

DECLASSIFIED

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

Admin:JLG:jkn  
5700  
5 January 1967

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December 1966 to 31 December 1966  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
      (b) FMFPacO 5750.8  
      (c) GruO 5750.1A  
Encl: (1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c),  
enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
C. J. DETTLE  
By direction

VMA-223

Cmd Chron

Dec 1966

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1966 to 31 December 1966

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## Part I

Organizational Data

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>	
VMA-223	LtCol L. C. TAFT	1-31Dec66	
2. <u>Location</u>			
1-4Dec66: Chu Lai, RVN	5-31Dec66: MCAS Iwakuni, Japan		
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Executive Officer	Maj. H. L. JACKSON	1-31Dec66	
Administrative Officer	Maj. C. W. CHAIN Maj. C. J. DETTLE	1-18Dec66 19-31Dec66	
Operations Officer	Maj. J. L. GREGORCYK	1-31Dec66	
Material Officer	Maj. C. W. DEPIETRO	1-31Dec66	
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Maj. J. R. THOMPSON Maj. J. P. MONROE	1-18Dec66 19-31Dec66	
Aviation Safety Officer	Maj. R. L. SNYDER	1-31Dec66	
NATOPS Officer	Capt. G. O. BOOTH Capt. C. R. COXE	1-18Dec66 19-31Dec66	
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>			
USMC		USN	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
34	161	1	0

## Part II

Narrative Summary

The Squadron was officially relocated from the Republic of Vietnam to MCAS Iwakuni during the month of December. This relocation involved an in place switch with VMA-121. The change resulted in the acquisition of A4C aircraft and the turning over of the Squadron's A4E aircraft to VMA-121. A significant number of the Squadron's combat experienced aviators and enlisted men were transferred and replacements were joined. A vigorous training program has been undertaken to qualify the new men and pilots for future commitments. The training program is further increased by the requirement to fly 1st Marine Aircraft Wing pilots and provide them with the necessary flight time and training to become current in A4 type aircraft.

## Part III

Sequential Listing of Significant Eventsa. Personnel

1. Twelve pilots, one ground officer, and twelve enlisted men were detached.
2. Eleven pilots, one ground officer, and thirty-eight enlisted men were joined.
3. On 1 December the following men were promoted to Sergeant:

C. E. SIEGRIST  
H. S. NOMOTO  
D. A. MCGOWAN  
J. E. STEVENS JR.  
W. P. DELOATCH  
R. H. HARMSEN

b. Training

1. During December the Squadron flew 346 sorties and 537 flight hours. Five annual instrument checks and one NATOPS Check was flown.
2. Twenty-three ordnance sorties were flown. Ordnance expended included (84) MK 76 practice bombs, (32) MK 81 bombs, and (8) Aero 7D rocket pods.

c. Special Operations

1. On 13 December 1966, 4 aircraft and 7 pilots deployed to NAS Cubi Point to participate in a close air support exercise. Eleven close air support sorties were flown expending (32) MK 81 bombs and (8) Aero 7D rocket pods. Inflight refueling training was conducted enroute to NAS Cubi Point. On 19 through 22 December, the deployed aircraft and personnel participated in "Mud Puppie II". Fourteen simulated close air support sorties were flown in conjunction with the exercise.

d. Equipment

1. Twenty-two, A4C aircraft were accepted on 1 December 1966.

e. Community Relations

1. On 17 December 1966, VMA-223 personnel participated in Operation "Happy Face II" in conjunction with other units based at MCAS Iwakuni.

"Happy Face" is an annual program to bring local orphans aboard the base for a day of fun, food, and gifts. This unit supported the program financially as well as providing many volunteer fathers for the day. The participating units entertained 660 orphans on that day.