

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November to 30 November 1972

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MMF(AW)-533

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Enclosure (1)

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Nov 1972

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533

COMMANDERLtCol J. C. BROWN  
1-30 November 19722. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONRoyal Thai Air Force Base  
Nam Phong, ThailandPERIOD

1-30 November 1972

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major K. C. BATEMAN  
1-30 November 1972

S-1 Officer

Captain D. W. COPELAND  
1-30 November 1972

S-2 Officer

First Lieutenant  
H. L. TRAUFFER  
1-9 November 1972  
Captain B. N. CAVINESS  
10-30 November 1972

S-3 Officer

Major M. A. HUFFORD  
1-30 November 1972

S-4 Officer

Captain R. L. GARTNER  
1-30 November 1972

Maintenance Officer

Captain P. R. HEMMING  
1-30 November 1972

Aviation Safety Officer

Captain N. W. MORLEY  
1-30 November 19724. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCUSNOTHEROFF  
42ENL  
299OFF  
0ENL  
0OFF  
0ENL  
0

Enclosure (1)

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(C) During the period covered by this report, 1 November - 30 November 1972, Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 continued to support the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam through interdiction and direct air support. 74 interdiction missions were flown in the skies of Route Package One of North Vietnam with the primary targets being moving trucks bringing supplies for ultimate use against the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in the South. Secondary targets for these missions consisted of supply storage areas, petroleum storage areas, troop concentrations, ferry crossings, highway and railway bridges, and supply line or road cuts. The squadron continued to carry out these missions despite of what the news media calls "severe weather conditions which has almost brought the bombing to North Vietnam to a halt". Numerous supplies and other military targets were destroyed utilizing the night all weather delivery capabilities of the A6A Intruder.

(C) The squadron flew 130 visual sorties in South Vietnam's Military Regions One, Two, and Three as well as the Barrel Roll and Steel Tiger regions of Laos. The squadron flew a total 231 sorties and 433.2 flight hours in the month of November. There were 745.7 tons of ordnance delivered resulting in significant BDA.

(C) There was only one aircraft inducted into FAWPRA, Cubi Point, for repair to wing cell fuel leaks this month. This is a significant reduction over previous months. Despite continuing high NORS situation, an average of 43 items per day, the squadron was able to fly an 83 percent combat sortie completion rate, including a 69 percent completion rate of night systems sorties. Although full systems availability has remained unchanged for the month of November there has been a noticeable improvement in search radar and computer performance. This increased performance greatly enhanced strike capability. Toward the end of this period the squadron is very close to achieving the goal of full systems capable aircraft.

(U) The contonement areas for the enlisted and Staff NCO personnel now consist of Southeast Asia huts with tin roofing. This has raised the morale of the squadron personnel and made it possible for the personnel who must sleep during the day to do so in relative comfort. The contonement area for the squadron's officers continues to consist of hard back tents due to the nonavailability of tin at present.

(U) There were no squadron aircraft lost in the month of November either to hostile action or to accidents. However, on 6 November one of the squadron's aircraft returned from a visual dive delivery mission in the Barrel Roll area of Laos with battle damage inflicted by a small arms round which struck the aircraft in the bullet proofed portion of the pilot's windscreen. There was no serious damage or injury but the aircraft was not available for operations for 24 days due to repairs. The aircrew on this mission consisted of Captain C. C. NELMS and Captain R. L. GARTNER.

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(U) On 23 November Lieutenant Colonel J. C. BROWN and Captain B. N. CAVINESS made a liaison visit to 474th Tactical Fighter Wing, RTAFB, Takali, Thailand. The visit produced some insight into the tactics and problems of our Air Force counterparts in the all weather attack role of the F-111 and increased the insight of the squadron personnel in the area of night missions in North Vietnam.

(C) A 1.0 sortie rate continues to be the goal of the Marines of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533. This month the sortie rate was .84 and the squadron's officers and enlisted men rededicated themselves to the attainment of their goal during the month of December.

(U) The squadron career planner had 5 reenlistments during the month, a reenlistment/retention rate of 100%. There were 3 promotions to Sergeant, 10 to Corporal, 2 to Lance Corporal, and 1 to Private First Class. Three 533 Marines were awarded Meritorious Mast. One 533 Marine received his high school equivalency through GED, and four others completed the high school GED test. Additionally, 9 Marines were administered the AAT examination.

(U) During the Month of November, 13 Marines attended the 3M basic course and 10 attended the 3M supervisors course conducted by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing NAMP School. Also, 40 Marines participated in a drug seminar conducted by MACV.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 6 November 1972    | Aircraft hit by ground fire                                    |
| 6-26 November 1972 | 3M NAMP School   |
| 8, 9 November 1972 | MACV Drug Seminar  |
| 23 November 1972   | Commanding Officer and Capt Caviness to RTAFB, Takli, Thailand |
| 29 November 1972   | Emphasis shifted to full systems capability                    |
| 30 November 1972   | Three VMA(AW)-533 Marines awarded Meritorious Mast             |

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. (U) VMA(AW)-533 Aircraft Incident Report 6-73I
- b. (C) BDA for VMA(AW)-533 for the month of November 1972
- c. (U) Meritorious Mast certificates for Corporals MENDEL, MESSENGER, and Sergeant STEELE.

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TAB A

MESSAGE

OPNAV FORM 1 (REV. 3-61) 5/N0107-7

VMA(AW)-533 AIRCRAFT INCIDENT REPORT 6-73I

RELEASED BY

J. C. BROWN, LTJGCL

DRAFTED BY

N. W. MEULEY, CAPT

PHONE EXT NR

138

PAGE

PAGES

1 of 1

DATE

7 NOV 1972

TOR/TOD

ROUTED BY

CHECKED BY

MESSAGE NR

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

PRECEDENCE

FLASH

EMERGENCY

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

2080

11 03 10

ACTION

INFO

XX

XX

FM: VMA(AW) FIVE THREE THREE

TO: NAVAIRSYSCOM WASH D. C. //NO3750//

INFO: CHNAVMA WASH D. C. INCIDENT (ORA)

NAVSAPCEN NORVA (MIN: BEATH)

COMNAVAIRPAC SAN DIEGO

COMNAVAIRLANT NORVA

CNARTA PENSACOLA FLA

NAVAIRSYSCOM REPLANT NORVA

NAVAIR SYSCOM REPAC SAN DIEGO

GMC WASH D. C. THE DIRECTOR

CG FMFLANT NORVA

CG FMFPAC CAMP SMITH

CG FIRST MAW IWAKUNI

CG SECOND MAW CHERRY POINT N.C.

CG THIRD MAW MCAS EL TORO

NAVAIR PLANTREPO BETHPAGE

MAG ONE FIVE NAM PHONG

RANDOM ONE FIVE NAM PHONG

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT) CT

TAB A

## AVAL MESSAGE

OPNAV FORM 10-64 (REV. 3-61) 5/N01 000

RELEASED BY

J. C. BROWN, LTCOL

DRAFTED BY

N. W. MORLEY, CAPT

PHONE EXT NR

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DATE

7 NOV 1972

FOR 7700

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CHECKED BY

MESSAGE NR

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

PRECE-  
DENCE

FLASH

EMERGENCY

OPERATIONAL  
IMMEDIATE

PRIORITY

ROUTINE

DEFERRED

ACTION

INFO

XXX

XXX

BT

UNCLAS FOR OFFICAL USE ONLY //NO3750//

CNC PASS TO CODE (AAP)

MESSAGE REPORT OF AIRCRAFT INCIDENT (DEA)

REPORT SYMBOL OPNAV 3750-1A (MIN: ETAUTH)

A. OPNAVINST 3750.6H.

1. VMA (AW)-533 6-731.

2. 6 1343 NOV 1972.

3. LAOS.

4. A-6A, 155687, ECHO/GOLF.

5. PILOTS WIND SCREEN DESTROYED.

6. DURING DAY VISORD RUN, 45°, 460 KIAS 5,000 FEET AGL, AIRCRAFT RECD  
 EIVED SMALL ARMS ROUND IN PILOT'S WIND SCREEN CAUSING CRACKS IN OUTER  
 LAYERS. FLIGHT RTB UNEVENTFULLY.

7. N/A.

8. N/A.

9. NO.

10. NELMS, C. C. CAPT 231-58-3108.

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 (PAGE ONE ONLY)

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

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TAB A

NAVY MESSAGE

OPNAV FORM 10-28 (REV. 3-61) S/N 0107-705-4

RELEASED BY

C. BROWN, LTCC

DRAFTED BY

N. W. MORLEY, CAPT

PHONE EXT NR

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PAGES

3

7 NOV 1972

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ROUTED BY

CHECKED BY

| MESSAGE NR | DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT) | PRECEDENCE | FLASH | EMERGENCY | OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE | PRIORITY | ROUTINE | DEFERRED |
|------------|-----------------------|------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|---------|----------|
|            | 11 03 10              | ACTION     |       |           |                       | XXI      |         |          |
|            |                       | INFO       |       |           |                       |          | XXI     |          |

11. NONE.

12. N/A.

13. MORLEY, N. A. CAPT ASO.

14. NONE.

BT

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY MESSAGE

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DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

TAB A

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

TAB B

BDA FOR VMA(AW)-533 FOR NOVEMBER 1972

1. Secondary Explosions: 61
2. Sustained Fires: 16
3. Trucks Destroyed: 15
4. Bunkers Destroyed: 5, Damaged: 1
5. Road Cuts: 1
6. Guns: One 105MM  
One 122MM
7. Supplies: 12 Stacks
8. Storage: 3 POL
9. Barges: 2 Destroyed
10. KBA: 10 Confirmed

TAB B

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



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TAB C

MERITORIOUS MAST AWARDS

## MARINE ALL WEATHER ATTACK SQUADRON 533

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

L&DWC:pew  
1650  
30 November 1972

SQUADRON BULLETIN 1650

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Meritorious Mast

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.9

1. Purpose. To publish the awarding of a Meritorious Mast to Corporal Robert T. MENDEL, 315 60 53 21 USMC and Corporal Frederick A. MESSENGER, 205 40 85 17 USMC

2. General. The following Meritorious Mast is awarded by the Commanding Officer of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 this date for outstanding and noteworthy performance of duty. The citation is set forth in the following:

"Since this Squadron has been deployed to RTAFB Nam Phong the lack of recreational facilities have been a constant problem to the men of this Unit. Now, thanks to the unstinting efforts of Corporals MENDEL and MESSENGER, and Sergeant STEELE, the enlisted men of this Squadron have available a place where they can go and relax in a pleasant and convivial atmosphere.

Between 5 and 10 November 1972 Corporals MENDEL and MESSENGER and Sergeant STEELE, showing great personal initiative and enthusiasm, almost singlehandedly converted an unoccupied Southeast Asia Hut into an enlisted recreation area that is both attractive and comfortable. These three Marines acquired the necessary materials and tools and performed all the necessary planning and labor to convert the hut into what is now "The Intruder Inn".

Do  
not  
LMA GC=

C-1

TAB C  
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SqdnBul 1650  
30 November 1972

It is most gratifying to see young Marines who are willing to do something constructive to improve their living conditions, rather than be content to merely wait for somebody else to do something. This kind of leadership is essential to the harmonious operation of a military organization in surroundings such as this. Their actions reflect great credit upon themselves, on this Squadron, and on the United States Marine Corps."

3. Action. The Administrative Section will ensure that a copy of this Bulletin is placed in the Service Record Book of Corporal MENDEL and Corporal MESSENGER. A copy of this Bulletin will be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to become part of his permanent record.

4. Self-Cancellation. This Bulletin is cancelled for record purposes on 31 December 1972.

  
J. C. BROWN

DISTRIBUTION "A"

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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

SqdnBul 1650  
 1:DMC:pew  
 30 November 1972

SQUADRON BULLETIN 1650

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Distribution List

Subj: Meritorious Mast

Ref: (a) MCO 1650.9  
 (b) MCO P1070.8, IRAM, par 4012.1a

1. Purpose. To promulgate information concerning a Meritorious Mast held for Sergeant Michael H. STEELE, 445 48 76 38 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 this Squadron has been deployed to RMAFB Nam Phong the lack of recreational facilities have been a constant problem to the men of this unit. Now, thanks to the unstinting efforts of you and two fellow Marines, the enlisted men of this Squadron have available a place where they can go and relax in a pleasant and convivial atmosphere.

Between 5 and 10 November 1972 you and Corporals MENDEL and MESSENGER, showing great personal initiative and enthusiasm, almost single-handedly converted an unoccupied Southeast Asia Hut into an enlisted recreation area that is both attractive and comfortable. You three Marines acquired the necessary materials and tools and performed all the necessary planning and labor to convert the hut into what is now "The Intruder Inn".

It is most gratifying to see young Marines who are willing to do something constructive to improve their living conditions, rather than be content to merely wait for somebody else to do something. This kind of leadership is essential to the harmonious operation of a military organization in surroundings such as this. Your actions reflect great credit upon yourselves, on this Squadron, and on the United States Marine Corps."

3. Action. In compliance with reference (b), an entry will be made in your service record book attesting to this mast. Additionally your reporting Officer is hereby instructed to affix a copy of this Mast to your next regular fitness report.

4. Self-Cancellation. 31 December 1972.

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J. C. BROWN

TAB C  
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DISTRIBUTION: "A"