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HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96602

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10 September 1972

SECRET

SECRET (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 Aug 1972 to 31 Aug 1972

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: (1) Marine Aircraft Group 12 (FWD) Command Chronology
(2) Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 12 (FWD) Command Chronology
(3) Marine Air Base Squadron 12 Detachment Command Chronology
(4) Marine Attack Squadron 211 Command Chronology
(5) Marine Attack Squadron 311 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

D. C. Macho
D. C. MACHO

MAG-12 (FWD)

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MAG 12 S&C	
CONTROL #	COPY #
00753A-72	1 of 4

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
2577-72	#1

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 AUGUST 1972 TO 31 AUGUST 1972

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ENCLOSURE (1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION	COMMANDER
CTU 79.3.7/MAG-12 (FWD)	MACHO, D. C. COL USMC (1-31 AUGUST)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

CTU 79.3.7.1/H&MS-12 (FWD)	POWELL, W. B. CAPT USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
CTU 79.3.7.2/MABS-12 DET	DUPONT, D. G. MAJ USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
CTU 79.3.7.3/VMA-211	RANNEY, D. G. LTCOL USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
CTU 79.3.7.4/VMA-311	JOHNSTON, K. C. LTCOL USMC (1-31 AUGUST)

2. LOCATION

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

3. STAFF OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER	JACKSON, H. L. LTCOL USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
S-1	CLINE, J. T. MAJ USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
S-2	SERRATA, A. T. CWO USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
S-3	HOLLAND, K. D. MAJ USMC (1-31 AUGUST)
S-4	INGLISA, A. M. MAJ USMC (1-31 AUGUST)

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4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN		OTHER		
Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Off	Enl	Civ
80	763	3	12	0	0	3

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the past month, the average strength for MAG-12 (Fwd) has been 83 Officers and 775 enlisted. This is a slight decline from the previous month and is well below our authorized strength of 903. The reason for the drop in strength is the delay involved between arriving in Japan and reporting to MAG-12 (Fwd). Delays included transportation at Yokota, Iwakuni, and Cubi Point and processing of TAD orders at Iwakuni.

As a result of two (2) rocket attacks during the month, MAG-12 (Fwd) suffered one (1) KIA and six (6) WIA. Of the six (6) WIA, four (4) were medevaced to CONUS. In addition, the Group suffered six (6) non-hostile casualties and all were returned to duty.

Discipline rate was up from the previous month. There were 17 cases of NJP, 2 Summary Court-Martials, 1 Special Court-Martial and 1 General Court-Martial.

Our In-Country R&R program was initiated to Vung Tau. During the month, 74 enlisted went to Vung Tau for a 3-day R&R and 92 were sent for 1 day. The program has been a big success and morale is high. Efforts are being made to obtain more quotas with transportation being the biggest deterrent.

2. Combat operations continue at a steady pace. The scheduled daily sorties remain stabilized at 52 equating to a 1.62 sortie rate. Aircraft utilization has been approximately 2.0 hours per aircraft, with an average availability of 82% at the start of daily flight operations. Weather problems during the month have forced 7th AF to cancel a number of MAG-12 missions. In the majority of cancellations, low ceilings and visibility inherent with III/IV Corps target areas during the month of August precluded Forward Air Controllers (Airborne) from acquiring targets and working tactical fixed wing strikes. Communications with TACC (Blue Chip) have been considerably enhanced with the installation of a hotline to Tan Son Nhut. Group weather service depended primarily on the USAF metro facility at Long Tanh. This facility was shut down resulting in some derogation in metro service. Group continues to receive sequence reports from USARV metro (Tan Son Nhut) which passes significant weather as they receive it. BDA continues to be significant and targets remain, generally, to be of good quality. It is noted that a larger percentage of "troops in contact" CAS missions have been flown, providing invaluable experience.

The heavy 122mm rocket attacks on the mornings of 1 August and 31 August have precluded any tendencies toward complacency and resulted in a significant increase in individual security. Reaction to both attacks was

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outstanding and volunteers for clean-up and rebuilding were more than needed. In both attacks, Marines performed walkdowns of the dual 10,000' runways clearing thousands of pieces of shrapnel and earth from the concrete. Flight operations were delayed in both cases by one hour and forty minutes and the full schedule of 52 combat sorties was flown 31 August. Casualties from the attacks were: 1 KIA, 6 WIA. Six A4E received minor shrapnel damage while one A4E received hits that will take an estimated 375 man hours to repair. Ordnance IMA received a direct hit, and burned to the ground. The entire building and all internal gear was destroyed. Five M-35 trucks were damaged. The Group Commander's Headquarters was destroyed by a direct hit. The Group Operations/Briefing room was damaged and several hours passed before electricity, telephones, and lighting were regained in Group spaces.

Anti-air activity encountered has ranged from small arms to 37mm. The SA-7 missile has also been deployed against MAG-12 aircraft. Enemy fire has appeared to be on the increase and there were two hit incidents during the month. In each case the aircraft were hit by .51 caliber rounds. They were recovered/repaired and flying within the week. Towards the end of the month moderate to heavy 23mm/37mm anti-aircraft fire was encountered during missions in support of An Loc, specifically around Quan Loi air field. Emphasis on high dive, high release delivery continued and there were no hit incidents in the An Loc area.

Statistically, the Air Group's gun squadrons flew a combined total of 1990.5 flight hours, 1584 combat sorties and delivered over 2040 tons of ordnance.

3. The MAG-12 S-2 continues to support the U. S. Marine Corps operations for the Vietnam War as follows:

a. Continues to conduct intelligence briefs and mission debriefs for MAG-12 flights.

b. Prepares and disseminates the Command's daily intelligence summary which includes intelligence analysis of the enemy order of battle, anti-air activity and enemy personnel/equipment losses (BDA).

c. Maintains liaison with USA, USAF, and RVN intelligence organizations (COMUSMACV, USA Trac Hdqs (TOC), 8th SOS, AF Security Police, and VNAF) for coordinating intelligence matters and functions.

d. Conducts SERE training and maintains Personal Authenticator cards for MAG-12 pilots.

4. On 1 August 1972 the Marine dedicated C141 MAC channel logistic support flight was cancelled because of minor rocket damage to the airfield.

Logistic efforts continued to be directed towards improvement of the logistic support of combat operations from Bien Hoa locale.

Resupply of Marine peculiar Class V (A) via surface means encountered difficulties. Ammunition that arrived at Vung Tau RVN on 23 July 1972 was located during August. Unsuccessful efforts were made to sea-lift this ammunition to Bien Hoa. Emergency operating stocks of this ammunition were trucked

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to Bien Hoa with assistance of 7th Air Force, ComNavForVietnam staffs, Army transportation command and MABS-12 security elements. Additional scheduled truck convoys were cancelled because of potential interdiction by enemy forces. Accordingly, special airlift was again required to move emergency resupply to Bien Hoa. Additional ammunition was barged from Vung Tau to Bien Hoa via Cogido river terminal only by ComNavForVietnam representing MAG-12 with MACV transportation office. Subsequently, the MSCO Saigon was located and liaison was affected during which MSC representatives made assurances that they would barge shipments arriving at Vung Tau for MAG-12 to Cogido for further shipment by truck to Bien Hoa AB. Further liaison was effected with 7th Air Force and assurance was received that 7th Air Force would address MAG-12 Marine Corps peculiar munitions shipping requirements with MACV.

Five calibration vans with personnel were deployed by MCC-1 to Bien Hoa during August. Addition of this organization provided MAG-12 with an organic capability to calibrate in excess of 80 percent of items requiring calibration.

Continuing problems with lack of supply support from Third FSR and stand-down of adjacent Army units stimulated additional efforts to find means of shortening the logistic pipeline for Marine Corps source repair parts and supplies. Two partial solutions were implemented.

Liaison was established with USARV to effect an ISSA for this type support through facilities located at Army Long Binh. Pending a formal ISSA, an account was established and requisitions were processed through the Army's agency, Vinell Corporation, at Long Binh.

Liaison was effected with Sub Unit One of First ANGLICO at Saigon. Permission was granted to utilize the Sub Unit's address as a supplementary address on all requisitions for Marine Corps supplied supplies. All subsequent requisitions are using this supplementary address. The use of this address permits direct shipment of material from Third FSR to RVN vice the time consuming processing of material through the rear element at Iwakuni.

On 15 August the 377th Air Base Wing submitted Interservice Support Agreement 5D-FB5269-0034-2 to MAG-12 Fwd for approval. MAG-12 approved the ISSA and forwarded it to the CG, 1st MAW for further approval. This document formalizes the verbal agreement established shortly after deployment to Bien Hoa and which has subsequently been utilized for supply support through Tan Son Nhut AB.

Shortage of sandbags to build protective bunkers and resupply lead time necessitated satisfying immediate requirements from ARVN supply sources. 12,000 sandbags were acquired from this source.

During the month of August, new record high flight times were achieved by MAG-12 Fwd. Total flight hours flown by MAG-12 Fwd Squadrons were 1990.5.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1 August: Between 0520H and 0540H Bien Hoa received a total of 101 rounds of 122mm rockets, 86 of which impacted the air base. MAG-12 (Fwd) casualties were 1 KIA, 6 WIA, three aircraft sustained minor shrapnel damage. Ordnance IMA was destroyed. 5 M-35 trucks were damaged. Col MACHO's headquarters was destroyed by a direct hit. Flight operations were delayed 1 plus 40 due to runway closed for FOD/cratering.

2 August: 16 sorties were cancelled by 7th AF due to weather in target area.

6 August: Significant BDA this date: 4 tanks destroyed, 1 damaged (mobility kill). LtGen METZGER and aide arrived 052040H. Departed 060915H. Mr. George ESPER, Associated Press correspondent, visited MAG-12 (Fwd). Included was an interview with the Group and Squadron Commanders.

9 August: MGen BROWN and party arrived 081200Z. Departed 091630Z.

12 August: Col MACHO accompanied LtGen HOLLINGSWORTH, CG TRAC, on gunship tour of MRIII. Emphasis on Lai Khe, Phu Cat, and An Loc.

14 August: Mission #8885 (VMA-211) lead aircraft took .51 cal hit in wing fuel cell. Aircraft jettisoned all stores and made safe landing at Binh Thuy VNAF AB.

15 August: VMA-211 aircraft with battle damage recovered from Binh Thuy at 0800Z.

17 August: VAdm TALLEY, RAdm PRICE, RAdm OBERG escorted by Col FLEMING visited MAG-12 this date. Briefed by Col MACHO on operations and took tour of flight line.

20 August: Mission #F124 (VMA-311) lead aircraft took two .51 cal incendiary rounds in left intake. Aircraft recovered at Bien Hoa 0510Z.

29 August: VMA-311 flew its 50,000 combat sortie in RVN this date. VMA-211 two sorties diverted to Ubon AB due to weather at homeplate.

31 August: Between 0555H and 0600H Bien Hoa Air Base received 61 rounds of 122mm rockets. No significant damage to MAG-12 facilities. Three VMA-211 aircraft sustained shrapnel damage. Two aircraft minor, one aircraft estimated 375 man hours to repair. Flight operations delayed due to FOD/cratering of runways and taxi ways. First launch airborne 0910H, vice 0730H. All 52 sorties fragged were flown.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

filed sep → 1. Enclosures (1) through (5). [see "cover" [tr]

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