

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

1/HSM/jtg  
5750  
6 May 1968  
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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15 (Rein)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 April to 23 April 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) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

E. D. SMITH

MAC-15 SET FILE

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CMD CHRON

1-23 APR 1968

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 APRIL THROUGH 23 APRIL 1968

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**CONFIDENTIAL****PART I****ORGANIZATIONAL DATA**

<b>1. <u>Designation</u></b>	<b><u>Commander</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
VMA-223	LtCol Arthur W. ANTHONY	1-23 Apr 1968
<b>2. <u>Location</u></b>		
MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan		
<b>3. <u>Staff Officers</u></b>		
Executive Officer	Major Richard L. MARTIN	1-17 Apr 1968
	LtCol Albert E. BREWSTER	18-23 Apr 1968
Operations Officer	Major Lawrence J. GODEY	1-23 Apr 1968
Materiel Officer	Major James L. CUNNINGHAM	1-23 Apr 1968
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major John A. MORRE	1-23 Apr 1968
Intelligence Officer	Major Dennis A. CAVAGNARO	1-23 Apr 1968
Administrative Officer	1stLt Ralph P. HUNDLEY	1-23 Apr 1968
<b>4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u></b>		
A. Marine Officers		
(1) Naval Aviators	28	
(2) Naval Flight Officers	0	
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	4	
B. Naval Officers	1	
C. Marine Enlisted	235	
D. Naval Enlisted	0	
E. Total Average Strength	268	

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## PART II

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## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Marine Attack Squadron 223 received the long-awaited deployment orders to the Republic of Vietnam, on 13 April 1968. The squadron's high level of training and readiness allowed an orderly progression through the predeployment, embarkation, and movement phases. Operations from 1 April to 22 April consisted of live and practice ordnance delivery, navigation and instrument training, tactics, in-flight refueling, and day and night Field Carrier Landing Practice. The four aviators joined during the month were second tour pilots, and became operationally proficient with a minimum of familiarization syllabus.

The movement of the squadron's A4C aircraft from MCAS Iwakuni to Chu Lai Air Base, RVN, proceeded without incident. The squadron was in place on schedule, 23 April 1968. The training and experience acquired while operating with Marine Aircraft Group 15 from December 1967 to April 1968 allowed the squadron to arrive and immediately take up positions as a combat ready striking force of Marine Aircraft Group 12.

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**CONFIDENTIAL****PART III****SIGNIFICANT EVENTS****1. Administration.**

a. The receipt of deployment orders to Chu Lai, RVN, enabled the squadron to achieve sizeable but temporary gains in enlisted strength. Seventy-four (74) enlisted personnel were joined. This figure includes fifty-five (55) support personnel included in an augmentation party from H&MS-15 and MABS-15, the majority of whom were ultimately transferred to MAG-12 upon arrival at Chu Lai. A total of sixty-five (65) enlisted personnel were transferred. Four officers were joined and four were transferred. A comparison of strength figures for the period of 1 April to 23 April is shown below.

	<u>23 April</u>	<u>1 April</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>Manning Level</u>
Aviator Officer	29	28	35	28
Aviation Ground Officer	4	4	6	4
Enlisted	<u>224</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>187</u>
Total	257	246	259	219

**2. Operations.**

a. The beginning of April found VMA-223 preparing for a two week deployment to Naha Air Base, Okinawa, for ordnance delivery training. This deployment was subsequently cancelled upon receipt of movement orders.

b. On 13 April 1968, a message was received from higher authority ordering VMA-223 to deploy with A4C aircraft to Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam.

c. Between 1 and 23 April, the squadron flew 325 sorties and compiled 531.2 flight hours. Practice ordnance consisting of MK 76 and MK 106 bombs was expended. Live ordnance training with the MK 4 gun pod and 5 inch ZUNI rockets was conducted. Low level navigational hops were flown as secondary missions when weather precluded use of the targets.

d. On 17 April, the advance party, consisting of 7 officers and 42 enlisted, departed MCAS Iwakuni, and arrived 18 April in Chu Lai. In addition to supervising preparations for the squadron's arrival, aviators in the advance party flew 22 combat missions in H&MS-12's TA4F aircraft and A4E aircraft of VMA-211 and VMA-311.

e. On 22 April, LtCol A. W. ANTHONY led the first of four divisions of A4C aircraft from MCAS Iwakuni to NAS Cubi Point, R. P.. In flight refueling was performed enroute with the assistance of VMGR-152 and MACS-3. The main body of troops departed Iwakuni immediately thereafter on C-130 aircraft.

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## PART III

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (CON'T)

f. On the morning of 23 April, LtCol A. W. ANTHONY led the squadron into Chu Lai Air Base. The first aircraft to land were being configured with ordnance even before the last aircraft were on the deck. Within two hours of its arrival, VMA-223 launched its first six combat sorties of the current deployment.

g. The Progressive Aircraft Rework Program proceeded normally. Two aircraft spent the entire month of April at PAR, while one was delivered and none were returned from the facility at NAS, Atsugi, Japan.

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