

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

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for November 1967; submission of
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1C
Encl: 41) VMA-223 Command Chronology

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

A. W. Anthony
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VMA-223

CMD CHRON

Nov 1967

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 November 1967 to 30 November 1967

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Part II

Narrative Summary

During the month of November, Marine Attack Squadron 223 conducted normal air operations mainly in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force units within the I Corps area of the Republic of Vietnam. However, 228 sorties were flown in or North of the DMZ. Ground operations and enemy contacts during the month were considered light to moderate. VMA-223 flew 702 sorties and 879 flight hours while delivering 909 tons of aviation ordnance against the enemy.

Part III

Significant Events1. Administrative

a. During November personnel gains and losses were; 9 officers and 61 enlisted personnel transferred and 3 officers and 43 enlisted personnel joined. Despite the loss of well trained men and pilots, the squadron continued to operate normally, but with great emphasis placed on supervision and training of the newly joined personnel.

b. During the period VMA-223 pilots were recommended for 2 Silver Stars, 18 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 2 Single Mission Air Medals and 51 Air Medals.

2. Operations

a. Combat air operations were conducted on all 30 days of the month. The squadron flew 702 sorties and 879 flight hours of which 613 sorties and 766 flight hours were flown as combat missions. Due to the oncoming monsoon season and apparently light to moderate ground operations, the Squadron flew less than 1000 flight hours, a mark usually achieved by this organization. However, the Maintenance personnel through their tireless efforts and professional skill and knowledge, maintained a daily average of 12 aircraft in an operational status. Utilization of aircraft was 162 percent.

b. In November flight operations were largely conducted in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Force units. However, a significant portion of the 228 combat sorties flown in or north of the DMZ were in support of the 7th Air Force. Major air/ground operations which received support from VMA-223 were Kentucky, Dragon Trail, Foster, Ocesola, Wheeler, Essex, Badger Hunt, Scotland, Wallowa, Granite and Knox.

c. During flight operations, two aircraft sustained battle damage. On 7 November, Major T. D. COONEY's aircraft was hit by a .50 caliber round in the vertical stabilizer during recovery from a CBU delivery. Captain C. B. WOODWORTH's aircraft sustained damage to the forward section of the radome from small arms fire. The Squadron had three incidents during the month. On 7 November, a MER fell off of station #4 of an aircraft while using the AWRS. The post-flight inspection found the component to have been incorrectly installed. On 13 November, the canopy separated from an aircraft on a night JATO takeoff at 100 knots. There were no inspection or maintenance factors involved. On 23 November, a MK 77 store being released from station #2, struck the underside of the port wing inboard of station #2 causing damage to the aft fairing of the port landing gear door assembly, which resulted in the fairing separating from the aircraft. Additional damage was a one inch tear in the skin on the aft inboard underside of the wing.

ENCLOSURE (1)

A ground mishap on 21 November resulted in the dropping of a centerline tank while checking the electrical circuit to station #4. Inspection revealed a short in the electrical system.

d. During this month the Progressive Aircraft Rework and Shoehorn-Installation programs progressed normally. One aircraft was received from PAR. Two aircraft were completed and the squadron's last aircraft is undergoing Shoehorn modifications at this time.

e. VMA-223 pilots delivered 1,816,906 pounds of aviation ordnance against the enemy. Ordnance expended was as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
20MM Ammunition	9,366
MK-59A1 Bombs	99
MK-77 Napalm	334
CBU-24	15
MK-81 Bombs	985
MK-82 Bombs	2,043
M117A1 Bombs	8
LAU-3A	10
AERO 7D	9
LAU 60	53
LAU 10A	29
FS Smoke	4
CS	8

f. On 25 November, Major G. A. YORK flew the 10,000th Flight hour for VMA-223, since coming into country on 1 March 1967. 10,000 flight hours in nine months is deemed quite an accomplished feat for our maintenance and ordnance personnel as well as pilots.

g. On 20 November, Major General N. J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, 1st MAW, presented VMA-223 it's third consecutive CNO Aviation Safety Award.

h. During this month the squadron flew its 15,414th combat sortie and 19,798th combat flight hour in support of combat operations in this South-east Asian conflict.