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MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 232
Marine Aircraft Group 15
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:RKW:dgo
5750
03A30972
4 November 1972

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 1972

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VMFA-232

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Oct 1972

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232

LtCol R. O. LAWRENCE
1-31 October 1972

2. LOCATION

1-31 October 1972

Nam Phong Royal Thai Air Base,
Nam Phong, Thailand

3. STAFF OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER	- Major W. T. MCFALL	1-31 October 1972
S-1 OFFICER	- Captain W. L. DOMINA	1-31 October 1972
S-2 OFFICER	- Captain E. SALANIUK	1-4 October 1972
	1/Lt P. A. LYND	5-31 October 1972
S-3 OFFICER	- Major A. E. PEET	1-31 October 1972
S-4 OFFICER	- Captain R. B. RAMSDEN	1-4 October 1972
	- Captain L. T. HIGBEE	5-31 October 1972
MAINTENANCE OFFICER	- Captain C. L. CULLER	1-31 October 1972
AVIATION SAFETY OFFICER	- Captain R. K. WARD	1-4 October 1972
	Captain R. S. JONES	5-31 October 1972

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
33	221	0	0	0	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

(C) The month of October 1972 ended with VMFA-232 again breaking the 500 flight hour mark. A total of 371 sorties were flown producing 589.8 flight hours. Of this total, 329 sorties and 533.6 flight hours were flown in combat against Communist forces in South Vietnam, North Vietnam and Laos. This was done despite a two day stand down which was devoted to training and aircraft maintenance. The Squadron did however, launch five air-to-air combat sorties during these two days as an assist to other units of MAG-15.

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(C) The Squadron averaged 16 effective pilots for the month and averaged 37.7 hours per pilot. The Squadron also made combat sorties available to MAG-15 staff pilots aiding them in maintaining combat proficiency. The thirteen staff pilots assigned to fly accrued 137.4 hours and 77 sorties, giving them each an average of 10.6 hours for the month.

(C) For the first twenty-two days of October, the primary mission of VMFA-232 continued to be the air-to-air role in support of the USAF Linebacker strikes into North Vietnam. Of twenty-one days scheduled for Linebacker, only three were cancelled due to weather, a vast improvement over previous months when missions were cancelled several days in a row. On the twenty-third of October, the United States declared a bombing halt in North Vietnam above the twentieth parallel therefore Linebacker was cancelled and VMFA-232's primary mission again became air-to-ground. The Squadron quickly reconfigured aircraft and by the twenty-sixth of the month was flying sixteen air-to-ground combat sorties per day, delivering a total of 689 tons of ordnance against the enemy during the month.

(C) Monsoon weather in South Vietnam limited the number of strikes into MR I. Weather remained good elsewhere in the combat theatre however, and strikes were flown in the Barrel Roll, and Steel Tiger regions of Laos.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 Oct 1972 Cpl. W. I. PAULSON, LCpl. R. A. LAFONTAINE, and PFC. R. L. KALLINEN were promoted to their present rank to date from 1 October 1972.
- 1-12 Oct 1972 Aircrews received instruction and practical application in search and rescue recovery procedures. An actual helicopter pick up of each crewmember was made including vectoring the SAR helicopter to their position, unknown to the SAR pilot, on the ground. Three replacement RIOs attended in-country combat operation indoctrination given by MAG-15.
- 6 Oct 1972 WT-15 sustained a damaged stabilator from cable slap following an M21 arrestment. Arrestment was made due to a utility hydraulic failure. (VMFA-232 incident 5-73I)
- 6-7 Oct 1972 Aircrew training on air-to-air tactics, AIM-7 and AIM-9 missiles, ECM, and characteristics of MIG series aircraft, as well as technical training for maintenance personnel, was held during a maintenance standdown.
- 17 Oct 1972 CG, 1st MAW attended briefings given by the Commanding Officer and his staff and then toured the flight line and maintenance facilities stopping to visit with the maintenance personnel.
- 20 Oct 1972 Capt. M. A. KAH was promoted to his present rank with a date of rank effective 1 October 1972. SSgt. J. R. ANDERSON and SSgt. C. R. WILLIAMS were promoted to their present rank with a date of rank effective 1 August 1972.
- 23 Oct 1972 WT-06 received one small arms caliber round through the center line fuel tank while delivering ordnance in the Barrel Roll region of Laos. (VMFA-232 incident 6-73I, DEA)
- 24-31 Oct 1972 Eleven officers and enlisted began a continuing program of weight reduction and physical conditioning.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A. (C) LIST OF VMFA-232 BDA FOR OCTOBER
- B. (C) PERSONNEL
- C. (C) AIR OPERATIONS
- D. (C) MAINTENANCE
- E. (U) AVIATION SAFETY

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A. (C) A list of VMFA-232 BDA for October follows:

11 KBA	1 85MM Gun Destroyed
52 Secondary Explosions	1 12.75 Gun Destroyed
6 Secondary Fires	1 TOWER Destroyed
6 Trucks Destroyed	1 TOWER Damaged
4 Trucks Damaged	1 40 meter Trench Destroyed
3 Structures Damaged	1 15 meter Road Cut
5 Bunkers Uncovered/Destroyed	3 Warehouses Destroyed
1 82MM Mortar Destroyed	17 Bunkers Destroyed
2 37MM Guns Destroyed	3 Bunkers Damaged
1 12.7MM Gun Destroyed	1 Cave Destroyed
1 100MM Gun Destroyed	

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TAB A
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B. (C) PERSONNEL

	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Joined	3	33
Transferred	4	20
Promoted	2	8

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C. (C) AIR OPERATIONS

Total Sorties	371
Total Flight Hours	589.8
Total Combat Sorties	329
Total Combat Hours	533.6
High Day Sorties	18
High Day Hours	26.0
Average Pilot Strength	16
Average Pilot Sorties	23
Average Pilot Hours	36.9
Average RIO Strength	14
Average RIO Sorties	27
Average RIO Hours	42.1

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D. (C) MAINTENANCE

Aircraft Assigned	17
A/C Operational Readiness	50%
Average A/C Available	16.7
Calendar Inspection	3

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E. (U) AVIATION SAFETY

Accident 0

Incident 2

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