

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

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3 June 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
Subj: Command Chronology for May 1967; submission of
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1C
Encl: (1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

C. E. Deering
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VMA-223

CMDCR04

MAY 1967

ENCLOSURE (3)

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 May 1967 to 31 May 1967

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Part I

Organizational Data

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>
VMA-223	LtCol C. E. DEERING	1-31May67
2. <u>Location</u>		
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam		
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Officer	Maj H. L. JACKSON	1May67
	Maj M. A. YARNELL	2-31May67
Administrative Officer	Maj C. J. DETTLE	1-31May67
Intelligence Officer	Capt H. E. LECY	1-31May67
Operations Officer	Maj D. G. RANNEY	1-31May67
Materiel Officer	Maj C. W. DEPIETRO	1-25May67
	2ndLt F. E. GROSS	26-31May67
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>		
USMC		USN
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u> <u>Enlisted</u>
22 NA 6 A/G	227	1 0

ENCLOSURE (1)

Part II

Narrative Summary

During the month the squadron operated in support of III MAF ground units and 7th Air Force, conducting flight operations all 31 days of the month. The flight hours and combat sorties accumulated this month surpassed the previous record for an A-4 squadron operating in RVN which was set by VMA-223 in September, 1966. The totals of 1645 flight hours and 1276 sorties may indeed be an all time record for an A-4 squadron.

ENCLOSURE (1)

Part III

Significant Events1. S-1

a. The month marked a drastic turnover in officer personnel. Of the twelve Naval Aviators detached, four were transferred within MAG-12, three returned to CONUS, and five were transferred to the 1st Marine Division for duty as ALO/FAC. A total of 19 enlisted personnel were detached.

b. Six Naval Aviators and 3 enlisted personnel were joined.

c. A total of 52 Air Medals were earned by squadron pilots during the month.

d. Captain L. C. ROBERTS received the Purple Heart Medal on 30 May for injuries received when his aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire.

e. The Commanding Officer held Meritorious Masts for:

SSgt N. F. FISHER
Sgt C. F. CINAMELLA

Sgt C. T. MAYCHAK
Sgt T. R. BREHM

2. S-2

a. A program has been initiated to utilize a Group S-2 briefing team to provide periodic intelligence briefings for the enlisted personnel of the squadron.

b. Non-classified BDA from returning flights is posted in the line shack area for the information of all maintenance personnel.

3. S-3

a. During the month of May the squadron flew a total of 1645.0 hours which is believed to be an all time record for an A-4 squadron. This total included 1594.4 combat hours and 1234 combat sorties. The previous high month for a MAG-12 A-4 squadron deployed at Chu Lai was 1216 hours, set by VMA-223 in September, 1966.

b. Group staff pilots assisted the squadron materially in amassing this total, flying 316.3 hours for a total of 225 sorties.

c. Major R. L. SNYDER, H&MS-12, was lost at about 2145, on 10 May to a Surface-to-Air (SAM) Missile in the vicinity of Dong Ha.

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d. Captain G. A. KINSER was rescued by helicopter on 13 May approximately three miles northwest of Dong Ha, after ejecting from his aircraft which had been disabled by enemy ground fire.

e. On 15 May, Lieutenant Colonel R. R. VAN DALSEM, MAG-12 S-4, flew the 10,000th VMA-223 combat sortie while in support of counterinsurgency operations in RVN and based at Chu Lai. On 25 May, Captain L. C. ROBERTS flew the 1000th combat sortie of the month.

f. Captain L. C. ROBERTS was injured when his aircraft was hit by ground fire southeast of Chu Lai on 24 May.

g. In addition to the two squadron aircraft lost in combat, seven other squadron aircraft suffered battle damage during the month from enemy ground fire. Two other squadron aircraft suffered minor operational damage not due to direct enemy action but a product of the combat environment.

h. Major General L. B. ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General, 1stMAW, visited the squadron and flew combat sorties with squadron pilots on the 1st, 17th, and 29th of May.

i. Colonel B. P. GIBSON, Commanding Officer, MAG-12, visited the squadron and flew combat sorties with squadron pilots on the 6th, 18th, 25th and 31st of May.

j. Ground operations heavily supported during the month were operations "Hickory", "Union", and "Crockett".

k. Ordnance expenditures for the month were as follows:

2097 MK-81 250# Bombs
 2228 MK-82 500# Bombs
 205 M-117 750# Bombs
 2 MK-83 1000# Bombs
 474 AN-M 65 1000# Bombs
 4 AN-M 66 2000# Bombs
 5149 2.75" Rockets
 754 MK 77 Fire Bombs
 50 MK 79 Fire Bombs
 65,288 Rounds 20 mm Ammunition

Total tonnage delivered during the month was 1630 tons, which exceeds all previous tonnages for this squadron while deployed at Chu Lai.

l. Captain P. A. KRUEGER flew his 300th combat mission on 28 May.

ENCLOSURE (1)

m. The following pilots surpassed the 100 combat mission mark during the month:

Lieutenant Colonel C. E. DEERING
Major M. A. YARNELL
Major D. G. RANNEY
Major C. J. DETTLE
Major J. P. MONROE
Captain W. F. HORNER
Captain S. W. LIND
Captain D. L. MONROE
Captain W. H. PHENEGAR
Captain L. C. ROBERTS
Captain A. TANZMAN

n. Captain H. E. LECY attended the Jungle Environment and Survival Training course at NAS Cubi Point, P. I.

o. Training in the operation and delivery of AGM-45 SHRIKE missile was commenced by the squadron. A total of 7 sorties were flown for training and SAM location.

p. The squadron is continuing it's weapons indoctrination and safety program. Familiarization firing of T/O weapons was conducted for 27 men.

ENCLOSURE (1)