

DECLASSIFIED

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MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533

Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:CRB:rws
5750
03A18572
3 July 1972

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 1 January 1972 to 30 June 1972
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) GruO 5750.1
Encl:✓ (1) VMA(AW)-533 Command Chronology
(2) CG, 1st MAW msg 040435 Feb 72
(3) CO, MAG-12 msg 050300 Feb 72
(4) CG, 1st MAW msg 250215 Mar 72
(5) COMFAIRWESTPAC msg 310453 Mar 72
(6) MAG-12 msg 040126Z Apr 72

J. C. Brown
J. C. BROWN

VMA AW 533
S&C FILE
#00200-72
PY 1 OF 5

DOWNGRADES AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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100-1000-533

Jan-Jun 1972

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

COMMANDER

Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533

Maj. D. E. CATHCART

1 Jan 72 - 9 Jun 72

LtCol. J. C. BROWN

10 Jun 72 - 30 Jun 72

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATION

1 Jan - 20 Jun 72: MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

21 Jun - 30 Jun 72: Nam Phong, Thailand

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj. J. A. MARTIN

1 Jan 72 - 1 Mar 72

Maj. R. T. POORE

2 Mar 72 - 22 May 72

Maj. J. A. MARTIN

23 May 72 - 30 Jun 72

Operations Officer

Maj. R. T. POORE

1 Jan 72 - 1 Mar 72

Capt. E. YOUNG

2 Mar 72 - 17 Apr 72

Capt. P. G. HIGGINS

18 Apr 72 - 18 Jun 72

Maj. M. A. HUFFORD

19 Jun 72 - 30 Jun 72

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UNCLASSIFIEDAircraft Maintenance Officer

Maj. B. G. RUTLEDGE

1 Jan 72 - 25 Jun 72

Capt. P. R. HEMMING

26 Jun 72 - 30 Jun 72

Administrative Officer

Capt. W. A. DETKI

1 Jan 72 - 11 Mar 72

Capt. L. ROBERTSON

12 Mar 72 - 30 Jun 72

Aviation Safety Officer

Capt. S. P. PORCARI

1 Jan 72 - 24 Jan 72

Capt. P. G. HIGGINS

25 Jan 72 - 17 Apr 72

1stLt. N. W. MORLEY

18 Apr 72 - 30 Jun 72

Logistics Officer

Capt. D. K. DENSON

1 Jan 72 - 30 Jun 72

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC

USN

OFFENLOFFENL

35

194

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PART II - NARRATIVE

During the period covered by this report, 1 Jan 72 - 30 Jun 72, Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 flew 790 sorties, accounting for 2300.9 accident free flight hours. This brings the squadron total since the beginning of the fiscal year to 3,878.2 accident free hours and qualifies the squadron for the CNO Aviation Safety Award. In compiling this record of accident free flight time, squadron aircraft flew training missions over Japan, Okinawa, Korea, and the Philippines. These missions were flown to maintain the Command's status as the only combat ready A-6A unit in the Western Pacific. In addition to these training flights the squadron flew in support of such commitments as "Operation Golden Dragon". The main theme for this entire period was one of intransigence caused by the squadron's ever changing status, the massive turnover of personnel and material that was experienced and the period of uncertainty surrounding the squadron's anticipated deployment to S. E. Asia.

The first portion of the reporting period began with the squadron amassing a total of 377.8 flight hours during the month of January, the highest since 1969, and attaining an operational ready time of 70.6% and a full system availability of 32.5% for the month. These figures were the highest ever recorded until that time. This record breaking start, however, was only an indication of things to come. The high for the reporting period followed on the heels of this initial success in February when the Hawks flew 400.6 hours, the highest on record, and maintained an operational ready time of 80.8% and a full system availability of 43%. This amount of flight time for an A-6 squadron equates very closely to an 800 hour month for an A-4 squadron and establishes a lasting precedent for peace time aircraft utilization and amounts to 40 hours per aircraft for the 10 A-6A's assigned. Also during the month of February the squadron launched 9 of its 10 aircraft to Naha, Okinawa while participating in a NOREX. All aircraft remained operationally ready throughout the exercise and were flown back to Iwakuni in a 9 plane formation. In February the Hawks received three "Well Done's" for their superior performance during the month of January; from CG, FMFPac, CG, 1st MAW and CO, MAG-12.

The middle portion of the reporting period (March and April) was only slightly less impressive than the first period. During the month of March the squadron received "Well Done's" from COMFAIRWEST PAC for assistance rendered to the two Trans-Pac crews; and from CG, 1st MAW for the squadron's "Superior Appearance" on the CG's personnel inspection. During this period 26 enlisted technicians and 2 flight crews were transferred TAD to VMA(AW)-224 to augment their West Pac Cruise aboard the USS Coral Sea. Even so, the squadron flew 373.6 hours and maintained an operational ready time of 66.6% with 30.9% full system availability. The month of April brought "Golden Dragon", a combined exercise, in which the Hawks

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flew 18 sorties and 49.0 hours in support. During the month of April the squadron flew a total of 378.3 hours and maintained an operational ready time of 66.1% and a full system availability of 24.1%. Also during the month of April the squadron had a second detachment of 6 officers and 23 enlisted TAD in Naha as a part of MAG-12's Alpha detachment. During the month of April the squadron transferred 4 full system aircraft to other units and received 6 different aircraft, thus increasing the squadron's Table of Equipment to 12 while the Table of Organization remained that of a 10 plane squadron. This continued to strain the operations and maintenance efforts.

The final portion of the reporting period was characterized by high expectations as the squadron was on 12 hour alert for $5\frac{1}{2}$ weeks pending immediate deployment to South East Asia. During this period the squadron operated out of embarkation boxes and from pallets as all was in readiness for immediate deployment. Even operating under this handicap, the squadron managed to fly 397.0 hours during the month of May, a figure just 3.6 hours short of the record breaking month of February. The month of May also brought the only blemish upon the squadron's record. During May, just as the word came down to prepare for deployment, the squadron was undergoing it's NTPI inspection upon which a grade of unsatisfactory was received. The inspection debrief stated that failure was due to recent turnover in many critical billets, but that the morale and drive of 533 was outstanding. Also during the month of May, 533 went C-2 for personnel due to a shortage of aircrews. The month of June closed out the reporting period with many significant events occurring. The squadron received a new Commanding Officer as LtCol. J. C. BROWN assumed command during change of command ceremonies held on 9 June 72 in Iwakuni. Shortly after this ceremony, the squadron, after $5\frac{1}{2}$ weeks in limbo, was committed to the South East Asia area for combat duty. The move to the new base, Nam Phong, Thailand, commenced on 20 June with the Commanding Officer leading the forward element, 4 A-6A's to Nam Phong, followed by the other 8 aircraft the next day. The squadron flew it's first combat sorties on Saturday, 24 June 72 and has been averaging 10 sorties a day ever since. During the month of June the squadron flew 373.6 hours 116.5 of which were in combat.

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UNCLASSIFIEDPART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

4 Feb The squadron received a well done from CG, FMFPac for performance in January, in Msg 04027Z Feb 72.

5 Feb The squadron received a well done from CG, 1st MAW for performance in January in Msg 050302Z Feb 72 (Encl 3).

5 Feb The squadron received a well done from CO, MAG-12 for Superior Performance in January.

15 Feb While participations NOREX the squadron launched 9 of its ten aircraft. The Commanding Officer led a 9 plane formation on its return to Naha.

10 Mar The squadron sent a detachment of 4 officers and 26 enlisted men to VMA(AW)-224 aboard USS Coral Sea.

25 Mar The squadron received a well done from CG, 1st MAW for superior appearance at CG's personnel inspection (Encl 4).

31 Mar The squadron received a well done from COMFAIRWESTPAC for assistance given to transpac crews in Msg 310453Z Mar 72 (Encl 5).

17 Apr 3 A-6A aircrews and maintenance personnel left for Naha, Okinawa to be part of MAG-12's Alpha detachment.

13 May The squadron underwent NTPI upon which a grade of unsatisfactory was received.

13 May The squadron was placed on 12 hour alert for deployment to South East Asia.

9 Jun LtCol. J. C. BROWN relieved Maj. D. E. CATHCART as Commanding Officer.

15 Jun The squadron's Naha detachment returned.

15 Jun General CUSHMAN, CMC, toured the squadron area during a visit to Iwakuni, Japan.

17 Jun The squadron's detachment aboard USS Coral Sea returned.

20 Jun The squadron was committed to South East Asia for combat duty.

22 Jun The squadron completed its move to Nam Phong, Thailand.

24 Jun The squadron flew its first combat sorties.

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R 040435Z FEB 72

FM CG FIRST MAW
TO ZEN/MAG ONE TWO
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UNCLAS E F T O //N01650//
SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533 MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING AND NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1972. THE 377.8 FLIGHT HOURS REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST TIME ACCRUED SINCE OCTOBER 1969 AND EQUATES TO A REMARKABLE 38 HOURS UTILIZATION PER AIRCRAFT. A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE SUCCESS OF THEIR NAVAL AVIATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IS THE REMARKABLE 70.6 PERCENT FULL SYSTEMS CAPABLE AIRCRAFT HOURS ATTAINED DURING THE SAME PERIOD. SUCH A COMMENDABLE RECORD CAN ONLY BE THE RESULT OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY ON THE PART OF ALL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THAT FINE SQUADRON. I EXTEND A HEARTY "WELL DONE" TO ALL CONCERNED. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. MAJGEN OWENS.

BT
#5315

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PTTEZYUW RUADKUA~~0009~~ 0560334-EEEE--RUYRSAA.

ZNY EEEEE

P R 050300Z FEB 72

FM MAG-12

TO ZEN/VMA(AW)-533

INFO ZEN/CG 1ST MAW

ZEN/H&MS-12

RUYRSAA/VMA-211

ZEN/VMA-311

ZEN/MABS-12

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N01650//

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

A. CG, 1ST MAW 040435Z FEB 72

1. I AM PROUD AND PLEASED TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF REF A PLEASE ENSURE ALL HANDS OF MAG-12'S FRONT RUNNING SQUADRON, THE 533RD HEAVY BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (THE HAWKS), ARE AWARE THAT THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS ARE RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS. COL RUTTY SENDS.

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FM CG FIRST MAW

TO ZEN/MARAWATRON FIVE THREE THREE

INFO ZEN/MAG ONE TWO

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UNCLAS //N05041//

SQUADRON PERSONNEL INSPECTION

1. THE SUPERIOR APPEARANCE OF YOUR COMMAND AT THE PERSONNEL INSPECTION 21 MARCH WAS NOTICED WITH PLEASURE. THE RESULTS INDICATE A HIGH DEGREE OF COMMAND ATTENTION AND CONSIDERABLE INDIVIDUAL EFFORT BY ALL MARINES. PLEASE PASS MY APPRECIATION FOR SUCH A FINE EFFORT TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMAND.

BGEN O'DONNELL

BT

#7312

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RTTUZYUW RUADJVA~~0021~~ Ø91Ø435-UUUU--RUAOKUA.

ZNR UUUUU

R 31Ø4532 MAR 72

FM COMFAIRWESTPAC

TO RUAOKUA/MARATKRON FIVE THREE THREE

RUAOBMA/VMGR ONE FIVE TWO

RUWJGFB/VMGR THREE FIVE TWO

INFO RUEOFIA/CMC

RUAOKUA/CG FIRST MAW

RUHFMA/CG FMFPAC

RUAOBMA/MAG THREE SIX

RUWJGFB/CG THIRD MAW

RUAOKUA/MAG ONE TWO

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UNCLAS//NØ3124//

TRANSPAC KEY MAKER/HATCH II ASSISTANCE

1. THIS COMMAND HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS REPORTS ON THE OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT THAT YOU PROVIDED FOR TRANSPAC KEY MAKER AND KEY HATCH II.

2. YOUR RAPID RESPONSE, CHEERFUL COOPERATION AND LONG HOURS OF EFFORT DURING THE WEEKEND MADE A MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL AND TIMELY COMPLETION OF THESE MISSIONS.

3. I EXTEND MY SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
RADM RIERA SENDS.

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TO VMA(AW) FIVE THREE THREE
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UNCLAS //N~~0~~3124//
TRANSPAC KEY MAKER/HATCH II ASSISTANCE
A. COMFAIR WESTPAC 310453Z MAR 72
1. CONTENTS OF REF A NOTED WITH PLEASURE. COL RUTTY.
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