

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

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4 April 1968
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)
Subj: Command Chronology for March 1968; submission of
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8
(c) GruO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Attack Squadron 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.

AW Anthony
A. W. ANTHONY

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CMD CHRON

MAR 1968

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223
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CONFIDENTIAL
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 MARCH THROUGH 31 MARCH 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Marine Attack Squadron 223 conducted flight operations aimed at maximizing the squadron preparedness in anticipation of redeployment to the Republic of Vietnam. This consisted primarily of ordnance delivery techniques but also included instrument training, aerial refueling, field carrier landing practice, and tactics. A program of inter-squadron air combat maneuvering was arranged and flown with the F-4B's of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 542. The training and dialogue resulting were beneficial to both units. Day and night Field Carrier Landing Practice was again conducted. On the first of March, Detachment Alpha deployed to Naha Air Base, Okinawa. This deployment was for the purpose of concentrating on ordnance delivery techniques and to introduce the newly acquired ground crews to workloads as nearly as possible approximating those encountered in Southeast Asia. During the month 588 flight hours were accumulated in 486 sorties. Of this 308 hours were flown in the conduct of ordnance delivery training, while 257 were flown on tactical training missions. The squadron is, at this date, still awaiting and expecting orders to return to the Republic of Vietnam and is orienting all training, both ground and flying, toward that end. It still stands ready to deploy to anywhere in the MAG-15 contingency area.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Administration

a. March again saw considerable gains in enlisted strength. Total enlisted strength increased from 183 to 214 for a net of plus 31. An increase of one aviator raised that total to 28. A comparison of present squadron strength versus the Table of Organization and WestPac Manning Level is presented below.

| | <u>Present Strength</u> | <u>T/O</u> | <u>Manning Level</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Aviator Officer | 28 | 35 | 28 |
| Ground Officer | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Enlisted | <u>214</u> | <u>218</u> | <u>187</u> |
| Total | 246 | 259 | 219 |

2. Operations

a. On 1 March 1968, Detachment Alpha commenced its deployment to Naha Air Base, Okinawa. The advanced party was followed on 3 March by ten aviators, the main body, and six A-4C's. On 8 and 9 March, the second increment arrived, relieving the first who returned to Iwakuni. From 3 March to 16 March, 193 sorties were flown accounting for 173.4 flight hours. Practice ordnance consisting of MK 76 practice bombs, 2.75 inch FFAR rockets, and 20 MM ammunition were expended. Live ordnance consisting of general purpose and fire bombs and 5 inch ZUNI rockets were dropped and fired during both day and night. Of the 22 aviators deployed 9 had had no previous combat experience.

b. On the 20th of March, MajGen THARIN paid a command visit to the Squadron.

c. On 29 March, Col. KELLOGG, Commanding Officer, MAG-15, presented the squadron the Quarterly 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Safety, Standardization, Efficiency, and Readiness Certificate at a unit formation.

d. The Progressive Aircraft Rework Program proceeded normally. Two aircraft were delivered to the facility at Atsugi Naval Air Station, and two were returned. No aircraft spent the entire month at Atsugi.

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