

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

3:GHN:wjg
5750
Ser:
5 November 1968

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subj: Command Chronology for 16-31 October 1968

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.5C
(b) GruO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) VMA-121 Command Chronology

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

D. A. LERFS
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VMA-121
805-68
1 of 5

1588-68 1

DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
OF
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121
FOR
16-31 OCTOBER 1968

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

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

MAJOR DAVID A. LERFS
 16 - 31 October 1968

NO SUBORDINATE UNITS

NO UNITS ATTACHED

2. LOCATION

16 - 31 October 1968 - Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major Jimmie G. MORGAN, 16-31 October 1968
Operations Officer	Major Donald E. JACKETT, 16-31 October 1968
Administration Officer	Captain Ralph P. HUNDLEY, 16-31 October 1968
Maintenance Officer	Major Geoffrey A. YORK, 16-31 October 1968
Material Officer	Captain Donald E. LOVE, 16-31 October 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
30	163	1	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the second half of October, VMA-121 flew 378.5 hours and 341 sorties of which 364.3 hours and 325 sorties were flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Over North Vietnam, 24 sorties totaling 29.3 hours were flown. The Squadron delivered 309.932 tons of ordnance during the reporting period.

Maintenance kept an aircraft availability rate of 70.1% with a NORS rate of 5.5%, down appreciably from the last reporting period.

Aircraft on hand:	16
P&R or enroute:	<u>3</u>
Total Aircraft Assigned:	19

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. S-1

On 15 October 1968 a dual Change of Command ceremony was held on the flight line of VMA-223. LtCol. W. D. SHIPPEN was succeeded by Maj. D. A. LERPS as Commanding Officer of VMA-121 and thereafter Squadron Colours were exchanged with VMA-223 resulting in VMA-121 Commanding Officer and Executive Officer taking charge over the records and personnel of VMA-223 and vice versa.

2. S-3

The tempo of air operations were somewhat decreased from previous months due to weather. During the reporting period only 341 sorties were flown accumulating 378.5 hours.

Thirty two Strike/Flight Air Medals were awarded to Squadron pilots. One Bronze Star and four Distinguished Flying Crosses have been recommended.

~~To date, VMA 121 has flown 10,400 accident free hours, the last operational accident having occurred on 27 December 1967.~~

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PART IV
OPERATIONS

VMF-121 continued to support the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, various Army units throughout I Corps, and 7th Air Force targets in the Panhandle of North Vietnam. A listing of operations supported follows:

LANCASTER II	NEVADA EAGLE
SCOTLAND II	JEB STUART
MAMELUKE THRUST	KENTUCKY
GUNSMOKE IV	ALLENBROOK
MILLBROOK	HOUSTON
DRAGON VICTORY	NAPOLEON SALINE

In support of these operations 325 sorties and 364.3 hours were flown dropping a total of 309.932 tons of ordnance. A breakdown of expended ordnance follows:

<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>
MK-81 SNAKEYE	59
MK-82 SNAKEYE	334
MK-82 CONICAL FIN	584
M-117A1	60
MK-77 NAPALM	28
LAU 10/A ZUNI	31
LAU 60	46
20 MM	5970 RDS