

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

MAG-11 S&C

No. 001452-64

COPY 1 OF -

OPS:WJS:ps
5750-1
Ser: 0034A21366
1 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11

Subj: Command Chronology for the month of July 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).

W. O. Poitevent
W. O. POITEVENT
By direction

VMFA-542 S&C No.

0034A21366

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DOWNGRADED AT 3-YEAR INTERVALS
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DOD DIR 5200.10

APPENDIX #5

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. COMMANDER AND STAFF

- a. Lt. Col. Donald L. MAY, Commanding
- b. Major Walter O. POITEVENT, Executive Officer

2. TASK ORGANIZATION AND UNIT LOCATION

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

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| a. Marine Officers | 41 |
| (1) Naval Aviators | 21 |
| (2) Naval Flight Officers | 16 |
| (3) Aviation Ground Officers | 4 |
| b. Naval Officers | 1 |
| c. Naval Enlisted | 4 |
| d. Marine Enlisted | 238 |
| e. Total Strength | 294 |

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. On 1 July 1966, VMFA-542 commenced the fifth 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 Holt
Operation Hastings

VMFA-542 had three (3) aircraft hit by ground fire during the month of July. All three of these aircraft were repairable at this command.

a. During a scramble in support of a Close Air Support Mission on 11 July 1966, 1stLt John P. KEENE, 090726, pilot of WH-12, Bureau Number 152300, received a projectile through the starboard aileron. The aircraft was recovered without further incident.

b. During a scramble in support of a Close Air Support Mission on 22 July 1966, 1stLt Charles L. BACON, 087298, pilot of WH-15, Bureau Number 149415, received a small arms round (approximately 30 cal.) through the starboard aileron. The aircraft was recovered without further incident.

c. During a RED BLAZER Mission on 30 July 1966, 1stLt Michael McGUIRK, 087726, pilot of WH-11, Bureau Number 151459, received a projectile through the port flap. The aircraft was recovered without further incident.

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

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| a. Total hours | 774.1 |
| b. Combat hours | 756.1 |
| c. Total sorties | 575 |
| d. Combat sorties | 556 |
| e. Total Ordnance expended | 1,534,324 pounds |

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3. Battle damage assessment for July was:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Structures Destroyed | 238 |
| b. Structures Damaged | 102 |
| c. Vehicles Destroyed | 17 |
| d. Vehicles Damaged | 4 |
| e. AW Positions Destroyed | 4 |
| f. AW Positions Damaged | 1 |
| g. Bunkers Destroyed | 3 |
| h. Gun Emplacements Destroyed | 13 |
| i. Trenchlines Destroyed | 14 |
| j. Caves Destroyed | 4 |
| k. Sampans Destroyed | 4 |
| l. Sampans Damaged | 2 |
| m. Bridges Damaged | 4 |
| n. Tunnels Damaged | 5 |
| o. Foxholes Destroyed | 37 |
| p. Killed by Air confirmed | 23 |
| q. Killed by Air possible | 85 |
| r. Wounded by Air confirmed | 1 |

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. CHANGE OF COMMAND

a. On 8 July 1966, LtCol Donald L. MAY relieved Major Paul S. FRAPPOLLO as commanding officer of VMFA-542.

2. PERSONNEL

a. Three (3) Captains, one (1) 2ndLt and three (3) Corporals were promoted to their present ranks during the month of July.

3. AWARDS

a. One (1) Navy Commendation Medal and thirty-three (33) Air medals were awarded to officers of the squadron during the month of July.

ENCLOSURE (3)