

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

3:GHM:jps
3750
Ser: 03A00569
4 January 1969

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From: Commanding Officer

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

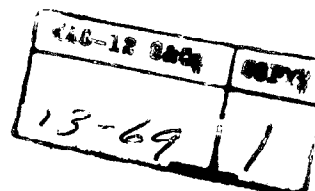
Subj: Command Chronology for 1 - 31 December 1968

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.5C
(b) GruO 5750

Encl: ✓(1) VMA-121 Command Chronology

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

D. A. Lurps
D. A. LURPS



VMA-121

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
OF
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121
FOR
1 - 31 December 1968

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Enclosure (1)
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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

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

MAJOR DAVID A. LERPS

NO SUBORDINATE UNITS

NO UNITS ATTACHED

2. LOCATION

1 - 31 December 1968 Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major Alfonso OSOQUERA 1-31 December 1968
Operations Officer	Major Bobby H. FREEMAN 1-31 December 1968
Administration Officer	Captain Thomas J. LUCIANO 1-8 December 1968 Major Virgil R. HUGHES 9-31 December 1968
Maintenance Officer	Major James L. SKINNER 1-31 December 1968
Materiel Officer	First Lieutenant David F. O'CONNOR 1-31 Dec 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
25	139	1	0

2

Enclosure (1)

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4 January 1969PART IINARATIVE SUMMARY

VMA-121 flew 875.3 hours and 830 sorties of which 829.8 hours and 784 sorties were flown in support of Operations in the Republic of Vietnam and 7th Air Force targets out of country. The squadron delivered 726.686 tons of ordnance during the month.

For the reporting period only one aircraft was damaged due to hostile fire, recieving several small arms rounds on the underside of the fuselage. Another aircraft sustained damage due to material failure.

The average aircraft availability was 54.9% with the NORMS at 33.0% and a NORS rate at 12.1%.

Aircraft on Hand: 16
Aircraft at PAR/Enroute 3
Total aircraft assigned 19

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4 January 1969PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. S-1:

The monthly average strength for December was 26 officers, both Naval Aviators and Aviation Ground Officers, and 139 enlisted men. One Officer and sixteen enlisted personnel joined from CONUS and from other commands in WestPac. There were four officers and 19 enlisted personnel transferred to CONUS.

One three year reenlistment was approved while two other enlisted personnel will enjoy 30 days Special Leave after being granted a six month overseas extension. During the month ten persons took advantage of their 30 days special leave and unfortunately an additional person found it necessary to take emergency leave. Eight enlisted men and four officers enjoyed R&R.

There were two promotions made; one First Lieutenant to Captain and one Lance Corporal received a Meritorious Promotion to Corporal.

2. S-3:

830 sorties were flown logging 875.3 hours. 784 combat sorties and 829.8 combat hours were flown in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force and various Army Units throughout I Corps. In continued support of 7th Air Force targets out of RVN 123 sorties and 140.6 hours were flown. Since the first week of December the squadron has begun to fly night DAS missions into the Steel Tiger and Commando Hunt areas in Laos.

A listing of the Operations the squadron supported follows:

LANCASTER II	JEB STUART
SCOTLAND II	KENTUCKY
MILLBROOK	ALLENBROOK
DRAGON VICTORY	HUSTON
NEVADA EAGLE	MEADE RIVER
HENDERSON HILL	TAYLOR COMMON

In support of these operations 726.686 tons of ordnance was expended. A breakdown of this ordnance is as follows:

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NOMENCLATUREEXPENDED

MK-81 (Snake Eye)	207
MK-82 (Snake Eye)	1,176
MK-82 (Conical Fin)	935
M-117A1	22
MK-84 (Conical Fin)	14
MK-77 (Napalm)	178
LAU 10/A	576 Rockets
LAU 60	38 Rockets
20 MM	19,156 Rounds

Fifty eight Strike/Flight Air Medals were awarded to squadron pilots. Four Distinguished Flying Crosses were submitted and three Bronze Stars were recommended for end of tour awards.

3. S-4:

Materiel has been preparing for the transfer of VMA-121 to the 2nd MAW, FMFLANT. They have undergone numerous inspections from the group S-4, who seem never satisfied, but Materiel is actually rather busy in ensuring that the move will be made as painlessly as possible.

4. Maintenance:

The biggest problem, as usual, seems to be with UHF Radio/ARC-27 and TACAN/ARN-21 gripes. To aggravate this problem, each time a set is changed, a trip must be made to West Field in order to exchange the equipment at H&MS-12.

One aircraft returned from PAR on December 12th and two other are expected to return the first week of January 1969.

VK-14 BuNo. 147669 recieved two small arms rounds on the lower fuselage near the right main landing gear wheel well. Damage required 5 man hours before the aircraft was returned to the up status.

VK-15 BuNo. 148458 returned from DaNang after an engine change and Avionics trouble shooting was performed. The aircraft made an emergency landing after experiencing engine trouble on 26 November.

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