

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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5750
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10 Apr 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) WgO 5750.1C
(c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology for the period 1-31 March 1969

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-31 March 1969.

R. R. Norton
R. R. NORTON

VMFA-115

COMMAND CHRON

VMFA 115 S&C
CONTROL NO. 01320-69
DATE REC'D 10 APR 1969
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MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 115
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
1-31 March 1969

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PART I

ORGANIZATION DATA1. Commander and Staff

NORTON, R. R.	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
PAIGE, E. C. JR.	Executive Officer	Maj	1-31
WELSH, K. H.	Operations Officer	Maj	1-31
MEISSNER, H. W.	S-1 Officer	Maj	1-31
CRIFE, D. L.	S-2 Officer	1stLt	1-31
CANNAVA, J. L.	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
SLONE, H. A.	Aviation Safety Officer	Maj	6-31
HUNTER, D. R.	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-5
LEWIS, D. A.	Maintenance Officer	Maj	6-31
SLONE, H. A.	Maintenance Officer	Maj	1-5
WALLESTAD, J. E.	Flight Surgeon	LtCdr	1-31
HOLZKAMP, F. W.	Sergeant Major	SgtMaj	1-31

2. Task Organization and Date

VMFA-115 Chu Lai AB, RVN LtCol Robert R. NORTON 1-31 March 1969

3. Average Strength

a. Marine Officers		46
(1) Naval Aviators	23	
(2) Naval Flight Officers	19	
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4	
b. Naval Officers		1
c. Marine Enlisted		254
d. Naval Enlisted		0
e. Total		<u>301</u>

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During March, VMFA-115 flew 579 Combat sorties in support of operations throughout Southeast Asia.

Operations and units supported were: the First and Third Marine Divisions, the First and Second ARVN Divisions, Americal Division, Task Force Alpha, the 7th Fleet, Taylor Common, Dewey Canyon, Nevada Eagle, Kentucky Jumper, Night Sculler, Maine Craig, Purple Martin and Oklahoma Hills.

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In March, the Silver Eagles destroyed 104 enemy structures while damaging 9. The Bomb Damage Assessment also included: 24 Fighting Holes, 45 meters of trail, 1 Ammo Cache, 180 meters of trenchline, 1 Bridge, 101 Bunkers, 17 road cuts, 27 Secondary Explosions, 58 Secondary Fires, 3 Sampans, 1 truck, 4 automatic weapons and 5 enemy soldiers killed.

To acquire this Bomb Damage Assessment, VMFA-115 expended 1205.2 tons of ordnance. Ordnance dropped by type was:

865 MK 81 S/E	250 lb bombs
2709 MK 82 S/E	500 lb bombs
86 MK 82 Con	500 lb bombs
462 MK 77	500 lb fire bombs
162 MK 83	1000 lb bombs
158 CBU-24 C/B	
394 5.00 Rockets	Zuni FFAR
74 LAU 60/A	2.75 POD
1 LAU 69/A	2.75 POD

On 4 March Lovebug 457, with Lieutenant Colonel NORTON and Captain MARSHALL in the lead and Captains HENDERSON and TRUE in the number two position, was instructed to attack an enemy position. The flight working in Quang Nai Province with Helix 33, dropped 12,250 lb. bombs and 3-500 lb. fire bombs on target, resulting in 1 bunker, 1 automatic weapon and 20 meters of trenchline destroyed along with 3 secondary fires.

Later, on the 10th of March, Lovebug 571, a Close Air Support mission with Captain EVANS and Lieutenant SINGLETON leading the flight and Captain DENTON and Lieutenant DOBBINS in the wing position, attacked a known enemy position. The target, located in Quang Nam Province, was destroyed by 16-500 lb. bombs and 4-2.75 rocket packs under the supervision of the Forward Air Controller (FAC) "Hostage Zulu". The flight was given credit for 1 bunker destroyed, along with 2 enemy killed.

March 25, Major PAIGE and Lieutenant BOOTH along with Captain BAKER and Lieutenant DOBBINS were scrambled from the "Hot Pad" on Lovebug 240. The flight working with "Sea-Worthy 97-6" in Quang Tri Province placed 100% of their ordnance on target, resulting in two 50 caliber automatic weapons and 2 bunkers destroyed along with one secondary fire.

PART III1. Personnel

VMFA-115 welcomed aboard Captain R. J. HAYNES and Captain J. V. PECK from VMFA-122, along with Lieutenant M. M. CAMPBELL from VMFA-323. Major D. A. LEWIS joined the Silver Eagles from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Captain C. R. GEIGER, who was the assistant Operations Officer for MAG-13, joined Major LEWIS in Maintenance.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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CONFIDENTIAL2. Operations

During March, Majors WELSH, SLONE, and LEWIS flew their 200th Mission in South Vietnam. Captains GEIGER and HUNTER also reached the coveted 200 mark. First Lieutenant CRIFE, a Naval Flight Officer, also reached the 200 mission mark during March.

3. Bonds

During March, Lt WATSON reported the Savings Bond Program had an 87.5% participation rate.

4. Morale

In March, 17 officers and men from the squadron took advantage of R & R quotas to various spots in the Far East. Places visited included Hawaii, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

5. Promotions

Thirteen Silver Eagles received promotions during the month of March. The new sergeants are: SMITH, J. E., CABLE, S. F., LECLAIR, R. S., NOF-SINGER, P., PERROTTA, J. J., REGGAN, H. L., TIME, J. E., AND UFFLEMAN, W. R. The two new Eagle Corporals are POLOSCHAN, J. M., BEAUVAIS, R. A. Newly promoted Lance Corporals are PICCIRILLO, A. G. and KERRIGAN, W. G. Former Private FRANK, R. S. is now a Private First Class.

6. Training

Lieutenant WHOLLEY attended the Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape course at Clark AFB in the Philippines.

7. Air Operations

Total Flight Operations	708.8
Total Sorties	615
Combat Flight Hours	663.8
Combat Sorties	579
High Day Hours	39.9
High Day Sorties	33
Average Pilot Hours	31.2
Average Pilot Sorties	28
Average RIO Hours	49.2
Average RIO Sorties	42
Non-Squadron Aircrew Hours	74.6
Non-Squadron Aircrew Sorties	64

ENCLOSURE (1)

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