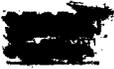


MAG-11 S&C
No. 00636-66
COPY 1 OF 1

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 542  
 Marine Aircraft Group 11  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific  
 c/o FPO San Francisco, California 96602

OPS:PSF:hep  
 5750-1  
 Ser 003A09466  
 4 Apr 1966



From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11  
 Subj: Command Chronology for the month of March 1966; submission of (U)  
 Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1B  
 Encl: (1) Part I - Organizational Data  
 (2) Part II - Narrative Summary  
 (3) Part III - Significant Events

131-66

VMAA-542

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.
2. This letter may be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosures (1) through (3).

*E. E. Pearcy*  
 E. E. PEARCY

44P  
~~DOWNGRADED AT 2-YEAR INTERVALS~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS~~  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

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ENCLOSURE (30)

Mar 1966

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commander and Staff

- a. Lieutenant Colonel Eddie E. PEARCY, Commanding
- b. Major Donald W. ANDERSON, Executive Officer

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

- a. VMFA-542, En-route RVN, 1-6 March 1966
- b. VMFA-542, DA NANG RVN, 6-31 March 1966

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officer-	-----	46
(1) Naval Aviators-	-----	21
(2) Naval Flight Officers-	-----	21
(3) Aviation Ground Officers-	-----	4
b. Naval Officer-	-----	1
c. Naval Enlisted-	-----	1
d. Marine Enlisted-	-----	262
e. Total Strength-	-----	310

DOWNGRADED AT 3-YEAR INTERVALS  
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PART II.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. On 1 March 1966, VMFA-542 commenced its second combat deployment to the REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET NAM. Ten F4B aircraft were flown to NAF NAHA on 28 February 1966. Lieutenant Colonel E. E. PEARCY arrived at DA NANG Air Base with four aircraft on 1 March 1966, utilizing aerial refueling in the vicinity of LAOAG TACAN, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILLIPINES for a non-stop flight. All ten aircraft were in place by 6 March 1966 and combat operations began in earnest. During the month, VMFA-542 flew combat missions in support of the following operations:

- AS HAU
- OPERATION UTAH
- OPERATION TEXAS
- OPERATION OREGON
- OPERATION INDIANA
- OPERATION KINGS

During support of the withdrawal of the Special Forces personnel at AS HAU, F4B WH-10, Bureau Number 151458, piloted by First Lieutenant JOHN S. HOGG 086059 received a hit by a .50 caliber round on 10 March 1966.

During support of OPERATION TEXAS, F4B WH-6, Bureau Number 151483, piloted by First Lieutenant Thomas E. MULLINS 087869, received three hits from enemy ground fire. Both aircraft returned to DA NANG Air Base without further incident.

By 23 March 1966, VMFA-542 had delivered over one million pounds of ordnance on enemy targets.

2. A recapitulation of sorties, hours and ordnance expended follows:

Total Hours-	-----	926.9
Combat Hours-	-----	894.6
Total Sorties-	-----	720
Combat Sorties-	-----	709
Total Ordnance Expended-	-----	1, 549,039 Lbs

ENCLOSURE (2)

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These figures represent the highest number of sorties flown and ordnance expended by any F4B squadron during its first month in the REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET NAM.

Battle damage assessment for the month was:

a. Structures Destroyed-	-----	271
b. Structures Damaged-	-----	92
c. Killed By Air	-----	30
d. Secondary Explosions-	-----	48
e. Trucks-	-----	21
f. Tunnel Complexes destroyed/damaged-	-----	6
g. Food/Ammunition Storage-	-----	1
h. Bunkers	-----	1
i. Road Cuts-	-----	4
j. Miscellaneous		
Barges-	-----	3
Water Buffalo-	-----	3
Radio Station	-----	1

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PART III  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

- a. Three promotions to Captain were effected during the month.
- b. One Gunnery Sergeant and three Staff Sergeants were selected for temporary appointment to Second Lieutenant.
- c. One Gunnery Sergeant, four Sergeants, and two PFC's were promoted to their present rates during March.

2. Awards. One Distinguished Flying Cross, one Navy Commendation Medal and thirty air medals were awarded to Officer's of the squadron. Five good conduct medals were awarded.

3. NBC

- a. As directed by GruBul 3440, all ATROPINE SYRETTES on charge to this Squadron were inspected and destroyed upon being found defective. New ATROPINE SYRETTES have been placed on Priority V requisition.
- b. Protective ointment also was found defective due to age. New protective ointment was also placed on requisition.