



MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 542
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pac
FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

MAG-11 S&G
No. 00886-66
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4 May 1966

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11
Subj: Command Chronology for the month of April 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

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
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S-3 LOG
No. 168-66

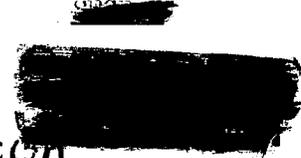
VMFA - 542

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ENCLOSURE (3)

Apr 1966

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commander and Staff

- a. Lieutenant Colonel Eddie E. PEARCY, Commanding
- b. Major Paul S. FRAPPOLLO, Executive Officer

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

- a. VMFA-542, Da Nang RVN, 1-30 April 1966

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officers	- - - - -	41
(1) Naval Aviators	- - - - -	20
(2) Naval Flight Officers	- - - - -	19
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	- - - - -	2
b. Naval Officers	- - - - -	1
c. Naval Enlisted	- - - - -	1
d. Marine Enlisted	- - - - -	262
e. Total Strength	- - - - -	305

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ENCLOSURE (1)

003A12466
4 May 1966.

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. On 1 April 1966, VMFA-542 commenced the second month of its second combat tour in the REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM. During the month, VMFA-542 flew combat missions in support of the following operations:

OPERATION VIRGINIA

OPERATION OSAGE

OPERATION HOT SPRINGS

OPERATION NEVADA

OPERATION ORANGE

VMFA-542 had nine (9) aircraft hit by ground fire during the month of April. One of these was downed in the target area and another will require overhaul at NAS CUBI PT. in order to repair the battle damage.

a. During support of a night Steel Tiger mission on 5 April, First Lieutenant R. A. DEMERS 084491, pilot of WH-16, Bureau Number 151016, noted rapid loss of fuel upon completion of the bombing mission. A safe recovery at Da Nang was accomplished. The post flight revealed a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole in the port aileron and a crease at the forward edge of the starboard TER.

b. During support of a Blue Blazer mission on 13 April, Captain F. A. HUEY 079927, pilot of F4B WH-7, Bureau Number 150996, received a small arms round in the starboard, outboard wing panel. On 15 April, as the pilot of F4B WH-8, Bureau Number 152236, Captain HUEY received a small arms round in the radome of the A/C while on a Steel Tiger mission.

c. On 20 April, F4B WH-8, Bureau Number 152236, piloted by Captain M. H. HALEY 073579, received a 3 inch scrape on the radome and a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch dent in area adjacent to the RIO's external canopy controls. F4B WH-7, Bureau Number 150996, piloted by Major R. D. REVIE 067040, the lead A/C on the in-country CAS mission, received a .30 cal hole in the nose wheel door.

d. During support of a Steel Tiger mission on 20 April, Captain G. R. HAMILTON 088737, pilot of F4B WH-5, Bureau Number 143416, received a 3 inch hole in the port leading edge of the stabilator. There was probable 37mm fire reported in the area.

1

ENCLOSURE (2)

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e. At approximately 220420H, F4B WH-13, Bureau Number 151010, piloted by Captain F. A. HUEY 079927, was downed by enemy fire after making a night napalm run on a Steel Tiger mission. The pilot and RIO successfully ejected from their burning A/C and were rescued by HH-3C Helicopters from the 38 ARS based at UDORN, Thailand. The pilot sustained a minor burn on the left hand and several small cuts. Second Lieutenant John L. ARENDALE 089144, the RIO, sustained a broken right ankle on landing in a tree, and burns on the face, hands, and left leg caused by the fire prior to and during ejection.

f. On 29 April F4B WH-2, Bureau Number 152237, piloted by Captain F. E. LEWIS 081635, received an explosive projectile thru the starboard inboard wing area. Captain D. M. BASSETT 085920, pilot of WH-11, Bureau Number 151459, number 3 A/C on this day Steel Tiger mission, received an explosive projectile thru the CL tank, the fin of the starboard aft cavity sparrow, and fragments continued up into the starboard burner section and starboard flap.

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

- a. Total Hours - - - - - 760.1
- b. Combat Hours - - - - - 715.1
- c. Total Sorties - - - - - 610
- d. Combat sorties - - - - - 568
- e. Total Ordnance Expended - - - - - 799,640 lbs.
- f. Total Rounds of 20mm Expended - - - - - 18,026

These figures show an overall reduction in squadron operations when comparing the month of March with the month of April. This reduction was brought about by a decrease in the total number of sorties fraggd. During the month of April the average sorties fraggd were 17 per day.

3. Battle damage assessment for April was:

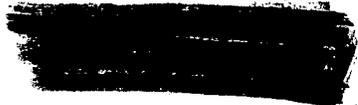
- a. Structures Destroyed - - - - - 138
- b. Structures Damaged - - - - - 46
- c. Killed By Air - - - - - 15
- d. Secondary Explosions - - - - - 15

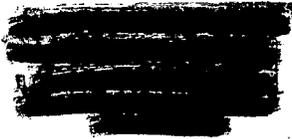
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ENCLOSURE (2)

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e. Trucks Destroyed - - - - - 8

f. Trucks Damaged - - - - - 10

g. Tunnel Complexes Destroyed/Damaged - - - - - 1

h. Food/Ammunition Storage Areas - - - - - 1

i. Bunkers - - - - - 2

j. Road Craters - - - - - 29

k. Miscellaneous:

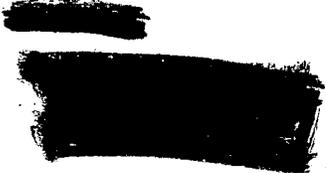
 Ford Cuts - - - - - 1

 Bridges Damaged - - - - - 1

 Gun Emplacements Destroyed - - - - - 2

 Sampans - - - - - 3

ENCLOSURE (2)



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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. One Master Sergeant, twenty-three Corporals, and eleven Lance Corporals were promoted to their present rates during April.

2. Awards. One Purple Heart and forty-four Air Medals were awarded to officers of the squadron. Thirty-one Good Conduct Medals were awarded to squadron personnel.

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