

UNCLASSIFIED

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 232
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:RJR:ldh
5750
03A22272
9 AUG 1972



From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15
Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 January 1972 to 30 June 1972

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8_
(c) WgO 5750.1
(d) GruO 5750.1_

Encl: (1) VMFA-232 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

E.R. MAAG
E.R. MAAG

VMFA-232

S&C# 00254-72

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VMFA-232

Jan - June 1972

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MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 232
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

January to 30 June 1972

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. (U) DESIGNATION COMMANDER
- Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232 LtCol. J. L. GREGORCYK
Jan - 9 May 1972
LtCol. E. R. MAAG
9 May - 30 June 1972
2. (U) LOCATION
- 1 Jan - 22 Feb MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
23 Feb - 30 Mar NAS Cubi Point, R. P.
1 Apr - 5 Apr MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
6 Apr - 20 Jun Danang AB., RVN
21 Jun - 30 Jun Nam Phong AB., Thailand
3. (U) STAFF OFFICERS
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Executive Officer | Maj J. P. MONROE | 1 Jan - 24 Feb 72 |
| | Maj D. C. ESCALERA | 25 Feb - 31 May 72 |
| | Maj J. K. ALBRIGHT JR | 1 Jun - 30 Jun 72 |
| Operations Officer | Maj R. H. GLASS | 1 Jan - 6 Apr 72 |
| | Capt R. J. RIORDAN | 7 Apr - 31 May 72 |
| | Maj A. E. PEET | 1 Jun - 30 Jun 72 |
| Administrative Officer | 1/Lt W. J. HORNE | 1 Jan - 31 Mar 72 |
| | Capt R. DINKEL | 1 Apr - 30 Jun 72 |
| Logistics Officer | Capt W. C. FANNING | 1 Jan - 31 Jan 72 |
| | Capt J. W. WELLS | 1 Feb - 31 Mar 72 |
| | Capt B. E. JANKIEWICZ | 1 Apr - 30 Jun 72 |
| Maintenance Officer | Maj K. W. LANGFORD | 1 Jan - 14 Feb 72 |
| | Maj J. K. ALBRIGHT JR | 15 Feb - 31 May 72 |
| | Capt C. L. CULLER | 1 Jun - 30 Jun 72 |
| Aviation Safety Officer | Capt L. E. HOYT | 1 Jan - 29 Feb 72 |
| | Capt R. K. WARD | 1 Mar - 30 Jun 72 |
| Intelligence Officer | 1/Lt E. SALANIUK | 1 Jan - 30 Jun 72 |

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4. (C) AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
a. Marine Officers						
(1) Naval Aviators	21	21	23	21	21	21
(2) Naval Flight Officers	19	18	19	20	19	19
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	2	2	1	2	2	2
(4) Naval Flight Surgeon	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Air Force Exchange Aviators	0	0	0	0	0	0
c. Marine Enlisted	226	235	207	190	195	198

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(U) January flights totaled 219 sorties, resulting in 367 hours. Aircrews maintained proficiency in air intercept technique while working in the Iwakuni area.

(U) February flights totaled 204 sorties, resulting in 320 hours. Emphasis on air intercept as well as practice Air-to-Air refueling utilizing VMGR-152 assets.

(U) March was a very successful month which resulted in 436 sorties and 482 hours. The squadron was deployed to NAS Cubi Point, and was able to significantly increase the over-all squadron CRP. The first week was spent in the air-to-ground role utilizing Crow Valley Range as the primary target. The next two and half weeks the squadron flew ACM and Air-to-Air gunnery, utilizing H&MS-15 TA-4F's and VC-5 A-4E's for bogey aircraft and banner tow aircraft. The training received in the ACM portion of the deployment was very helpful during the final week, when the squadron conducted a successful TRE missile shoot. VMFA-232 aircrews were able to successfully intercept and destroy maneuvering targets utilizing both the AIM-7D and AIM-9D missiles. It should be noted that the squadron's Commanding Officer, LtCol J. L. GREGORCYK, flew his 1000th hour in the F-4 Phantom during this deployment.

(U) On 1 April the squadron returned to MCAS Iwakuni and prepared to proceed with normal operations; however, on 6 April the squadron departed for the RVN with the first aircraft, flown by LtCol GREGORCYK, landing that evening. At 0754 on 9 April 1972, the squadron commander,

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LtCol. J. L. GREGORCYK, launched on the first Marine F-4 combat mission since the Marine air withdrawal from RVN. Expending all of his ordnance, LtCol. GREGORCYK was credited with dropping 100% of his bombs on target. During the month of April, VMFA-232 flew 361 sorties and 500 hours dropping 3040 MK-82 bombs and 76 Rockeye's, accounting for 47% of all ordnance dropped by the three Marine F-4 squadrons in RVN. The squadron destroyed 16 trucks, 15 gun or mortar placements, 3 P.O.L.'s and almost 100 bunker positions. Also the squadron was credited with 126 enemy KBA, with Capt. J. G. BURNS accounting for 100 KBA on one mission. Although working with only 70% of our T.O., VMFA-232 was still able to complete 97% of its scheduled sorties.

(U) May 1972 was an extremely successful month for the Red Devils of VMFA-232. Flying its first full month in RVN, the squadron was able to produce 501 sorties and 585.5 flight hours. If it hadn't been for bad weather the last day of the month, which forced the squadron to cancel a number of sorties, VMFA-232 would have been very close to surpassing the 600 hour mark. It should be noted that despite working with only 75% of our T.O., this squadron was still able to complete 98.4% of its scheduled sorties. There were a total of 16 sorties lost; 8 cancelled due to maintenance, 6 cancelled due to weather, and 2 cancelled by MAG-15; a truly outstanding performance by the maintenance department which reflects the over-all professionalism of VMFA-232.

The squadron dropped 1397.5 tons of ordnance for the month of May. This accounts for 39.5% of all Marine F-4 ordnance dropped for the month. Since its entry into RVN, VMFA-232 has dropped 42% of all Marine F-4 ordnance delivered against the enemy. A breakdown of individual types of ordnance dropped for the month is as follows: 4,307 MK-82's, 2931 5.0" Zuni Rockets, 90 Rockeye, 83 MK-83's, and 73 MK-77 Fire Bombs. This variety of ordnance reflects the flexibility the squadron has to meet the varied enemy threats.

Not only did the squadron drop a large amount of ordnance, but the crews delivered it with accuracy, as reflected by the below listed BDA submitted by the FAC's:

30 Buildings Destroyed	2 Road Cuts
77 KBA	2 Trenches Destroyed
10 Trucks Destroyed	25 Bunkers Destroyed
3 Trucks Damaged	8 Bunkers Damaged
164 Secondary Explosions	1 Sniper Position Destroyed
3 Tanks Destroyed	1 130mm Gun Destroyed
2 Tanks Damaged	1 ZPU Destroyed
7 Stacks of Supplies Destroyed	10 SAM Cannisters Destroyed
1 POL Destroyed	2 Cranes Destroyed
3 Mortar Positions Destroyed	1 Ammo Dump Destroyed
25 Sustained Fires	1 Bridge Destroyed

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The following crews were complimented by FACS for their good bombing work:

KAH/OWENS, HAY/MISUNAS - Nail 71 said they "did an outstanding job with marginal weather in the target area." They were bombing a building and road, and received a 3 by 5 meter road cut for EDA.

LtCol MAAG/RIORDAN, Maj ALBRIGHT/WALDNER - Covey 202 said they had "good 82's and Zunis." They received 16 medium secondary explosions, and 41 small secondary explosions for BDA.

BLACKMAN/BLACK, JANKIEWICZ/LYND - FAC said they had "excellent bombing." They hit an occupied enemy bunker complex and received 5 bunkers destroyed and 3 bunkers damaged for BDA.

DOMINA/BLAKELY, DINKEL/BORDERS - FAC said it was the "best bombing FAC has ever seen." They were bombing a mortar position and received 4 bunkers destroyed and 1 mortar position destroyed for BDA.

WOJTASEK/OWENS, CORDOVA/LAMERS - Mike 75 said, "outstanding bombing by the flight." They were bombing troops in contact and no specific BDA was passed at the time by FAC.

BLACKMAN/BLACK, KAH/OWENS - Complimented by Nail 61 and the ground commander for "outstanding bombs." They were bombing troops in contact and an enemy bunker complex and got 75 small secondary explosions and one large secondary explosion for BDA.

SALANTUK/STANFILL, HAY/MISUNAS - Complimented by Bully 10 for "outstanding bombs." The flight was bombing a new base camp and received no specific BDA.

LtCol MAAG/RIORDAN, HORNE/MISUNAS - Complimented for "outstanding bombs despite weather" by Nail 71. They were striking 5 enemy personnel and got one medium sustained fire for BDA.

BURNS/SCHMIDT, KAH/OWENS - Complimented for an "outstanding professional job of acquiring and bombing a target under extreme weather conditions" by Covey 537. The flight bombed enemy bunkers with non-observed results due to smoke and foliage.

In summary, the outstanding performance of the crews and men of VMFA-232 during the month of May reflects the professional attitude with which they approach their job, and indicates continued success for the Red Devils of VMFA-232.

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(U) During the month of June, VMFA-232 flew 472 sorties, for a total of 562.7 flight hours. Four hundred and forty two of these hops were combat missions flown in support of the RVN. VMFA-232 dropped a total of 1364.9 tons of ordnance for the month, with the following individual break-down: 4,647 MK-82's, 117 MK-83's, 31 Rockeye, 129 Zuni Rockets, and 7 MK-77 Napalm. Despite the problems encountered moving the squadron to its present location, Nam Phong, Thailand, the maintenance effort continued to be outstanding and the squadron completed 97.6% of its scheduled sorties. On 20 June the squadron was redeployed to Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong, Thailand where it will continue its present operations.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. (C) PERSONNEL

	<u>OFFICER</u>						<u>ENLISTED</u>					
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	F	M	A	M	J
Joined	6	10	5	6	2	1	19	30	22	4	18	14
Transferred	8	11	3	4	3	4	32	20	42	25	6	16
Promoted	1	4	0	1	4	1	3	8	19	3	38	22

2. (U) AWARDS

Jan - 5

Feb - 6

Mar - 10

Apr - 43

May - 21

Jun - 5

3. (C) AIR OPERATIONS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Total Sorties	219	204	436	361	501	472
Total Flight Hours	367.9	320.5	482.3	499.6	585.5	562.7
High Day Sorties	20	22	22	18	28	20

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High Day Hours	36.7	30.0	30.0	22.9	32.8	29.7
Average Pilot Strength	21	21	23	21	21	21
Average Pilot Hours	18	15	23	23	27	26
Average Pilot Sorties	10	10	20	17	24	22
Average RIO Strength	19	18	19	19	19	19
Average RIO Hours	19	18	25	26	30	29
Average RIO Sorties	12	11	23	19	26	24

4. (C) MAINTENANCE

Aircraft Assigned	20	20	20	19	19	19
A/C Operational Readiness	49.5%	55.6%	60.3%	73%	80%	75%
Average A/C Available	16.1	15.5	16.1	11	12	11
Calendar Inspection	1	3	1	3	3	3

5. (U) AVIATION SAFETY

Accident	1	0	0	1	0	0
Incident	0	0	1	1	3	1