

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

3:HCI:gra  
5750  
10 July 1968

From: Commanding Officer

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

Subj: Command Chronology, submission of

Ref: (a) MC0 5750.1A

(b) Wg0 5750.1B

(c) Gru0 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the month of June 1968

1. In accordance with reference (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is  
hereby submitted for the period 1 through 30 June 1968.

  
D. J. SLEE

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1968

ENCLOSURE ( 4 )

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUNIT: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-30 June 1968

## Part I - Organization Data

1. Commander and Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Period</u>
Don J. SLEE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-30 June
Daniel I. CARROLL	Executive Officer	Major	1-30 June
Karl S. SMITH	Operations Officer	Major	1-24 June
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	25-30 June
Edward R. BAILEY	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-30 June
Larry T. HIGBEE	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-30 June
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-13 June
Charles L. ZANGAS	Maintenance Officer	Major	14-30 June
Philip R. KRUSE	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-30 June

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 Don J. SLEE

16 May 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strength

## a. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....	12
(2) Naval Flight Officers.....	15
(3) Aviation Ground Officers.....	4
(4) Marine Enlisted.....	260
(5) Naval Enlisted.....	Ø

Enclosure (1)

## b. Other Officers

(1) Naval Officers (MC)..... 1

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Major General N. J. ANDERSON, C.G. 1st Marine Aircraft Wing visited the Marine Aircraft Group Thirteen flight line on the morning of 11 June.

b. Major General ANDERSON again visited Chu Lai Air Base and Marine Aircraft Group Thirteen on 13 June accompanying Lieutenant General Harvey W. BUSE Jr., C.G. Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Lieutenant General Robert E. CUSHMAN Jr., C.G. III Marine Amphibious Force, and the following staff members:

G-1 FMFPAC	Col. J. W. HUBBARD
G-3 FMFPAC	Col. J. B. ORD Jr.
G-4 FMFPAC	Col. R. C. DENNY Jr.
Director, FMFPAC Command Center	Col. W. E. DEEDS
III MAF Sergeant Major	SgtMajor E. MC INTIRE

## Part II - Narrative Summary

The tempo of operations for June 1968 show a downward trend as evidenced by a 13% decrease in combat sorties and a 29% decrease in tons of ordnance delivered as compared to the preceding month of May 1968. At the same time, however, the aircraft availability for June shows an improvement of 20% and the ordnance loaded/dropped percentage increased to 97.3%. Weather during the month was typically good and was seldom a factor in successful mission accomplishment. The reduced tempo of operations during this reporting period resulted from an apparent general decline in Marine Air Group commitments. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 consistently flew in excess of 100% of the sorties fragged.

During the month of June Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 flew combat sorties in support of the following operations within the I Corps Area:

Allen Brooke	Ashau Valley
Burlington Trail	Brilliant Dragon III
AIS	Nevada Eagle
Scotland II	Kentucky
Houston	Norfolk Victory II
Mameluke Thrust	Dragon Blace
Jeb Stuart III	

Enclosure (1)

A notable mission was flown on 29 May 1968 but not reported during that reporting period due to the lack of detailed BDA Information. On this date a flight of two F4B's manned by Major E. R. BAILEY (pilot)/1stLt R. D. BARRON (NFO) and Captain T. J. LYMAN (pilot)/Captain W. B. CAMPBELL (NFO) flew a CAS mission in support of the Fifth Marines in the vicinity of Truoi River. The effectiveness of this air strike was revealed in the following message from BrigGen WEBSTER to MajGen N. J. ANDERSON:

"Examination of the battle field following the action resulted in visual testimonial to the precision with which CAS was delivered. The area occupied by the enemy was completely devastated while the surrounding populated area was untouched. Responsive close air and helo support directly contributed to 58 enemy KIA, 38 enemy weapons captured, essential resupply and timely, lifesaving med-evacs."

On 1 June 1968 Captain P. R. KRUSE (pilot)/Captain L. T. HIGBEE (RIO) and Captain C. J. CONLON (pilot)/1stLt W. H. WALSH (RIO) attacked a VC village with 24 Mk-82's and 3 Zuni rockets with a resulting BDA of 20 structures destroyed and 2 secondary explosions.

On 29 June 1968 LtCol D. J. SLEE (pilot)/Captain L. T. HIGBEE (RIO) and Captain S. H. MC DOWELL (pilot)/1stLt M. S. PIERSON (RIO) provided CAS for the R.O.K. Marines by delivery of 12 Mk-82 SE's and 1500 rounds of 20MM. The reported BDA was 5 structures destroyed, 2 sampans destroyed, 2 bunkers destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.

During June the combined squadron battle damage assessment received from controlling agencies was as follows:

Enemy Killed by Air (KBA).....	15	Confirmed/3 Probable
Secondary Explosions.....	15	
Secondary Fires.....	4	
Military Structures.....	96	Destroyed/40 Damaged
Bunkers.....	139	Destroyed/18 Damaged
Fighting Holes.....	24	Destroyed
Automatic Weapons Positions.....	4	Destroyed/1 Damaged
Rocket Positions.....	1	Damaged
Mortar Positions.....	5	Destroyed/1 Damaged
Vehicles.....	1	Destroyed/1 Damaged
Road Cuts.....	12	Destroyed
Road Slides.....	2	
Trench Line (meters).....	325	Destroyed
Bridges.....	1	Damaged
Sampans.....	2	Destroyed

Enclosure (1)

## Part III - Significant Events

1. <u>Personnel:</u>	Joined Officer	6	Enlisted	12
	Dropped Officer	3	Enlisted	17
	Promotions Officer	Ø	Enlisted	9

2. <u>Awards:</u>	Distinguished Flying Cross.....	1
	Air Medal.....	75
	Navy Commendation.....	1
	Meritorious Mast.....	4

3. Air Operations: June Statistical Summary

Total Combat Sorties	512	#Group/Other Pilots Flying - 7
Total Flights	545	Average Group/Other Pilots Sorties - 10.7
Total Combat Hours	567.2	Average Group/Other Pilots Hours - 12.6
Total Flight Hours	597.0	Average NFO Strength - 15
Average Pilot Strength	12	Average NFO Hours - 39.0
Average Pilot Sorties	39	High Day (Sorties) 16 June - 28
Average Pilot Hours	42.7	High Day (Hours) 16 June - 28.6

4. Maintenance: June Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	19
Average Aircraft on Board.....	16
Average Aircraft Available.....	10
Average Hours for Aircraft on Board....	36.4

## Aircraft Transferred/Received:

<u>BuNo</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Date</u>
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No Aircraft Transferred/Received

## Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage:

<u>Incident No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>BuNo</u>	<u>Side No</u>
51-68I	3 Jun 68	ECHO	151424	WS - 07
54-68I	24 Jun 68	ECHO	151484	WS - 04
8-68A	28 Jun 68	DELTA	148405	WS - 16

Enclosure (1)

5. Ordnance: June Expenditures by Type and Number

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Mk 81 250lb Snakeye Bomb	382	56.3
Mk 81 L/D G.P. Bomb	953	123.9
Mk 82 500lb Snakeye Bomb	2111	603.7
Mk 82 L/D G.P. Bomb	12	3.2
Mk 77 500lb Napalm Bomb	312	81.1
Mk 117 750lb L/D G.P. Bomb	147	53.8
D-27 CBU	8	3.2
LAU-3A/A	390	74.1
5 inch ZUNI Rocket	91	4.3
Total Ordnance Pieces Loaded.....	4527	
Total Ordnance Pieces Dropped/Shot.....	4406	
Total Bombs Loaded.....	4034	
Total Bombs Dropped.....	3925	
Total Tonnage.....	1003.6	
Drop Percentages.....	97.3%	

Enclosure (1)