

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

3:CJQ:jrs
5750
8 Sep 1967

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

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) WgO 5750.1B
(c) MAG13 GruO 5750.1C
(d) BrigO 5750.1B

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

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1-31 August 1967.

Edison W. Miller
EDISON W. MILLER

V/MFA-323

CMD CHRON

AUG 1967

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: MCAS Chu Lai, RVN

Period: 1-31 August 1967

PART I - Organizational Data

<u>A. NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Edison W. MILLER	LTCOL	Commanding Officer	1-31 Aug
John L. THATCHER	MAJOR	Executive Officer	1-31 Aug
Joseph B. WUERTZ	MAJOR	S-3 (Operations)	1-31 Aug
Dave G. DREWELLOW	CAPT	S-1 (Administration)	1-31 Aug
William W. MACKEY	MAJOR	S-4 (Logistics)	1-31 Aug
Charles W. BROWN	MAJOR	Maintenance Officer	1-31 Aug
Rabun N. PATRICK	CAPT	Aviation Safety Officer	1-31 Aug

B. Unit Location and Dates

MCAS Iwakuni, Japan 1-16 August 1967
 MCAS Chu Lai, RVN 17-31 August 1967

C. Average Monthly Strength

<u>1. Officer</u>	<u>On-Hand</u>	<u>Manning Level</u>	<u>T/O</u>
a. Naval Aviators	20	21	26
b. Naval Flight Officers	18	21	26
c. Aviation Ground Officers	3	5	5
d. Naval Flight Surgeons	1	0	0

<u>2. Enlisted</u>			
a. Marine	322	325	318
b. Navy	4	0	0

D. Important Visitors. On 17 August, Major General Norman J. ANDERSON welcomed the squadron back to Vietnam at MCAS Chu Lai on behalf of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Enclosure (1)

PART II - Significant Highlights - Narrative Summary

The first half of August found the squadron at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan winding up a three month period of aircrew and military training, and additionally, preparing for the coming deployment to Vietnam and its third combat tour there. During this time, the squadron was given an Administrative and Material Inspection by Marine Aircraft Group 15 and pronounced combat ready.

On 16 August, the squadron departed Iwakuni for MCAS Chu Lai, RVN, aboard USAF transports with men and partial T/E. Aircraft and the bulk of squadron equipment were left in place for VMFA-314, with whom the squadron traded places. Combat operations at Chu Lai commenced, however, on 15 August, utilizing aircrews and men from the advance party.

The transition to combat was smooth, abetted by the fact that 55% of squadron aircrewmembers had previous combat experience in Vietnam. Missions were flown in support of every major Marine ground operation in the I Corps area, as well as support for the 7th Air Force. Towards the end of August, a large number of strikes were flown against North Vietnamese artillery positions in and north of the DMZ which were hitting Marine positions in the Dong Ha - Con Thien area. Many flights received intense AAA fire during these missions.

Some highlight missions during the month:

On 26 August, Lt K. P. O'MARA (RIO: Capt N. E. DOUGLAS, WM Capt D. G. DREWELLO/Lt F. A. GRIMSHAW) led a hot pad CAS scramble up to the DMZ, and with friendlies 100 meters at 3 and 9 o'clock, made lay-down deliveries up a valley, effectively wiping out a trapped NVA unit with an as yet undetermined number of KBA.

On 27 August, Capt M. E. COSTELLO (RIO: Capt M. S. SHORE) flew three different missions which accounted for 40 enemy KBA.

On 30 August, Major L. T. LASSETER (RIO: Capt C. F. STILES; WM Capt J. B. CASKEY/CAPT R. L. DRAGE) accounted for 27 structures destroyed, 8 damaged, and an undetermined number of KBA, on a CAS mission 12 miles south of Chu Lai for ROK Marines.

On 31 August, Major L. T. LASSETER (RIO: Capt C. F. STILES; WM Lt R. L. CULWELL/Lt J. H. WARNER) on another CAS scramble south of Danang killed 29 enemy (confirmed), destroyed six structures and damaged five more.

Enclosure (1)

During August, the squadron received Battle Damage Assessments on approximately 10% of its missions as follows:

Enemy killed by air.....	70	Confirmed/57 Probable
Structures.....	106	Destroyed/35 Damaged
Bunkers.....	48	Destroyed/2 Damaged
Secondary Explosions.....	28	
Trench Line.....	50	Meters Destroyed
Road Cuts.....	6	
Ford Cuts.....	1	
Fighting Holes.....	37	Destroyed
Weapons Positions.....	5	Destroyed
Bridge.....	1	Destroyed
Rocket Positions.....	2	Destroyed/1 Damaged
Gun	1	Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

- A. Personnel: Joined.....Officer 4, Enlisted 10
 Dropped.....Officer 5, Enlisted 39
 Promotions.....Officer 0, Enlisted 7
- B. Administration. During August, the administrative section moved and re-established squadron records at Chu Lai in addition to the myriad of orders and entries required during a squadron move.
- C. Flight Operations. Statistical Summary:
- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Combat Sorties | 312 |
| Total Flights | 357 |
| Total Combat Hours | 384.4 |
| Total Flight Hours | 440.8 |
| Average Pilot Strength | 20 |
| Average Pilot Sorties | 16 |
| Average Pilot Hours | 22.0 |
| Number of Group Pilots Flying W/323 | 3 |
| Average Group Pilot Sorties | 10 |
| Average NFO Strength | 18 |
| Average NFO Sortie | 20 |
| Average NFO Hours | 24.2 |
| High Day (Sorties) | 31 August (25) |
| High Day (Hours) | 31 August (28.5) |

Enclosure (1)

- D. Training. August culminated the squadron's basic training program for the Japan deployment with Familiarization Firing of the M-14 rifle by the enlisted personnel at the MCAS Iwakuni 1000 Inch Range. Personnel will be retrained in the M-16 rifle when it is received, hopefully, sometime before January 1, 1968.
- E. Logistics. The move from Iwakuni to Chu Lai was accomplished with nine USAF transports (1 C-124, 8 C-130) carrying 300 personnel and 125,000 pounds of equipment.
- F. Maintenance. Monthly Averages:

Aircraft Assigned	22
Average Aircraft On-Board	16
Average Aircraft Available	8 (50%)
Average Hours Per Aircraft On-Board	27.0

During the month of August, the squadron traded aircraft with VMFA-314 with whom places were exchanged. Twenty-one aircraft were received and 23 transferred during the transaction. No aircraft were sent or received from the PAR facility at NAS Atsugi, Japan.

- G. Ordnance. During August, the squadron expended 527.2 tons of ordnance by type and number as follows:

MK81 250# Snake-eye Bomb	876
MK82 500# Snake-eye Bomb	1336
MK117 750# GP Bomb	56
MK83 1000# GP Bomb	11
MK77 500# Fire Bomb	287
2.75" FFAR	318
Zuni Rocket	84
20mm Round	1790

- H. Motor Transport. Realizing the critical state of motor transport at Chu Lai, the squadron acquired three USAF-surveyed pick-up trucks in good repair on Okinawa and transported them to Chu Lai where they rendered golden service for about ten days. Alas, an FMFPac Directive required them to be returned from whence they came, thereby reducing the squadron's motor transport once again to zero where it is likely to remain for some time to come in view of the unsatisfactory performance of the Cerlist-type vehicle, now undergoing "rehabilitation".

Enclosure (1)