

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON-323
Marine Aircraft Group-11
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco 96602

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5750
10 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-11
Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) WGO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

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


A. W. TALBERT

VMFA-323

Command Chronology

July 1966

APPENDIX #1

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron-323

Location: DaNang AB, RVN

Period: 1-31 July 1966

PART ONE - Organizational Data:

<u>1. Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Andrew W. O'DONNELL	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-20
Aubrey W. TALBERT	Commanding Officer	LtCol	21-31
Stanley A. CHALLGREN	Executive Officer	Maj	1-31
Joseph C. BYRAM Jr.	Operations Officer	Capt	1-31
Jerry C. ROBINSON	Administrative Officer	Capt	1-31
Carrol M. LACROIX	Logistics Officer	Capt	1-31
Larry K. GRISSETT	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-31
Dayton A. LEWIS	Maintenance Officer	Capt	1-31

2. Unit Locations and Inclusive Dates:

MCAS Iwakuni 1-5 July 1966

DaNang AB. 6-31 July 1966

3. Average Monthly Strength:

a. Officers:

(1) Naval Aviators	20
(2) Naval Flight Officers.	17
(3) Aviation Ground Officers	6
(4) Naval Flight Surgeons.	1
(5) Total.	44

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b. Enlisted:

(1) Marine Corps256
(2) Attached 0
(3) Total.256

4. Important Visitors. On 13 July, Colonel E. A. HARPER, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-13, visited the squadron and received a briefing on the squadron's posture and capabilities.

PART TWO - Significant Highlights: On 1 July, VMFA-323's advance party, consisting of 5 officers and 28 enlisted, landed at DaNang AB, RVN, in preparation for the arrival of the squadron. On 5 July, the first four F-4B's arrived at DaNang and operational control was transferred to the III MAF, with administrative control to MAG-11. Combat operations for VMFA-323 commenced on 6 July. An additional four F-4B's arrived at DaNang on 8 July. The remaining five aircraft arrived on 12 July as scheduled. On 20 July, LtCol A. W. TALBERT assumed command of the squadron, relieving LtCol A. W. O'DONNELL. Then on 31 July, VMFA-323 Detachment ALPHA arrived at Chu Lai with six F-4B's, 9 flight crews and 72 support personnel.

PART THREE - Significant Events:

1. Personnel:

a. During the period 1-31 July 1966 the following personnel changes occurred:

(1) Joined: 10 Officers/54 Enlisted
(2) Dropped: 7 Officers/104 Enlisted

b. Total personnel on board as of:

(1) 1 July 1966: 41 Officers/289 Enlisted
(2) 31 July 1966: 44 Officers/239 Enlisted

c. The total number of personnel deploying with VMFA-323 to DaNang AB were 41 officers and 298 enlisted. Upon joining MAG-11, 1st MAW, a requirement was levied on this squadron to transfer 47 enlisted marines in an effort to achieve an equitable balance of personnel among the operating squadrons of the group.

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d. The following promotions were effected during the subject period:

(1) Officers: 3

(2) Enlisted: 45

e. Administration:

(1) Administration activities were performed normally during the subject period with effort concentrated initially on relocation of the squadron.

(2) Record book entries were completed and brought up to date to include accrued leave entries as of 30 June 1966; conduct and proficiency marks for all E-4's and below; and combat history entries for operations in Vietnam..

2. Maintenance:

a. F-4B BuNo 151416 was inducted into PAR on 8 July.

b. F-4B BuNo 150466 received damage on runway on 8 July, and is presently in FK status enroute to BuWeps FR.

c. F-4B BuNo 150473 was received from PAR on 16 July.

d. F-4B BuNo 149420 was received from Cubi Point on 18 July to replace F-4B BuNo 150466.

e. F-4B BuNo 151012 completed the second calendar odd inspection on 30 July. Four AFC's were incorporated: 242, 234, 189, and 246.

f. F-4B BuNo 148387 was received on 31 July to replace F-4B BuNo 150470 which was struck on 15 July.

g. There have been two engine changes as a result of Foreign Object Damage.

h. Average A1 for the month was 13; average availability was 8.

3. Operations: Flight operations were light during the first portion of the month consisting primarily of intra-theater transfer flights from Iwakuni. The squadron flew its first full flight schedule on 13 July. Despite the late start, a total of 720 flight hours were flown during the month. Ordnance expended during this period consisted of 47½ tons of General Purpose and Napalm bombs, 295 5" HVAR's and 988 2.75" FFAR's on 441 combat sorties. Average monthly flight time was 33 hours per crew member. VMFA-323 also suffered some setbacks during the month. During a napalm run on 15 July, one F-4B crashed resulting in strike damage. The crew received minor injuries.

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4. Logistics:

a. During July, the VMFA-323 Logistics and Embarkation section remained active. From 1-12 July, the squadron moved 323,225 pounds of cargo and 295 passengers in 16 Air Force C-130's. In addition to the airlift, the squadron moved its motor transport along with 30,000 pounds of bulk cargo and 3 personnel via LST-600, which arrived in DaNang on 17 July.

b. An advance party departed DaNang on 29 July for Chu Lai. By 31 July, a detachment of six F-4B's and 90 personnel from VMFA-323 were in place at Chu Lai. Five Marine KC-130F aircraft were utilized to move 113,000 pounds of cargo and ground support equipment required to support the operation.