

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

ADMIN:RBS:afm
3000
5 October 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
1-30 September 1966

- ✓(2) *Photographs*
1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosure
(1) is submitted.

R. B. Sinclair
R. B. SINCLAIR

ENCLOSURE Q1

VMH-223

CMD CHRON

Sep 1966

3
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
OF
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
PERIOD 1-30 SEPTEMBER 1966

Enclosure 11 E

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR	1-30Sep66
Executive Officer	Maj Robert L. SNYDER	11-30Sep66
Administrative Officer	Capt Eugene L. WHEELER	1-30Sep66
Operations Officer	Maj Joe L. GREGORCYK	1-30Sep66
Logistics Officer	Capt Charles A. DIXON	1-30Sep66
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Capt Anthony J. MCCARTHY	1-30Sep66

2. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Officers	Enlisted
25	139

USN	
Officers	Enlisted
1	0

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. The command commenced this month with an all-time low in personnel strength, having 18 Naval Aviators, 6 Aviation Ground Officers and 132 enlisted personnel assigned. Although the squadron suffered a great loss in talent and experience with the rotation of six officers and eighteen enlisted to CONUS during the month, gains were such that a gradual increase throughout the month was experienced. On hand strength at the end of the month was 20 Naval Aviators, 3 Aviation Ground Officers, and 146 enlisted personnel. First Sergeant William O. NICKELL rotated to CONUS with no replacement. His presence in the command will be sorely missed. He had been the prominent factor in improving the living and working areas. His foremost concern was always the welfare of the men. First Lieutenants D. C. CARVER, M. S. CUSTER and J. M. HERRERA rotated CONUS after completing a thirteen month overseas tour, nine of which were in combat at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant CARVER flew 163 combat missions, CUSTER 209, and HERRERA 201 during their tour.

2. On 21 September 1966 the command suffered seven casualties when Chu Lai Combat Base came under mortar attack by enemy forces. All casualties sustained multiple shrapnel wounds when a mortar round impacted in the enlisted living area. Corporal Wayne E. BOSTWICK 2122354 USMC was critically wounded with multiple shrapnel wounds to the head and body. He was immediately evacuated to G-4 Hospital, Naval Support Activity, Danang. His condition improved and he was subsequently evacuated CONUS. Other WIA'S were as follows:

Cpl Willie P. DELOATCH 1969351 USMC - Condition good, hospitalized 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai. Returned to duty 24 September 1966.

PFC Dietmar H. FOUCHE 2152589 USMC - Condition good, hospitalized 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai. Returned to duty 26 September 1966.

SGT Richard E. HICKS 1602831 USMC - Condition good, hospitalized 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai. Returned to duty 24 September 1966.

CPL Dannie L. PETERSON 2029190 USMC - Condition good, hospitalized 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai. Returned to duty 27 September 1966.

LCPL Michael C. RANSOM 2108861 USMC - Condition good, hospitalized 1st Medical Battalion, Chu Lai. Returned to duty 24 September 1966.

LCPL Douglas H. WOOD 2098187 USMC - Condition good. Returned to duty.

The mortar barrage, which commenced at 0117 H hours, lasted only five (5) minutes during which 25-30 incoming rounds were received. The initial rounds impacted short of the runway with subsequent rounds extending progressively farther across the runway, the flight line ramp, Group CP, and into the enlisted living area. None of the squadron aircraft were hit nor were any working spaces damaged. Personnel responded rapidly to the alert and all defensive positions were manned within minutes after the initial

mortar round impacted. The command remained on full alert for one hour thirty minutes.

3. Squadron pilots were presented with twenty Air Medals and were recommended for thirty-five additional Air Medal awards. First Lieutenant G. R. LUTRELL, and Gunnery Sergeant G. W. BRADFORD were recommended for the Navy Commendation Medal. Second Lieutenant H. A. DIERKER, Warrant Officer R. A. KEITH, and Staff Sergeant T. A. ROBINSON were recommended for the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement. All of these personnel rotated to CONUS during the month and were recommended for these awards for meritorious achievement and superior performance of duty while serving with this command. The seven personnel wounded in action were presented Purple Hearts by Major General ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing on 21 September 1966. The promotion parade continued during this month. Staff Sergeant H. W. KOERBER III was appointed to Warrant Officer (Temporary) on 1 September 1966. Promoted to their present rank were two Captains, two Gunnery Sergeants, two Staff Sergeants, sixteen Sergeants, twenty-four Corporals, and seventeen Lance Corporals.

4. The squadron logged another impressive month in flight operations flying 925 sorties and 1216.0 hours. The number of sorties and hours are both new records for Marine Aircraft Group 12 since their arrival in Vietnam. Except for a three hour break, the squadron conducted continuous flight operations from 0500, 24 September to 2200, 26 September 1966. Most of the sorties flown during this period were in support of Operation Prairie. Between 10 and 14 September short field operations were conducted while a portion of the runway was being repaired. All take-offs were made utilizing JATO and all landings were MOREST arrested. The short field conditions did not measurably affect the performance of the squadron. Only one minor incident occurred during this period. Lieutenant FINUCANE aborted a night JATO take-off after JATO firing. No damage was incurred to the aircraft, and it was later discovered that a foreign object was binding the flight controls. The squadron experienced two other incidents during the month when Captain J. S. HARMON received a small arms hit through the tail section and First Lieutenant R. TIEKEN received a small arms hit through the starboard wing. Both hits were received on snakeye bombing runs. The following BDA was accumulated during the month: 158 structures destroyed; 80 structures damaged; 30 secondary explosions; 26 enemy killed; 49 probable killed; 18 storage bunkers destroyed; 4 gun positions destroyed; 3 bridges destroyed; 2 bridges damaged; 1 truck destroyed; 4 trenchlines destroyed; 80 foxholes destroyed; 6 sampans damaged; 1 pallet of supplies destroyed; 8 roadcuts; 1 cave uncovered; 2 enemy buffalo; 1 elephant, and 1 caribou killed.

5. Aircraft availability during the month averaged 70.7%.

6. On 4 September the squadron took a day off from their rigorous schedule. All personnel enjoyed a beach party consisting of lobsters, steak and beer. The officers defeated the enlisted men in volleyball, three games out of three.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 8 September 1966 - Captain Charles A. DIXON flew the 15,000th accident-free hour for the squadron
2. 16 September 1966 - Second Lieutenant David A. MARSHALL flew his 100th combat mission. It is possible that he is the first Second Lieutenant to accomplish this feat in fixed-wing tactical aircraft since World War II (photo attached).
3. 16 September 1966 - At a command formation, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. SINCLAIR presented Meritorious Masts to Sergeant B. "C" RHOADY and Lance Corporal J. A. BONNETT, JR., and promoted 1 Sergeant, 24 Corporals and 17 Lance Corporals to their present rank (photo attached).
4. 23 September 1966 - Captain Eugene L. WHEELER flew his 100th combat mission.
5. 27 September 1966 - First Lieutenant B. G. HOLLINGSWORTH was presented his first Air Medal (photo attached).
6. 29 September 1966 - The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. SINCLAIR logged his 5000th hour in total flight time (photo attached).
7. 29 September 1966 - Captain Jerry R. THOMPSON, Aviation Safety Officer flew his 100th combat mission.
8. 30 September 1966 - Captain Harvey F. CROUCH Jr. and William A. STICKNEY promoted to their present rank by the Commanding Officer (photo attached).



R. B. SINCLAIR

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MAES-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

SEP. 19. 1966

CHU LAI VIETNAM

16 SEP 66 PHOTO # 9074

PHOTO BY Williams

Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Sinclair, Commanding Officer VMA-223, presents promotions to new Sergeant, Corporals and Lance Corporals at command formation in squadron area at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MABS-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

SEP. 17. 1966

16 SEP 66

PHOTO # 9071

PHOTO BY Williams

2nd Lt David A. Marshall completes 100th
combat mission at Chu Lai, RVN

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MAG-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

SEP. 30, 1966

CHU LAI VIETNAM

PHOTO

9096

20 SEP 66

PHOTO BY

Caldwell

Captain William A. Stickney promoted to
present rank by LtCol R.A. Sinclair at
Chu Lai, RVN.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MAES-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

SEP. 30. 1966

PHOTO #

9096

30 SEP 66

PHOTO BY

Caldwell

Captain Harvey F. Crouch, Jr. promoted to present
rank at Chu Lai, RVN, by Lt Col R.B. SINCLAIR,
Commanding Officer, VMA-223.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MAES 12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

SEP. 30. 1966

PHOTO #

9095

29 SEP 66

PHOTO BY

Williams

Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Sinclair,
Marine Attack Squadron-223 "Skipper", logs
5000th flight hour. Flight commenced and
terminated at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MABS-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

SEP. 30. 1966

PHOTO #

9095

29 SEP 66

PHOTO BY

William

Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Sinclair returns to chocks at Chu Lai, RVN, after logging 5000th hour in the air.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MAES-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

SEP. 27. 1966

CHU LAI VIETNAM

PHOTO # 9090

27 SEP 66

PHOTO BY Williams

1st Lt Bobby G. Hollingsworth presented first
Air Medal at completion of flight by LTCol
R.D. Sinclair, YMA-223 SKIPPER, at Chu Lai,
Republic of Vietnam

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MABS-12 MAG-12

SEP. 19. 1966

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

PHOTO # 9074

PHOTO BY Williams

16 SEP 66

LANCE CORPORAL J.A. BONNETT, JR. presented Meritorious
Mast by Lt Col R.B. SINCLAIR, CO, VMA-223 for
superior performance of duty while serving with
the squadron at Chu Lai, RVN.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MABG-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

CHU LAI VIETNAM

SEP. 19, 1966

16 SEP 66

PHOTO #

9074

PHOTO BY

Williams

Sergeant B. "C" RHOADY presented Meritorious
Mast by LtCol R.B. Sinclair, CO, VMA-223 for
superior performance of duty while serving with
the Squadron at CHU LAI, RVN.

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OFFICIAL PHOTO

MABS-12 MAG-12

1ST MAW

SEP. 17, 1966

CHU LAI VIETNAM

PHOTO #

907

PHOTO BY

Williams

16 SEP 66

Second Lieutenant David A. Marshall completes
100th combat mission in Vietnam. Major R.L. Snyder,
was at the chocks to congratulate him at the
completion of the flight.