

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

3/WRG/wrr  
 3 Oct 1966

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

Part One

1. Organizational Data

John BROWNE	Lieutenant Colonel	Commanding Officer
James F. LLOYD	Major	Executive Officer
Robert J. NEWMAN	Captain	Administration Officer
Alfonso OSEGUERA	Major	Operations Officer
Patrick H. RUPERTUS	Captain	Logistics Officer
John M. KRETSINGER	Captain	Maintenance Officer
Dean C. PUCKETT	First Lieutenant	Aviation Safety Officer

2. Task Organization

Marine Attack Squadron 224, 1-30 September 1966, MCEF, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam

3. Average Monthly Strength

USMC Officers	24	USN Officer	1
USMC Enlisted	143	USN Enlisted	1

Part Two

1. Narrative Summary

During this reporting period, the squadron suffered the loss of two (2) pilots and two (2) aircraft. First Lieutenant John R. FISCHER 087291/7333 USMCR, was killed in action on 9 September 1966. First Lieutenant Richard M. BLOOM 090684/7302 USMCR, was killed in action on 20 September 1966. All squadron pilots have been improving their effectiveness and the squadrons' overall efficiency, by flying various types of missions under all-weather conditions. Eight (8) aircraft received damage from an enemy mortar attack in the early hours of 21 September, but all were rapidly repaired by squadron maintenance personnel. During the month, two (2) pilots made exceptional records: First

ENCLOSURE (3)

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Lieutenant D. C. PUCKETT flew his 200th combat mission in Vietnam. Second Lieutenant C. R. DOWNING flew 50 combat missions during the month of September 1966, totaling over 100 missions during the 2½ months in the Republic of Vietnam.

### Part Three

#### 1. Administration/Personnel

During this month, the squadron joined nine (9) enlisted men from CONUS and two (2) officers from within the Group. During the period, the squadron transferred eight (8) enlisted men to CONUS, three (3) enlisted men to the Naval Hospital, One (1) officer to the Group and two (2) officers (Naval Aviators) killed in action. One (1) man reenlisted for a period of six (6) years. Thirteen (13) Lance Corporals were promoted to Corporal and twenty-one (21) Privates First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal. One (1) First Lieutenant was promoted to Captain on 30 September 1966.

On 22 September 1966, the following men were awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received during a Viet Cong mortar attack on the Chu Lai airfield during the early morning of 21 September 1966:

Sergeant S. P. VALENTI  
Corporal D. V. POLAK  
Corporal R. T. SMITH

The following officers earned the Air Medal during September:

LtCol	J. BROWNE	10th and 11th Awards
Maj	F. T. SULLIVAN	4th Award
Maj	A. OSEGUERA	7th, 8th and 9th Awards
Capt	W. R. GRIFFIN	3rd Award
Capt	F. J. HORAK	6th and 7th Awards
Capt	W. R. INGALLS	6th Award
Capt	J. M. KRETSINGER	5th and 6th Awards
Capt	P. H. RUPERTUS	4th and 5th Awards
Capt	T. G. TAYLOR	9th, 10th and 11th Awards
1stLt	R. M. BLOOM	5th Award
2ndLt	C. R. DOWNING	4th, 5th and 6th Awards
2ndLt	L. GREB	3rd, 4th and 5th Awards
1stLt	B. E. JOBE	7th and 8th Awards
1stLt	J. P. MC CANN	4th, 5th and 6th Awards
1stLt	D. C. PUCKETT	11th and 12th Awards
1stLt	K. A. STRONG	6th and 7th Awards
1stLt	L. P. WILSON	4th and 5th Awards

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2. Morale/Welfare. Squadron morale continues to be high with no exceptional problem areas.

3. Operations

a. Air Operations. VMA-224 pilots flew 695 sorties totaling 874.8 flight hours. Pilots assigned to fly with VMA-224 flew 173 sorties totaling 233.9 flight hours. Total combat sorties flown were 819 for 1047.0 hours. During this period 1,144,699 pounds of ordnance was delivered by squadron pilots on the Viet Cong.

b. Training. During September, three (3) enlisted men attended the MAG-12 NBC School for six (6) hours instruction each, one (1) officer attended Jungle Survival School at Cubi Point for 1½ days of instruction, one (1) officer attended Sea Survival School at Numazu, Japan for 3 days instruction and one (1) staff non-commissioned officer attended Corrosion Control School, Tachikawa AFB, Japan.

4. Logistics

a. VMA-224 has had an average of 21 A4E aircraft assigned, of which an average of 17 were on hand. Squadron aircraft availability has averaged 75%.

b. A total of 17 Aircraft have had the initial Shuehorn out-fittings and 12 Aircraft have also been through the retrofit.

c. During the month, outstanding AOCF's per day have averaged 24, which is approximately six (6) above normal. The squadron has averaged four (4) aircraft AOCF per day.

d. An average of 70% of assigned vehicles were in a ready status.

e. No special problem areas have been noted and the accomplishment of the squadron's mission has not been hampered due to lack of any logistics.



JOHN BROWNE