

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115  
Marine Aircraft Group 15  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973

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*10/12/73-115*

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Enclosure (1)

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115

COMMANDERLieutenant Colonel  
H. C. IVY  
23 Jul 1972 to 1 Jul 1973  
Lieutenant Colonel  
C. V. V. SMILLIE Jr  
2 Jul to 31 Dec 19732. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONRoyal Thai Air Force Base  
Nam Phong, Thailand  
Naha AB, Okinawa  
MCAS Iwakuni, JapanPERIOD1 Jul to 30 Aug 1973  
31 Aug to 16 Dec 1973  
17 Dec to 31 Dec 19733. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj W. COOPER  
1 Jul to 1 Aug 1973  
Maj P. KRUSE  
2 Aug to 24 Sep 1973  
Maj R. MORRIS  
25 Sep to 31 Dec 1973

S-1 Officer

Capt W. SIMPSON  
1 Jul to 15 Jul 1973  
Capt K. PETERSEN  
16 Jul to 21 Aug 1973  
Capt J. BUCHLI  
22 Aug to 31 Aug 1973  
Maj J. DAVIS  
1 Oct to 31 Dec 1973

Intelligence Officer

Capt R. MADDOCKS  
1 Jul to 30 Nov 1973  
Capt G. RASMUSSEN  
1 Dec to 31 Dec 1973

S-3 Officer

Maj P. KRUSE  
1 Jul to 1 Aug 1973  
Capt J. HANKINS  
2 Aug to 21 Aug 1973  
Capt K. PETERSEN  
22 Aug to 4 Sep 1973

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4 Officer

Maj P. KRUSE  
25 Sep to 12 Nov 1973  
Maj J. CLARK  
13 Nov to 31 Dec 1973

Capt D. WATSON  
1 Jul to 16 Nov 1973  
Capt B. WELCH  
17 Nov to 31 Dec 1973

Maj G. POST  
1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973

Capt L. MARSH  
1 Jul to 11 Sep 1973  
Capt B. KNUTSON  
12 Sep to 31 Dec 1973

Maintenance Officer

Safety Officer

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>
32	154	1	2	0	0

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Section I: Combat Operations - Cambodia 1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973

Section II: Training Operations - 1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973

## SECTION I

COMBAT OPERATIONS

(C) The month of July and the first fifteen days of August found VMFA-115 still engaged in combat operations in Cambodia to the extent of 439.2 flight hours and 193 combat sorties. On 15 August as U. S. Forces ceased all combat operations due to the establishment of a new peace treaty, the curtain rang down on another era of the Silver Eagles colorful and distinguished combat history.

(C) The squadrons combat operations in Cambodia through 15 Aug 1973 brought its total sorties flown in South East Asia to 34,010 sorties.

## SECTION II

TRAINING OPERATIONS

(U) In addition to combat operations conducted 1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973 normal training operations were conducted in order to maintain aircrew proficiency in the squadrons primary air-air mission and enable staff officers to meet annual flight minimums. As all combat operations ceased on 15 August, the training was shifted to day and night air-air sorties exclusively as the squadron once again prepared to depart the beautiful Nam Phong, Thailand, "Rose Garden".

(U) Aircrews flying F4 versus F4 were able to refamiliarize themselves with aircraft limitations as well as become proficient in classic maneuvers and loose duce tactics required for combat readiness in the air-air environment.

(C) December 1973 saw the Silver Eagles conclude a highly successful three and one half month deployment at Naha and arrive at MCAS Iwakuni on 17 Dec 1973, marking the end of a 23 month absence.

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(U) As the end of August approached the squadron was ordered to prepare for a deployment to Naha Airbase, Okinawa as the first step on the return to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, the permanent home of the "Silver Eagles". On 31 August the word to execute was given and the retrograde of VMFA-115 tactical aircraft from Thailand to Okinawa was conducted in the same precise and professional manner which characterized the combat operations.

(U) All aircraft departed Nam Phong, Thailand on 31 August and arrived at Naha Airbase, Okinawa on the same day via a refueling stop at NAS Cubi Pt., Philippines.

(U) VMFA-115 found Naha AB Okinawa to be an excellent training location with ample training areas and facilities.

(U) During September air-ground ordnance delivery was undertaken to upgrade aircrew proficiency in CAS delivery techniques not required during combat operations in Cambodia.

(U) In addition, air intercept sorties were concurrently flown to maintain aircrew proficiency in preparation for ACM training and a missile exercise which was planned to follow.

(U) Although a lack of suitable targets cancelled the planned missile exercise a gunnery exercise was substituted which provided aircrews with the opportunity to fly the gunnery pattern against an air-air target as well as train ordnance crews not familiar with the gun pod.

(U) The months of October and November were devoted to Air Combat Maneuvering which requires the highest degree of proficiency.

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(C) Flight Operations in December emphasized air-air intercepts and the attainment of the 2nd quarter FY74 flight hour goal of 1300 flight hours. In spite of deploying from Naha AB to MCAS Iwakuni the squadron reached a six month high of 555.2 flight hours exceeding the quarterly hour goal by 4.6 hours.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

(U) For the period of 1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973 18 officers joined the squadron from Conus, or from other units already in WestPac. Also, during that period, 18 officers departed the Silver Eagles for other duties.

2. Promotions to present rank for the period of 1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973.

SgtMaj	1	<u>MERITORIOUSLY</u>
M/Sgt	1	E. ROBINSON to Sgt
GySgt	1	R. LOVELL to Sgt
SSgt	10	E. JOHNSON to Cpl
Sgt	32	R. SMITH to Cpl
Cpl	46	D. HARRIS to Cpl
L/Cpl	17	M. KRAFT to Cpl
PFC	2	J. McCORMACK to L/Cpl
		J. MONTGOMERY to L/Cpl

3. Awards received during 1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973

Meritorious Unit Commendation (1)	Certificate of Commendation (1)
Joint Services Commendation Medal (1)	MAG-15 Marine of the Month (2)
Air Force Commendation (1)	MAG-15 NCO of the Month (1)
Air Medals (27)	Meritorious Mast (5)

4. Air Operations

(U) The following is a summary of air operations for the period of:

1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973 - VMFA-115 conducted combat operations in support of the Cambodian Government.

16 Aug to 16 Dec 1973 - The squadron flew exclusively training sorties with the emphasis being placed on CAS delivery and ACM tactics while deployed to Naha Airbase Okinawa.

17 Dec to 31 Dec 1973 - VMFA-115 returned to MCAS Iwakuni and flew training sorties with emphasis on airborne radar intercept.

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5. Training

(U) During the period 1 Jul to 15 Aug emphasis was obviously placed on combat operations in support of the Cambodian Government, however following the bombing halt emphasis shifted to AI, Loose Deuce tactics and Air Combat Maneuvering throughout the remainder of the year. While at Naha VMFA-115 supported the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines at Okinawa at various times to qualify several forward air controllers and acquaint ground commanders with air power and its proper utilization. The air intercept and ACM training program also enabled Marine Air Control Squadron Four to establish and maintain controller proficiency. Finally, the squadron made two movements gaining much valuable experience. VMFA-115 ended the year at MCAS Iwakuni.

6. Operations Supported

(U) During 1 Jul to 15 Aug VMFA-115 continued to fly combat sorties in support of the Cambodian Government and with the formal ending of U. S. Forces involvement on 15 Aug had flown a total of 693 combat sorties in Cambodia.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. (C) BDA 1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973.
- b. (C) Listing of total sorties and flight time.
- c. (C) Ordnance expenditures for 1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973.
- d. (C) Commendatory correspondence received by this command.

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1. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

a. The following is a complete listing of BDA received by this squadron 1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973.

KBA	206
STRUCTURES	28
BUNKERS	67 - 4 DAMAGED
SECONDARY FIRES	7
SUSTAINED FIRES	6
51 CAL A/A GUN	1
79 MM GRENADE LAUNCHERS	3
30 CAL MACHINE GUN	1
TRAILCUT	1
FORWARD FIRING POSITIONS	9
SUPPLY CACHES	2
AK-47's	4
BRIDGE	1
RESULTS NOT OBSERVED	62
MOTOR CYCLES	6
AUTO WEAPONS	3
LARGE EXPLOSION	1
SECONDARY EXPLOSION	1
STORAGE BUNKERS	2
SUPPLY PILES	30
BANK DAMS	1

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TAB A  
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1. Listing of total sorties and flight time, 1 Jul to 31 Dec 1973.

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	2416.0	
TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN	1423	
COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS	439.3	
COMBAT SORTIES	193	
HIGH MONTH HOURS	555.2	December
HIGH MONTH SORTIES	281	October

TAB B  
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1. Ordnance Expenditures

1 Jul to 15 Aug 1973

MK82: TONS  
609

OCT 1973

72 MK-82 GP Bombs 18.0 Tons  
128 5" Rockets Zuni 7.05 Ton  
140 MK-76 Practice Bombs 1.6 Tons  
359 MK-4 Mod 0 2.75" FFAR 3.1 Ton

NOV 1973

295 Rounds 20mm APT  
98 Rounds 20mm TP

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
 HEADQUARTERS 56TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (PACAF)  
 APO SAN FRANCISCO 96310



REPLY TO  
 ATTENTION: DOE

18 Oct 73

SUBJECT: Thanks, For A Job Well Done  
 (Letter from a Nail FAC)

(For the crew meeting  
 & bulletin board)

to: The Old Heads of "Blade" and "Motion"  
 Marine Air Group 15  
 Iwakuni MCAS, Japan  
 FPO Seattle 98764

1. This is the old Nail 29, going home in 10 days. I've worked with you for the past year over Ban Ban, the PDJ, inside all the passes, down the Trail, over the DMZ River and the Cua Viet, I Corps and II Corps, over the Mekong River convoys, and a thousand other places meaningful only to us: We've dodged SA-7s, SA-2s, and triple everything, together. And it's been a great teamwork! Due to your work, we did the America advisors and the friendlies some good, put the hurts on the bastards, and got a lot of honest BDA. You rarely heard my call sign because I'm the IP in the back seat and we always use the front seater's call sign. I'm the gruff growl that takes over control of the strike when necessary. You have always done your part with excellence, professionalism, and some hotel teamwork. Whenever I needed bombers, I called Cricket or Hillsboro for air; whenever I needed surgeons, it was, "Goddamit, send me Blade or Motion NOW!" And all my students knew it. Thanks; it's been a pleasure working with you for over 600 hours time on target. You are the best in the world.

2. See you at the next war.

*Jim Mardis*  
 Capt Jim Mardis, Nail FAC

TAB "D"

Enclosure (1)