

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

3:RBG:ajs
5750
SerNo. 03A06870
9 March 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S43)

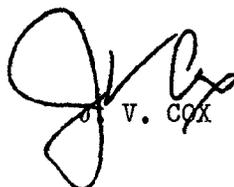
Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) WgO 5750.1C
(c) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) VMFA-115 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1-28 February 1970.

2. This letter is down-graded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).


J. V. COX

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VMFA-115

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| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Donald P. BOWEN | Commanding Officer | LtCol | 1-28 |
| Lawrence A. WHIPPLE | Executive Officer | Maj | 1-22 |
| Ronald E. HEALD | Executive Officer | Maj | 23-28 |
| Harry F. SHARP II | Operations Officer | Maj | 1-28 |
| Larry A. STULTS | S-1 Officer | Capt | 1-28 |
| Lester E. AMICK | S-2 Officer | 1stLt | 1-28 |
| Frederick J. MEIER Jr. | Logistics Officer | Capt | 1-28 |
| Christopher J. TELGE | Avn. Safety Officer | 1stLt | 1-28 |
| Conrad W. HEINZERLING | Maintenance Officer | Maj | 1-28 |
| George H. HUGHES | Flight Surgeon | Lt USN | 1-28 |
| William F. SEARS | SgtMaj | SgtMaj | 1-28 |

2. Task Organization and Date

VMFA-115, Chu Lai Air Base, RVN, LtCol Donald P. BOWEN, Commanding 1-28 February 1970.

3. Average Strength

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| a. Marine Officers | 40 |
| (1) Naval Aviators | 20 |
| (2) Naval Flight Officers | 18 |
| (3) Aviation Ground Officers | 2 |
| b. Naval Officers | 1 |
| c. Marine Enlisted | 275 |
| d. Naval Enlisted | <u>60</u> |
| e. Total | <u>316</u> |

PART II

During the month of February, VMFA-115 flew 586 combat sorties and 615.2 combat hours in support of operations throughout I-Corps, Laos and the Gulf of Tonkin.

(C) Units supported during the period 1-28 February were the First Marine Division, 5th, 7th, 25th and 26th Marines, 105th Infantry Division, Americal Division, Special Forces, ROK Marines, ARVN, 101st Airborne and the 7th Air Force.

(C) Operations supported during the period 1-28 February include Iron Mountain, Victory Dragon, Fredrick Hill, Randolph Glenn, and AIS; an area of special interest.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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2/23/70

Major General G. S. BOWMAN, Jr., Deputy Commanding General, III MAF and Colonel T. E. MURPHREE, Commanding Officer of MAG-13 congratulate Lieutenant Colonel D. P. BOWEN, Commanding Officer of VMFA-115 and his RIO WO2 J. C. BARDON on achievement of an enviable safety record in combat.



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(C) While supporting these operations and units, the Silver Eagles of VMFA-115 achieved the following Battle Damage Assessment:

BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Bunkers Destroyed | 84 |
| Bunkers Damaged | 24 |
| Structures Destroyed | 37 |
| Structures Damaged | 11 |
| Hooches Destroyed | 19 |
| Hooches Damaged | 1 |
| Secondary Explosions | 53 |
| Secondary Fires | 48 |
| Sustained Fires | 13 |
| KBMA | 8 |
| Military Vehicles Destroyed | 1 |
| Military Vehicles Damaged | 2 |
| Fighting Positions Destroyed | 1 |
| Tree Line Destroyed | 920 Meters |
| Trails Cut | 25 |
| Bridges Damaged | 2 |
| Automatic Weapons Destroyed | 1 |

(C) This damage was accomplished by expending 960.27 tons of ordnance of the following types and amounts:

| | | | |
|------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| 1016 | MK 81 | LDGP | 250 lb. Bombs |
| 408 | MK 81 | SE | 250 lb. Bombs |
| 200 | MK 82 | SE | 500 lb. Bombs |
| 1122 | MK 82 | LDGP | 500 lb. Bombs |
| 713 | MK 83 | LDGP | 1000 lb. Bombs |
| 481 | MK 77 | NAPALM | 500 lb. Bombs (Fire) |
| 106 | CEU-24 | | Cluster Bomb Units |
| 81 | ZUNI | FFAR | 5.00" Rocket |

Major General G. S. BOWMAN Jr., Deputy Commanding General, III MAF and Colonel T. E. MURPHREE, Commanding Officer of MAG-13 were on hand on February 23, 1970, when the "Silver Eagles" completed their 10,000th accident free flight hour. This event was particularly unique in that VMFA-115 accomplished the entirety of this outstanding achievement while deployed to Viet Nam in combat.

The 10,000th hour was achieved on a close air support mission flown by LtCol D. P. BOWEN, Commanding Officer of VMFA-115, and CWO-2 J. BARDON, RIO, at Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam.

Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 115 is in their third tour of duty in Viet Nam with more than 45 months in country, making the "Silver Eagles"

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the senior Marine Fighter Squadron in the Republic of Viet Nam. Flying the Phantom II, VMFA-115 has provided air support to Marines, Army, Republic of Viet Nam Army, and Republic of Korea Marine ground units, the 7th Fleet and the 7th Air Force. The squadron has amassed 8,133 combat sorties and delivered 15,782 tons of ordnance while establishing the enviable safety record. In 1969 alone, the officers and men of VMFA-115 supported over 40 major ground operations, interdicted the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and provided MIG-CAP and BAR-CAP fighter patrols without the occurrence of a single major aircraft accident, happily proving that safety and combat are compatible.

PART III1. Personnel

a. In February the "Silver Eagles" said goodbye to Lt JOHNSON and Lt DIETZ; both returning to CONUS upon completion of their tours in WESTPAC.

b. During the month of February Major HEALD was joined from MCAS BEAUFORT, Major HANLE, Lt CALLAHAN, Lt TEBALD and Lt McGAUGHEY were joined from DANANG, and Lt FOGG was joined from MCAS, Beaufort, S. C..

c. Promotions

| | |
|------------|----|
| E-2 to E-3 | 1 |
| E-3 to E-4 | 16 |
| E-4 to E-5 | 2 |
| E-6 to E-7 | 1 |

2. Awards. Three 1st Strike/Flight Air Medals were awarded during the month of February.

3. Morale. 16 Officers and men enjoyed R&R during the month of February.

4. (C) Air Operations. During the month of February, Capt STANFORD flew his 400th combat mission and Lt SURGENT, Lt SCHEULLER, Lt SILVER, Lt SANDBERG, Lt MCGILL and Lt ASKINS flew their 100th combat mission.

a. Statistics

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Total Hours | 657.0 |
| Total Sorties | 633 |
| Combat Flight Hours | 615.2 |
| Combat Sorties | 586 |
| High Day Hours | 37.0 |
| High Day Sorties | 30 |
| Average Pilot Hours | 32.8 |
| Average RIO Hours | 36.5 |
| Average Pilot Sorties | 31 |
| Average RIO Sorties | 34 |
| Non-Squadron Hours | 124.3 |
| Non-Squadron Sorties | 117 |

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5. (C) Air Defense

The "Silver Eagles" flew 13 Barrier Cap missions over the Gulf of Tonkin in support of the 7th Fleet. Also 29 Bomber Escort missions were flown, generally over Laos, in support of the 7th Air Force. No MIG contacts were made.

6. Training

Capt STANFORD and Capt FRENCH attended ABCCC orientation school at Ubon, Thailand. Lt SCHEULLER attended JEST school, Lt RAITHEL and Lt GRBAC attended PACAF Life Support school, Lt WRIGHT attended PJSS at Clark AFB.

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