

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON-323 (REIN)
Marine Aircraft Group-13 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:CBC:def
5750
2 June 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-13 (Rein)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) WgO 5750.1B
(c) GruO 5213.2H

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted for the period 1 thru 31 May 1966.

A. W. O'Donnell
A. W. O'DONNELL

3: CBC: def
5750

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron-323 (Rein)

Location: Tainan Air Base, Taiwan

Period: 1 through 31 May 1966

PART ONE - Organizational Data:

1. Name	Billet	Rank	Dates
Andrew W. O'DONNELL	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31
Stanley A. CHALLGREN	Executive Officer	Major	1-31
Richard P. LEE	Operations Officer	Major	1-31
Jerry C. ROBINSON	Administrative Officer	1stLt	1-31
John M. ROSE	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-9
Carrol M. LACROIX	Logistics Officer	Capt	10-31
Charles L. RODGERS	Aviation Safety Officer	Major	1-31

2. Unit Locations and Inclusive Dates:

NAF Naha 1-9 May 1966

MCAS Iwakuni 10-21 May 1966

Tainan Air Base. 22-31 May 1966

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Officers:

(1) Naval Aviators.	19
(2) Naval Flight Officers	16
(3) Aviation Ground Officers.	4
(4) Naval Flight Surgeons	1
(5) Total	40

b. Enlisted:

(1) Marine Corps	233
(2) Attached	20
(3) Total.	253

3:GBC:def
5750

4. Important Visitors. During the month of May 1966, the following persons visited the squadron and received a briefing on the squadron posture and capabilities:

- a. 6 May. Brigadier General Michael P. RYAN, Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.
- b. 23 May. General Shieh W. SHU, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Air Force; and Brigadier General Thomas N. WILSON, Commander of the 327th Air Division.
- c. 26 May. Vice Admiral William E. GENTNER, Commander, U. S. Taiwan Defense Command.
- d. 27 May. Colonel Glenn E. NORRIS, USMC, Senior Advisor to the GRC Marine Corps.

PART TWO - Significant Highlights: During the period 1 - 8 May 1966, the squadron concentrated on day and night air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons training. After moving to Iwakuni on 9 May, VMFA-323 spent about two weeks concentrating on fighter escort tactics to be used in the Republic of Viet-Nam. Then in a surprise move on 21 May, the squadron moved to Tainan Air Base in the Grand Republic of China for an indefinite period of independent duty. This move clearly demonstrated the squadron's ability to move quickly into an area and assume a posture of combat readiness.

PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

1. Personnel:

a. During the period 1 - 31 May 1966, major changes in personnel strengths occurred as a result of return drafts and deployment augmentation. The following figures are a chronological synopsis of personnel changes:

(1) 1 May - Officers 40 USMC 1 USN
Enlisted 253 USMC including 20 USMC MOS 6511 attached

(2) 16 May- Between 1 and 16 May, 2 Officers and 19 Enlisted USMC were dropped or transferred. New totals as follows:

Officers 38 USMC 1 USN
Enlisted 253 USMC including 20 USMC MOS 6511 attached

(3) 31 May- As a result of augmentation for deployment to Tainan Air Base, Taiwan, the strength of the squadron was increased to approximately 90% of manning level. In addition to these personnel, an increment of intermediate level maintenance personnel and communications personnel were also attached. The following figures indicate those personnel joined:

Officers 2 USMC joined, 1 USMC attached
Enlisted 56 USMC joined, 3 USN joined, 40 USMC attached

During the same 15 day period, two Staff Non-Commissioned Officers were commissioned Second Lieutenants (Temporary), thus changing Officer and

3:BBC:def
5750

Enlisted strength. One Private was promoted to Private First Class.

(4) The following is a breakdown of on hand strength as of 31 May:

Officers	42 USMC	1 USN	1 USMC attached	Total- 44
Enlisted	263 USMC	3 USN	40 USMC attached	Total-306

c. Administrative loads increased as a result of the return of the squadron from TAD at NAHA, Okinawa, on 9 May 1966 followed by the departure on TAD to Tainan, Taiwan, on 21 May 1966. The bulk of this work was incorporated in the processing of orders, preparing unit diaries, and service record book entries. All work was satisfactorily completed.

2. Maintenance:

a. One aircraft, WS-00 Bureau Number 152330, completed first calendar check since acceptance by the squadron. This aircraft logged 310.3 hours prior to its first check.

b. One aircraft, WS-14 Bureau Number 150476, was inducted into PAR for rework. Another aircraft, WS-9 Bureau Number 151486, was accepted from PAR.

c. The squadron carried thirteen aircraft in an A-1 status during the month of May, and logged an average of 36.5 hours per aircraft for a total of 475.3 hours for the month. One of the aircraft was required to be utilized for parts to meet operational commitments. Our average readiness for the month was 68%.

d. The squadron deployed to Tainan with twelve aircraft, the thirteenth being left in Iwakuni awaiting parts essential for flight.

e. Prolonged delays in receiving AOCP parts continues to be the most serious problem affecting aircraft readiness. In order to maintain the necessary number of in-commission aircraft to support alert commitments and to conduct necessary combat readiness training, extensive cannibalization has been required. In addition, lack of spare parts for aircraft starting units and lack of skilled maintenance personnel for diesel generator repair has hampered the maintenance effort.

3. Operations: During the month of May 1966, VMFA-323 conducted flight operations from three separate operational bases. Despite the requirement to maintain a high degree of readiness and deployment posture, the squadron, with only seventeen aircrews, flew a total of 475 hours in 299 sorties, completing 111 air-to-ground, 102 air-to-air, and 27 aerial refueling training syllabus flights. Of 262 syllabus hops scheduled, 236 were completed for a 90% completion factor. The squadron also provided fifteen simulated Combat Air Support missions in support of the Chinese Army Exercise "LI MING" on 26, 27, and 28 May 1966.

4. Logistics: During May 1966, the squadron was involved in two moves. The first, from Naha to Iwakuni, took a total of ten hours to move 117,000 pounds of cargo and personnel using six KC-130's. The total time from receipt of movement orders to the landing of the last aircraft at Iwakuni was 42 hours. On the move to Tainan, the total time of moving twelve F-4B aircraft, 17 crews, and 263,000 pounds of passengers, cargo and equipment was 51 hours. More rapid response by airlift forces would have significantly decreased this time requirement. It is estimated this move could have been completed in one-half of the time required.