

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

3:JDE:rjj  
 05000  
 Ser: 03A00469  
 6 January 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subj: Command Chronology for 1-31 December 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) Gru0 5750.1C

Encl: (1) VMA-223 Command Chronology.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1) this letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED.

*L. T. Preston, Jr.*  
 L. T. PRESTON, JR.

*VMA-223*

*0005-69*

*1/5*

*VMA-223*

*CMD CHRON*

*Dec 1968*

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 - 31 DECEMBER 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

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

Major Leonard T. PRESTON, Jr.  
 1 - 31 December 1968

NO SUBORDINATE UNITS

NO UNITS ATTACHED

2. LOCATION

Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major Charles D. ROBINSON	1 -31 December 1968
Operations Officer	Major Samuel M. HORTON	1 -21 December 1968
	Major Richard S. ROBERTSON	22-31 December 1968
Administrative Officer	Major Thomas R. DURHAM	1 -21 December 1968
	1stLt Larry C. SWINEA	22-31 December 1968
Maintenance Officer	Major Leon D. TYRRELL	1 -17 December 1968
	Major Donald E. ANDERSEN	18-31 December 1968
Material Officer	2ndLt Peter D. WALTERS	1 -31 December 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCUSNOFF    ENLOFF    ENL

26    154

1    0

NA    AG

22    4

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During December 1968, VMA-223 flew 1205.1 hours and 1160 sorties of which 1174.2 hours and 1129 sorties were flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. The Squadron delivered 1723.03 tons of aviation ordnance with the highest daily total being 93.2 tons delivered on 7 December 1968.

Reported Battle Damage Assessment for December 1968:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
KBA	21 (o)	5 (p)
Bunkers	151	34
Structures	207	36
Secondary Fires	43	
Secondary Explosions	28	
Bridges	6	
Gun Sites	5	
Trench Line	557 meters.	
Sampans	1	
Trucks	3	
Road Cuts	10	
Boxes	8	

The "Bulldogs" of VMA-223 increased to 8,190.0 the combat hours flown since returning to Vietnam on 22 April 1968. The total hours flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam by the Squadron is 27,885.9 during 22,935 sorties. VMA-223 flew 24 more sorties than any other Squadron in Marine Aircraft Group 12 during December 1968.

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PART IIISIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel strength varied throughout the month ending with an increase in personnel. Four Naval Aviators were joined and seven were transferred. One Aviation Ground Officer was joined and none were transferred. Twelve enlisted personnel were joined and seven were transferred.

b. The Civil Affairs Program supported 56 South Vietnamese children during December by providing scholarships. The three schools sponsored by VMA-223 and provided with scholarships, construction materials and other incidentals were Khuong My, Khuong Hiep and Khuong Quan. Plans are being made for the construction of a new school which will accommodate sixty students in grades 1 and 2. During the holiday period, a Christmas party was held at Ly Tin High School for 1,000 students with food, gifts and entertainment.

c. Personnel from VMA-223 received the following awards during December:

- (1) Four (4) Good Conduct Awards
- (2) Two (2) Air Medals (First Award)
- (3) Two (2) Single Mission Air Medals

d. Personnel Promotions

- (1) Gunnery Sergeant R. L. HENN received a Meritorious Combat promotion to his present rank.
- (2) Corporal E. P. AIRWYKE was promoted to his present rank.
- (3) Lance Corporal E. W. SHUPE was promoted to his present rank.

2. OPERATIONS

a. VMA-223 conducted combat air operations on thirty days during December in support of I Corps, II Corps and 7th Air Force targets. Operations and Units supported are listed in Part IV.

b. At the end of December 1968, VMA-223's accident free hours totaled 2669.1. The last operational accident occurred on 21 October 1968.

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c. Two Naval Aviators assigned to VMA-223 have over 500 combat missions, one has over 400, four have over 300, five have over 200, and six have over 100.

d. Training

- (1) One Officer attended Amphibious Planning School at Okinawa.
- (2) One Officer attended 3M School at Danang.

3. MAINTENANCE

a. The Squadron had a daily average of 19.9 aircraft on hand, 15.3 daily availability and averaged 60.5 hours per aircraft for the month for 152.0% utilization.

b. Three aircraft were inducted into Progressive Aircraft Rework and one aircraft was returned from Rework.

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PART IVOPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTED

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>SORTIES</u> <u>FLOWN</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SORTIES</u> <u>FLOWN</u>
Scotland II	30	AMERICAN	149
Henderson Hill	16	Task Force HOTEL	16
Nevada Eagle	73	101st Airborne	63
Lancaster II	6	3rd Marines	10
Meade River	24	1st MarDiv	140
Napolean Saline	19	ROK Marines	59
Dawson River	46	1st Marines	22
Vernon Lake	4	1st Recon	8
Kentucky	14	3rd Recon	12
Taylor Common	96	4th Marines	14
Dragon Victory	6	51st ARVN	14
Commando Hunt	24	24th Corps	2
Steel Tiger	118	7th Marines	86
Oregon	2	2nd ARVN	14
Cheyene	2	108th Artillery	2
Fayette Canyon	6	5th MechDiv	6
Barrister	2	7th Air Force	159
Valiant Hunt	2	Task Force ALPHA	18
		5th Marines	6
		3rd MarDiv	63
		Task Force YANKEE	94
		26th Marines	10
		9th Marines	10
		Special Forces	2
		12th Marines	4

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