

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

ADMIN:CWC:jdh  
 3000  
 3 December 1966

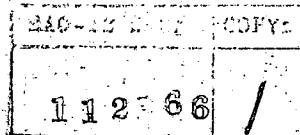
From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12  
 Subj: Command Chronology

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



ENCLOSURE 3

Dec 1966

VMP-223

CMD CHRON

DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

OF

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223

PERIOD 1-30 NOVEMBER 1966

DECLASSIFIED

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer And Staff

Commanding Officer  
Executive Officer  
Administrative Officer  
Operations Officer  
Logistics Officer  
Aircraft Maintenance Officer  
Aviation Safety Officer

LtCol Robert B. SINCLAIR 1-26Nov66  
LtCol Leonard C. TAFT 27-30Nov66  
Maj Harrold L JACKSON 1-30Nov66  
Capt Eugene L. WHEELER 1-8 Nov66  
Maj Charles W. CHAIN 9-30Nov66  
Maj Joe L. GREGORCYK 1-30Nov66  
Maj Charles A. DIXON 1-30Nov66  
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 SUMMARY1. 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 HUCKELBERRY 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 Hellingsworth.

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 HUCKELBERRY 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 GREGORCYK 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 HUCKELBERRY, 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. Guests 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 A4 landing at Chu Lai.
3. On 1 December, VMA-223 will rotate to Iwakuni, Japan, being relieved in Vietnam by VMA-121. During an 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  month tour in Vietnam VMA-223 has amassed 8,464 sorties and 11,017 flight hours.