

LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96627

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VAL-4: JOR:rs
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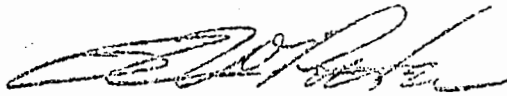
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Chief of Naval Operations, (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History Report Symbol OPNAV 5750-1
Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Basic History
(2) Statistical Summary 1 JAN 1970 through 31 DEC 1970
(3) Significant Combat Actions period 1 JAN 1970
through 31 DEC 1970
(4) Light Attack Squadron FOUR Diary, 1 JAN 1970
through 31 DEC 1970

1. As directed by reference (a), Command History for Light Attack Squadron FOUR for the period of 1 January 1970 through 31 December 1970 is submitted.



R. W. PORTER

Copy to:
Director of Naval History

DECLASSIFIED ARTICLE 0445,
OPNAVINST 5510.1C
4 OP-09891C ON
25 OCT 1972

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

1. Basic History

a. Commanding Officers and dates of command occurring during calendar year 1970 were as follows:

(1) CDR Martin S. SCHUMAN, USN, 582592/1310, 6 SEP 1969 through 5 MAR 1970. Commander Martin S. SCHUMAN, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Alvin SCHUMAN was born February 1930 in Brooklyn, New York. He was commissioned an Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator after completion of flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet in December 1953.

In March 1954, Commander SCHUMAN reported to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron TWENTY-SIX to begin a career covering many facets of Naval Aviation. In May 1957, he reported to Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE, and while embarked aboard USS ESSEX (CVA-9) participated in the Lebanon and Quemoy-Matsu Crises of 1958. He was then assigned to the Naval Air Basic Training Command, Pensacola, Florida with Training Squadron THREE. In February 1962, Commander SCHUMAN reported for duty on the staff of Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force.

In July 1964, Commander SCHUMAN reported to Attack Squadron EIGHTY-ONE. As Maintenance Officer, he made two cruises aboard the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59). In July 1966 he reported to the Staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE where he served as Operations Officer until October 1968. From October 1968 until January 1969, he was attached to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron FORTY-ONE for OV-10A training.

On January 1, 1969 he participated in the commissioning of Light Attack Squadron FOUR at Naval Air Station, North Island, Coronado, California and began his tour as Squadron Executive Officer.

Commander SCHUMAN holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Georgia. He is married to the former Mary Ann Gilpin of Athens, Georgia. CDR and Mrs. SCHUMAN are the parents of two sets of twins, Richard, Darsey, Mark and Ruth.

(2) CDR Verle W. KLEIN, USN, 588979/1310, 5 MAR 1970 through 3 SEP 1970. Commander Verle W. KLEIN, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert KLEIN was born April 7, 1933 in Stickney, South Dakota. He was commissioned an Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator after completion of flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet in November 1954.

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From January 1955 to March 1958 Commander KLEIN served with Patrol Squadron TWENTY-TWO. In May 1958 he reported to VF-25, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas where he served as a flight instructor.

After spending two years at the Naval Post-graduate School, he was assigned to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron TWENTY-TWO at Quonset Point, Rhode Island. In March 1965, Commander KLEIN reported for duty to Air Development Squadron SIX.

From Air Development Squadron SIX he reported to the Empire Test Pilot School in England where he graduated first in his class, and was presented the McKenna Trophy. With this test pilot training, Commander KLEIN received orders to the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River. From December 1967 until April 1968 Commander KLEIN was head of the Flying Qualities and Performance Branch of the Flight Division, and conducted flight tests on the F-4, A-4, A-6, A-3, T-2, J-2, S-2, TC-4C and OV-10 aircraft.

Continuing his association with the OV-10A, Commander KLEIN reported to Light Attack Squadron FOUR in September 1969 and began his tour as the Squadron's Executive Officer. He served in this capacity until 6 March 1970 when he assumed command of VAL-4.

Commander KLEIN attended South Dakota State College where he majored in Civil Engineering, and he continued his education at the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1962.

He is married to the former Marlene J. Hargens of South Dakota. CDR and Mrs. KLEIN are the parents of two daughters, Pamela and Janice.

Commander KLEIN is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He wears the following medals: Silver Star, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal with Star, China Service, Antarctica Service, Vietnam Campaign, Vietnam Service, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

(3) CDR Leonard M. RAUSCH, USN, 402679/1310, 3 September 1970 through 4 March 1971. Commander Leonard M. RAUSCH, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcene RAUSCH, was born 26 January 1929 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Coming from a Navy family he enlisted in the Navy and advanced to Guided Missileman First Class before being selected for Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned an Ensign in September 1955 and received his wings upon completion of flight training in December 1956.

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From January 1957 to January 1961, Commander RAUSCH served with Anti-Submarine Squadron TWENTY-THREE and while embarked aboard USS PRINCETON (CVS-37) participated in the Quemoy-Matsu crises in the Taiwan Straits. He was then assigned to Attack Squadron 126, Det ALFA, at the ASW weapons Delivery Center.

In January 1964, Commander RAUSCH reported to USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) as Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer where he served until June 1966. He then reported to Air Anti-Submarine Squadron 25. While embarked on USS YORKTOWN (CVS-10), VS-25 participated in Formation Star during the Pueblo incident of January 1968.

He was detached from VS-25 in September of 1968 and reported to the Plans and Programs Division of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Operations and Readiness where he served until receiving orders to Light Attack Squadron FOUR as Executive Officer in March of 1970.

He is married to the former Martinette Bakke of San Francisco, California. CDR and Mrs. RAUSCH are the parents of a daughter, Lynette, and a son, David, who is attending the University of Corpus Christi.

Commander RAUSCH wears the following medals: Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Unit Citation, Good Conduct Award, Navy Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Star, Vietnamese Service Medal with six Stars and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

b. Missions and functions which have changed since previous submitted annual Historical Summary.

(1) The mission of Light Attack Squadron FOUR remains to support the counter-insurgency effort of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force by providing close air support to riverine units of the U. S. and Vietnamese Navys as well as providing air support to other friendly forces when requested by appropriate authority.

c. Composition of Commands

(1) On 1 July 1970 Light Attack Squadron Four, Detachment Bravo, operating out of Army Air Base Vung Tau, Republic of South Vietnam was disestablished. Detachment Bravo had been tasked with providing air support for Naval Units in the Giant Slingshot area of operations. Utilizing seven OV-10A aircraft, Detachment Bravo flew daily patrols plus maintaining a 24 hour scramble capability since the commissioning of the Squadron in March of 1969.

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The majority of patrols flown consisted of two plane sections which traversed the upper Saigon River from Bien Hoa to the mountainous areas northeast of Tay Ninh. Flight operations were conducted on a 24 hours around the clock basis in support of the Cambodian incursion during April and May 1970. In general, air assets were heavily committed to support U. S. Naval Forces operating on the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong Rivers and the Bo Bo Canal. Single aircraft reconnaissance of the Rung Sat Special Zone which comprises the entry channel from the South China Sea to the port facilities of Saigon were flown twice daily. These patrols were usually flown with a Marine air observer in the rear seat to locate enemy staging points.

Pilots and maintenance personnel attached to Detachment Bravo were assigned on a temporary additional duty basis from the main Squadron contingent at Navy Binh Thuy. The Presidential Unit Citation for the period 24 June 1969 through 28 February 1970 was awarded to Light Attack Squadron FOUR Detachment Bravo for their outstanding efforts.

2. Summary of Operations - During calendar year 1970 Light Attack Squadron FOUR provided air support in the following campaigns for the periods noted.

a. Tran Hung Dao II, 7 May 1970 through 31 December 1970

(1) Mission Statement

(a) COMNAVFORV. To conduct day and night patrols, ambushes, and board and search operations along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers in order to interdict and destroy NVA/VC forces and prevent infiltration from Cambodia into the Capital Military District and Military Regions III and IV. Light Attack Squadron FOUR provided one, two plane patrol daily in support of this effort.

(b) CNO, VNN. This force has the mission of interdicting the enemy on the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers, preventing them to infiltrate manpower and weapons into the capital, MR3 and MRA, and cutting lines of communications through these rivers and enemy escape routes to Cambodia when they are chased by our armed forces in support of the pacification and territorial program of the GVN and RVNAF.

(2) (C) Intelligence Estimate

(a) The level of enemy activity in the THD II AO and the enemy's aggressiveness was expected to increase markedly. When the Plain of Reeds became flooded enemy move-

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ment by sampan was possible throughout the AO. In turn the enemy initiated attacks on VNN boats and ATSRs. With the advent of the Southwest monsoon season and the withdrawal of ARVN troops from Cambodia, a step up in enemy infiltration and resupply attempts from Cambodia occurred.

(b) There were several major infiltration routes through the AO. These generally originate in the Parrots Beak area and crossed the Vam Co Tay River into MR 4 or the Vam Co Dong into the Ho Bo Woods area north of Saigon. The enemy not only crossed the rivers but used them as resupply routes. It was suspected that the Viet Cong and NVA are infiltrating during the day since night time movement is more hazardous due to curfews, sensors and radar coverage.

b. Tran Hung Dao IV, 23 July 1969 through 31 December 1970

(1) Mission Statement.

(a) COMNAVFORV. To conduct combat, psychological and civic operations under the current rules of engagement (ROE) against enemy forces in the THD IV area of operations in order to deny the enemy the use of the waterways and coastal areas and assist the GVN in expanding pacification throughout the Nam Can and Dam Boi Districts, An Xuyen Province. Light Attack Squadron FOUR committed one, two plane patrol daily to this operation and provided airborne overhead cover for logistic water craft transiting from Nam Can to the sea via the Song Bo De river.

(2) Intelligence Estimate.

(a) The primary ground threat to the TRAN HUNG DAO IV AO was composed of local Viet Cong. These forces had the capability to harass military forces and population centers with indirect fire attacks and limited ground probes. There were no known, large organized enemy forces operating south of the Song Cua Lon, although the 3001 Battalion operated just north of it. Major elements of the 95th NVA Regiment were located in the TRAN HUNG DAO X AO to the north and posed a potential threat to friendly forces in TRAN HUNG DAO IV should they move south.

(b) Enemy action against naval units has primarily taken the form of boat attacks on the Song Bo De and mining incidents on the Cai Nhap Canal. Since 8 April, there were three boat ambushes on the Song Bo De, east of the Cai Nhap, with two of them occurring within 300 metres of each other. On several occasions, Hoi Chanh reported the areas at the mouth of the Song Bo De and Ganh Hao as insertion points for sea infiltration craft.

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(c) Also noteworthy is the enemy's mining threat to riverine craft on the Cai Mhap Canal. During the year there were eight mining incidents on the Canal.

c. Tran Hung Dao VI, 30 May 1970 through 6 November 1970

(1) Mission.

(a) COMNAVFORV. To conduct day and night patrols, ambushes, and board and search operations on the Rach Gia Di Long Xuyen, Ba Ban, Bon Tom, Koch Sor Di Vea Cong and Three Lao Canals and on portions of the Cai Lon River and the Cai Tu River in order to prevent enemy infiltration of forces and supplies between the Seven Mountains and the U-Minh Forest. Light Attack Squadron FOUR committed two, two plane patrols daily to this effort.

(2) Intelligence Estimate.

(a) Intelligence indicated that a dramatic increase in infiltration was occurring in the THD VI AO. The 18B NVA Regiment and subordinate units crossed the AO in their movement from the Seven Mountains via the Three Sisters to the U-Minh Forest. This migration continued for some time. This development highlights the enemy's activities in the U-Minh Forest which have a direct bearing on THD VI. The Viet Cong and NVA were expected to fight desperately to retain their U-Minh stronghold and such an effort required continuous reinforcements and supplies. The bulk of these forces moved through Kien Giang Province.

(3) Forces Assigned

(a) RFD 58 originally consisting of 19 boats, was assigned to THD VI.

d. Tran Hung Dao VIII 13 August 1970 through 31 December 1970

(1) Mission Statement.

(a) COMNAVFORV. To conduct interdiction and patrol missions and coordinate with the 7th ARVN Division and 44th Special Zone forces in setting up ambushes, raids, and search operations on the Link Xang, Babeo, and Tong Doc Canals in order to destroy the enemy and prevent enemy infiltration and supply activity. Light Attack Squadron FOUR committed one, two plane patrol to this effort on a daily basis.

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(2) Intelligence Estimate.

(a) Intelligence reports indicated that two of eight VC battalions operating in Dinh Tuong Province, each consisting of about 150 men with eighty percent being North Vietnamese, were targeted against the canals and riverine craft. The major objectives of these battalions was to attack outposts, tax the local populace, support infiltration efforts, and transport supplies on the waterways. Passing through the AO are several historic infiltration routes which originate in the Parrots Beak area and terminate in Kien Hoa and Vinh Long provinces. Moreover, these routes were being used although the intelligence does not indicate the size of the infiltration effort. Intelligence suggested that VC/NVA units were targeted against LSB Dong Tam and My Tho City although this did not occur.

e. Tran Hung Dao X, 1 June 1969 through 29 December 1970

(1) Mission Statement.

(a) COMNAVFORV. To conduct day and night patrols, trols, ambushes, mine sweeping operations and in coordination with local ground forces, conduct clearing operations to secure the waterways along the river banks of the Song Ong Doc and the Song Trem Trem in order to eliminate the enemy and his tax extortion points. During 1970 Light Attack Squadron FCUR committed one two plane patrol to this effort. In addition all pilots returning from the Tran Hung Dao IV AO checked in by radio with the NOC located at Cau Mau.

(2) Intelligence Estimate

(a) TRAN HUNG DAO X was oriented along the Song Ong Doc which runs between two traditional VC strongholds in An Xuyen Province. Total firefights in this AO involving wval craft declined considerably since the first of the year. Sensor activations, on the other hand, increased eight or nine fold, indicating a considerable enemy presence. The NVA 95th Regiment and its subordinate sapper units were operating in the TRAN HUNG DAO X AO and in the vicinity of VC lake.

(b) Reports of coastal infiltration into the U-Minh Forest and Hoi Chanh Interrogation supported the enemy activity despite the decline in contacts. The 95th regiment was suspected of dispersing into small sapper teams, capable of harassing attacks, terrorist activities, and other "economy of force" tactics. There were numerous reports of expected attacks against Ca Mau and possibly Nam Cay. Nothing significant materialized; however, ATSB Song Ong Doc was virtually destroyed by enemy attack in November 1970.

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17. Tran Hung Dao VII, 1 December 1970 through 31 December 1970

(1) On 1 December 1970, Vietnamese forces began Operation Tran Hung Dao 17. The operation was aimed at destroying the sanctuaries and base camps of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese communist aggressors in the U Minh Forest. This area of Military Region Four had long been considered impregnable and had been a communist sanctuary for twenty years. Operation Tran Hung Dao 17 was under the operational command of the Commanding General, 21st ARVN Division. Participating Army Units were the 51st, 32nd and 33rd Regiments and the 9th Cavalry Squadron of the 21st ARVN Division elements of the 4th Vietnamese Ranger Group.

(2) To provide support for the ARVN forces engaged in Operation Tran Hung Dao 17, Task Force 210 of the Vietnamese Navy was created. Composed of five Task Groups and with headquarters at Ca Mau, Task Force 210 was responsible for waterborne transportation of personnel and logistics of Operation Tran Hung Dao 17. The lack of roads in the U Minh forest prevented employment of a land logistics route and the great mass of men and material necessary for this operation was beyond the capability of Military Region Four logistic air assets.

(3) Light Attack Squadron FOUR was tasked with providing continuous overhead air cover for the Vietnamese Navy Units engaged in troop insertions and resupply convoys in supporting of Operation Tran Hung Dao 17. The flexibility and effectiveness of Light Attack Squadron FOUR was once again demonstrated by the outstanding manner in which they accomplished this arduous commitment. The Squadron continued to provide interdiction patrols throughout the entire Military Region Four and the southern part of Military Region Four and maintained a 24 hour a day scramble capability available to all friendly forces in the Mekong Delta.

(4) The additional tasking of Light Attack Squadron FOUR came at a period of reductions in force levels. Because of the requirement for continuous overhead air coverage, the Squadron aircraft had to be reconfigured with external fuel tanks. The necessity for longer flight and on station relief required rescheduling of maintenance tasks, coordination of convoy airborne assets, escort requests, required the adoption of new operational techniques and scheduling procedures. New reporting had to be developed. The outstanding manner in which Light Attack Squadron FOUR accomplished this mission during a period in which the number of officers and men on board steadily decreased and a 40% turnover in personnel was affected reflects credit upon every man in the Squadron.

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(5) The exceptional heroism of the officers and men of Light Attack Squadron FOUR was repeatedly demonstrated on a daily basis during the period from 1 December 1970 to 30 April 1971. With most of the missions flown at night, and with few navigational aids, the pilots of Light Attack Squadron FOUR continually delivered varied and deadly attacks on a skilled, elusive, and well entrenched enemy. Frequently without prior flight brief and often in the face of intense enemy fire the Squadron never failed to assist beleaguered allied forces in the Delta. The ability to react to any combat situation was enhanced by dedicated and hard working ground crews who, despite supply shortages, adverse tropical working conditions, and constant threat of enemy rocket and mortar attacks, maintained the Squadron's enviable record of meeting 100% of combat commitments.

g. By September 1970 the ACTOV program was well under way and few U. S. "Brown Water" naval assets remained in-country. VAL-4 was being utilized mainly as an airborne quick reaction force. Two plane scramble capability was established over various assigned patrol routes for fifteen hours per day. Historically the majority of all sorties were utilized in support of ARVN units in various degrees of contact with enemy forces. By December 1970, 94% of all missions were being used in this manner.

Since its initial introduction the OV-10A "Fronco" has proven itself capable of filling the gap between the helicopter and jet aircraft in a close air support role. During a relatively short time in-country, the aircraft has operated at approximately \$10.50 per flight hour and with a simple conventional ordnance system has produced more confirmed results in KBA than any 7th Fleet Attack Squadron. Its capabilities have proven in a "limited" wartime environment. As long as the USN is involved in countering guerilla warfare, the OV-10A should be considered as a prime weapons platform. The statistics contained in this report fully support the above and it is strongly recommended that this simple but extremely effective light attack aircraft concept be retained for future use for fast reaction close air support requirements in a permissive AAA environment.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1 January 1970 - 31 December 1970

	Body Count	Probable
Enemy Killed by Air	1,090	1,902
	Destroyed	Damaged
Watercraft	311	389
Structures	1,248	1,700
Bunkers	504	187
Secondary Explosions	151	
.51 Cal. Sites	36	

SUMMARY OF VAL-4 LOSSES

1 January 1970 - 31 December 1970

Personnel Wounded in Action	5
Personnel Killed in Action	1
Aircraft lost due to Enemy Fire	3

SUMMARY OF FLIGHT STATISTICS

1 January 1970 - 31 December 1970

Total Combat Hours	15,268
Total Combat Sorties	7,354

The Personnel of Light Attack Squadron FOUR have received the following decorations for meritorious service and gallantry during calendar year 1970.

a. Legion of Merit	3
b. Distinguished Flying Cross	12
c. Strike/Flight Air Medal	1565
d. Single Action Air Medal	64
e. Bronze Star	3
f. Navy Commendation Medal	77
g. Navy Achievement Medal	20
h. VN COG (Division Legion)	4
i. VN COG Brigade	13

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STATISTICS
LIGHT ATTACK SQUADRON FOUR
1 January 1970 to 31 December 1970

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Flight Hours</u>	<u>No. Sorties Flown</u>
JAN	1180	737
FEB	1096	681
MAR	1404	721
APR	1340	715
MAY	1342	726
JUN	1290	710
JUL	1314	713
AUG	1342	704
SEP	1228	610
OCT	1223	621
NOV	1247	614
DEC	1262	602
Total	15268	7354

ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES

7.62mm
20mm
5" FFAR
2.75" FFAR
MK-45 FLARES

Rounds
5,450,383
75,616
35,824
68,849
10,436

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SIGNIFICANT COMBAT ACTIONS PERIOD
1 January 1970 through 31 December 1970

28 March 1970 A flight led by CDR L. M. RAUSCH was scrambled to assist an outpost under heavy attack. Hampered by a 1200 foot overcast and poor visibility, the flight, at the request of the ground commander, expended their ordnance, returned to rearm and refuel, and returned to the target. This time they were requested to place their ordnance on the outpost's perimeter.

01 April 1970 In support of ground troops in the vicinity of That Son, Chau Doc Province, LCDR John P. WESTERMAN, USN, 638450/1310, and LTJG Peter W. FORD, USNR, 719062, ejected from their aircraft when it was brought down by ground fire.

08 April 1970 Scrambled to assist an outpost under attack by an NVA battalion, a flight led by LCDR J. W. HARDIE was credited with saving the outpost. LCDR HARDIE was awarded the DFC.

09 April 1970 A flight led by LTJG L. R. HONE was scrambled to assist a U. S. and VNN SEAL team which was pinned down by a large enemy unit. LTJG HONE was credited with 12 KBA and saving the friendly unit. As a result of his action, he was awarded the DFC.

07 June 1970 In support of ground troops 15 miles north of Cai Be, Dinh Tuong Province, LCDR Jere A. BARTON, USN, 650083/1310 was killed in action and LCDR Jimmie D. HANKS, USNR, 619554/1715 was wounded in action when their aircraft was brought down by hostile ground fire. Both pilots were awarded the DFC.

08 June 1970 A flight led by LTJG P. W. FORD was scrambled to assist an outpost under heavy attack by a large force of Viet Cong. The flight was credited with saving the outpost.

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- 10 June 1970 In ceremonies at NSAD Binh Thuy, VAL-4 received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for excellence in Combat from 26 March 1969 to 03 September 1969. The award was presented by VICE-ADMIRAL KING, Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, and in attendance were COMMODORE CHCN, Chief of Naval Operations for the Vietnamese Navy and REAR ADMIRAL MATTHEWS, Commander Task Force 116.
- 09 July 1970 In ceremonies held at NSAD, Binh Thuy, CDR V. W. KLEIN, Commanding Officer of Light Attack Squadron FOUR, received the Silver Star for gallantry in action on the night of 17 November 1969. The award was presented by REAR ADMIRAL MATTHEWS, Deputy Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam.
- 21 July 1970 Light Attack Squadron FOUR Detachment BRAVO, located at Vung Tau Army Field, ceased operations, consolidating all assets at VNAF Binh Thuy.
- 16 August 1970 Scrambled to assist a U. S. and VN Navy unit in contact with a large force of Viet Cong, LCDR J. S. HARDIE and LT J. C. McCOLLY placed a strike which drove the enemy from the contact area. Hampered by low clouds, the flight was forced to make all of their runs beneath a 500 foot cloud base.
- 29 September 1970 In support of boat units five miles north of Tuyen Nhon in Kien Tuong Province, LTJG Edward A. BASTARACHE, USNR, 743035/1315, and LTJG Peter W. FORD, USNR, 719062/1315, ejected from their aircraft when it was brought down by enemy ground fire.
- 13 October 1970 In ceremonies held at NSAD, Binh Thuy, REAR ADMIRAL R. E. RIERA, USN, Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific, presented to Light Attack Squadron FOUR the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award for Fiscal Year 1970.
- 14 October 1970 Scrambled to assist an ARVN unit in the "Seven Mountains" area, LT D. D. DAVIS led a flight which placed a strike on a large enemy force entrenched on the side of a mountain. His flight was credited with 10 KBA and three mortar positions destroyed.

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21 October 1970 Diverted to assist a U. S. Navy Operations Center which had come under extremely heavy enemy mortar attack, a flight led by LTJG F. D. WALTHER placed a strike on the enemy mortar positions, then moved his fire to a troop concentration that was preparing to overrun the base. Having scattered the ground assault and with no ordnance remaining LTJG WALTHER then remained overhead to direct friendly air strikes and fire. His flight was credited with 15 KBA and 25 WBA. LTJG WALTHER was awarded the DFC.

29 November 1970 Scrambled to assist an advanced tactical support base under heavy attack, a flight led by LT T. W. MC CRACKEN placed a strike on enemy mortar positions and troop concentrations. Hampered by inoperative flares and a low cloud ceiling, he silenced all enemy mortar fire in five passes. The flight then remained overhead to provide cover for evacuation of wounded.

01 December 1970 Iran Hung Dao 17, the largest military operation of Military Region IV was launched. Light Attack Squadron FOUR provided constant overhead coverage for convoys transiting the canals as well as close air support for the ground units of the 21st ARVN Division.

04 December 1970 Scrambled to assist the Kein An advanced tactical Naval Support base, a flight led by LTJG G. T. MOORE, arrived to find the enemy penetrating the base's defense from all directions. Despite the failure of his flares to ignite, the flight placed a strike which routed the enemy. The flight was credited with 35 KBA.

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