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MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 334
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1St Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:RLF:lsl
5750
SerNo: 03A18969
8 July 1969

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted]

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4
(b) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for 1-30 June 1969

1. In accordance with instructions contained in references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

J. R. SCAFE
By direction

VMFA-334 CMD CHRON JUNE 1969

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[redacted]

ENCLOSURE (76)

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[redacted]

5750
8 July 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 334
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13
1St Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

CHU LAI AIR BASE, VIETNAM

1-30 June 1969

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Part I - Organizational Data

1. Commander and Staff.

BILLET	NAME	RANK	PERIOD
Commanding Officer	Samuel E. D'ANGELO III	LtCol	1-30 June 1969
Executive Officer	Alphonse G. POTENZA	Major	1-30 June 1969
S-1 Officer	Stanley J. TRACHTA	Captain	1-30 June 1969
S-2 Officer	Jerry W. LEIST	1stLt	1-30 June 1969
S-3 Officer	James R. SCAFE	Major	1-30 June 1969
S-4 Officer	Frank R. SODERSTROM	Major	1-30 June 1969
Maintenance Officer	Carl B. JOHNSTON	Major	1-30 June 1969
Safety Officer	Jack D. WALDO	Major	1-30 June 1969

2. Task Organization and Data
Organization
Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 334
Marine Aircraft Group 13
First Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Location
Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Commanding Officer	Date of Office
Lieutenant Colonel Samuel E. D' ANGELO III	15 February 1969 to 30 June 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators - 23

(2) Naval Flight Officers - 20
(3) Aviation Ground Officers - 5

b. Naval Officers - 1

c. Marine Enlisted - 232

d. Naval Enlisted - 0

4. Important Visitors to this Unit. There were no visits to this Squadron by any important visitors during the month of June.

Part II - Narrative Summary

June, 1969 marked the best month for VMFA-334 since its arrival in country in August, 1968.

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The Falcons of 334 logged a squadron record of 833.7 hours, completed 739 sorties while expending in excess of 1564 tons of ordnance.

June was the final month Lieutenant Colonel Samuel E. D'ANGELO commanded VMFA-334. Under the aggressive and inspirational leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel E. D'ANGELO, VMFA-334 increased its sorties/hours flown per month every month for five consecutive months.

Despite its commitment to support III MAF forces in I Corps, VMFA-334 also aided CTF 77 in meeting its BARCAP requirements, Seventh Air Force in its STEEL TIGER INTERDICTION program while continuing to train six aircrews per month in the First Marine Aircraft Wing Missile FIREX.

In the Republic of South Vietnam, VMFA-334 provided Close Air Support for US Marines, US Army, ROK, and ARVN forces in Operations UTAH MESA, APACHE SNOW, HERKIMER MOUNTAIN, VIRGINA RIDGE, ARLINGTON CANYON, KENTUCKY JUMPER, VICTORY DRAGON, FREDERICK HILL, GENEVA PARK, IRON MOUNTAIN and DRAGON'S GROVE.

Some of the June missions highlights were:

On 19 June LtCol Samuel E. D'ANGELO and Captain Kenneth E. STRAYHORN (RIO) supporting the 4th Marines under tactical control of CATKILLER 18 attacked and successfully destroyed an NVA supply point. The devastating accuracy of their ordnance delivery resulted in two secondary explosions, four bunkers destroyed, fifty meters of trench destroyed and left a cache of rocket motors burning.

On 21 June 1stLt Larry RICHARD and 1stLt Thomas SULLIVAN and their wingman, Colonel Richard RASH and 1stLt Benjamin YORKOFF were commended for their role with successful extraction of a First Marine Division recon team surrounded by a superior enemy force.

Working under 2700 feet overcast layer, one mile visibility and rain with mountainous terrain rising to 3000 feet in the target area, the flight successfully attacked an enemy emplacement that had already wounded several recon team members and shot down a medevac helicopter.

Despite the adverse weather, 1stLt RICHARD and Colonel RASH successfully destroyed the enemy position delivering their ordnance as close as 150 meters of the recon team. The skill, daring and performance of these VMFA-334 aircrews has earned a recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

During the month of June the combined Squadron Battle Damage Assessment received from controlling agencies was as follows:

ENEMY KILLED BY MARINE AIR - 24
BUNKERS-DESTROYED - 204
DAMAGED - 28
SECONDARY FIRES - 59
MILITARY STRUCTURES - DESTROYED - 138
DAMAGED - 28

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SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS - 19
TRENCH LINES - 190 Meters
TRAILS CUT - 2
AA POSTION DESTROYED - 1
TRUCKS DESTROYED - 1
SAMPAN DESTROYED - 8
ROADS CUT - 1
DAMS DESTROYED - 1
HELICOPTERS DESTROYED - 1
ROCKET POSITION DESTROYED - 1
ROCKETS DESTROYED - 18

Part III - Significant Events

1. Personnel: Joined: Officer - 4 Enlisted - 53
Dropped: Officer - 5 Enlisted - 119
Promotions: Officer - 3 Enlisted - 11

2. Awards: Air Medals - 95
No other incoming awards

3. Air Operations:

a. Total Combat Sorties - 704
Total flights - 739
Total Combat Hours- 791.2
Total Flight Hours - 833.7
Avg Pilot Strength - 23
Avg Pilot Hours - 33.5
Avg Pilot Sorties - 29.6

Avg NFO Strength - 19
Avg NFO Sorties - 36.7
Avg NFO Hours - 41.4
High Day (Sorties) 30/27Jun
High Day (Hours) 36.1/27Jun

b. Type of Sorties Flown

(1) TPQ - 67
(2) CAS - 464
(3) DAS - 108
(4) BARCAP - 24
(5) Test - 6
(6) Other - 70

c. Units Supported

(1) III MAF - 307
(2) 7th AF - 108
(3) CTF 77 - 24
(4) US ARMY - 236
(5) ROK - 13
(6) ARVN - 16

4. Maintenance: June monthly averages:
Aircraft assigned - 17
Aircraft on Board - 16

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Aircraft Available - 10
Average Hours for Aircraft on Board - 51.8
Aircraft transferred/Received: F4J - 155734 12 June Received
F4J - 155576 27 June Received
Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage: 1 Limited damage, no injuries

5. Ordnance. June expenditures by type and number as follows:

TYPE	NUMBER	TONNAGE
MK-81 Snakeye	12	1.8
MK-82 Snakeye	1377	379
MK-82 Conical	3011	768
MK-77	924	242
CBU-24	80	33
MK-83	210	106
Rockeye	12	3.0
ZUNI Rocket	363	20
2.75" Rocket Pods	9	2.5
D-32'S	28	7.3
D-26'S	3	1.2

Total Monthly Tonnage: 1563.8

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