

DECLASSIFIED

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

3:GHL:abs  
5700  
2 August 1967

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

Subj: Command Chronology for July; 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*  
C. E. DEERING

VMA-223

CMD CHRON

ENCLOSURE (2)

JULY 1967

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1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1967 to 31 July 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	1-31Jul67	
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	1-31Jul67	
Operations Officer	Maj D. G. RANNEY	1-31Jul67	
Administrative Officer	Maj C. J. DETTLE	1-31Jul67	
Intelligence Officer	Capt H. E. LECY	1-31Jul67	
Materiel Officer	Maj D. R. RAMZEL	1-31Jul67	
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>			
	USMC	USN	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
21 NA 6 A/G	205	1	0

Part II

Narrative Summary

During the month the squadron operated almost exclusively in support of III MAF ground units deployed in the I Corps area of the Republic of Vietnam. Ground operations were light when compared with May and parts of June 1967 but the steady pace of air operations on all 31 days of the month saw the squadron amass a total of 1423 flight hours and 1106 sorties. This total placed VMA-223 as high squadron in MAG-12 for the third consecutive month, a tribute to a maintenance department which must surely be one of the finest in Naval Aviation.

## Part III

Significant Events1. Administrative

a. For the first month since arriving in RVN in this cycle, the luxury of stability in our officer structure was permitted. No officers were transferred during the month and one naval aviator was joined on 30 July 1967.

b. The formation of VMA-223 in December 1966 during the out-of-country cycle introduces the prospect of the squadron losing nine naval aviators and three ground officers during the 40 day period starting on 1 August. Normal vibrations in the personnel situation existing in the 1st MAW may dictate additional losses due to intra-Wing transfers.

c. A total of 14 enlisted men were joined and 10 were transferred. Cyclic reformation of the squadron previously mentioned will require transfer of 51 enlisted personnel during the next 60 days.

d. A total of 76 Air Medals were earned by squadron pilots this month. Recommendations were made for 13 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 2 Navy Commendation Medals.

e. The Commanding Officer held Meritorious Masts for:

Sgt R. K. DILLS

Cpl M. C. SCHAEFER

Sgt B. R. WEEMS

LCpl D. J. HALLMAN

Sgt R. A. AREHART

2. Operations

a. Combat flight operations were conducted on all 31 days of the month of July. Flight activity for the month totalled 1106 sorties and 1422.8 hours of which 1059 sorties and 1368.2 hours were logged in combat flight operations. The steady pace of air operations supporting wide spread but relatively light ground operations permitted a total flight activity second only to the month of May 1967.

b. Combat flight operations were largely in support of III MAF ground units. Ground operations receiving significant support were Operations KING-FISHER, in the DMZ area; Operations CROCKETT and ARDMORE, in the Khe Sahn area; Operations BEACON GUIDE and CUMBERLAND, in the Hue area; and Operation PEGOS, in the Danang area. Approximately 100 sorties were flown against artillery positions in 7th Air Force territory which were a direct threat to 3rd MARDIV positions along the DMZ.

c. Based on the completion of an accident free year on 30 June and the compilation of 24,535 accident free hours up till that date, the squadron received the MAG-12 recommendation for the Annual Chief of Naval Operations.

Safety Award for Fiscal Year 1967.

d. Certification of the CE-1-3 Catapult installed on runway 03 took place on 16-19 July. Five AL certification launches were made by LtCol C. E. DEERING. The first combat launch via the catapult was flown 20 July by Captain F. A. KRUEGER. Combat launches via the catapult have continued on a daily basis.

e. The SHOEHORN DECM modification program is continuing. At present, VMA-223 leads the Group in availability of ALQ-51 and APR-27 installations. One item of this equipment is required for TPQ operations in a SAM threat area.

f. Majors J. P. MONROE and C. J. DETTLE surpassed the 200 combat mission mark. Captain J. T. CLINE flew his 100th combat mission during the month.

g. Battle damage to squadron aircraft was very light. Major J. P. MONROE received a large wing hole from a .50 caliber round on 11 July. Major G. H. LEACH received a small arms round through the left wing on 26 July. Captain J. T. CLINE returned an aircraft with minor damage from contact with treetops as a result of a target shift during a Snakeye run, providing all with a valuable lesson which must unfortunately, be relearned from time to time.

h. Ordnance expenditures for the month were as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
MK-81 Bombs	1375
MK-82 Bombs	2502
AN-M59 Bombs	2
AN-M65 Bombs	355
M-117 Bombs	4
2.75" Rockets	2907
ZUNI Rockets	96
MK-77 Fire Bombs	443
MK-79 Fire Bombs	2
MK-12 Smoke Tanks	18
MK-24 Flares	41
20mm Ammunition	59,973 rds

Total Tonnage 1,316.3

i. Captain T. P. MCBRIEN attended the 5th Air Force Sea Survival School in Numazu, Japan. The Squadron Flight Surgeon, Lieutenant R. N. BLEWS, attended the Jungle Environment Survival Training course at Cubi Point.