

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

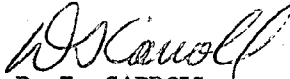
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5750  
9 August 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology, submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A  
(b) WgO 5750.1B  
(c) GruO 5750.1B

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

1. In accordance with reference (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1 through 31 July 1968.

  
D. I. CARROLL  
Acting

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

July 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUNIT: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-31 July 1968Part I - Organization Data1. Commander and Staff

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Billet</u>           | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Period</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Don J. SLEE       | Commanding Officer      | LtCol       | 1-31 July     |
| Daniel I. CARROLL | Executive Officer       | Major       | 1-31 July     |
| Henry C. IVY      | Operations Officer      | Major       | 1-31 July     |
| Edward R. BAILEY  | S-1 (Administration)    | Major       | 1-9 July      |
| Jerome L. HESS    | S-1 (Administration)    | Captain     | 10-31 July    |
| Larry T. HIGBEE   | S-4 (Logistics)         | Captain     | 1-18 July     |
| James E. BIRDWELL | S-4 (Logistics)         | Captain     | 19-31 July    |
| Charles L. ZANGAS | Maintenance Officer     | Major       | 1-31 July     |
| Philip R. KRUSE   | Aviation Safety Officer | Captain     | 1-31 July     |

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 Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators..... 17  
 (2) Naval Flight Officers..... 17  
 (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 4  
 (4) Marine Enlisted..... 248  
 (5) Naval Enlisted..... 0

Enclosure (1)

## b. Other Officers

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

## Part II - Narrative Summary

The month of July marked twelve months of continuous combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam for VMFA-323. The twelve month period was closed out with an active month of flying. The squadron logged 580 combat sorties while delivering 1428.5 tons of ordnance. These monthly totals were the highest among the three squadrons presently attached to MAG-13.

Of the six aircraft receiving battle damage, five of them were sustained during the first twelve days of the month. This period coincided with a week of air to ground Hot Pad duty and also the withdrawal of Marine elements from Khe Sanh. Air support in the Khe Sanh area during this period was almost exclusively with "soft" ordnance and low angle deliveries within very close proximity to friendly troops. The percentage of low angle ordnance deliveries during the latter part of the month declined sharply.

During the month of July the squadron also began to receive assigned missions north of the DMZ and in the southern portion of North Vietnam. Enemy resistance was found to be light on most targets and no aircraft received hits.

The squadron joined nine new officers during the month which helped considerably in the area of aircrew shortage. The enlisted ranks however experienced a net loss of thirteen men, making an already critical shortage more acute.

Some of the highlight missions flown during July were:

On 11 July LtCol SLEE (pilot)/Capt HIGBEE (NFO) and Capt POTTER (pilot)/1stLt PIERSON (NFO) attacked a fortified village in support of Operation Allenbrook with a BDA of 4 bunkers destroyed, 2 structures destroyed, and one secondary explosion.

On 12 July Maj ZANGAS (pilot)/1stLt HUBIS (NFO) and Capt HESS (pilot)/Capt GULDI (NFO) attacked a NVA position in support of Operation Kentucky III with a reported BDA of 12 bunkers destroyed, 20 bunkers uncovered and one mortar position destroyed.

On 29 July Capt HESS (pilot)/1stLt CHEATHAM (NFO) and Maj SMITH (pilot)/1stLt MASSEY (NFO) attacked a fortified village in support of the 2nd ARVN Division with a reported BDA of 7 structures destroyed and 4 KBA.

Enclosure (1)

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

|                             |                  |                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Enemy Killed by Air.....    | 6                | Confirmed             |
| Secondary Explosions.....   | 14               |                       |
| Secondary Fires.....        | 10               |                       |
| Military Structures.....    | 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Destroyed/21 Damaged  |
| Bunkers.....                | 85               | Destroyed/24 Damaged/ |
|                             | 20               | Uncovered             |
| Fighting Holes.....         | 3                | Destroyed             |
| Rocket Position.....        | 1                | Destroyed             |
| Mortar Position.....        | 1                | Destroyed             |
| Anti Aircraft Position..... | 1                | Damaged               |
| Artillery Position.....     | 1                | Damaged               |
| Roads Cut.....              | 13               |                       |
| Trench Line (meters).....   | 535              | Destroyed             |
| Bridge.....                 | 1                | Destroyed             |
| Bridge Approach.....        | 2                | Destroyed             |
| Cave.....                   | 1                | Destroyed             |
| Boats.....                  | 2                | Damaged               |
| Truck.....                  | 1                | Destroyed             |
| Revetment.....              | 1                | Destroyed             |

### Part III - Significant Events

|                       |            |         |   |          |    |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|---|----------|----|
| 1. <u>Personnel</u> : | Joined     | Officer | 9 | Enlisted | 10 |
|                       | Dropped    | Officer | 1 | Enlisted | 23 |
|                       | Promotions | Officer | 1 | Enlisted | 8  |

|                    |                       |    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 2. <u>Awards</u> : | Air Medal.....        | 24 |
|                    | Meritorious Mast..... | 4  |

### 3. Air Operations: July Statistical Summary

|                        |       |   |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| Total Combat Sorties   | 580   | #Group/Other Pilots Flying - 7          |
| Total Flights          | 592   | Average Group/Other Pilots Sorties - 14 |
| Total Combat Hours     | 644.8 | Average Group/Other Pilots Hours - 15.6 |
| Total Flight Hours     | 659.4 | Average NFO Strength - 17               |
| Average Pilot Strength | 17    | Average NFO Hours - 37.9                |
| Average Pilot Sorties  | 29    | High Day (Sorties) 6 July - 25          |
| Average Pilot Hours    | 32.4  | High Day (Hours) 6 July - 33.1          |

### 4. Maintenance: July Monthly Averages

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Aircraft Assigned.....                  | 18   |
| Average Aircraft on Board.....          | 13   |
| Average Aircraft Available.....         | 8    |
| Average Hours for Aircraft on Board.... | 50.7 |

Enclosure (1)

## Aircraft Transferred/Received:

| <u>BuNo</u> | <u>To</u>  | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 148423      | USS RANGER | 1 July 68   |
| 151424      | USS RANGER | 1 July 68   |
| 149452      | USS RANGER | 1 July 68   |
| 151459      | USS RANGER | 1 July 68   |

| <u>BuNo</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 153034      | VF-92       | 1 July 68   |
| 153036      | VF-96       | 1 July 68   |
| 153064      | VF-96       | 1 July 68   |
| 151498      | VF-96       | 1 July 68   |

## Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage:

| <u>Incident No</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Damage</u> | <u>BuNo</u> | <u>Side No</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1-69A              | 4 Jul 68    | CHARLIE       | 151484      | WS - 14        |
| 2-69I              | 6 Jul 68    | ECHO          | 151498      | WS - 10        |
| 3-69I              | 7 Jul 68    | ECHO          | 151498      | WS - 10        |
| 5-69I              | 12 Jul 68   | ECHO          | 152313      | WS - 01        |
| 6-69I              | 12 Jul 68   | ECHO          | 148391      | WS - 17        |
| 8-69I              | 25 Jul 68   | ECHO          | 152313      | WS - 01        |

5. Ordnance: July Expenditures by Type and Number

| <u>Type</u>              | <u>Number</u> | <u>Tons</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Mk 81 250lb Snakeye Bomb | 137           | 20.2        |
| Mk 81 250lb L/D Bomb     | 106           | 13.8        |
| Mk 82 500lb Snakeye Bomb | 4044          | 1156.6      |
| Mk 82 500lb L/D Bomb     | 272           | 72.2        |
| Mk 77 500lb Napalm Bomb  | 291           | 75.7        |
| Mk 117 750lb L/D Bomb    | 158           | 63.2        |
| LAU 3A/A                 | 87            | 16.5        |
| LAU 10A                  | 117           | 5.5         |
| D-27 CBU                 | 12            | 4.8         |

Total Ordnance Pieces Loaded..... 5325  
 Total Ordnance Pieces Dropped/Shot.....5224

Total Bombs Loaded..... 5122  
 Total Bombs Dropped.....5020

Total Tonnage..... 1428.5  
 Drop Percentage..... 98.1%

Enclosure (1)