

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
Marine Aircraft Group 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

ADMIN:RBS:bf1
3000
5 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) Group Order 5750.1C

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Attack Squadron 223 Command Chronology for the period
1-31 July 1966

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a) enclosure (1) is submitted.



R. B. SINCLAIR

VMF-223

Cmd Chron

July 1966

DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
OF
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
PERIOD 1-31 July 1966

DECLASSIFIED

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR	1-31Jul66
Executive Officer	Maj Joseph J. KANE	1-31Jul66
Administrative Officer	Capt Eugene L. WHEELER	1-31Jul66
Intelligence Officer	2ndLt Don E. MOSLEY	1-31Jul66
Operations Officer	Maj Richard P. SPREIER	1-31Jul66
Logistics Officer	Capt Charles A. DIXON	1-31Jul66
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Capt Anthony J. MCCARTHY	1-31Jul66

2. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Officers	Enlisted
31	165

USN	
Officers	Enlisted
1	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Personnel shortages have been a matter of primary concern this month. Losses due to rotation of personnel to CONUS without replacements is being experienced. The Ordnance Section has been the one most critically affected with insufficient personnel to perform the assigned tasks and a heavy workload in the combat environment at Chu Lai, requiring personnel to work long, exhaustive hours in this tropical climate for the squadron to accomplish its assigned mission effectively. The Avionics Section is gradually dropping below manning level as will all the other sections in the coming month.
2. During the month of July, the squadron flew a total of 849 sorties for 1130.7 hours. Of these, 784 sorties and 1059.3 hours were in support of combat operations. The squadron pilots flew an average of 27 sorties for 36.5 hours, and non-squadron pilots regularly assigned to fly with VMA-223 flew 7 sorties for 9.8 hours. This is the most hours flown in a month for the squadron since its arrival in Vietnam. The bulk of the combat sorties were flown in support of operation "Hastings".
3. On 11 July, the squadron launched 16 add-on sorties within two hours. The combined BDA was 33 structures destroyed. All available personnel assisted in loading ordnance during this period, including office personnel and pilots. Several other times during the month the squadron displayed this same spirit by assisting ordnance during periods of heavy scheduling. The successful month experienced by the squadron can be directly attributed to this all hands team effort.
4. Three aircraft sustained minor damage from small arms fire in support of Operation "Hastings".
5. Tropical hut construction in both the officer and enlisted area was completed during the month of July. All huts in the living areas have been secured with rope and typhoon stakes in preparation for the monsoon season.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Squadron Pilots were awarded two Air Medals and twenty-three stars as additional awards in lieu of the Air Medal. They were recommended for two Air Medals and thirty-seven stars as additional awards in lieu of the Air Medal.
2. The command continued to push the Presidents' Savings Bond Program during the month. On 12 July the command reached a 77.5% participation and has continued to maintain this throughout the month.
3. On 2 July MAG-12 held a practice alert. Squadron defense platoons were in position 13 minutes after the sounding of the alert. AN/PRC-10 communications were unsatisfactory, even though the equipment had been satisfactorily checked out that morning. On the night of 16 July the MAG went on 100% alert, and the squadron again responded rapidly. The platoons were in their positions within 15 minutes of the alert notification.
4. Training
 - (1) During the month four officers attended Survival School at Cubi Point, two attended Water Survival at Numazu, Japan, and one attended E&E at Clark AFB. One officer attended delivery refresher, and one full loading team attended refresher school at Iwakuni.
5. Average aircraft availability maintained for the month of July was seventy-one point four percent (71.4%), the highest this squadron has achieved.
6. Group Supply filled 53 of 128 AOC^{submitted}P requisitions to them by this Squadron during the month. This Squadron has 16 total AOC^{submitted}P requisitions outstanding.
7. The two Squadron M677 Cerlists have been driven over 1946 miles in the last thirty days under the most adverse conditions.


R. B. SINCLAIR