

VMA S&C# 336-66COPY NO. 1 OF 2

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 224
Marine Aircraft Group 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

3/JMK/jfr
03A21-66
5750
5 Aug 1966

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1C

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), the following Command Chronology is submitted.

- a. Organization: Marine Attack Squadron 224
- b. Location: MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, 1 July 1966 - 13 July 1966
Chu Lai, Republic of Viet Nam, 13 July 1966 -
31 July 1966
- c. Period: 1 July - 31 July 1966


JOHN BROWNE

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

VMA-224

Cmd Chron

July 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Part One1. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

John BROWNE	Lieutenant Colonel	Commanding Officer
Robert L. TALBERT	Major	Executive Officer
Hugh N. LEVIN	Major	1 July - 24 July 1966 Executive Officer
Richard M. BLOOM	First Lieutenant	24 July - 31 July 1966 Administrative Officer
Robert J. NEWMAN	Captain	1 July - 18 July 1966 Administrative Officer
Hugh N. LEVIN	Major	18 July - 31 July 1966 Operations Officer
Alfonso OSEGUERA	Major	1 July - 24 July 1966 Operations Officer
Barry A. RUDICILLIE	First Lieutenant	24 July - 31 July 1966 Intelligence Officer
Robert J. NEWMAN	Captain	Logistics Officer
Patrick H. RUPERTUS	Captain	1 July - 18 July 1966 Logistics Officer
Bruce R. BOOHER	Captain	18 July - 31 July 1966 Maintenance Officer
John M. KRETSINGER	Captain	Aviation Safety Officer

2. TASK ORGANIZATION

Marine Attack Squadron 224 1 - 16 July Iwakuni, Japan.
 Detachment 1, Marine Attack Squadron 224 1 - 6 July Naha AB, Okinawa.
 Marine Attack Squadron 224 16 - 31 July 1966 Chu Lai, Republic of
 Viet Nam.

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC OFFICERS	26	USN OFFICERS	1
USMC ENLISTED	167	USN ENLISTED	1

Part Two1. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

16 July VMA-224 completed movement from Iwakuni to Chu Lai, RVN.
 A gradual turnover lasting five days allowed us to replace VMA-211
 without any interruption in the MAG-12 overall operation.

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Immediate goals were to familiarize all new pilots and refam previous tour pilots with the local area and MAG-12 operations procedures. All weather and night-flying procedures were extensively reviewed and practiced.

Three new pilots who had never flown the A4 joined only one month prior to leaving Iwakuni, Japan, where they received a concentrated syllabus because of time limitations, have worked into the operation under combat conditions very smoothly. An additional 4 pilots, with previous A4 time, received one week prior to leaving Japan have had no problems operating under combat conditions.

VMA-224's Provisional Rifle Company, Commanded by Capt Patrick RUPERTUS, has had two practice alerts since arriving at Chu Lai. The results were favorable and minor discrepancies in communications were corrected. Improvements in the defensive positions assigned our company have been completed.

One aircraft was lost in combat over North Viet Nam on 21 July 1966. The pilot, Major Hugh N. LEVIN, was rescued only thirty minutes after he ejected over the Gulf of Tonkin. Prior to water entry, his position received fire from shore batteries until the remainder of his flight arrived and orbited overhead. A total of six rounds came in on Major LEVIN. He reported their range accuracy as perfect, fortunately they were off in azimuth by 100 yards.

The majority of this months missions were flown in support of Operations Hastings.

Part Three1. PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION

3Jul66 Drop 1stLt MAGNESS to CONUS
Drop 3 Enlisted to CONUS
Joined 1stLt FISCHER from CONUS

6Jul66 Joined 1stLt DOWNING and Capt KRETSINGER from CONUS
Joined 1stLt MOCK from MABS 13
SSgt DACORTE promoted to present rank

8Jul66 5 Officers and 21 Enlisted departed MCAS Iwakuni as Advance Party
SSgt S. B. GAINES and R. H. LAYTON promoted to present rank

9Jul66 MSgt DUCKER joined from H&MS-13

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11Jul66 Captain RUPERTUS joined from the 1stBN, 4th Mar, 3MarDiv

12Jul66 SSgt ROBINSON promoted to present rank

13Jul66 The CO departed MCAS Iwakuni and arrived at Chu Lai with 1st plane load in connection with the troop movement and redesignation as part of MAG-12

14Jul66 The 2nd plane load of 3 officers and 36 enlisted departed MCAS Iwakuni and arrived Chu Lai RVN

15Jul66 The 3rd plane load of 3 officers and 35 enlisted departed MCAS Iwakuni and arrived Chu Lai RVN

16Jul66 The last plane load of 7 officers and 34 enlisted departed MCAS Iwakuni and arrived Chu Lai RVN. This completed the troop movement.

20Jul66 Captain TAYLOR and Capt NELSON were promoted to present rank effective 21 Jun 66
Major OSEGUERA promoted to present rank effective 21Jun66
GySgt HICKS promoted to present rank
Sgt AREHART joined from MWSG-17

24Jul66 Major TALBERT transferred to CONUS in connection with emergency leave
Major LEVIN took over as Executive Officer
SSgt RODRIQUES joined from VMA-214

27Jul66 Sgt R. C. LEWIS reenlisted for a period of 6 years
GySgt HERDEN, Career Advisory NCO attended Career Advisory Symposium during 24 27Jul66

30Jul66 Major C. L. PHILLIPS joined from H&MS-12 and departed the same date for TAD MAG-13 for a refresher course A-4 aircraft

31Jul66 Capt W. R. GRIFFIN joined from 1stBN, 1stMar, 1stMarDiv
Sgt C. F. SNODGRASS reenlisted for a period of 2 years
PFC STOWE joined from CONUS

The following officers earned the Air Medal during the month of July:

LtCol BROWNE	7th Award
Major TALBERT	5th Award
Major A. OSEGUERA	4th Award
Capt J. M. KRETSINGER	1st Award
Capt T. G. TAYLOR	5th Award
Capt P. N. RUPERTUS	1st Award
Capt T. D. NELSON	5th Award
Capt B. R. BOOHER	10th Award

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1stLt R. M. BLOOM	1st Award
1stLt J. H. GEORGE	3rd Award
1stLt B. E. JOBE	4th Award
1stLt J. P. MCCANN	2nd Award
1stLt E. L. NELMS	7th Award
1stLt D. C. PUCKETT	8th Award
1stLt K. A. STRONG	3rd Award
1stLt L. P. WILSON	1st Award
1stLt C. R. DOWNING	1st Award
1stLt J. M. FISCHER	1st Award

2. MORALE/WELFARE. Squadron morale has been exceptionally high since returning to Chu Lai.

3. OPERATIONS

a. Air Operations

VMA-224 pilots flew 558 sorties totaling 748 flight hours. 421 combat sorties for 584 flight hours were flown during the period 14 July 31 July 1966. During this period 479,363 pounds of bombs, 66,720 pounds of napalm, 7 zuni rockets and 2,204 20mm rounds were delivered on assigned targets by Marine Attack Squadron 224.

All six of the new pilots that joined VMA-224 in Iwakuni, Japan became fully combat qualified by the end of July.

VMA-224 furnished 8 Air Defense Exercise sorties. Their purpose was to act as target aircraft for our local Hawk Batteries.

b. Training

Two, one hour, lectures were given to the Squadron Provisional Rifle Company. All hands were given a three hour intelligence and indoctrination brief on 26 July 1966.

Practice alerts were held on 15 and 16 July 1966. All hands participated.

c. NBC Training. Progress was made in training the Squadron NBC Teams in that two personnel per week were sent to the MAG-12 NBC School.

4. LOGISTICS

VMA-224 has had an average of 21 A4 series aircraft assigned of which an average of 14 were on hand.

Squadron availability has averaged 79%. Outstanding AOCP's have averaged 11 per day.

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VMA-224 has taken over all of VMA-211's Marine Corps Property. Average "C" ration usage has been 30 cases per week. The huts in the officers and enlisted living areas were roofed with tin.

As of 31 July 1966, fifteen (15) squadron aircraft had completed Operation Shoehorn. VMA-224 Aircraft Maintenance Department has had seven (7) enlisted men assigned to the Shoehorn project at NAS Cubi Point during July

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