

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

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1 July 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Commanding Chronology for June 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

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1967

ENCLOSURE (2)

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 June 1967 to 30 June 1967

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Part I

Organizational Data

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>
VMA-223	LtCol C. E. DEERING	1-30Jun67
2. <u>Location</u>		
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam		
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Officer	Maj M. A. YARNELL	1-30Jun67
Operations Officer	Maj D. G. RANNEY	1-30Jun67
Administrative Officer	Maj C. J. DETTLE	1-30Jun67
Intelligence Officer	Capt H. E. LECY	1-30Jun67
Materiel Officer	2ndLt F. E. GROSS	1-11Jun67
	Maj D. R. RAMZEL	12-30Jun67
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>		
USMC		USN
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u> <u>Enlisted</u>
19 NA 6 A/G	215	1 0

Part II

Narrative Summary

During the month the squadron operated from Chu Lai Air Base, RVN, largely in support of III MAF ground units. Combat flight operations were conducted all 30 days of the month. The total monthly flight activity of 938 sorties for 1149.0 flight hours reflected a sharp decline in enemy ground activity after the viscous attrition of the Battle of Hill 881 at Khe Sahn, and Operations HICKORY and UNION. On 30 June, the squadron completed an accident free year with a total of 12,034.1 flight hours which included 7338 combat sorties and 9415.1 combat flight hours. The squadron has now compiled a total of 24,535.2 consecutive accident free flight hours, of which 14,736.2 hours were flown in a combat environment.

Part III

Significant Events1. S-1

a. The month showed some personnel stabilization over the previous month. Four (4) Naval Aviators were joined and three (3) officers were transferred. A total of six (6) enlisted men were joined and fourteen (14) were transferred.

b. A total of 44 Air Medals were earned by squadron pilots this month. Recommendations were made for three first awards of the Air Medal, four for the Distinguished Flying Cross, one for the Bronze Star, and one for the Navy Commendation Medal.

c. The Commanding Officer held Meritorious Masts for:

Sgt D. F. SHEPARD III

2. S-2

a. A program to refurbish all pilots SERE kits was undertaken by the Intelligence Officer. The classified contents of this survival aid were updated. Of particular importance was the required replacement of the morphine syrettes which had dried to an unusable state because of heat and age.

3. S-3

a. On 30 June the squadron completed an accident free year totalling 12,034.1 hours bringing our consecutive accident free flight hour total to 24,535.2 hours. Of this total, 11,450 combat sorties and 14,736.2 combat hours have been flown from Chu Lai Air Base, RVN.

b. During the month the squadron flew a total of 1149.0 hours which included 856 combat sorties and 1044.9 combat flight hours. This total reflects a marked reduction in enemy ground action after the extremely heavy actions of May. Close Air Support, Direct Air Support, Landing Zone Preparations and Helicopter Escort missions were flown in support of Operations CIMARRON, CHOCTAW, CROCKETT, UNION II, ARIZONA, and BEACON TORCH.

c. The squadron was presented a Certificate of Commendation from Major General L. B. ROBERTSHAW, the departing Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, for outstanding performance of duty and meritorious achievement in support of combat activities in RVN during the period 2 March 1967 to 31 May 1967.

d. On the basis of its continuing performance and impressive safety record while operating under imperfect conditions and a heavy combat workload, the squadron was selected by Marine Aircraft Group 12 as the MAG-12 nominee for the Commandant's Aviation Efficiency Trophy for FY 1967.

e. Captain R. TIEKEN flew his 400th combat mission in RVN on 20 June 1967. This is believed to be a record that will be difficult to surpass. Captain

TIEKEN was recommended by Marine Aircraft Group 12 for the CUNNINGHAM TROPHY for FY 1967.

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

Major G. H. LEACH
Captain C. R. COXE
Captain R. H. GLASS

Captain G. A. KINSER
Captain H. E. LECY

g. Battle damage to the squadron aircraft was light. On 16 June, Captain C. T. HUCKLEBERRY (H&MS-12) received a slash in the port intake cowling which was apparently the result of a disintegrated 2.75" rocket fin assembly. On 17 June, Captain R. H. GLASS was hit in the right flap and on 18 June, Captain C. H. LEAIRD (H&MS-12) took multiple small arms hits in the left aileron. On 23 June, Captain R. TIEKEN was hit in the right aileron and flap. On 26 June, Captain W. T. LOWTHER took a single small arm hit in the radome.

h. Captain H. E. LECY attended the Jungle Environment and Survival Training Course at NAS Cubi Point. Captain C. R. COXE attended the MAWTUPAC External Delivery Refresher Course at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan along with one Special Weapons loading team headed by the squadron Ordnance Officer, Lieutenant T. F. NAGELIN.

i. The operational highlight of an otherwise slow month was a 30 aircraft Group strike on 24 June against troublesome anti-aircraft artillery positions, code named Operation SPINNER. VMA-223 supplied the 12 plane lead element flak suppression group and was followed by 18 heavily laden bombers of VMA-211 and VMA-311. The squadron loaded a total of 56 CBU-24 weapons on the 12 strike aircraft and three spares with a scant few hours notice. The strike was led by Colonel B. P. GIBSON, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 flying with this squadron. Launching from both East and West Fields of Chu Lai, the Group put 30 aircraft in the air in approximately 2½ minutes.

j. Ordnance expenditures for the month were as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
MK-81 bombs	1,816
MK-82 bombs	1,707
AN-M59 bombs	36
AN-M65 bombs	135
AN-M66 bombs	2
MK-77 fire bombs	536
MK-79 fire bombs	39
CBU-24 Cluster bomb units	44
2.75" rockets	4,389
ZUNI rockets	124
AERO-7E Lazy Dogs	3
20MM ammunition	10,220 rds
Total Tonnage	1,119.9

ENCLOSURE (1)

4. S-4

a. Materiel received 156 pairs of the new style Jungle Combat Boots for issue to officers and enlisted. This issue represents half of our requisition for these rugged but cool boots which will greatly ease the heat of the taxi ramp.