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MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September to 30 September 1972

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (p. 6)

VMA (AW) - 533



Enclosure (1)

Acq 22

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533

CommanderLtCol J. C. BROWN
1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72Subordinate Units

None

Attached Units

None

2. Location

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72: Nam Phong, Thailand

3. Staff OfficerExecutive Officer

Major K. C. BATEMAN

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

Operations Officer

Major M. A. HUFFORD

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Captain P. R. HEMMING

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

Administrative Officer

Captain D. W. COPELAND

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

Aviation Safety Officer

Captain N. W. MORLEY

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

Logistics Officer

Captain R. L. GARTNER

1 Sep 72 - 30 Sep 72

4. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC	USN	OTHER
OFF	ENL 244	OFF 0	OFF 0
44			ENL 0

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PART II - NARRATIVE

(C) During the period covered by this report, 1 September - 30 September 1972, the 'Hawks' of the Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 continued to hunt at night. The squadron flew 86 sorties and 158.5 flight hours in Route Package One in North Vietnam. Planning is the final stages for further extension of the hunting grounds to include Route Packages Two and Three. We are continuing to prove the night and all weather delivery capabilities of the Gruman A6-A Intruder and are destroying numerous supplies and other military targets in the Route Package. In addition to these night missions there were also 110 day visual sorties flown in Military Region One, South Vietnam, in direct support of South Vietnam's military forces. The squadron flew a total of 240 sorties and 405.0 flight hours in the month of September. There were 903.5 tons of ordnance delivered during this period and the squadron delivered it's 10,000th bomb of this Thailand deployment, on 17 September. The squadron accounted for a significant amount of BDA for the month.

(C) The squadron had an 82.4 sortie completion rate despite an average NORS rate of 42 items per day. Airframe supply support has been a continuing problem at Nam Phong as evidenced by the increased average daily NORS over July and August. We have also had six aircraft with major fuel leaks requiring maintenance at the depot level. Unfortunately during the month there was also an attempted sabotage of the squadron aircraft which left six A6-A's down for 24 hours.

(C) The Commanding Officer and the Operations Officer made a liaison visit to VA 115 and VA 75 aboard the USS Midway and the USS Saratoga from 16 September to 19 September 1972. The purpose of the visit was to compare planning and operational techniques and to review combat tactics used at night in high threat areas. The squadron will reap the benefit of this trip in the coming months.

(C) The squadron began an expansion of their avionics complex which should add to the squadron's capability to maintain the complex attack and navigation systems which are imperative to the performance of the Intruder's mission. Combining all avionics shops (fire control, com/nav, and electrical) in one area will provide more efficient maintenance. Plans are also underway to provide more stable and reliable power sources to the avionics maintenance area.

(U) The squadron voting, re-enlistment, and Human Relations programs are proceeding full bore. The squadron voter registration is 90% as of the end of September and promises to rise very near 100% by the end of October. Re-enlistments were above the norm again this month with five of the enlisted men signing for another tour. This is a 71.4% re-enlistment/retention rate. Over 92% of 533 personnel have completed the Marine Corps Human Relations Training program at this time. Squadron personnel are making good use of squadron educational opportunities. Approximately 20% of the enlisted personnel are enrolled in USAFE college level work including 5 new participants in September. Nine men retook the area aptitude classification examination, however, the results are not available at this time.

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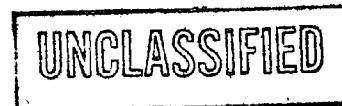

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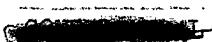
One man received his High School GAD diploma this month.

(U) During September the squadron recognized several of the accomplishments of it's men. There were two meritorious masts held and one meritorious promotion to Lance Corporal. CWO 3 DeMeracki was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps medal (See TAB D).

(U) The Marines of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 are exhibiting a tremendous ability to perform our mission under the most austere circumstances. The motivation toward our goals and the attention to duty which allows us to accomplish our mission is truly a credit to this unit and to the U. S. Marine Corps. The conditions under which we are working are improving gradually, although they still remain, in the true tradition of the Corps, expeditionary.


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PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

16 Sept - Commanding Officer and Operations Officer visits USS Midway

17 Sept - Squadron dropped 10,000th bomb during Thailand deployment (Tab B)

19 Sept - Commanding Officer and Operations Officer visited USS Saratoga

20 Sept - Planning and briefings began for night all weather operations
in Route Package Two and Three North Vietnam

23 Sept - Sabotage of six squadron aircraft

23 Sept - CWO 3 Domeracki awarded the Navy/Marine Corps medal (Tab D)

29 Sept - Expansion began for squadron's new Avionics complex

30 Sept - 2 meritorious masts held (Tab C)

30 Sept - Cumulative BDA for the month of September (Tab A)


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PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following is a listing of supporting documents.

Tab A: Cumulative BDA for the month of September

Tab B: Photograph of aircrew who dropped 10,000th 533 bomb

Tab C: Copies of Meritorious Masts

Tab D: Navy/Marine Corps Medal Citation Award, CWO 3 DOMERACKI

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TAB A

VMA(AW) 533 SEPTEMBER BDA

The battle Damage Assessment for Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 in the month of September is as follows:

Secondary explosions	135
Bunkers Destroyed	36
Bunkers Damaged	10
Fires	67
Structures Destroyed	5
Structures Damaged	1
130 MM Guns Damaged	2
Trucks Destroyed	6
37 MM Guns Destroyed	1
85 MM Guns Damaged	1

Also an undetermined number of supplies destroyed in known storage areas.

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TAB B

1. This photograph was taken on 17 September 1972, at Nam Phong Tailand, when Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 dropped it's 10,000th bomb of the deployment. Personnel in photograph are from left to right, Col. A. W. TALBERT(Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15), 1/Lt G. R. MORRIS(Pilot), Brig. Gen. R. W. TAYLOR(Commanding General, Task Force Delta), and 1/Lt S. BARRE(Bombadier/Navigator).

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not
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TAB C

1. These are copies of the Meritorious Masts held 29 September 1972, at Nam Phong Thailand. The concerned parties are Corporal Willard Royster, Jr. and Corporal Vernon T. Sapp.

MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO, San Francisco 96602

SqdnBul 1650
1:JCB:lam
27 Sep 1972

SQUADRON BULLETIN 1650

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List
Subj: Meritorious Mast
Ref: (a) MCO 1650.9

1. Purpose. To promulgate information concerning a meritorious mast held for Corporal Vernon T. SAPP 160 38 47 80 USMC.

2. Promulgation. Meritorious Mast was held this date by the Commanding Officer in accordance with the provisions of reference (a). The following remarks were made:

"Since joining Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 on 3 March 1972, you have served as an A-6A Hydraulicsman. During this period you have carried out your duties with noteworthy skill, diligence, and attention. It has been noted that you will accept any task, and carry it out thoroughly, professionally, and without supervision.

You have put forth the extra effort to become qualified for both a CDI stamp and an aircraft turn-up license, and have become the most junior member of the squadron to hold the latter.

Your appearance and military bearing have also been singled out as being exceptionally noteworthy, as indeed has practically every facet of your endeavors while with this unit.

By your professionalism, diligence, skill, and devotion to duty, you have significantly contributed to the combat readiness of this unit's aircraft, and it is with great pleasure that I award you this Meritorious Mast."

3. Action. The Administration Section will ensure that a copy of this bulletin be placed in your Service Record Book. A copy of this bulletin will also be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for inclusion in your permanent record.

(C)

SqdnBul 1650
27 Sep 1972

4. Self-cancellation. This bulletin is cancelled for record purposes
on 31 December 1972.


J. C. BROWN

MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO, San Francisco 96602

SqdnBul 1650
1:JCB:lam
28 Sep 1972

SQUADRON BULLETIN 1650

From: Commanding Officer

To: Distribution List

Subj: Meritorious Mast

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.9

1. Purpose. To promulgate information concerning a Meritorious Mast held for Corporal Willard ROYSTER Jr. 298 42 16 45 USMC.

2. Promulgation. Meritorious Mast was held this date by the Commanding Officer in accordance with the provision of reference (a). The following remarks were made:

"Since 1 June 1972, you have displayed yourself in an exemplary manner in all facets of your job as an A6-A Com/Nav DECM technician. During the deployment of VMA(AW)533 to its present location, you were highly instrumental in the pickup of the Com/Nav DECM shop. In many cases your helpful suggestions and guidance helped to increase the efficiency of the move. During this time you also worked many extra hours in order to put all the squadron's aircraft in an up airframes status so that the deployment of all aircraft could be done in the least amount of time. At the same time, you were also instrumental in obtaining the maximum amount of DECM systems possible.

Designated as a Com/Nav DECM collateral duty inspector, you have displayed a very competent and intricate working knowledge of the A6-A Com/Nav DECM systems and have earned the distinction of being the only corporal in the shop designated as a CDI. On several occasions, you have had to stand in as a crew leader, a position normally held by a sergeant. Through your leadership and a high sense of responsibility for quality workmanship, you were able to assign your men efficiently and effectively to the various daily tasks which come to the Com/Nav DECM shop.

Your personal appearance, steadfast devotion to duty, and outstanding technical knowledge and ability has earned you the respect and admiration of your superiors and subordinates alike. You have reflected great credit upon yourself and the United States Marine Corps."

SqdnBul 1650
28 Sep 1972

3. Action. The Administration Section will ensure that a copy of this Bulletin is placed in your Service Record Book. A copy of this Bulletin will also be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for inclusion in your permanent record.

4. Self-Cancellation. 31 December 1972.


S. C. BROWN

DISTRIBUTION "A"

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TAB D

1. This is a copy of Chief Warrant Officer Domeracki's citation, which was awarded for heroism on 10 July 1972.



COMMANDER IN CHIEF
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL to

*Chief Warrant Officer Daniel E. DOMERACKI
United States Marine Corps*

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For heroism on 10 July 1972 while serving as Maintenance Control Officer of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron FIVE THIRTY-THREE. Chief Warrant Officer DOMERACKI was supervising the launch of a combat sortie. During the pre-start phase, an electrical power generating unit which was plugged into an ordnance-laden attack aircraft burst into flames. Seeing the fire, he immediately dispatched line personnel for fire fighting equipment. Then, despite the obvious personal hazards, he raced to the flaming power unit and, assisted by a fellow marine from another squadron, pushed it clear of all aircraft. The aircraft in the immediate vicinity were fully fueled and loaded with 500 pound bombs. Chief Warrant Officer DOMERACKI's quick thinking and unhesitating response with complete disregard for his personal safety averted what could have turned into a major disaster that would have resulted in the loss of numerous aircraft and injury to fellow marines. Chief Warrant Officer DOMERACKI's quick action and concern for the safety of others reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President

B. A. Clarey
B. A. CLAREY
Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet

(D)