

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

3:HAH:rjj  
 05000  
 Ser: 03A09369  
 5 APR 1969

CONFIDENTIAL (Declassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

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

Subj: Command Chronology for 1-31 March 1969; submission of

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.10

Encl: ✓(1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

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

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 (1))

VMA-223

CMD CHROD

MAR 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 - 31 MARCH 1969

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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 March 1969

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 March 1969 |
| Operations Officer     | Major Richard S. ROBERTSON | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Administrative Officer | 1stLt Larry C. SWINEA      | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Maintenance Officer    | Major Donald E. ANDERSEN   | 1-31 March 1969 |
| Materiel Officer       | 1stLt Peter D. WALTERS     | 1-31 March 1969 |

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

| <u>USMC</u> |            | <u>USN</u> |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>OFF</u>  | <u>ENL</u> | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> |
| 31          | 142        | 1          | 0          |
| <u>NA</u>   | <u>AG</u>  |            |            |
| 26          | 5          |            |            |

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During March 1969, VMA-223 flew 1,080.2 hours and 1,002 sorties of which 1,042.4 hours and 971 sorties were flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. The Squadron delivered 1,338.63 tons of aviation ordnance with the highest daily total being 60.96 tons delivered on 1 March 1969.

Reported Battle Damage Assessment for March 1969:

| <u>TARGETS</u>        | <u>DESTROYED</u> | <u>DAMAGED</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| KBA                   | 78 (c)           | 7 (p)          |
| Bunkers               | 140              | 40             |
| Structures            | 306              | 80             |
| Gun Sites             | 9                | 1              |
| Trucks                | 2                |                |
| Bridges               | 3                | 1              |
| Secondary Explosions  | 40               |                |
| Secondary Fires       | 75               |                |
| Road Cuts             | 14               |                |
| Freight Cars          | 2                |                |
| Trench Line           | 735 meters       |                |
| Fighting Holes        | 21               |                |
| POW's who surrendered | 17               |                |

The "Bulldogs" of VMA-223 increased to 11,261.6 the combat hours and 10,304 the combat sorties 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 31,056.3 hours during 25,763 sorties. VMA-223 flew 129 more sorties than any other Squadron in Marine Aircraft Group 12 during March 1969.

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PART III  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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1. ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel strength varied throughout the month of March. Seven Officers joined the Squadron, all of them Naval Aviators. Thirteen Enlisted personnel also joined. Departures due to expiration of tours included fifteen enlisted. A total of four Officers and five Enlisted were transferred from this Squadron to other WestPac units.

b. On the morning of 21 March several incoming rockets impacted in the line area of VMA-211 and VMA-311. In a desperate attempt to save the aircraft of these Squadrons from further damage, a number of men from VMA-223 assisted the neighboring squadrons in pushing aircraft to secure areas. During this period five men distinguished themselves and were awarded the Bronze Star for their courage and dedication.

MSgt J. D. SIMMERMAN  
SSgt S. I. SPAWN  
LCpl E. D. MONTGOMERY  
LCpl K. R. MOORE  
LCpl R. D. SHEPARD

c. During the month of March, three Squadron personnel reenlisted for another tour. SgtMaj R. B. HAMILTON is starting his fifth tour, SSgt R. J. JACOBSON is starting his third, and Sgt A. G. DECROO is beginning his second enlistment.

d. Personnel Promotions

- (1) J. D. SIMMERMAN was promoted to Master Sergeant
- (2) C. SANTOYO was promoted to Staff Sergeant
- (3) L. D. BAKER was promoted to Sergeant
- (4) R. G. BENSLE was promoted to Sergeant
- (5) S. J. BRUNST was promoted to Sergeant
- (6) W. C. COLLINS was promoted to Sergeant
- (7) P. DIVISCONTI was promoted to Sergeant
- (8) L. A. HEFFELFINGER was promoted to Sergeant
- (9) G. C. HENDRICKS was promoted to Sergeant
- (10) L. L. HIGGINBOTHAM was promoted to Sergeant
- (11) C. W. JACKSON was promoted to Sergeant
- (12) D. K. JOHNSON was promoted to Sergeant
- (13) N. E. KLESAT was promoted to Sergeant
- (14) M. C. MASON was promoted to Sergeant
- (15) J. W. MESKUN was promoted to Sergeant
- (16) M. W. PERRY was promoted to Sergeant

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- (17) S. K. PETERSON was promoted to Sergeant
- (18) D. L. RADDER was promoted to Sergeant
- (19) R. C. SCHAEFFER, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant
- (20) P. M. SCHOLLE was promoted to Sergeant
- (21) S. VILLAFRANCO, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant
- (22) D. R. COLYER received a Meritorious Combat Promotion to Corporal
- (23) G. H. MIKESELL was promoted to Corporal
- (24) H. D. MARQUIS received a Meritorious Combat Promotion to Lance Corporal
- (25) J. W. VANSANDT received a Meritorious Promotion to Lance Corporal
- (26) J. BUNEVICIUS was promoted to Lance Corporal

2. OPERATIONS

a. VMA-223 conducted air operations on each day of March 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 March 1969, VMA-223's accident free hours totaled 5,792.3. The last operational accident occurred on 21 October 1968.

c. One Naval Aviator assigned to VMA-223 has reached 600 combat missions, one has over 500 missions, one has over 400, three have over 300, four have over 200 and nine have over 100.

d. On 21 March it should be noted that even though flight operations were suspended during the morning, VMA-223 was able to react following the rocket attack, assume the alert, and delivered a total of 57.02 tons of ordnance. This makes 21 March the second highest day for ordnance delivered, even though only flying half a day.

e. Training

(1) Three Naval Aviators attended Jungle Survival School at Clark AFB, Republic of the Philippines.

(2) One Enlisted man attended MK-36 school at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

3. MAINTENANCE

a. The Squadron had a daily average of 19.3 aircraft on hand, 14.3 daily availability and averaged 55.9 hours per aircraft for the month for 140.4% utilization.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IVOPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTED

| <u>OPERATIONS</u> | <u>SORTIES<br/>FLOWN</u> | <u>UNITS</u>       | <u>SORTIES<br/>FLOWN</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Kentucky Jumper   | 18                       | ROK Marines        | 44                       |
| Purple Martin     | 18                       | 3d MarDiv          | 121                      |
| Main Craig        | 14                       | 1st MarDiv         | 62                       |
| Kentucky          | 2                        | 5th Marines        | 53                       |
| Warship Hotel     | 2                        | 1st Recon Bn       | 12                       |
| Dewey Canyon      | 13                       | 7th Air Force      | 82                       |
| Lancaster II      | 2                        | 7th Marines        | 26                       |
| Bright Lad        | 4                        | AMERICAL           | 168                      |
| Scotland II       | 6                        | 101st Airborne     | 27                       |
| Mass Striker      | 11                       | 3d Recon Bn        | 2                        |
| Taylor Common     | 32                       | 4th Marines        | 24                       |
| Dragon Victory    | 4                        | 9th Marines        | 26                       |
| India             | 2                        | ARVN               | 29                       |
| Valiant Hunt      | 2                        | U. S. Army         | 4                        |
| Nevada Eagle      | 5                        | 3d Marines         | 15                       |
|                   |                          | 5th Special Forces | 12                       |
|                   |                          | 5th Air Force      | 2                        |
|                   |                          | Task Force HOTEL   | 2                        |
|                   |                          | 26th Marines       | 18                       |
|                   |                          | Task Force YANKEE  | 6                        |

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