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MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 323
Marine Aircraft Group 13
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:CJQ:jrs
5750
8 March 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) WngO 5750.1B
(c) GruO 5750.1C

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for the Month of February 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1-28 February 1967.)

G. H. Keller, Jr.
G. H. KELLER, Jr.

1/MFA-323

CMD CHROD

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ENCLOSURE (5)

FEB 1967

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Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323
Location: MCAS Chu Lai, Republic of South Vietnam
Period: 1-28 February 1967

Part IA. Organization

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Billet</u>
Gordon H. KELLER, Jr.	LtCol	Commanding Officer
John L. THATCHER	Major	Executive Officer
John (n) HUBNER	Major	Operations Officer
Ronald C. ANDREAS	Major	Administration Officer
Joseph B. WUERTZ	Major	Logistics Officer
Tom (n) WILLIAMS	Captain	Maintenance Officer
Larry K. GRISSETT	Captain	Aviation Safety Officer

B. Unit Location/Inclusive Dates. MCAS Chu Lai, Republic of S. Vietnam
1-28 February 1967

C. Average Monthly Strength

1. Officer - 47
 - a. Naval Aviators - 20
 - b. Naval Flight Officers - 22
 - c. Aviation Ground Officers - 5
 - d. Naval Flight Surgeons - 1

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2. Enlisted - 281

a. Marine Corps - 281

c. Navy - 0

D. Important Visitors. On 27 February 1967 Major General P. R. TYLER, Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps, and Major General L. B. ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the Air-to-Ground Hot Pad and were briefed on its function by Major J. HUBNER.

Part II

A. During the month of February the squadron contributed the following partial BDA to the war efforts.

Structures	179 Destroyed/87 Damaged
Trench Line	330 Meters Destroyed
Gun (AA)	1 Destroyed
Weapon Positions	11 Destroyed/3 Damaged
Bunkers	13 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Road Cut	17
Trucks	2 Damaged
Bridge	1 Destroyed
KBA	19 Confirmed/18 Probable
Secondary Explosions	9
Elephants	1 KBA(CONF)/3 KBA(PROB)

Part IIIA. Significant Events1. Personnel

a. Joined: 2 Officer/16 Enlisted

b. Dropped: 3 Officer/9 Enlisted/2 Navy Enlisted

2. Total Promotions for February

a. Officer - None

b. Enlisted - 11

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B. Administration. February was a routine month with primary efforts directed to inspection and upkeep of service records and preparations for the forthcoming A&M Inspection in March. Lt G. O. JENSON engaged in an active campaign to promote the Overseas Savings Plan and Savings Bond Program, and the squadrons participation in respect to MAG-13 showed significant increase.

C. Awards. Members of VMFA-323 received a total of 27 decorations in February. Lt HANSEN received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat while 23 Air Medals were awarded to various flight crews. In addition, three enlisted members received the Good Conduct Medal.

D. Flight Operations. Flight operations were restricted somewhat by the Vietnamese New Year (TET) Truce and reoccurrences of the monsoon weather. (Squadron pilots flew a total of 76 actual instrument approaches in February). Nonetheless, a total of 562.4 hours (548.8 combat) and 451 sorties (440 combat) were flown in support of III MAF and 7th Air Force. Squadron pilots averaged 20.8 combat sorties; squadron NFO's averaged 20.2 combat sorties, while nine Group and associated pilots flew 47 combat sorties for an average of 5.2. The high day was 3 February, with 28 combat sorties and 31.9 hours.

1. Significant Missions

a. On 13 February a flight led by Capt WILLIAMS (RIO-Capt MCKINLEY, WM-Lt QUILTER/Lt JENSON) in support of an amphibious landing in Operation Deckhouse VI resulted in 10 structures destroyed, 5 damaged, 5 bunkers destroyed and 50 meters of VC trenchline destroyed.

b. On 14 February Maj ANDREAS (RIO-Lt CLOHESSY, WM-Capt RIDER/Lt MIGLARESE) led a flight through very foul weather in hilly terrain to cover the emergency retraction of a Marine Reconnaissance Team being attacked. The retraction was successful and the flight was credited with 6 KBA(Conf) and 10 KBA(Prob).

c. Major WUERTZ (RIO-Lt ALLEN, WM-Capt LUHMANN/Lt BRANDON) commanded a mission giving very close air support in connection with Operation Desoto. While Marines waited to sweep into two adjoining VC infested villages, the two Phantoms bombed one village then the second as Marines moved into the first. The runs were further complicated by friendly artillery firing in the area. The resultant BDA was 14 structures destroyed, 10 damaged and as yet an undetermined number of KBA.

d. On 4 February VC logistic transport was dealt a blow by LtCol KELLER (RIO-Lt ALLEN, WM-Lt GRIFFANTI/Lt RAMSDELL) when his flight accounted for 1 elephant KBA and 3 probable.

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E. Ordnance. The following ordnance, by type, was expended in combat by the squadron during February.

1057 MK-81 Snake-eye Bombs (250#)
2517 MK-82 Snake-eye Bombs (500#)
205 MK-77 Napalm (500#)
1672 2.75" FFAR
4508 Rounds 20MM

Total Ordnance Expended by Weight was 1,899,783# (949⁴ Tons).

F. Maintenance

1. Monthly Averages: Aircraft On-Board - 15
Aircraft Avail - 41% (7 per day)
Aircraft Assigned - 20
Average A/C On-Board Hrs Flown - 37.5
2. Four Aircraft in PAR.
3. Two aircraft sustained battle damage and were repaired.
4. One aircraft transferred to VMFA-542 on 25 Feb 1967, Buno 152269.

G. Training. Due to the squadrons present combat deployment, only necessary technical and on-the-job training was carried out in February.

1. The following air crewmembers were attendant to Jungle Environment Survival Training at Cubi Point, P.I. during February.

- a. Captain DAVIS
- b. Lt Costello
- c. Lt Conlon
- d. Lt Curtis

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