

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

ADMIN:RBS:rer
3000
5 November 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 October 1966

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


R. B. SINCLAIR

VMF-223

CMD CHRON

ENCLOSURE (3)

OCT 1966

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

Enclosure (1)

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR	1-31Oct66
Executive Officer	Maj Robert L. SNYDER	1-16Oct66
	Maj Harold L. JACKSON Jr.	17-31Oct66
Administrative Officer	Capt Eugene L. WHEELER	1-31Oct66
Operations Officer	Maj Joe L. GREGORCYK	1-31Oct66
Logistics Officer	Capt Charles A. DIXON	1-31Oct66
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Capt Anthony J. MCCARTHY	1-24Oct66
	Maj Jerry R. THOMPSON	25-31Oct66
Aviation Safety Officer	Maj Jerry R. THOMPSON	1-24Oct66
	Maj Robert L. SNYDER	25-31Oct66

2. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Officers	Enlisted
275	155

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION

The squadron began the month with total enlisted strength 12% below manning level. On 26 October the squadron joined 25 men from VMA-224 which boosted enlisted strength to a high of 172 members, 4% over manning level.

During the month the squadron joined eight officers. They were: LtCol L.C. TAFT, programmed to assume command in late November; Major H.L. JACKSON, new Executive Officer; Major C.W. CHAIN; Captain F.J. HORAK; Captain D.D.M. WINDHAM; 1stLt D.L. MONROE; 1stLt STRONG; and 1stLt C.R. DOWNING. Transferred out were Captain A.J. MCCARTHY and Captain H.F. CROUCH.

Three officers were promoted to their present rank. They included Major Jerry R. THOMPSON, Captain Larry C. ROBERTS and 1stLt David A. MARSHALL. Additional promotions went to Master Sergeant J.E. CREED, NCOIC Maintenance, and new Staff Sergeants W.D. VINCENT; R.R. BURN; R.H. FIRESTINE; and L.E. HADSALL. Two Corporals were promoted to Sergeant.

2. Air Operations

During the month of October, the squadron flew 769 sorties for 1012.1 hours. The majority of in-country combat sorties were in support of Operation Prairie. Eighty-four sorties were flown on Tally Ho missions into North Vietnam.

Sortie rates and accident free flight hours indicated the squadron had flown 7,825 sorties for 10,193.2 hours from Chu Lai, since arrival on 15 December 1966. To date the squadron has flown 16,959.9 consecutive accident free hours. On 2 October, Captain C.A. DIXON flew the 16,000th accident free hour. On 26 October, Captain Gordon O. BOOTH flew the 10,000th accident free hour in country. On 30 October LtGen. Victor H. KRULAK, CG FMFPAC acknowledged the Squadron's achievements when he presented the Commanding Officer, LtCol. R.B. SINCLAIR with the 1966 CNO Aviation Safety Award.

Several aircraft incidents occurred within the Squadron during the month. On 16 October, Captain J.S. HARMON had an in-flight engagement of the mostrest gear as he initiated a night wave off. The nose gear assembly failed resulting in Delta damage to the aircraft. On 21 October, LtCol J.V. HANES received damage to the tail of his aircraft during a night mostrested landing. Two five hundred pound bombs remaining on after stations, plus a sharp cross-pendant recoil put his aircraft momentarily on it's main gear and tail, when brake pressure was applied. On 25 October, LtCol R.B. SINCLAIR and Captain A.J. MCCARTHY received small arms hits on their aircraft while on a Tally Ho mission in North Vietnam.

On 14 October, Captain G.R. GRANT and 1stLt D.L. MONROE were diverted, upon completion of a helo escort mission, to strike a fortified village. The result was 15 structures destroyed. On 15 October, LtCol R.B. SINCLAIR and LtCol ROBINSON (MAG-13, S-3) received a BDA of 8 structures destroyed, 4 structures damaged, and 10 VC killed while flying a direct air support mission.

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On 26 October, Captain Gordon O. BOOTH and Captain J.D. MORRIS scrambled on a close air support mission in II Corps area which resulted in 35 VC killed.

The monsoon season opened during the month. Due to continuous torrential rain and high winds, only 66 sorties were flown between 16 and 23 October. On 21 and 22 October no sorties were launched whatsoever.

On 21 October the SATS field was closed for repair. The Squadron spent the remainder of the month taxiing the 3 to 5 miles required to use the newly opened Chu Lai West runway. The additional taxi time did not effect the sortie rate.

The bomb damage assessment for the month is as follows: 87 structures destroyed; 35 structures damaged; 58 Viet Cong killed; 6 roads cut; 6 secondary explosions; 1 bridge damaged; 4 bunkers destroyed; 2 foxholes destroyed; 30 foxholes damaged; 1 AA site destroyed; 1 supply dump interdicted; 2 trenches destroyed; 1 air raid shelter destroyed; and 2 pack animals destroyed.

3. AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

Average aircraft availability maintained for the month was 75.1 per cent. Periodic maintenance checks were completed on five aircraft. Two aircraft were delivered to H&MS-12 for a proposed lengthy repair, of aircraft damage from enemy fire and mishap. Two more aircraft were delivered to PAR, bringing the total in PAR to three. One aircraft remained down throughout the month awaiting the arrival of a badly needed canopy.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On 9 October, the Squadron stood down, and enjoyed an all hands party. Beer and steak were available in an abundant supply. The officers played the enlisted men in a rugged game of touch football. The score at outcome was rather doubtful at best. The enlisted men presented LtCol R.B. SINCLAIR with a plaque made from a piece of burnished matting. The inscription denoted his attainment of 5000 flight hours.
2. On 30 October, 1stLt D.L. MONROE was presented his first Air Medal Award by LtGen V.H. KRULAK during Squadron formation.

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