aug 1966

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1B

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), the following command chronology is submitted.

- a. Organization. Marine Attack Squadron 214
- b. Location. Chu Lai Airfield, Republic of Vietnam
- c. Period. 1-31 July 1966

  
RALPH D. WALLACE

VM-A-214

CMD CHRON

VMA-214

ML# 66-556

COPY.... 1 OF 2

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- e. Major Jerome T. HAGEN distinguished himself twice during July. First by flying his two-hundredth combat sortie on the 28th, and then on the 30th being the aviator to fly the 1000th hour for the Squadron this month.

### 3. Maintenance

- a. The Blacksheep Maintenance Department maintained an average availability of 73.0% for July, performed three Major Inspections and processed six aircraft through the SHOEHORN Modification.
- b. 464.4 tons of ordnance was expended by the Squadron aircraft during the month of July.
- c. Private First Class Alexander P. GOWANS, a Blacksheep Plane Captain, received a Letter of Commendation from Major General L. B. ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, for his vital assistance in extinguishing a fire in the VMA-311 flight line area on 20 June 1966.

### 4. Logistics

- a. The last of five huts in the Enlisted Living Area were covered with tin roofs which completes our enlisted area construction.
- b. Ropes were positioned over all huts in the Enlisted Area in preparation for severe weather. Similar work will be completed on working area huts when more anchor mooring stakes are received.
- c. All the heads in the VMA-214 Area were painted and new screens installed, plus the installation of two new head doors.

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PART I

1. Organizational Data

Ralph D. WALLACE, Major, Commanding, 1-16 July 1966

Ralph D. WALLACE, Lieutenant Colonel, 17-31 July 1966

Thomas G. LEACH, Captain, Administrative Officer, 1-17 July 1966

David A. CAYLOR, Captain, Administrative Officer, 18-31 July 1966

Sean E. FITZGERALD, First Lieutenant, Intelligence Officer, 1-31 July 1966

John R. CARR Jr., Major, Operations Officer, 1-11 July 1966

Ronald E. CARDWELL, Major, Operations Officer, 12-31 July 1966

Earl N. HARWELL, Captain, Logistics Officer, 1-31 July 1966

Patrick J. McCARTHY, Captain, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, 1-31 July 1966

Warren R. PATTERSON, Lieutenant (USN), Flight Surgeon, 1-31 July 1966

2. Task Organization

Marine Attack Squadron 214, 1-31 July 1966, Chu Lai Airfield, Republic of Vietnam.

3. Monthly Average Strength

USMC Officers - 28  
USMC Enlisted - 167

USN Officers - 1  
USN Enlisted - 0

PART II

1. Narrative Summary

- a. The "Blacksheep" flew 801 sorties for 1,065.4 hours 1-31 July 1966 in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

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PART III

1. Personnel/Administration

- a. Transferred five officers and twelve enlisted, and joined one officer and six enlisted.
- b. The Commanding Officer, Ralph D. WALLACE, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 17 July 1966.
- c. Seventeen other promotions were affected during the month of July, two of which were meritorious.
- d. The Squadron received two R&R quotas during the month, the first since returning to combat operations.
- e. Captain David A. CAYLOR, Administrative Officer, represented Marine Attack Squadron 214 at a 1st Marine Division Concert when he sang a medley of George M. Cohan's music, accompanied by the 40 piece 1st Marine Division Band.
- f. During this period the squadron area was visited by Senator Taft of Ohio, and The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Mr. Paul H. NITZE.

2. Operations

- a. The Squadron flew 1,065.4 hours in support of combat operations during the month of July. Direct combat sorties and hours were 726 and 965.9 respectively.
- b. Two aircraft mishaps occurred during July. Supporting documents 1 and 2 supply the details.
- c. The Commanding Officer presented ~~the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry~~ *Letters of Commendation* to Major Ronald E. CARDWELL and Captain William S. PERRY, and ~~Letters of Commendation~~ to Captain Joseph F. KUNZ and First Lieutenant William D. BLACKBURN for heavy damages inflicted on the enemy during one combat mission.
- d. Also during this period, Captains Malcolm W. WEHRUNG and Bobby L. COLEMAN, and First Lieutenant John A. RUTKOWSKI JR. received their 1st award of the Air Medal.

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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 214  
Marine Aircraft Group 1  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

ASO:DDP:hma  
3750  
5 July 1966

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH OPNAVINST 3750.6E

SPEEDLETTER

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commander, U. S. Naval Aviation Safety Center

A. OPNAVINST 3750.6E

1. A4C, 148537, VMA-214

2. 3 July 1966, 1450H, 280/35 from Chu Lai, RVN.

3. Red Blazer (DAS)

4. DELTA

5. The pilot was the leader of a four plane direct air support mission. His aircraft was configured with two MK-4 Gun Pods. On his second strafing pass, the pilot stated that he had initiated a low angle run. At some point prior to firing distance, the pilot felt two distinct thuds in the aircraft. He assumed that he had been hit by ground fire and advised the rest of the flight. He continued into the target firing and pulled off high. One of the other pilots visually checked the aircraft and advised that there were several "dents" in the skin on the wing and the main landing gear doors were damaged. The flight proceeded to home plate. When the pilot dropped his landing gear, the left main gear indicated unsafe. The pilot advised the Tower and the LSO that he intended to make a touch and go and attempt to get a safe indication. After completing the touch and go, the LSO reported that all gear appeared down and locked. The pilot executed a normal landing into the mid-field arresting gear without further incident. Suspect that pilot was nearly level on his last strafing run and that the damage was sustained when the aircraft contacted the trees on the crest of the low ridge short of the target. The leading edge of the right wing, the left and right slats, and both main landing gear doors were dented and torn. The right intake duct was torn and the right flap and trailing edge were punctured.

6. Cloyd H. KLINGENSMITH, Captain, 070653, USMC, Active, Parachute not utilized, No injury.

7. N/A

8. N/A

9. N/A

10. Direct Enemy Action.

12. 15-66I

*[Signature]*  
D. D. PAGE JR.  
Captain USMC  
AvnSafO

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Commanding Officer's Comments and Recommendations.

1. Forwarded.

2. The pilot was executing a nearly level strafing run on his second firing pass. The ridge line in question varies from 240 to 540 feet MSL and is located one mile from the target. The pilot was concentrating on keeping the target in sight and failed to note his altitude relative to the terrain. The target was a structure located on a 65' bluff overlooking a river.

3. Necessarily, in rolling or mountainous terrain, target acquisition and terrain clearance become two of the most important factors in effective weapons delivery. Level strafing runs are the most dangerous and least effective 20MM delivery. Weapons manuals do not consider strafing angles of less than 10°.

4. Squadron pilots have been schooled as to the dangers involved in low angle deliveries and have been instructed to adhere to standard delivery methods. Weapons delivery techniques will continue to be part of the flight leader's briefing and will be reviewed at all future APM's.

*[Signature]*  
RALPH D. WALLACE

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 214  
 Marine Aircraft Group 12  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

ASO:DDP:hma  
 3750  
 20 July 1966

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED IN  
 ACCORDANCE WITH OPNAVINST 3750.6E

SPEEDLETTER

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commander, U. S. Naval Aviation Safety Center

A. OPNAVINST 3750.6E

1. A4C, 148547, VMA-214

2. 19 July 1966, 0030H, Vicinity of Dong Ha, RVN.

3. TPQ

4. FOXTROT

5. While attempting to manually jettison live ordnance over enemy target, pilot inadvertently jettisoned center external fuel tank.

6. Jack M. HAAG, 1stLt, 086905, USMC, Active, Parachute Not Utilized, No Injury.

7. N/A


8. N/A

9. N/A

10. Not Direct Enemy Action.

11. See Attached Sheet.

12. 4-67I

  
 D. D. PAGE, JR.  
 Captain USMC  
 AvnSafO

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 Commanding Officer's Comments and Recommendations

1. Forwarded.

2. All pilots have been rebriefed on all means of dropping external stores from the A-4.

  
 RALPH D. WALLACE

DISTRIBUTION: (See Reverse Side)

ASO:DDP:hmb

3750

20 July 1966

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