

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121
Marine Aircraft Group 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:RMB:rcj
5750
Ser: 003A03668
5 February 1968

~~SECRET~~

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for 1-31 January 1968

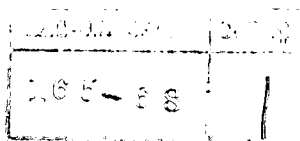
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.5C
(b) GruO 5710.1C

Encl: ✓(1) VMA-121 Command Chronology

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

R. E. Bright
R. E. BRIGHT
By direction

VMA 121
LOG NO. 106-68
Copy 1 of 5
S & C



~~SECRET~~

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

of

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121

Period: 1 - 31 January 1968

INDEX

PART I -----ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II -----NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III ----SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

✓APPENDIX A --OPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTED

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

3:REB:rcj
Ser: 003A03668PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121
 Marine Aircraft Group 12
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. KERN
 1 - 31 January 1968

NO SUBORDINATE UNITS

NO UNITS ATTACHED

2. LOCATION

1 - 31 January -- Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer - Lieutenant Colonel John H. MILLER, 1-31Jan68
 Administrative Officer - Major Richard H. ULM, 1-31Jan68
 Operations Officer - Major Gerald H. SMITH, 1-14Jan68
 Major Ray E. BRIGHT, 15-31Jan68
 Maintenance Officer - Major Gerald D. JAMES, 1-31Jan68
 Material Officer - First Lieutenant R. E. MUSSER, 1-31Jan68

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
28	160	1	0

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRET

3:REB:rcj
Ser: 003A03668PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During January, VMA-121 flew 1219.6 hours and 1033 sorties of which 1187.4 hours and 1003 sorties were combat missions. Since 22 January, VMA-121 has flown extensive air operations in support of Operation SCOTLAND (26th Marines) in the Khe Sanh area. A total of 166 combat sorties and 222 tons of aviation ordnance were dropped during the 10 day period. Of the total sorties flown by VMA-121, 254 sorties were given battle damage assessment by the controlling agency.

The squadron delivered 1676.76 tons of aviation ordnance with the highest daily total being 84.60 tons.

The following lists the reported BDA:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
WBA	1 (confirmed)	
KBA	28 (confirmed)	28 (probable)
Structures	136	38
Road Slides/Cuts	60	--
Bridges	2	2
Bunkers	83	24
Trench Line	290 (meters)	
Secondary Fires	24	
Secondary Explosions	6	
Gun Positions		2 (probable)
Fighting Holes	21	
AW Positions	2	
Caves	1	9 (uncovered)
Stock Pile	1	
Church (VC)		1
Trails Cut	2	
Pagoda (VC)	1	
Rice	1000 pounds	

At approximately 0410 on 31 January communist insurgent forces initiated a rocket and mortar attack on Chu Lai Air Base. The Force Logistic Command Bomb Dump took a hit in one of the revetments setting off a large secondary explosion. As a result of this explosion the VMA-121 hangar and working spaces were substantially damaged, however, only two aircraft were damaged beyond the capability of squadron level maintenance. There were no personnel casualties.

ENCLOSURE (1)

"SECRET"

SECRET

3:REB:rcj
Ser: 003A03668PART IIISIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. S-1

a. Personnel. During January, VMA-121 joined 8 officers and 14 enlisted. Transfers during the month were 4 officers and 19 enlisted. Promotions during the month were: 3 to Captain, 2 to Staff Sergeant, 1 to Corporal and 1 to Lance Corporal.

b. Awards. The following awards were recommended/presented:

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	<u>PRESENTED</u>
Distinguished Flying Cross	2	
Air Medal	34	
Navy Commendation Medal	2	
Navy Achievement Medal	1	

c. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, visited the VMA-121 area on 12 January during his inspection tour of Chu Lai Air Base.

2. S-3a. Air Operations

(1) During the month, VMA-121 provided in-country familiarization for 6 squadron replacement pilots and 1 MAG-12 pilot. Training consists of three flights in the TA-4F and ten daylight missions in the A4E with appropriate support lectures.

(2) During January, VMA-121 flew 1033 sorties. The following lists the sorties by type flown:

TPQ	- 515
DAS	- 227
CAS	- 197
LZP	- 32
TH	- 16
SLTH	- 16
OTHER	- 32

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRET

3:REB:rcj
Ser: 003A03668APPENDIX AOPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTEDOPERATIONSASHAU
AUBURN
FINE SHAPE
KENTUCKY
LAMPSON
LANCASTER
NAPOLEON
NEOSHO
SCOTLAND
WHEELERUNITSIII MAF
1st MAW
3d MarDiv
1st MarDiv
9th Marines
7th Marines
10th Marines
26th Marines
1stBn 5th Marines
1st AmTracs
1st ARVN
2nd ARVN
ROK
Americal Div
Task Force XRAY
U.S. Army

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET