

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

AD IN:RBS:rer
3000
5 September 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 August 1966

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

R. B. SINCLAIR

VMFA-223

Command Chron

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

ENCLOSURE (2)

Aug 1966

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

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR	1-31Aug66
Executive Officer	Maj Richard P. SPREIER	1-24Aug66
Administrative Officer	Capt Eugene L. WHEELER	1-31Aug66
Operations Officer	Maj Joe L. GREGORCYK	1-31Aug66
Logistics Officer	Capt Charles A. DIXON	1-31Aug66
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Capt Anthony J. MCCARTHY	1-31Aug66

2. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
Officers	Enlisted	Officers	Enlisted
29	151	1	0

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Personnel strength took a sharp decline during the month due to personnel being rotated COMUS with no replacements. The squadron began the month with 30 officers and 162 enlisted on hand strength. As the month ended, the on hand strength had dwindled to 28 officers and 133 enlisted. Due to the critical shortage, many personnel are required to work 15 hour days. Although all personnel maintain a rigorous schedule for extremely long hours under the most adverse conditions, morale remains high in the command.
2. The promotional picture became unusually bright the past month. There were one promotion to Gunnery Sergeant, four to Staff Sergeant, eleven to Corporal, fifteen to Lance Corporal and one to Private First Class. Also, one officer augmented into the regular establishment, U. S. Marine Corps.
3. During this month, the squadron flew 872 sorties and 1100.0 hours. Of these, 826 sorties and 1040.4 hours were in support of combat operations. Squadron pilots flew an average of 32 sorties and 41.1 hours, and non-squadron pilots regularly assigned to fly with WMA-223 flew 150 sorties for 182.9 hours. The majority of the combat sorties were flown in support of Operations "Colorado", "Jackson", and "Irairie". The 872 sorties flown during this period, are the most sorties flown in one month by this squadron since its arrival in Vietnam. Ordnance expended was 349.85 tons of bombs, 43 tons of napalm, 116 rockets, and 7,213 rounds of 20 MM.
4. The Wing experienced a change in the rules of engagement this month which resulted in the designation of squadron pilots as Tactical Coordinator (Airborne) (TAC(A)). Twenty squadron pilots were so designated. This allowed squadron flights to conduct strikes on military targets designated as free drop zones utilizing only flight leader control.
5. The squadron received damage to one aircraft this month. On 14 August Captain L. E. GALLEY was making a night NOREST recovery. The NOREST failed after engagement, causing the nose gear to shear and damaging the left wing tip and slat. Overall damage was classified as "Delta".
6. During August, one pilot attended Jungle Survival Training at NAS, Cubi point. Four pilots received special weapons delivery refresher at MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan. Two Landing Teams received refresher training at MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan, also.
7. Aircraft availability for the month was 74%, a new high since the squadron's arrival in Vietnam. On 4 August, the squadron had a total of twenty (20) aircraft in an "UF" status and available for combat missions, another all-time high.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Squadron pilots were presented 47 Air Medal awards, and were recommended for 20 Air Medal awards.
2. Captain Charles A. DIXON was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding display of aeronautical skills and heroic actions in the face of intense enemy fire on 16 June 1966 in support of a beleaguered Marine Reconnaissance Patrol.
3. First Lieutenants R. L. WILLIMSON and M. S. CUSTER flew their 200th combat mission during the month.
4. Captain A. J. MCCARTHY flew 43 combat sorties for 61.1 hours this month. This is a record for WMA-223 "in-country".
5. On 22 August the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, selected WMA-223 to receive the CMO Aviation Safety Award for FY'66. This is the second consecutive year that the squadron has been selected for this award. To date, the squadron has flown 14,731.8 accident-free flight hours.
6. On 30 August the Group conducted a practice ground defense alert. The squadron responded rapidly and was in position within five minutes of the sounding of the alarm.



R. B. SINCLAIR