

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 334
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco, Calif. 96602

3:JRS:gfr
5750
Ser: 03A12869
8 May 1969

~~_____~~
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C
(b) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for 1 - 30 April 1969

1. In accordance with instructions contained in references (a) and (b), the Command Chronology for the period 1-30 April 1969 is submitted as Enclosure (1).

2. This cover letter is UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of Enclosure (1).

J R Scafe
J. R. SCAFE
By direction

UNCLASSIFIED

CHD LTRON

APR 1969

03A12869
8 May 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 334
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13
1st MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, PACIFIC
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96602

CHU LAI AIR BASE, VIETNAM

1 - 30 APRIL 1969

03A12869
8 May 1969

1. Commanding Officer and Staff.

<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>
Commanding Officer	LtCol	S. E. D'ANGELO III	1 - 30 April 1969
Executive Officer	Major	H. J. BOND	1 - 15 April 1969
Executive Officer	Major	A. G. POTENZA	16 - 30 April 1969
S-1 Officer	Captain	B. R. BAIRD	1 - 21 April 1969
S-1 Officer	Captain	S. J. TRACHTA	22 - 30 April 1969
S-2 Officer	1stLt	J. W. LEIST	1 - 30 April 1969
S-3 Officer	Major	J. R. SCAPE	1 - 30 April 1969
S-4 Officer	Major	J. E. MAY	1 - 13 April 1969
S-4 Officer	Major	M. H. BRANUM	14 - 30 April 1969
Maintenance Officer	Major	C. E. JOHNSTON	1 - 30 April 1969
Safety Officer	Major	A. G. POTENZA	1 - 15 April 1969
Safety Officer	Major	J. D. WALDO	16 - 30 April 1969

2. Average Monthly Strength.

Marine Officers - 44	Navy Officers - 1
Marine Enlisted - 245	Navy Enlisted - 0

3. Task Organization and Location.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 334
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific

Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1 - 30 April 1969.

4. Important Visitors.

No important visitors visited the Squadron during the month of April.

Part II Narrative of Significant Highlights.

Continued good weather during April 1969, enabled the Falcons of VMFA-334 to log an impressive 621 sorties and 708.4 hours supporting III MAF, 7th AF, CTF 77, ROK and ARVN forces in operations Steel Tiger, Maine Crag, Massachusetts Striker, Purple Martin, Oklahoma Hills and Victory Dragon.

On 20 April in a classic close air support situation Major A. G. POTENZA (pilot) and Captain K. E. STRAYHORN (RIO) led a section of F4J's supporting Americal Division forces under the control of Helix 33. The devastating accuracy of the strike resulted in six KDA, four structures destroyed, two structures damaged, two secondary fires and a secondary explosion.

03A12869
8 May 1969

On 29 April Major M. H. BRANUM (pilot) and Captain H. W. GIPPS (RIO) attacked a storage area in the 101st Airborne TAOB under the control of Bilk 35. Their section of Phantoms were credited with fifteen fortifications destroyed and ten damaged, one military structure destroyed, a tunnel complex opened and a large secondary explosion.

On 3 April 1969 Colonel R. S. RASH (pilot) and 1stLt J. W. LEIST (RIO) took a .50 cal hit through the starboard ramp while striking a target in the DMZ. The rear canopy was jettisoned because of smoke in the cockpit. The aircraft experienced a utility hydraulic failure, lost both generators and had an arresting hook malfunction which prevented making an arrested landing. Due to the superior aimanship of this crew the aircraft was landed normally at DaNang. WFA-334 had three other aircraft hit incidents during April all attributed to Direct Enemy Action involving limited damage and no injuries.

Despite the burdens of combat air operations WFA-334 participated in the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing FIREX - 69 at NAS Cubi Point. Four aircraft and eight aircrews fired 3 Sparrows and 4 Sidewinders during this phase of the FIREX. LtCol S. E. D'ANGELO III and Captain K. E. STRAYHORN (RIO) were credited with a direct hit against the BQI 34A with their AIM 7E Missile.

Part III Significant Events.

1. Personnel.

a. Officers Joined - 2	Enlisted Joined - 7
Officers Dropped - 2	Enlisted Dropped - 6

2. Administrative.

a. Captain R. F. TILLIE, Master Sergeant BAKER, Gunnery Sergeant GAY, and Staff Sergeant KOKOS were all promoted to their present rank during the month of April. WFA-334 also had nine promotions to Sergeant, two to Corporal and one to Lance Corporal.

b. Staff Sergeant MARCEAU reenlisted for four years.

c. There were no extensions during April.

3. Awards.

a. Flight/Strike Air Medals - 78

b. Distinguished Flying Cross - 4 recommendations submitted.

c. Purple Heart Medal - one

03A12869
8 May 1969

4. Air Operations.

a. Sorties

- (1) Day Sorties Flown - 492
- (2) Night Sorties Flown - 129
- (3) Total Sorties Flown - 621

b. Type of Sorties Flown.

- (1) TPO - 117
- (2) CAS - 364
- (3) DAS - 82
- (4) BARCAP - 14
- (5) Escort - 8
- (6) Test - 2
- (7) Other - 34

c. Hours Flown.

- (1) Combat Hours - 679.4
- (2) Operational Hours - 29.0
- (3) Total Hours - 708.4

d. Ordnance.

- (1) Total Tons of Ordnance Expended - 1289
- (2) The following type and amounts of ordnance were expended:
 - (a) D-1 Mark 81 (250#) - 148
 - (b) D-2 Mark 82 (500#) - 3208
 - (c) D-3 Mark 83 (1000#) - 109
 - (d) D-5 2.75" Rockets (19) - 515
 - (e) D-7 LAU-10A (ZUNI) - 197
 - (f) D-8 ROCKEYE - 30
 - (g) D-9 MK-77 (500# Napalm) - 615
 - (h) D-14 CBU-24 - 43

e. Bomb Damage Assessment.

- (1) Bunkers Destroyed - 118
- (2) Secondary Fires - 102
- (3) Structures Destroyed - 183
- (4) Meters of Trench Line Destroyed - 430
- (5) Tunnels Destroyed - 10
- (6) Trail Cuts - 15
- (7) Bunkers Damaged - 33

03A12869
8 May 1969

- (8) Secondary Explosions - 40
- (9) Structures Damaged - 50
- (10) KDA (C) - 21
- (11) Trucks Destroyed - 2
- (12) Bridges Destroyed - 1
- (13) Active AA posit. Destroyed - 2
- (14) AA Positons Destroyed - 6

f. Operations Supported.

- (1) Bristol Boats - 16
- (2) Gala Hills - 4
- (3) Kentucky Jumper - 32
- (4) Maine Crag - 12
- (5) Massachusetts Striker - 18
- (6) Oklahoma Hills - 30
- (7) Purple Martin - 24
- (8) Steel Tower - 82
- (9) Victory Dragon - 16

g. Units Supported.

- (1) III MAF - 294
- (2) 7th AF - 90
- (3) CTF 77 - 14
- (4) U. S. Army - 195
- (5) ROK - 16
- (6) ARVN - 12