

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

3:TDC:jkn
5700
4 September 1967

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

Subj: Command Chronology for August; 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

AUG 1967

ENCLOSURE (2)

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August 1967 to 31 August 1967

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Part I

Organizational Data

1. Designation Commander Date
VMA-223 LtCol Claude E. DEERING 1-31Aug67
2. Location
Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam
3. Staff Officers Name Date

Executive Officer	Maj Martin A. YARNELL	1-6Aug67
	Maj Thomas R. MADDOCK	6-31Aug67
Operations Officer	Maj Delbert G. RANNEY	1Aug67
	Maj George H. LEACH	2-6Aug67
	Maj Martin A. YARNELL	7-31Aug67
Administrative Officer	Maj. Christian J. DETTLE	1Aug67
	Capt William T. LOWTHER	2-31Aug67
Intelligence Officer	Capt Henry E. LECY	1-31Aug67
Materiel Officer	Maj David R. RAMZEL	1-31Aug67
4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC		USN	
<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
21 NA	196	1	0
5 A/G			

Part II

Narrative Summary

During the month of August Marine Attack Squadron 223 conducted normal air operations mainly in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Force units within the I Corps area of the Republic of Vietnam. Although ground operations and enemy contacts were light to moderate, the Squadron flew 966 sorties and accumulated 1208 flight hours while delivering 1291 tons of aviation ordnance against the enemy.

ENCLOSURE (1)

Part III

Significant Events1. Administrative

a. During August the normal personnel gains and losses were; 6 officers and 30 enlisted personnel transferred and 5 officers and 22 enlisted personnel joined. The Squadron continued to fly a heavy combat schedule while experiencing an average shortage of 7 naval aviators.

b. A Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to Captain C. R. COXE and a Purple Heart Medal was awarded to Captain G. A. KINSER. In addition 24 Air Medals were awarded to Squadron naval aviators. Bronze Star Medals were recommended for two Squadron aviation ground officers; two Navy Commendation Medals and 59 Air Medals were also recommended for Squadron naval aviators.

2. Operations

a. Combat air operations were conducted on all 31 days of the month. The Squadron flew 966 sorties and 1207.8 flight hours of which 912 sorties and 1143.8 flight hours were flown as combat missions. The steady pace of air operations in support of light to moderate ground activity permitted the Squadron to fly in excess of 1000 hours for the fifth consecutive month and to lead the Group in combat sorties and flight time for the fourth consecutive month. These repetitive achievements reflect great credit upon the skill and professionalism of the Squadron Aircraft Maintenance Department.

b. As in July, the August combat flight operations were largely conducted in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Force units. Major ground/air operations which received significant support from Marine Attack Squadron 223 were ARMORE, KANGAROO KICK, HOOD RIVER, CHOCHISE and associated operations BEACON GATE and BENTON. Concurrently 65 combat sorties were flown north of the Demilitarized Zone against artillery and anti-aircraft positions which had engaged elements of the 3rd Marine Division.

c. During this month the Squadron was notified by the Commandant of the Marine Corps that it had been selected as a recipient of the Fiscal Year 1967 Chief of Naval Operations Annual Aviation Safety Award. This, the third consecutive award for the Squadron, was based primarily upon the completion of a second accident free year, as of 30 June 1967, and the accumulation of 24,535 accident free hours.

d. Lieutenant Colonel C. E. DEERING, Major M. A. YARNELL and Captain W. F. HORNER flew their 200th combat mission in this Vietnam Conflict. Majors T. D. COONEY, D. R. RAMZEL, J. A. MORRA and Captains T. P. MCBRIEN and W. T. LOWTHER also flew their 100th combat mission in this Vietnam Conflict.

e. Captain Wesley R. PHENEGAR 075660 USMC attached to and serving with Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 12 was killed in an aircraft accident while flying an A4E aircraft assigned to this Squadron on 13 August. The accident was a controlled collision with the ground following an inflight

engine failure and a subsequent ejection seat (RAPEC) failure.

f. During flight operations, two aircraft sustained battle damage and one aircraft sustained foreign object damage in the engine. On 3 August, Captain J. T. CLINE's aircraft injected a rocket fin into the engine during a firing run. An engine change was subsequently required. On 13 August, Captain J. A. HALSTEAD's aircraft was hit in the windshield by two rounds of small arms fire, calibre unknown. On 17 August, Major T. D. COONEY's aircraft received two direct 30 calibre hits in the engine through the inlet ducts; an engine change was required.

g. During this month the Progressive Aircraft Rework and Shohorn Installation programs progressed normally. One aircraft was inducted into PAR, two aircraft remained in PAR at the month's end. Four aircraft were delivered to NAS Cubi Point for induction into the Shohorn modification program, three aircraft were received from the program with appropriate modifications, and two aircraft were being processed at the end of the month. In spite of limited aircraft availability because of the PAR and Shohorn programs and combat damage, the Squadron maintained an average aircraft availability of 55 percent and 10.7 up aircraft per day. Utilization of aircraft was 322 percent.

h. Through the dedicated and magnificent efforts of the Ordnance Section, the Squadron pilots were able to deliver 1,291 tons of aviation ordnance against the enemy. Ordnance expended was as follows.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
20MM Ammunition	34,302
MK-81 Bombs	1,349
MK-82 Bombs	2,729
AN-M65 Bombs	187
AN-M117 Bombs	34
AERO 7D	138
MK-77 Fire Bombs	380
LAU 10	81

Total Tonnage 1,291