

HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON 12 (FWD)  
 Marine Aircraft Group 12  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:WBP:ewf  
 5700  
 2 September 1972

SECRET

From: Officer-In-Charge  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12

Subj: Command Chronology for Period of 1 Aug 72 - 31 Aug 72

Ref: (a) MCO P5751.1  
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
 (c) WgO 5750.14  
 (d) GruO 5750.1G

Encl: (1) Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 12 (Fwd) Command  
 Chronology

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This cover letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*W. B. Powell Jr.*  
 W. B. POWELL JR.

Ad. MS-12 (FWD)

Aug 72

ENCLOSURE ( 2 )

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE SQUADRON 12 (FWD)  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
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## COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 AUGUST 1972 - 31 AUGUST 1972

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

GTU 79.3.7.1/H&amp;MS-12 (FWD)

COMMANDERPOWELL, W. B. CAPT USMC  
(1-31 AUG)2. LOCATION

Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam (1-31 AUG)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Avionics Officer

BENNETT, G. J. CWO-3 USMC  
(1-31 AUG)

Ordnance Officer

DILLINGER, J. W. CAPT USMC  
(1-31 AUG)

Ground Support Equip Officer

TUNNELL, G. D. CWO-2 USMC  
(1-31 AUG)

Flight Equipment Officer

SMITH, D. W. CWO-2 USMC  
(1-31 AUG)

Supply Officer

MUSSEY, R. E. CAPT USMC  
(1-31 AUG)4. AVERAGE STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>CIVILIANS</u>
<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>NASU TECH REPS</u>
22	183	2

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. On 1 August at 0515 Bien Hoa AB, came under a rocket attack with 86 incoming rounds of 122MM rockets impacting inside the base perimeter. H&MS-12 (FWD) sustained no casualties.

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2. The H&MS-12 (Fwd) ordnance shop was totally destroyed during this attack and the equipment and parts utilized to support combat operations appeared to be a total loss. However, shortly after the last secondary explosion the esprit and "can do" attitude of this unit came to the fore and remedial action began. Under the direction of Captain John DILLINGER, Ordnance Officer, inventory was taken and local organization screened for availability of like or interchangeable items. Intermediate level expertise from this unit was utilized and highly sophisticated skills in such areas as welding and tooling were applied on a major salvage and repair effort on specified equipment. The result of this extraordinary effort was virtually uninterrupted support provided the 32 Marine Skyhawk's engaged in combat operations at Bien Hoa.

3. During this period U. S. Air Force units sustained major damage to such combat support equipment as fuel trucks, bomb loaders, and other stock essential to aircraft operation. The extent of this damage was such that the equipment had to be returned to operational status immediately if combat operations were to continue at the required level.

Marines of H&MS-12 (Fwd) came to the fore. Despite the heavy workload already on hand the welders, machinists and structural mechanics of this unit assisted Air Force personnel.

4. A second rocket attack took place on the morning of 31 August 1972. Approximately 60 rounds of 122 MM rockets were fired by enemy gunners into the Bien Hoa Air Base. MAG-12 sustained damage to 3 aircraft. One of these received major damage and was inducted to H&MS-12 (Fwd) for repairs.

5. In addition to the damage incurred during the two rocket attacks, battle damage was sustained by two squadron aircraft during flight. On 14 Aug 72 a VMA-211 aircraft was hit in the starboard wing during a bombing run by enemy ground fire resulted in a 12 inch square hole in the starboard wing fuel cell. A total of 287 man hours were expended in effecting this repair and the aircraft was returned to the squadron on 1 Sep 1972. On 20 Aug 1972, a VMA-311 aircraft was struck by enemy ground fire during a bombing run. The damage incurred included perforation of the intake duct by an incendiary round. H&MS-12 personnel effected this repair and the aircraft returned to a combat role within 72 hours.

6. On 24 Aug 1972 Bien Hoa AB was placed on ground alert status. This action was precipitated by the sighting of an estimate of 1200 enemy 16 miles southeast of the base. Defense plans required manning of perimeter defense positions by MAG-12 personnel. In order to preclude the derogation of combat missions by the operational squadrons H&MS-12 maintenance personnel were assigned these defensive positions. While carrying out this mission on a port and starboard basis essential support was still provided to the operational squadrons.

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## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 Aug Enemy gunners shelled Bien Hoa AB with 122MM rockets  
 Inducted one VMA-311 aircraft for battle damage received during rocket attack  
 Initiated 52 surveys against 122 items of ordnance equipment lost in rocket attack
- 14 Aug Inducted one VMA-211 aircraft for battle damage received in flight
- 20 Aug Inducted one VMA-311 aircraft for battle damage received in flight
- 24 Aug H&MS-12 reaction platoon was placed in defensive positions due to increased enemy sightings
- 31 Aug Enemy gunners shelled Bien Hoa AB, with 122 MM rockets  
 Inducted one VMA-211 aircraft for battle damage received during rocket attack

2. PERSONNEL

- a. Promotions:  
 (1) 9 Cpls  
 (2) 2 GySgt
- b. Re-enlistment: 2
- c. Extensions: 3
- d. Disciplinary Actions: 2
- e. Average monthly strength: 207

## PART IV

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

- a. Destroyed H&MS-12 (Fwd) Ordnance Shop

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A MARINE SURVEYS A DESTROYED AIRCRAFT STORAGE SHED AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE.

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TAB-A