

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

ADMIN:CWC:jdh
3000
3 December 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 November 1966

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

L C Taft
L. C. TAFT

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ENCLOSURE

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VM-A-223

CMD CHRON

Nov 1966

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

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer And Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR	1-26Nov66
Executive Officer	LtCol Leonard C. TAFT	27-30Nov66
Administrative Officer	Maj Harrold L JACKSON	1-30Nov66
	Capt Eugene L. WHEELER	1-8 Nov66
Operations Officer	Maj Charles W. CHAIN	9-30Nov66
Logistics Officer	Maj Joe L. GREGORCYK	1-30Nov66
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Maj Charles A. DIXON	1-30Nov66
Aviation Safety Officer	Maj Jerry R. THOMPSON	1-30Nov66
	Maj Robert L. SNYDER	1-30Nov66

2. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	
Officers	Enlisted
34	155

USN	
Officers	Enlisted
1	0

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION.

Personnel strength took a sharp decline during the month starting with 173 and ending with 145. During this period we joined 11 men, including a most welcomed First Sergeant, which we had been without for a period of about two months. We dropped 38 men, of which 28 rotated to CONUS. The enlisted promotions were 6 to Corporal, 13 to Lance Corporal and 2 to Private First Class.

During the month the squadron joined seven officers, Captain's DIPIETRO, WOOD, GIBBONS, T. WILSON and HUCKELBERY and Lieutenant's MOSLEY and STEIN. Five officers were transferred, LtCol SINCLAIR, Major J. WILSON, Captain's WHEELER, HORAK and KRUEGER. Promoted to their present rank were Major's DIXON, J. WILSON, DIPIETRO and GRANT and Captain Hollingsworth.

2. AIR OPERATIONS.

During the month the squadron flew 639 sorties and 823.8 flight hours. These figures are below the monthly average of this squadron, however the monsoon weather has arrived and has curtailed flight operations.

The squadron experience one fatality and lost of aircraft at 0505, 25 November. Captain C. N. WILLIAMS, VMA-121 advanced echelon, crashed on GCA Final, approximately one half mile from the end of the runway. Cause of the crash is unknown.

Flight incidents during the month included Captain HUCKELBERY receiving a rocket fragment, causing minor damage to the Radome; 1stLt HOLLINGSWORTH received three small arms rounds causing minor damage to the fuel tank, wing and horizontal stabilizer; 1stLt MARSHALL inadvertently jettisoned his TERS while attempting to drop a bomb that did not release using the normal bomb release system; and Captain WILLIAMS inadvertently jettisoned his external fuel tank while attempting to jettison a wing napalm.

The bomb damage assessment was as follows: 114 structures destroyed, 77 structures damaged, 51 VC confirmed killed, 5 VC probably killed, 12 foxholes destroyed, 9 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged, 9 sampans sunk, 7 sampans damaged, 8 secondary explosions, 5 road cuts, 5 tunnels destroyed, 1 cave destroyed, 3 gun positions destroyed, 3 trenches destroyed, and 1 VC crew killed. Some of the more prominent BDAs were credited to the following: Major GREGORCIK and Captain HARMON, on 3 November destroyed 17 structures, damaged 10 others and sunk 2 sampans; Captain KRUEGER and Captain WINDHAM, on 9 November destroyed 4 structures, damaged 3 others and killed 10 VC; Captain BOWEN and Captain STICKNEY, on 11 November destroyed 10 structures, damaged 10 others and destroyed 1 bunker; 1stLt FINUCANE and Captain HUCKELBERY, on 11 November destroyed

12 structures, damaged 6 others, 1 secondary explosion, destroyed 2 bunkers and 10 foxholes and killed 1 VC; Major GRANT and Captain HUCKELBERRY, on 19 November killed 25 VC; Major CHAIN and Captain ACOTT(VMA-121), on 19 November destroyed 11 structures and damaged 11 others; Major THOMPSON and LtCol RICE(MAG-12, S-3), on 30 November sunk 3 sampans and damaged 5 others; LtCol TAFT and Major LOGAN(VMA-121), on 30 November sank 3 sampans and damaged 2 others.

Nine of our aviators attended the MAWTU External Delivery Refresher Course at Iwakuni, Japan.

3. AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE.

Average aircraft availability maintained for the month was 79.2%. Five aircraft entered periodic maintenance checks with four being completed. One aircraft was returned from H&MS. One aircraft was returned from PAR, leaving two at PAR at this time. One aircraft received a much needed canopy and should be ready for flight very shortly. One aircraft received Strike damage when it crashed(details listed under Air Operations).

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On 26 November, LtCol SINCLAIR was relieved of command by LtCol L. C. TAFT. Guest attending the ceremony were Major General ROBERTSHAW (CG 1stMAW), Colonel HUBBARD (CO MAG-12), Colonel PETTY (CO MAG-13), plus numerous Group Staff Officers and Squadron Commanders from both MAG-12 and MAG-13. During LtCol SINCLAIR's eight month tour as Commanding Officer, he personally flew 219 missions. Also during this period the squadron amassed a total of 6,241 sorties and 8,048.2 flight hours, for a monthly average of 780 sorties and 1006 hours.
2. On 29 November, Major J. J. KANE, former Executive Officer of VMA-223, and presently attached to H&MS-12, touched down in a "Bulldog" Skyhawk making the 100,000th Al landing at Chu Lai.
3. On 1 December, VMA-223 will rotate to Iwakuni, Japan, being relieved in Vietnam by VMA-121. During an 11½ month tour in Vietnam VMA-223 has amassed 8,464 sorties and 11,017 flight hours.