

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

1:GHN:jps
5000
17 October 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subj: Command Chronology for 1-15 October 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.

E. D. SMITH

VMA 121
766-68

1 of 5

VMA-223

CMD CHRON

1-15 Oct 1968

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1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 October 1968 to 15 October 1968

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA

1. <u>Designation</u> VMA-223	<u>Commander</u> LtCol. Erin D. SMITH	<u>Dates</u> 1-15 October 1968
2. <u>Location</u> Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam		
3. <u>Staff Officers</u>		
Executive Officer	Major C. D. ROBINSON	1-15 October 1968
Operations Officer	Major D. E. JACKETT	1-15 October 1968
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major G. A. YORK	1-15 October 1968
Material Officer	Captain D. E. LOVE	1-15 October 1968
Administrative Officer	Captain R. P. HUNDLEY	1-15 October 1968
4. <u>Average Monthly Strength</u>		
A. Marine Officers		
Naval Aviators.....	26	
Aviation Ground Officers.....	5	
B. Naval Officers.....	1	
C. Marine Enlisted.....	164	
D. Naval Enlisted.....	0	
E. Total Average Strength.....	192	

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the first half of October, VMA-223 moved its' total to 5,500 combat hours flown since arriving in Vietnam 22 April 1968. The pace of air operations has lost the momentum of previous months due to the prevailing monsoon rains. Which accounts for only 444 hours and 382 missions being flown.

VMA-223 continued to support the Third Marine Amphibious Force and U. S. Army units throughout the I Corps area with close air Support and night direct air support missions. Against 7th Air Force targets in North Vietnam 28 missions were flown compiling 32 flight hours.

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PART III1. Administration

A. Personnel strength varied throughout the month, ending up with a slight increase. One naval aviator was joined and one was transferred while 8 enlisted were joined and 4 transferred. Strength figures are illustrated in the following table:

USMC	1Oct68	15Oct68	T/O	M/L
Aviators	28	28	35	28
Aviation Ground Officers	5	5	6	4
Enlisted	163	167	218	187
Total	196	200	259	219

B. One Aviator was recommended for the Legion of Merit and a total of 22 Strike/Flight Air Medals were earned by squadron pilots during the reporting period.

C. There were no promotions during the month, but there was one reduction from Corporal to Lance Corporal.

D. One Overseas extension was approved with another pending. Three Marines took advantage of leave to CONUS due to six month extensions and 12 additional personnel enjoyed R&R.

E. The Civic Action Officer and NCO attended school at Danang in an effort to increase there knowledge and help in the expansion of the existing program.

2. Operations

A. VMA-223 conducted air operations on 13 of the 15 days during the reporting period. Two days no sorties were flown due to minimum weather in the whole of I Corps area. 382 sorties were flown logging 443.7 hours, of which 371 were combat sorties and 430.1 were combat hours. Against targets in North Vietnam 28 sorties and 31.7 hours were flown.

B. Close air support missions were continued in support of Third Marine Amphibious Force and U. S. Army troops throughout I Corps. Operations supported were Scotland Nanking, Kentucky, Nevada Eagle, Lancaster II, Victory I, Mongoose, Jeb Stuart III, Mamaluke Thrust, Red Devil and Houston.

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C. During the period there was one major accident in which WP-00, BuNo. 147767 received alfa damage. During a night maximum gross weight take off, the aircraft blew a tire at a speed of approximately 125 kts. Immediately, the aircraft veered to the side of the runway, and upon leaving the concrete the pilot successfully ejected. The aircraft caught fire and burned.

D. For the operating period, aircraft availability level was 84%, with an average of 16 aircraft on hand. NORs rate was 11.5%, up slightly from the previous month, but still comparatively low on an annual basis. The NORM rate for the period was 19.8%. Most of the maintenance problems were found to be in comm-nav systems, AJB-3, fuel quantity indicating systems and tire failures, which are believed to be caused by poor quality tires.

E. The Progressive Aircraft Rework program has two of the assigned aircraft with a third enroute to the facility.

Aircraft on hand AIO or AIB status	16
Aircraft at Par or enroute	3
Aircraft in possession of STRAD Team	<u>1</u>
Total aircraft assigned	20

F. Squadron pilots expended 385.225 tons of aviation ordnance on enemy targets during the reporting period. The following is a breakdown of the expenditures:

MK 81 S.E.	190
MK 81 Conical	0
MK 82 S.E.	655
MK 82 Conical	427
M117 GP	87
MK 77 Napalm	52
MK 77 CS	4
LAU-60	45 (855 Rockets)
LAU-10	13 (52 Rockets)
20MM	3,475 Rounds

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