

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

1:HSM:jtg
 5750
 5 July 1968
 01A18768

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subj: Command Chronology for June 1968; 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.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

C. W. Henry
 C. W. HENRY
 Acting

MAC-12 SAC#	COPY#
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1 of 5

VMA-223

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JUNE 1968

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 JUNE 1968 TO 30 JUNE 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <u>Designation</u> | <u>Commander</u> | <u>Dates</u> |
| VMA-223 | LtCol Erin D. SMITH | 1-30 June 1968 |
| 2. <u>Location</u> | Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam | |
| 3. <u>Staff Officers</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Dates</u> |
| Executive Officer | LtCol Charles W. HENRY | 1-30 June 1968 |
| Operations Officer | Major Lawrence J. GODBY | 1-30 June 1968 |
| Aircraft Maintenance Officer | Major Geoffrey A. YORK | 1-30 June 1968 |
| Materiel Officer | Major Richard T. THOMSON | 1-30 June 1968 |
| Administrative Officer | 1stLt Ralph P. HUNDLEY | 1-30 June 1968 |
| 4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u> | | |
| A. Marine Officers | | |
| Naval Aviators | 23 | |
| Naval Flight Officers | 0 | |
| Aviation Ground Officers | 5 | |
| B. Naval Officers | 1 | |
| C. Marine Enlisted | 184 | |
| D. Naval Enlisted | 0 | |
| E. Total Average Strength | 213 | |

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the second full month of combat air operations in Vietnam, VMA-223 compiled a total of 905.1 hours while flying 805 sorties. This figure reflects a decrease of 230 hours from the previous month due primarily to an overall lull in air operations in the I Corps TAOR during June.

VMA-223 continued to support the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force and U. S. Army units with close air support missions in the I Corps area, and direct air support missions into the DMZ. A total of 763.026 tons of aviation ordnance was expended on enemy targets by Squadron pilots.

During June, VMA-223 embarked on an ambitious Civil Action program by establishing a scholarship fund for the benefit of the Dong Cong School in Chu Lai, and by initiating several construction and repair projects to aid local villagers.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Administrative

A. During the month of June 1968, VMA-223 experienced a net loss in total strength of 12 personnel. A total of 7 Naval Aviators were transferred while 2 were joined. Aviation Ground Officer strength remained constant with two officers transferred and two officers joined. Enlisted transfers totalled 10, while 4 were joined. Strength figures are compared in the following table:

	<u>30 June 1968</u>	<u>T/O</u>	<u>Manning Level</u>
Aviation Officers	20	35	28
Aviation Ground Officers	5	6	4
Enlisted	<u>181</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>187</u>
	206	259	219

B. Two aviators were recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross during the month, and two were recommended for single mission air medals. Four aviators received the first award of the Air Medal, while an additional 56 Air Medals were earned by squadron and attached Group pilots.

C. In a double-barrel attack on Communist influence in Vietnam, VMA-223 launched an aggressive Civil Action program. \$480 was collected in June to establish a scholarship fund for children of the Dong Cong School in Chu Lai, New Life hamlet. In addition, squadron Marines have devoted off-duty hours to construction and repair of facilities at the school.

2. Operations

A. VMA-223 conducted combat air operations on all 30 days of the month. A total of 805 sorties were launched and 905.1 flight hours were logged, of which 789 were combat sorties and 888.7 were combat hours.

B. Close air support missions continued to be flown in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Force and U. S. Army troops in the I Corps TAOR. Operations supported were ALLENBROOK, MAMELUKE THRUST, HOUSTON, SCOTLAND, JEB STUART, NEVADA EAGLE, DRAGON PALACE, and LANCASTER. Other TPQ-10 missions were flown into the DMZ and North Vietnam in direct support of the 3rd Marine Division.

C. During the month of June, one aircraft received ALPHA damage, and two others received BRAVO damage. On 25 June, Capt C. B. COLTRIN, in WP 11, was shot down by .50 caliber fire while attacking an active

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (CONT)

enemy automatic weapons position near Khe Sanh. Capt COLTRIN ejected successfully and was rescued uninjured by helicopter. On 24 June, Major R. K. PARK, in WP 9, crashed on takeoff from Chu Lai. He ejected successfully, but received burns and minor injuries. The aircraft received overhaul damage. Cause of the accident is presently undetermined and under investigation. On 6 June, Capt C. B. COLTRIN, in WP 1, lost a brake while taxiing, collided with a loading ramp, and overturned. Capt COLTRIN was uninjured and the aircraft received overhaul damage. Four other aircraft received minor battle damage from small arms/automatic weapons fire and a fifth received substantial damage from a collision with trees during evasive maneuvers following a strafing run against an active enemy position.

D. Despite some considerable difficulties in the acquisition of replacement parts, the squadron Maintenance Department provided a 73% average aircraft availability level. One aircraft was received from the Progressive Aircraft Rework facility during the month. No aircraft were inducted and one remained at O&R on 30 June 1968.

E. Squadron pilots delivered 763.026 tons of aviation ordnance on enemy targets during the month. The following is a breakdown of individual ordnance expenditure:

MK 81 conical	488
MK 81 S.E.	365
MK 82 S.E.	1745
MK 84	4
M 117A1	30
MK 77	236
LAU 10A	123
LAU 60	8
CBU-1	4
CBU-24	8
MK 12FS	14
20MM	16,498

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