

MAG-11 520
No. 0459-66
COPY 1 OF -

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 314
 Marine Aircraft Group 11
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
 FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3:JHT:glr
 5750
 9 March 1966
 Ser: 03A6866



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 MOH

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VMFA-314

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11 (Attn: S-3)
 Subj: Command Chronology, period 1-28 February 1966 (4)
 Ref: (a) GruO 5213.2H

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted.
2. During the subject period, VMFA-314 flew 605 sorties for 859 hours, of which 87% were in support of combat operations, a record for in-country operations by an F-4B squadron. The majority of the sorties flown were involved in air-to-ground ordnance delivery, with more than 1,400,000 pounds of conventional ordnance expended. 106 EF-10B escort sorties were cancelled during the month by higher authority.

Two aircraft were lost as the direct result of enemy ground fire, with all crew members ejecting safely to be picked up by friendly forces. Of these, one crew member was evacuated to CONUS because of injuries, another restricted to limited flight duties, while the two remaining aircrew members were returned to normal duties.

3. Personnel

<u>Average Strength</u>			<u>TRANSFERRED</u>	<u>JOINED</u>
NA	22	OFFICERS	2	0
NFO	18			
AG	4	ENLISTED	3	28
Enlisted	304			
TAD	3			

Four officers, previously reported as missing in action were dropped by service record to H&MS-11.

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4. Casualties. On 24 February, 1stLt John W. PIERCE (pilot) and 2ndLt Billie R. ELLIS (NFO) were forced to eject after their aircraft entered uncontrolled flight, resulting from enemy ground fire. Both crew members were rescued by helicopter and returned to Da Nang AB. Lt PIERCE was evacuated to CONUS on 28 February for injuries sustained after ejection. Both crew members received Purple Heart Awards.

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 ENCLOSURE (26)

1966

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On 25 February the aircraft manned by 1stLt Robert L. PAPPAS and 1stLt John R. COLEMAN was hit by small arms fire while engaged in a napalm attack, and entered uncontrolled flight soon after it was maneuvered out to sea. Both crew members ejected into the sea, and after some delay because of bad weather and high seas, both men were rescued by USS FALGOUT (DER 324) and returned to Da Nang AB having suffered ~~no~~ injuries during ejection.

5. Air Defense. VMFA-314 manned the air-to-air ground alert during the period 6-20 February. One scramble order was received, but before the alert aircraft could launch, the bogie was identified and the scramble was cancelled.

6. Awards. During the subject period VMFA-314 made application for 43 air medals and 2 purple heart awards.

C. A. Sewell
C. A. SEWELL

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