

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON-542
Marine Aircraft Group-11
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:RNS:rjm
5750
03A09769
7 April 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-11 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C
(b) GruO 5750.1
Encl: (1) Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1969
(2) Corrected Flight Schedules for March 1969

1. In accordance with instructions contained in references (a) and (b), the Command Chronology for the month of March 1969, is submitted as enclosure (1).

R. N. Stewart
R. N. STEWART

VMFA-542

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VMFA-542 S&C NO.

MAR 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON-542
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-11
1st MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMFPAC
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, 96602

DANANG AIR BASE, VIETNAM

1-31 MARCH 1969

ENCLOSURE (1)

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1. Commanding Officer and Executive Staff

| <u>Billet</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Inclusive Dates</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Commanding Officer | LtCol | R. N. STEWART | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Executive Officer | Major | J. J. DOLAN | 1-31 March 1969 |
| S-1 Officer | Major | D. A. WILLS | 1-31 March 1969 |
| S-3 Officer | Major | G. N. BAILEY JR. | 1-31 March 1969 |
| S-4 Officer | Captain | D. W. CRANEY | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Maintenance Officer | Major | J. W. PEARSON | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Safety Officer | Captain | F. T. BRYAN | 1-31 March 1969 |

2. Average Monthly Strength

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| Marine Corps Officers: | <u>41</u> | Navy Officers: | <u>1</u> |
| Marine Corps Enlisted: | <u>240</u> | Navy Enlisted: | <u>0</u> |

3. Important Visitors - None.

PART II - Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights

On 1 March two F4B's from this unit flown by Capt. FLUET, LT. DEAN, Capt. HILL and Capt. WELLMAN hit enemy positions while in support of Taylor Common and accounted for ten fighting holes destroyed and three meters trenchline destroyed.

On 9 March two F4B's from this unit flown by Capt. CRANEY, Capt. SPACE, Capt. HILL and Capt. WELLMAN hit enemy positions and accounted for five enemy troops killed.

On 18 March two F4B's from this unit flown by Major DOLAN, CWO-2 AGUILAR, Capt. HILL and LT. CUNNINGHAM hit enemy positions and accounted for five enemy troops killed.

On 19 March two F4B's from this unit flown by Capt. FLUET, LT. DEAN, Capt. HANLE and LT. PYATTE hit enemy positions and accounted for ten enemy troops killed.

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On 24 March two F4B's from this unit flown by Major DOLAN, LT. GROOTHUIS, Capt. VAN ESSELSTYN and LT. GRIMM hit enemy positions and accounted for eleven bunkers destroyed.

PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel

a. Five officers and eighteen enlisted personnel were transferred and six officers and thirty two enlisted personnel were joined.

b. Promotions for the month were as follows:

- 2 - Promoted to Corporal
- 2 - Promoted to Lance Corporal

2. Administrative - During this reporting period, the unit had one enlisted man reenlist for four years and one enlisted man extend one year in the Marine Corps and three enlisted personnel extended their overseas tour.

3. Awards

Flight/Strike System - 66

4. Air Operations

a. Sorties

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Day Sorties Scheduled | <u>412</u> | Day Sorties Flown | <u>425</u> |
| Night Sorties Scheduled | <u>160</u> | Night Sorties Flown | <u>180</u> |
| Total Sorties Scheduled | <u>572</u> | | |
| Sorties Cancelled | <u>87</u> | | |
| Write in Sorties | <u>7</u> | | |
| *(Hot Pad/Ferry/Test Launches) | <u>113</u> | Total Sorties Flown | <u>605</u> |

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The above sorties were flown in support of:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| III MAF | <u>405</u> |
| Army | <u>54</u> |
| 7th Air Force | <u>105</u> |
| ROK | <u>14</u> |
| ARVN | <u>9</u> |
| 7th Fleet | <u>18</u> |

b. Type of Sorties Flown

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------------|-------|------------|------------|
| CAS | <u>2</u> | OUT OF COUNTRY | CAS | <u>183</u> | IN COUNTRY |
| ESCORT | <u>43</u> | OUT OF COUNTRY | TW | <u>23</u> | |
| DAS | <u>88</u> | OUT OF COUNTRY | TEST | <u>15</u> | |
| TPQ | <u>20</u> | OUT OF COUNTRY | TPQ | <u>196</u> | IN COUNTRY |
| BARCAP | <u>18</u> | OUT OF COUNTRY | FERRY | <u>14</u> | |
| VIS RECC | <u>2</u> | | OTHER | <u>1</u> | |

c. Hours Flown

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Combat Hours | <u>687.4</u> |
| Operational Hours | <u>19.7</u> |
| Total Hours | <u>707.1</u> |

d. Ordnance

(1) Total Tons of Ordnance Expended: 978.1

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(2) The following type and amounts of ordnance were expended:

| | | |
|------|--------------------|----------------------|
| D-1 | Mark 81 (250#) | <u>1149</u> |
| D-2 | Mark 82 (500#) | <u>1951</u> |
| D-3 | Mark 83 (1000#) | <u>91</u> |
| D-5 | 2.75" Rockets (19) | <u>316</u> |
| D-7 | LAU-10A (ZUNI) | <u>285</u> |
| D-9 | MK-77 (500# NAP) | <u>267</u> |
| D-14 | CBU-24 | <u>23</u> |
| D-15 | CBU-49 | <u>33</u> |
| D-20 | 20 MM | <u>17,578</u> Rounds |
| D-26 | M117 (750# GP) | <u>174</u> |

e. Bomb Damage Assessment

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Bunkers Destroyed | <u>50</u> | Bunkers Damaged | <u>7</u> |
| Bunkers Uncovered | <u>1</u> | Secondary Explosions | <u>10</u> |
| Secondary Fires | <u>35</u> | Fighting Holes Dest. | <u>10</u> |
| Structures Destroyed | <u>41</u> | Structures Damaged | <u>16</u> |
| Meters of Trenchline Destroyed | <u>13</u> | OBS. Towers Destroyed | <u>1</u> |
| KBMA | <u>20</u> | Trucks Damaged | <u>3</u> |
| Road Cuts | <u>6</u> | Ford Approaches Cut | <u>1</u> |
| Meters Tree Line Destroyed | <u>150</u> | AA Positions Destroyed | <u>1</u> |
| Trails Uncovered | <u>5</u> | Meters Road Destroyed | <u>5</u> |

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f. Operations Supported

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Nevada Eagle | <u>9</u> | Kentucky Jumper | <u>23</u> |
| Taylor Common | <u>10</u> | Purple Martin | <u>9</u> |
| Maine Craig | <u>4</u> | Dewey Canyon | <u>8</u> |

g. Ground Dispersal - None.

5. Aviation Safety

a. Ground Accidents - None.

b. Incidents, No Injuries, Limited Damage

On 4 March F4B 150639 experienced an ordnance malfunction when both the Electrical Power Unit and Hydraulic Power Unit fired on all four Sparrow missiles. No damage, no injuries.

On 8 March F4B 152249 experienced a utility hydraulic failure. No damage, no injuries.

On 31 March F4B 151001 experienced a utility hydraulic failure. No damage, no injuries.

c. Direct Enemy Action Hit Incidents, Limited Damage, No Injuries

On 26 March F4B 152977 received one small arms round; round penetrated panel 25R. Limited damage, no injuries.

d. Accidents - None.

6. Logistics

a. The squadron had a NORM rate of 51.8% with an average of 14 F4B's on hand. This figure of 51.8% is due to the following reasons:

(1) Buno 151514 completed it's calendar inspection during the month requiring three days of NORM time.

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(2) Buno 150418 was inducted into calendar inspection last month and remains in a NORM status to date, having an accumulated NORM time of 31 days for this month.

(3) Buno 149441 was inducted into and has completed it's calendar inspection this month requiring 11 days of NORM time.

(4) Buno 151416 was inducted into calendar inspection during the month and remains in a NORM status to date with an accumulated NORM time this month of eight days.

(5) Twelve engine changes were completed during the month. Of these 12, seven have been due to FOD.

(6) All other NORM time for the month was against maintenance of a routine nature. No aircraft had an outstanding NORM factor other than the ones listed above.

b. Aircraft Status:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| (1) <u>Total Number O/H</u> | | <u>TYPE</u> |
| | 14 | F4B |
| (2) Percent NORM: | 51.8% | |
| Percent Sched. Maint: | 12.4% | |
| Percent Unsched. Maint: | 35.6% | |
| Number Battle Damage: | 0 | |
| Number Engine Changes: | 12 | |
| (3) Percent NORS: | 7.2% | |

c. Critical Items:

| <u>FSN/PN</u> | <u>Nomenclature</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 32-32191-49 | Seal Strip | None |
| RH16808762856MF7X | Cont. Box | " |
| RH66805942857MF7X | Oxy. Gauge | " |

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| <u>FSN/PN</u> | <u>Nomenclature</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| RH66100657276FZ7X | VSI | None |
| 9115607859268BF | Insulation | " |
| RQ66205155206FZ7X | Fuel Flow TX | " |
| RH66157961467BF7X | Gyro. Roll | " |
| RQ58269123285FZ7X | Indicator | " |
| RD16808592975BF6X | Panel Assy. | " |
| 9115607884127BF | Fitting | " |
| RM15600889120AMDA | Spring | " |
| RQ29256903728NN7X | Ignition | " |
| RH29159639541BF7X | Press Valve | " |
| 9162207945791BF | Light Assy. | " |
| RH29150738590BF7X | Valve Assy. | " |
| RM15607886783MF5X | Retainer | " |
| RM15607886784MF5X | Retainer | " |
| RG66057174027MF7X | CAC | " |
| K804-3 | BLD AIR IN | " |
| IW53067834802BF | Bolt | " |

d. Significant Problem Areas:

- (1) Critical shortage of ECM Technicians causing high NORM on avionics.
- (2) Lighting is needed in the revetments for more effective night maintenance.

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