

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

ADMIN:HGM:ecg
5750
8 April 1968

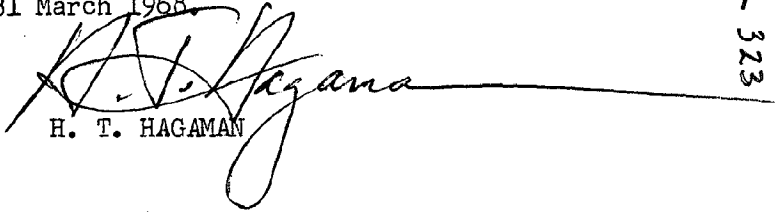
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)

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 March 1968

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1 to 31 March 1968.


H. T. HAGAMAN

VMFA-323

CMDCRON

MAR 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUnit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-31 March 1968PART 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 Mar
Paul G. BOOZMAN	Executive Officer	Major	1-31 Mar
Henry G. MILLER JR.	Operations Officer	Major	1-31 Mar
Edward R. BAILEY	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-31 Mar
Philip R. KRUSE	S-4 (Logistics)	Capt	1-31 Mar
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-31 Mar
Rabun N. PATRICK	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-31 Mar

2. Task Organization and DataOrganization

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323
 Marine Aircraft Group 13
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing,
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Location

Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Commanding OfficerDate of Office

Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. HAGAMAN

13 Oct 1967 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....15
 (2) Naval Flight Officers.....14
 (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 4

ENCLOSURE (1)

- b. Naval Officers..... 1
- c. Marine Enlisted.....237
- d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Major General THARIN, Deputy Commander, FMFPac, visited the Squadron while touring MAG-13 on 22 March 1968.

PART II - Narrative Summary

The month of March was the eighth month of Combat Operations for VMFA-323 on its present tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam. Weather conditions were generally good around southern I Corps, while the northern portion of I Corps was generally poor. Low ceilings and poor visibility due to haze restricted most combat sorties to TPQ drops. The Squadron had only one week of the air to ground Hot Pad which is the primary reason for only one aircraft receiving battle damage. The first few days of the air to ground pad were very slow but the tempo increased the latter part of the week.

The month of March proved a good month maintenance wise. Availability increased as did our programmed sortie total. The month end totals proved March to be the second best for the Squadron on its current tour.

March saw an all out effort by all of MAG-13 toward relieving the embattled Marines at Khe Sanh. Though many officers were on R&R, most aircrews had their best months, sorties wise, since arriving in RVN.

During the month of March VMFA-323 received the CG 1stMAW Aviation Safety/Efficiency Award for the 1st and 2nd quarter Fiscal Year 1968.

Some of the highlight missions flown during March were:

4 March: Captain LYMAN (RIO Capt MARZIOLI, WM Capt CONLON/Capt CAMPBELL, Capt PATRICK/Capt VADNAIS, Capt LEIGH/1stLt PAWLOSKI) flew a direct air support mission near the Ashau Valley, BDA; 1 truck destroyed, 2 trucks damaged, 4 road cuts.

15 March: LtCol HAGAMAN (RIO Capt VADNAIS, WM LtCol SEAVER/Capt CAMPBELL) flew a direct air support mission in the DMZ area, BDA; 10 KBA, 3 structures destroyed, 300 meters of trench line destroyed.

18 March: Capt LEIGH (RIO 1stLt PAWLOSKI, WM Maj ZIEGLER/Capt VADNAIS) flew a direct air support mission in support of Operation Kentucky, BDA; 1 supply bunker destroyed, 1 mortar position destroyed, 20 bunkers destroyed, 5 KBA.

27 March: Capt KRUSE (RIO 1stLt HILL, WM LtCol BRUSER/Capt GULDI) flew a mission supporting the Americal Division, BDA; 14 military structures, 5 bunkers, 30 meters of trench line destroyed, 15 KBA.

ENCLOSURE (1)

3 March: Captain Dennis F. BRANDON flew his 400th combat mission with the Commanding Officer signaling an RIO milestone never before accomplished in one combat tour.

During March, the combined Squadron Battle Damage Assessment received from controlling agencies, amounting to about 10% of all missions flown, follows:

Enemy Killed by Air.....	58	Confirmed
Structures.....	38	Destroyed/12 Damaged
Bunkers.....	57	Destroyed/5 Damaged
Secondary Explosions.....	9	
Fighting Holes.....	30	Destroyed
Road Cuts.....	4	
Trucks.....	1	Destroyed/2 Damaged
Mortar Positions.....	3	Destroyed/1 Damaged
Automatic Weapons Positions.....	7	Destroyed
Trench Line.....	895	Meters Destroyed
Supply Bunker.....	1	Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

1. <u>Personnel:</u>	Joined	Officer	<u>3</u>	Enlisted	<u>25</u>
	Dropped	Officer	<u>3</u>	Enlisted	<u>27</u>
	Promotions	Officer	<u>2</u>	Enlisted	<u>1</u>

2. Awards: Air Medals - 82
Navy Achievement Medal - 1 (Capt T. J. LYMAN)
Meritorious Masts - 3

3. Air Operations: March statistical summary as follows:

Total Combat Sorties	578	#Group/Other Pilots Flying	6
Total Flights	594	Avg Group/Other Pilot Sorties	15.2
Total Combat Hours	673.9	Avg Group/Other Pilot Hours	17.7
Total Flight Hours	690.0	Avg NFO Strength	14
Avg Pilot Strength	15	Avg NFO Hours	42.5
Avg Pilot Sorties	38.5	High Day (Sorties)	28 24Mar
Avg Pilot Hours	46.0	High Day (Hours)	32.3 24Mar

4. Maintenance: March Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned	19
Avg Aircraft On-Board	16
Avg Aircraft Available	8
Avg Hrs for A/C On-Board	84.9

ENCLOSURE (1)

Aircraft Transferred/Received:

<u>BuNo</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Date</u>
152237	R/VF 121	3 Mar 68

Aircraft Sent/Returned from PAR/MOS, NAS Atsugi, Japan: BuNo 151484
returned from PAR on 11 March 1968.

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage:

<u>Incident No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>BuNo</u>	<u>Side No.</u>
40-68I	28Mar68	ECHO	151483	WS-01

5. Ordnance: March expenditures by type and number as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Tons</u>
MK81 250lb Snake-Eye Bomb	1400	216.2
MK82 500lb LD GP Bomb	1541	408.6
MK82 500lb Snake-Eye Bomb	2877	814.2
MK117 750lb LD GP Bomb	205	81.3
MK77 500lb Napalm	201	53.2
2.75" FFAR	55	7.9
5" ZUNI	6	.1
D27 CBU	<u>11</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Total	6296	1583.9

Total Ordnance Loaded 6393

Drop Percentage 98.45%

ENCLOSURE (1)