

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

Admin:AWA:jkn
5750
01A01168
11 January 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
Subj: Command Chronology for December 1967; submission of
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) Gru^O 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

A. W. Anthony
A. W. ANTHONY

VMA-223

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DEC 1967

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December 1967 to 31 December 1967

INDEX

Part I - Organizational Data

Part II - Narrative Summary

Part III - Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Part I

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Organizational Data

- | <u>1. Designation</u> | <u>Commander</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| VMA-223 | LtCol Arthur W. ANTHONY | 1-31Dec67 |
|
 | | |
| <u>2. Location</u> | | |
| Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam | | 1-2Dec67 |
| MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan | | 3-31Dec67 |
|
 | | |
| <u>3. Staff Officers</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Executive Officer | Major Richard L. MARTIN | 1-31Dec67 |
| Operations Officer | Major Thomas R. MADDOCK | 1-31Dec67 |
| Administrative Officer | Captain Charles B. WOODWORTH | 1-18Dec67 |
| | Lieutenant Ralph P. HUNDLEY | 19-31Dec67 |
| Intelligence Officer | Major Michael C. DRURY | 1-31Dec67 |
| Materiel Officer | Major Larry CUNNINGHAM | 1-31Dec67 |
|
 | | |
| <u>4. Average Monthly Strength</u> | | |
| A. Marine Officers | | |
| (1) Naval Aviators - | 26 | |
| (2) Naval Flight Officers | 0 | |
| (3) Aviation Ground Officers | 4 | |
| B. Naval Officers | | |
| | 1 | |
| C. Marine Enlisted | | |
| | 166 | |
| D. Naval Enlisted | | |
| | 0 | |
| E. Total Average Strength | | |
| | 197 | |

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Part II

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Narrative Summary

Following normal combat air operations on 1 December 1967, Marine Attack Squadron 223 was officially relieved in place by Marine Attack Squadron 211, and commenced the scheduled intra-theater rotation to Iwakuni, Japan and a three month retraining cycle. During the month of December, VMA-223 flew 197 sorties and compiled 298 flight hours, while flying a reduced flight schedule in order to provide much needed maintenance on assigned aircraft. Pilot training emphasis was placed on navigation, instruments, and practice ordnance delivery.

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Part III

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Significant Events1. Administration

a. During December, some gains in squadron personnel strength were noted, with 5 officers and 20 enlisted personnel joined, and 3 officers and 11 enlisted personnel transferred. The squadron still remains 50 personnel under T/O.

b. Two enlisted personnel were recommended for Navy Commendation Medals for sustained meritorious service while with this command.

2. Operations

a. The squadron conducted normal combat operations on 1 December until 2000 hours, at which time formal relief was effected by VMA-211, and VMA-223 commenced the scheduled intra-theater rotation to Japan. Squadron pilots flew 22 combat sorties and 27.8 flight hours. After arriving in Japan, training emphasis was initially placed on gaining proficiency in those areas normally bypassed in a combat environment, such as both low and high altitude navigation and instrument training, in addition to the necessary area fams. All told, during December, VMA-223 flew 197 sorties while compiling 297.8 flight hours.

b. The most significant training accomplished during the month occurred during 10-15 December when 5 pilots and 16 enlisted personnel deployed with 4 aircraft to NAS, Cubi Point, P. I., to assist in the training of TACFS and to provide air support for an amphibious operation of the 9th MAB's SLF, OPERATION BLT LEX 1-68 (U). The primary objective of the operation was to assist forward air controllers in obtaining proficiency in utilizing "in-country" procedures in bringing Marine Air onto targets in the minimum amount of time, and to acquaint ground elements of the SLF with the sights and sounds of supporting air during an amphibious operation. The training proved to be a success, as combat experienced pilots participating in the exercise reported that by D-Day the ground controllers were on a par with any previously encountered. During the deployment, this small detachment flew 51 sorties and 78.2 flight hours.

c. During the month, the Progressive Aircraft Rework program progressed normally. One aircraft was inducted into PAR, one was received from PAR, and two aircraft remained in PAR at the month's end.

d. On 28 December, Interim Aviation Armament Bulletin 409, Revision A, was issued requiring inspection of all AERO 7/7-A1 Bomb Ejector Racks. All the subject racks of this command failed to pass the inspection and must thus be replaced. With non-availability of spares in the supply system, this condition seriously hampers the squadron's operational status.

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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
APO San Francisco 96602

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9 February 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)

Subj: Command Chronology for January 1968; submission of

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A. W. Anthony
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VMA-223

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Jan 1968

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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, EMF
FPO, San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 January 1968 to 31 January 1968

INDEX

Part I - Organizational Data

Part II - Narrative Summary

Part III - Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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Part I

Organizational Data

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Date</u>
VMA-223	LtCol Arthur W. ANTHONY	1-31 Jan 68
2. <u>Location</u>		
MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan		1-31 Jan 68
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Officer	Major Richard L. MARTIN	1-31 Jan 68
Operations Officer	Major Thomas R. MADDOCK	1-31 Jan 68
Administrative Officer	Lieutenant Ralph P. HUNDLEY	1-31 Jan 68
Maintenance Officer	Major John A. MORRA	1-31 Jan 68
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>		
A. Marine Officers		
(1) Naval Aviators	28	
(2) Naval Flight Officers	0	
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4	
B. Naval Officers	1	
C. Marine Enlisted	164	
D. Naval Enlisted	0	
E. Total Average Strength	197	

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Part II

Narrative Summary

Marine Attack Squadron 223 conducted normal flight operations for the month of January 1968 with emphasis on training newly joined pilots. On 24 January 1968 VMA-223 was placed in a maximum readiness status until 31 January 1968. This maximum readiness was maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with special emphasis on special weapons and conventional delivery techniques. The highlight of the month was a deployment from 15 January to 24 January to NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines, where pilots received intensive training in conventional ordnance delivery. During the deployment, VMA-223 flew 213 sorties resulting in 218.1 Flight hours. For the entire month of January VMA-223 flew 458 sorties for a total of 549.2 hours. Pilot training emphasis was placed on navigation, instruments, and conventional ordnance delivery in accordance with procedures followed in Vietnam.

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3

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Part III

Significant Events1. Administration

a. During the month of January there were gains in squadron personnel. Five officers and thirty two enlisted were joined while no officers and seventeen enlisted personnel were transferred. The squadron as of 31 January was twenty five personnel under WestPac manning level.

2. Operations

a. On 9 January 1968, three A-4C's, five aviators and thirty two enlisted Marines deployed to Naval Air Station, Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines, for the purposes of assisting in the training of Tactical Air Control Parties, to lend air support for an amphibious operation of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade's Special Landing Force, and to act as the advance echelon for VMA-223 Detachment Bravo, scheduled to arrive 15 January 1968 for conventional weapons delivery training. On the 14th of January 1968 the amphibious operation was cancelled and no further air support was required by the Special Landing Force. During the period 9-14 January, 30 sorties were flown resulting in 45.6 hours.

b. On 15 January 1968, VMA-223 Detachment Bravo commenced its deployment to NAS Cubi Point. Seven A-4C's arrived on 15 January. The main body of five officers and twenty eight enlisted arrived on 16 January. The deployment was for the express purpose of training the pilots on conventional ordnance delivery. Detachment Bravo utilized three targets located in the Cubi Point area for this training. During the period 15 January 1968 to 24 January 1968 Detachment Bravo flew 213 sorties resulting in 218.1 flight hours. The purposes of the deployment were accomplished. The main body of Detachment Bravo returned to MCAS Iwakuni on the 24th of January 1968, on order of the Commanding Officer. One pilot and three enlisted personnel remained behind to repair one aircraft and subsequently return it to Iwakuni. The aircraft was returned to base on 31 January.

c. Flight operations from 25 to 31 January 1968 were somewhat curtailed because of maintenance required on aircraft needed to maintain a maximum readiness status.

d. During the month of January 1968, the Progressive Aircraft Rework Program proceeded normally. Two aircraft went to PAR, one was received from PAR, and one remained at PAR for the entire month.

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