

MAG-11 S&C
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COPY 1 OF -

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

OPS:DLK:dls
 5750-1
 Ser: 003A15566
 4 June 1966

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11
 Subj: Command Chronology for month of May 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).

J.S. Rosenthal
 J. S. ROSENTHAL
 By direction

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEARS FROM SENSITIVE
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 11 YEARS
 DOD DIR 5200.10

COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES

ENCLOSURE (32)

[REDACTED]

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. COMMANDER AND STAFF

- a. Major Paul S. FRAPPOLLO, Commanding
- b. Major Joseph S. ROSENTHAL, Executive Officer

2. TASK ORGANIZATION AND UNIT LOCATION

- a. VMFA-542, DaNang RVN, 1-31 May 1966

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

a. Marine Officers	43
(1) Naval Aviators	21
(2) Naval Flight Officers	20
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	2
b. Naval Officers	1
c. Naval Enlisted	0
d. Marine Enlisted	249
e. Total Strength	293

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. On 1 May 1966, VMFA-542 commenced the third 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 GEORGIA
Operation MONTGOMERY
Operation OSAGE
Operation WAYNE

VMFA-542 had two (2) aircraft hit by ground fire during the month of May. Both of these aircraft are repairable at this command.

a. During a scramble in support of a Close Air Support Mission on 12 May 1966, First Lieutenant Thomas E. MULLINS 087869, pilot of WH-6, Bureau Number 151483, received a small arms round in the starboard side windscreens. The aircraft was recovered without further incident.

b. During a scramble in support of a Close Air Support Mission on 18 May 1966, First Lieutenant Charles L. BACON 087298, pilot of WH-9, Bureau Number 151417, received a small arms round in door # 29 left. The aircraft was recovered without further incident.

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

a. Total hours	655.0
b. Combat hours	604.9
c. Total Sorties	569
d. Combat Sorties	519
e. Total ordnance expended	1,032,024 lbs.

These figures show an overall reduction in squadron operations when comparing the month of April with the month of May. During the month of May the average sorties fragged were 19 per day.

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3. Battle damage assessment for May was:

a. Structures Destroyed	244
b. Structures Damaged	78
c. Killed by air confirmed	39
d. Killed by air possible	15
e. Trenchline Destroyed/Damaged	4
f. Bridges Destroyed	1
g. AW Gun Positions	9
h. Trucks Destroyed	2
i. Trucks Damaged	3
j. Bunkers Destroyed/Damaged	1
k. Secondary Explosions	1
l. Caves Damaged	1
m. Defensive Positions Destroyed	6
n. Roads Cut	1

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. CHANGE OF COMMAND

a. On 23 May 1966 Major Paul S. FRAPPOLLO assumed command of VMFA-542 relieving Lt. Col. Eddie E. PEARCY.

2. PERSONNEL

a. One Second Lieutenant, two Master Sergeants, one Sergeant, one Corporal, one Lance Corporal and one Private First Class were promoted to their present ranks during May.

3. AWARDS

a. 28 Air Medals were awarded to Officers of the squadron during May. There were four Meritorious Masts presented to squadron personnel.

4. POLITICAL SITUATION

a. Due to the political situation in South Vietnam and the danger of attack on the base at Da Nang nine (9) aircraft of VMFA-542 were evacuated to UBON AB on 21 May 1966. All aircraft were recovered three days later as the civil situation eased.

ENCLOSURE (3)