

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

OPNS:JHT:glr
5750
7 April 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology, period 1-31 March 1966
Ref: (a) GruO 5213.2H

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted.
2. General

VMFA-314 flew 711 sorties for 925.6 flight hours expending 1,585,000 pounds of ordnance during the subject period, establishing records for F-4B in-country based operations in the following categories: VMFA-314 exceeded the total amount of combat sorties flown by any Navy or Marine Corps squadron for a one month period; total combat flight hours for one month period; total flight hours during a 24 hour period; total sorties during a 24 hour period. VMFA-314 took part in Operations Texas and Oregon and launched 20 sorties in support of As Hau defense and evacuation activities.

VMFA-314 lost two aircraft during the reporting period. All aircrew members were rescued and returned to Da Nang. Additionally, three aircraft received moderate damage, and three others, light damage as a result of enemy ground fire.

3. Personnel

- a. Average strength on hand for the subject period was as follows:

(1) Ground Officers	-	4
(2) Naval Aviators	-	22
(3) Naval Flight Officers	-	21
(4) Flight Surgeon	-	1
(5) Enlisted	-	305
(6) Corpsmen	-	2

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b. Transfers

- (1) 2 officers transferred CONUS; 3 officers MAG-11
- (2) 18 enlisted CONUS; 3 enlisted MAG-11; 1 enlisted MAG-16

Six officers attended Jungle Environmental Survival Training, USNAS Cubi Point, P. I. during the subject period. VMFA-314 supplied seventeen men for MAG-11 guard and ten men for mess duty.

Captains R. L. PAPPAS; D. WESTBROOK; and D. W. MYERS were promoted to their present rank during the reporting period. Additionally fourteen enlisted promotions were received, the breakdown as follows: 2 GySgts; 12 Sergeants.

4. Awards and Decorations. Aircrew members of VMFA-314 received 117 Air Medals and two Purple Hearts medals during the reporting period.

5. Combat Losses

a. On 4 March 1stLt. T. P. KEENAN and Captain C. R. FAIRCHILD ejected safely into the sea when their aircraft lost control systems hydraulic pressure having been struck by ground fire during a napalm delivery run. Both crew members were returned to flight status prior to the end of the reporting period.

b. On 14 March Major E. C. PAIGE and WO-1 D. D. REDMOND ejected while on a night bombing mission. After spending a harrowing night pursued by hostile forces, both crew members were rescued by helicopter. Major PAIGE was returned to a flying status and WO REDMOND was transferred to CONUS for convalescence.

c. Three aircraft received moderate damage during the period and three others light damage all as a result of enemy ground fire during bombing missions.


C. A. SEWELL