

DECLASSIFIED

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

3:CJQ:bjw
5750
8 Jan 1968

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) BrigO 5750.1B
(d) GruO 5750.1C

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

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


H. T. HAGAMAN

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

DEC 1967

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUnit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: MCAS Chu Lai, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-31 December 1967PART I - Organizational Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Harry T. HAGAMAN	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31 Dec
Paul G. BOOZMAN	Executive Officer	Major	1-31 Dec
Henry G. MILLER, Jr.	S-3 (Operations)	Major	1-31 Dec
Arthur J. DELAHOUSSAYE	S-1 (Administration)	Capt	1-13 Dec
Edward R. BAILEY	S-1 (Administration)	Major	13-31 Dec
Noel E. DOUGLAS	S-4 (Logistics)	Capt	1-31 Dec
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-31 Dec
Rabun N. PATRICK	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-31 Dec

2. Task Organization and DataOrganization

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Marine Aircraft Group 13

1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Location

MCAS Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam

Commanding OfficerDate of Office

Lieutenant Colonel H. T. HAGAMAN

13 Oct 67 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators	20
(2) Naval Flight Officers.....	16
(3) Aviation Ground Officers....	05

Enclosure (1)

b. Naval Officers 1

c. Marine Enlisted 260

d. Naval Enlisted 0

4. Important Visitors to the Command. None

PART II - Narrarative Summary

During December 1967, the squadron entered its fifth month of combat operations on its present tour in Vietnam. Weather conditions continued mixed through most of the month, but deteriorated during the last week. Nonetheless, the squadron flew 428 combat sorties, 593.1 combat hours and expended 1189.8 tons of ordnance.

Close air support missions were flown in support of all Marine ground operations in the ICTZ. Other types of missions flown were direct air support/interdiction missions in the A Shau Valley, Tally Ho strikes in North Vietnam, a large number of Steel Tiger/Tiger Hound missions in Laos plus a number of helicopter escorts, landing zone preps and TPG radar-directed bombing missions. Due to weather, an increasing number of missions were diverted to TPG control, particularly the Tally-Ho strikes.

During early December, the squadron was assigned an additional type mission. The Barrier Combat Air Patrol (BARCAP), to provide fighter cover for Marine ECM aircraft operations at night in the Route Package VI area of North Vietnam.

The close of the year finds the squadron entering its second monsoon at Chu Lai, and fortunately, it is much better equipped to do so. One year ago there were no hangars or shelters under which to work on aircraft except for a single SATS tent. Virtually all maintenance was accomplished in the open rain then. Now there are three large hangars and a number of half-clamshell portable canvas shelters which should eliminate many of the maintenance difficulties of a year ago.

Standards of living have also risen appreciably. There now are reliable sources of water and electricity, and in the tradition of Marines living in adverse circumstances anywhere, living areas and huts have been improved by a number of homemade refinements. The squadron faces a new year with more equanimity than it did the last one.

Some of the highlight missions flown in December were:

8 December: LtCol HAGAMAN, squadron C.O., led a flight including LtCol SIEGMUND, Capt JENSON, and Lt KERR on a CAS mission for Korean Marines south of Chu Lai. Taking hostile fire, they accounted for four enemy killed (confirmed), 10 (probable), 11 structures destroyed and one ton of rice destroyed.

Enclosure (1)

9 December: Captains QUILTER, DEWEY, DOUGLAS and SHORE were scrambled off the hot pad to a valley near An Hoa and killed two enemy (confirmed), five (probable), destroyed five structures and damaged four more taking intense hostile fire in the process.

26 December: Captain LEIGH led a DAS mission with Major MILLER, Captain REYNOLDS and Lt SANDERS which accounted for two enemy killed (confirmed), three (probable), 11 bunkers destroyed, five damaged and 10 meters of trenchline destroyed.

28 December: LtCol HAGAMAN led a DAS near Dong Ha with LtCol SIEGMUND, Captain BRANDON and Lt BARRON and killed two NVA (confirmed) destroyed seven structures and damaged seven.

31 December: Major BOOZMAN led a mission supporting Operation AUBURN which destroyed three sampans, killed one enemy (confirmed) and two more probable.

During December, Battle Damage Assessments were received on about 10% of all missions from controlling agencies as follows:

Enemy Killed by Air.....	14	Confirmed/25 Probable
Structures.....	77	Destroyed/31 Damaged
Bunkers	42	Destroyed/20 Damaged
Secondary Explosions/Fires	14	
Trenchline	70	Meters Destroyed
Road Cuts	36	
Automatic Weapons	3	Destroyed
Bridge	1	Destroyed
Mortar Position.....	1	Destroyed
Rice	1	Ton Destroyed
Sampans	3	Destroyed
Ford Cuts	1	
Fighting Holes	18	Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel: Joined Officer 6 Enlisted 38
Dropped Officer 8 Enlisted 34
Promotions Officer 2 Enlisted 5
2. Awards. None
3. Air Operations: December statistical summary as follows:

Enclosure (1)

Total Combat Sorties	428	#Group/Other Pilots Flying	6
Total Flights	510	Avg Group/Other Pilot Sorties	10
Total Combat Hours	593.1	Avg Group/Other Pilot Hours	12.3
Total Flight Hours	609.7	Avg NFO Strength	14
Avg Pilot Strength	20	Avg NFO Hours	43.5
Avg Pilot Sorties	22	High Day (Sorties) -22nd	25
Avg Pilot Hours	30.8	High Day (Hours) - 7th	31.3

4. Maintenance: December monthly averages:

Aircraft Assigned	16
Avg Aircraft On-Board	12
Avg Aircraft Available	6 (50%)
Avg Hrs Per A/C On-Board	51.0

Aircraft Transferred/Received:	BuNo	To/From	Date
	150476	Trans to VMFA-542	26Dec67
	152229	Trans to VMFA-542	2Dec67
	151459	Rcd'd fm VMFA-542	27Dec67
	152245	Rcd'd fm VMFA-314	31Dec67
	148391	Rcd'd fm VF-114	12Dec67

5. Ordnance: December expenditures as follows:

MK81	250lb LD GP Bomb	143.4 Tons
MK81	250lb Snake-Eye Bomb	74.0 Tons
MK82	500lb LD GP Bomb	671.7 Tons
MK82	500lb Snake-Eye Bomb	133.8 Tons
MK117	750lb LD CP Bomb	131.6 Tons
MK77	500lb NAPALM	35.3 Tons
MK79	1000lb NAPALM	N/A
2.75"	FFAR	114 (Total # of Rockets)
Zuni Rockets	7 (Total # of Rockets)
20MM Rounds	4569

Enclosure (1)