

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON-542  
Marine Aircraft Group-13  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:ECW:rgs  
03A06867  
14 March 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-13 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology period 1-28 February 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) WGO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) VMFA-542 Command Chronology for period 1-28 February 1967

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the subject report is submitted as enclosure (1).
2. Upon removal from the subject report, this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

*F. L. Farrell Jr.*  
F. L. FARRELL JR.

ENCLOSURE (4)

VMFA-542

CMD CHRON

FEB 1967

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PART I. COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

<u>1. RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>INCLUSIVE DATES</u>
LtCol	DONALD L. MAY	Commanding Officer	1-2 Feb 67
Maj	FREDRICK L. FARRELL, Jr.	Commanding Officer	3-28 Feb 67
Maj	WALTER O. POITEVENT	Executive Officer	1-2 Feb 67
Maj	RAY D. PENDERGRAFT	Executive Officer	3-28 Feb 67
Maj	EDDIE R. MAAG	Operations Officer	1-28 Feb 67
Maj	HARVEY D. BRADSHAW	Maintenance Officer	1-28 Feb 67
Maj	STEPHEN S. EISENHAUER	Logistics Officer	1-28 Feb 67
Capt	JAMES J. MORIN	Personnel Officer	1-28 Feb 67
1stLt	VINCENT M. LEVITSKY	Intelligence Officer	1-28 Feb 67

2. TASK ORGANIZATION and UNIT LOCATION - VMFA-542, Chu Lai, RVN, 1-28 Feb 67.

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH -

- a. Marine Officers - 49
  - (a) Naval Aviators - 23
  - (b) Naval Flight Officers - 21
  - (c) Aviation Ground Officers - 5
- b. Naval Officers - 1
- c. Naval Enlisted - None
- d. Marine Enlisted - 280
- e. Total Strength - 329

PART II. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

VMFA-542 changed Commanding Officers 3 February 1967 when LtCol D. L. MAY was relieved by Maj F. L. FARRELL, Jr.. During the period 1-28 February 1967 VMFA-542 conducted air operations from the northern II Corps area to southern North Vietnam in support of U. S. Marine, U. S. Army, ARVN, 7th Air Force units and such operations as Prairie II, Independence, Chinook, Trinity, Desoto and Deckhouse VI. This involved delivering 2,057,350 pounds of ordnance on targets ranging from structures, AA gun positions, sampans, bunkers, trenchlines, roads and fords.

Noteworthy is the fact that the squadron completed the 6000th combat sortie and 8000th combat hour in Vietnam. At present, four squadron pilots and 10 flight officers have completed over 100 combat missions.

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1. PERSONNEL - 25 personnel were joined and 15 transferred.
2. ADMINISTRATIVE - There were no promotions during February.
3. AWARDS

a. 10 air medals were awarded to the following personnel: Maj F. L. FARRELL, Jr. (1st & 2nd), Capt's KNIGHT (10th), TOZZI (10th), BUFFINGTON (15th), MATYOLA (9th), GREENFIELD (9th), MORIN (6th), CULLUM (5th), and SHARP (5th).

b. 2 Good Conduct Medals were awarded. Gy Sgt L. N. THOMPSON received his 6th award and SSgt T. L. WELLS received his 4th award.

4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THIS COMMAND

Maj General ROBERTSHAW attended the squadron change of command ceremony on 3 February.

5. CASUALTIES - None6. AIR OPERATIONS

a. During the period 1-28 February, VMFA-542 flew sorties/hours as indicated below:

Total Sorties: 548  
Total Hours: 703.6  
Combat Sorties: 524  
Combat Hours: 673.0

b. Ordnance was expended as follows:

MK 77 fire bombs: 153  
MK 81, 250 lbs bombs with snake-eye fins: 1,000  
MK 82, 500 lbs bombs with snake-eye fins: 3,480  
MK 83, 1000 lbs bombs: 23  
Rounds, MK 4, Gun Pods: 4,989  
FFAR: 63 Pods (19 shot)  
ZUNI: None

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c. Confirmed battle damage assessment was as follows: [REDACTED]

Structures Destroyed:	238
Damaged:	142
AA Weapons Destroyed:	6
Sampans Destroyed:	11
Damaged:	2
Bunkers Destroyed:	3
Damaged:	6
Trenchline Destroyed:	275 meters
Tunnels Destroyed:	2
Trucks Destroyed:	1
Fords cut:	3
Roads cut:	13
Secondary Explosions:	2
KBA Confirmed:	34
Probable:	87

NOTE: 226 of 524 combat sorties flown were TPQ/MSQ Bombing missions for which no BDA was reported. Also on many of the more lucrative bombing missions, the FAC was too occupied to report BDA.