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

3:RKW:gwg  
5750  
03A33672  
1 December 1972

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November to 30 November 1972

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VMFA-232

Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<p>1. <u>DESIGNATION</u></p> <p>Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232</p>	<p><u>COMMANDER</u></p> <p>LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE 1-30 November 1972</p>
<p>2. <u>GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION</u></p> <p>Nam Phong, Royal Thai Air Base, Nam Phong, Thailand</p>	<p><u>PERIOD</u></p> <p>1-30 November 1972</p>
<p>3. <u>STAFF OFFICERS</u></p> <p>Executive Officer</p> <p>S-1 Officer</p> <p>S-2 Officer</p> <p>S-3 Officer</p> <p>S-4 Officer</p> <p>Maintenance Officer</p> <p>Aviation Safety Officer</p>	<p>Major W. T. MCFALL 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>Captain W. L. DOMINA 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>1/Lt P. A. LYND 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>Major A. E. PEET 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>Captain L. T. HIGBEE 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>Captain C. L. CULLER 1-30 November 1972</p> <p>Captain R. S. JONES 1-30 November 1972</p>

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
37	229	0	0	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(C) November was exceptionally productive for the "Red Devils" of VMFA-232. Of all combat sorties scheduled for the month, only 5.5 per cent were lost due to maintenance problems or aircraft non-availability. A record 814.3 flight hours and 515 sorties was the result of their outstanding sortie rate, and can be attributed to the high motivation, professional attitude, and teamwork exhibited by all personnel.

(C) With monsoon weather obscuring most of the targets in North and South Viet Nam, a means of spending more time on station was needed to maintain effectiveness. Using available 1st MAW KC-130 tanker assets, "Red Devil" crews were able to aerial refuel enroute to target areas and then arrive on station with sufficient loitering fuel to be assigned a target or to facilitate a rendezvous with a U.S.A.F. LORAN equipped aircraft, enabling them to bomb through an undercast.

(C) The versatility in ordnance loads carried by the "Red Devil's Phantoms" was instrumental in producing a large BDA as well as gaining a favorable impression by the Forward Air Controllers. Particularly noteworthy was the configuration consisting of four (4) MK 20 Rockeye II cannisters, four (4) five-inch Zuni rockets with anti-personnel warheads, two (2) MK 82 LDGP five hundred pound bombs with extended fuzes, and two (2) MK 82 LDGP standard five hundred pound bombs. This load was effective against all targets; armor, personnel and reinforced structures. The Zunies, fired from the LAU 33/A two shot pod, were used as an effective flak suppression weapon, when attacking active gun sites because of the capability to fire them during the same delivery run as the bombs or Rockeye II cannisters. Rockeye has shown to be one of the most effective, deadly, weapons carried. By nature of its design, it is ideal against all types of targets. Two specific missions flown during November will serve to illustrate the effectiveness of this ordnance configuration:

On 3 November two aircraft, crewed by Capt LUHMANN/1/Lt MISUNAS and Major PEET/CWO-3 SWANEY, accounted for fifty enemy killed, twenty-seven enemy wounded, three bunkers and one storage structure destroyed when they launched as Motion 3 flight, mission number 8917, into Laos. Then again, on 8 November Motion 3, crewed by LtCol LAWRENCE/1/Lt BORDERS and Major COOPER/Captain EDELEN, launched to the same area and accounted for 35 enemy killed and 49 wounded.

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(C) Once again Marine Air proved that it can do the job, and do it better than any other organization. The Forward Air Controllers working under the call sign "Raven", praised the work of the Red Devils during a recent visit, and expressed their desire to have Marine aircraft working their targets.

(C) The loss of one of the Squadron's aircraft and a crewmember marred the otherwise outstanding month of November. On the twentieth of the month, Captain's W. D. ANDERSON and D. C. BREUER were shot down by an anti-aircraft artillery fire while attacking a heavily defended enemy target. Capt ANDERSON was recovered with only minor injuries in two hours by U.S.A.F. "Super Jolly Green Giant" HH53 helicopters, however contact was never established with Capt BREUER and he is now listed as MIA.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 3 Nov 1972 Enemy convoy discovered in Route Pack 1, NVN. Squadron scrambled three aircraft configured with MK 82 LDGP bombs, CBU-24 cluster bombs, and five-inch Zuni rockets to the area and destroyed two trucks and two tanks. Additionally the same day, Motion 3 flight got 50 confirmed enemy killed, 27 enemy wounded, 3 bunkers and 1 storage structure destroyed in the Steel Tiger area of Laos.
- 6 Nov 1972 Capt F. E. DAVIS completed the in-country combat operation indoctrination course presented by MAG-15.
- 8 Nov 1972 Motion 3 was given a bomb damage assesment of 35 confirmed enemy killed and 49 enemy wounded from a strike in Steel Tiger.
- 9 Nov 1972 Captains CHURCH and ISBELL completed the in-country combat indoctrination course presented by MAG-15. A squadron-level Company Grade Officer symposium was held by the Executive Officer, Major MCFALL, to aid in improving the communications both up and down the chain of command.
- 10 Nov 1972 Squadron personnel attended celebration of the Marine Corps' 197th birthday.
- 11 Nov 1972 Capt W. L. DOMINA was presented the Navy Achievement award. Corporals G. A. BEACH, F. A. CASTLE JR., W. E. COSBY, L. W. LEE, D. W. PALMER, B. J. PARSON JR., and P. L. SPIRES were promoted to their present ranks; to rank as such from 1 November 1972.
- 13 Nov 1972 Col TALBERT held a discussion with the Company Grade Officers in the quarters area, presenting thoughts on career planning and the future of Marine Corps Aviation.
- 15 Nov 1972 Lt POLING completed the MAG-15 in-country combat operation indoctrination course.
- 20 Nov 1972 F-4J 153849, the number two aircraft of Motion 5 flight, was shot down by Communist anti-aircraft artillery in Laos at coordinates 1635 N 10633 E. The pilot, Captain W. D. ANDERSON was recovered with minor injuries. The RIO, Cap-

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- tain D. C. BREUER is not recovered and is presently listed as missing action.
- 23 Nov 1972 Capt's G. D. TAYLOR and P. M. DEGNAN were presented with the Air Medal, first strike/flight award.
- 26 Nov 1972 1/Lt R. W. JACOBS became the first aircrewman in MAG-15 to complete 1000 combat missions since the current deployment began in April 1972.
- 30 Nov 1972 The following personnel were given Meritorious Masts for outstanding performance of duty:

Cpl J. A. ANDREINE  
Cpl W. J. BEASLEY  
Cpl H. GONZALEZ  
Cpl D. GRAY  
Cpl SHEPPMANN

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. (C) List of VMFA-232 BDA for the month of November.
- b. (C) Personnel.
- c. (C) Air Operations.
- d. (C) Maintenance.
- e. (C) Aviation Safety.
- f. (C) Photograph depicting one of VMFA-232's aircraft loaded with an extremely valuable, effective, ordnance load: Zuni rockets with proximity fuzes, Rocket II cannisters, MK-82 LDGP bombs with fuse extenders, and MK-82 LDGP bombs. (original only)
- g. (C) Ordnance expenditures for November 1972.

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A. (C) A list of VMFA-232 BDA for November as follows:

128	KBA	1	Trench Line Cut
75	Probable	20	Rounds of 85mm Ammo Destroyed
74	WBA	1	Rocket Destroyed
68	Secondary Explosions	2	122mm Artillery Pieces Destroyed
19	Sustained Fires	1	122mm Artillery Piece Damaged
2	Trucks Destroyed	1	Rocket Launcher Destroyed
5	Trucks Damaged	1	12.7 AAA Gun Destroyed
1	Tracked Vehicle Damaged	1	23mm AAA Gun Destroyed
44	Military Structures Destroyed	1	23mm AAA Gun Silenced
8	Military Structures Damaged	4	37mm AAA Guns Destroyed
41	Bunkers Destroyed	3	37mm AAA Guns Damaged
18	Bunkers Damaged	2	37mm AAA Guns Silenced
3	Tanks Destroyed	1	51Cal Automatic Weapon Destroyed
7	Stacks of Supplies	1	51 Cal Automatic Weapon Damaged
313	Meters of Road Cut	2	82mm Mortars Silenced

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B. (C) <u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Joined	5	17
Transferred	5	18
Promoted	0	7

Tab B

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C. (C) AIR OPERATIONS

Total Sorties	515
Total Flight Hours	814.3
Total Combat Sorties	460
Total Combat Hours	742.7
High Day Sorties	22
High Day Hours	35.1
Average Pilot Strength	16
Average Pilot Sorties	32
Average Pilot Hours	50.9
Average RIO Strength	15
Average RIO Sorties	34
Average RIO Hours	60.9

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D. (C) MAINTENANCE

Aircraft Assigned	17
A/C Operational Readiness	51.8%
Average A/C Available	16.7
Calandar Inspection	1

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E. (U) AVIATION SAFETY

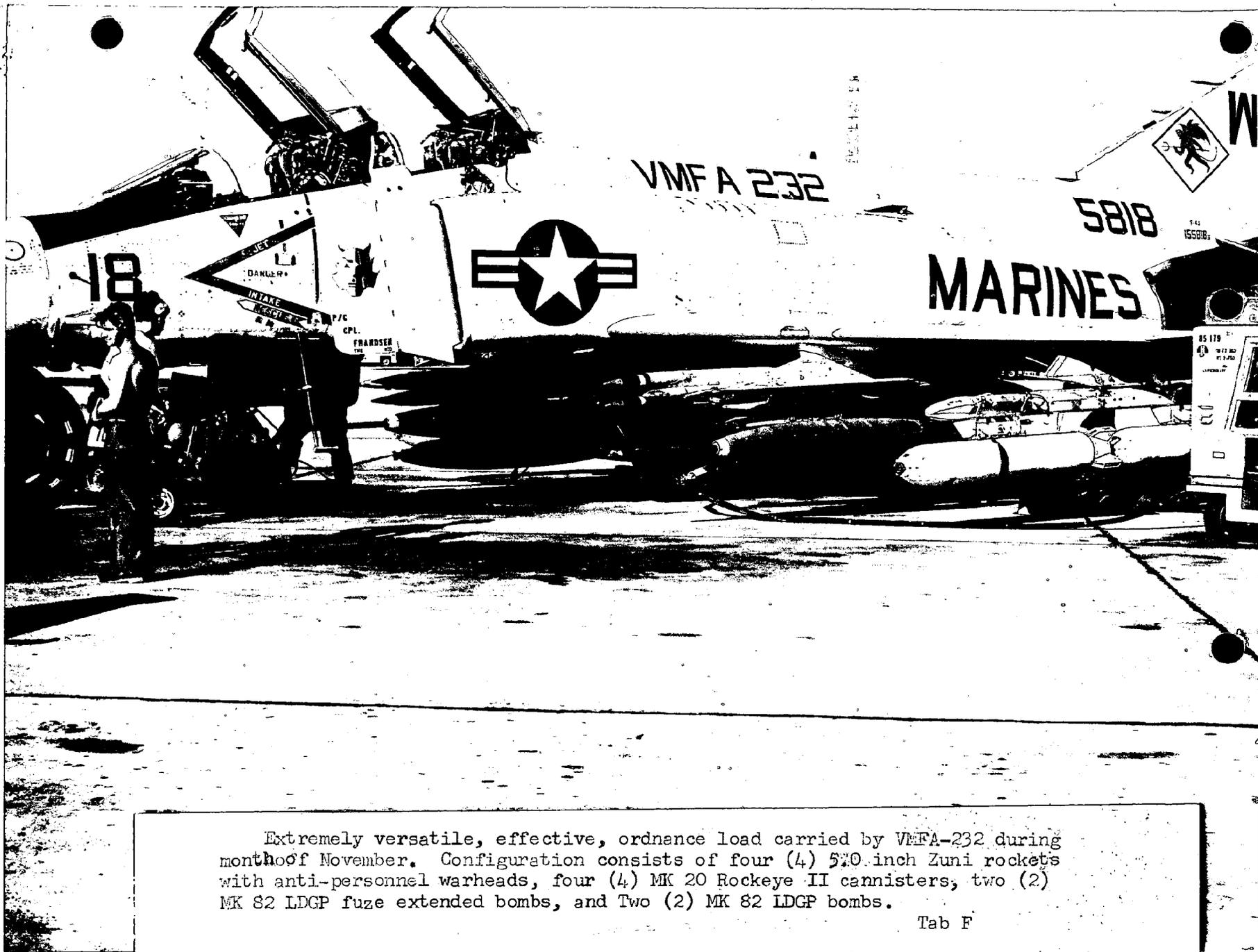
Accident 1 (DEA)

Incident 0

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TAB-F



Extremely versatile, effective, ordnance load carried by VMFA-232 during month of November. Configuration consists of four (4) 500 inch Zuni rockets with anti-personnel warheads, four (4) MK 20 Rockeye II cannisters, two (2) MK 82 LDGP fuze extended bombs, and Two (2) MK 82 LDGP bombs.

Tab F

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G. (C) Ordnance expenditures for November 1972

MK-82 500 pound LDGP bombs	3,746
MK-83 1000 pound LDGP bombs	358
5.0 inch Zuni rockets	1,073
Cluster bomb unit (CBU-20) ROCKEYE II	166
Cluster bomb unit (CBU-24)	61

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