

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

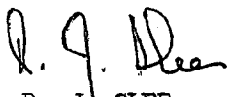
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5750
8 September 1968

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) GruO 5750.1C

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

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


D. J. SLEE

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

AUG 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUnit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-31 August 1968PART I - Organizational Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Don J. SLEE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31 Aug 68
Daniel I. CARROLL	Executive Officer	Major	1-31 Aug 68
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	1-31 Aug 68
Jerome L. HESS	S-1 (Administration)	Captain	1-31 Aug 68
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-31 Aug 68
Charles L. ZANGAS	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-12 Aug 68
Karl S. SMITH	Maintenance Officer	Major	13-31 Aug 68
Philip R. KRUSE	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-20 Aug 68
John L. WENRICH	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	24-31 Aug 68

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..... 15
- (2) Naval Flight Officers..... 13
- (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 4

Enclosure (1)

b. Naval Officers..... 1
 c. Marine Enlisted..... 245
 d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Major General FONTANA, Deputy Commander FMFPAC, visited Marine Aircraft Group 13 on 21 August. During this visit he paid a visit to the VMFA-323 flight line for an F-4 brief by crewmembers.

PART II - Narrative Summary

VMFA-323 has completed thirteen continuous months of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. The squadron delivered 1308 tons of ordnance during 552 combat sorties. Some previous months have had higher sortie rates and ordnance deliveries yet did not reflect the fine BDA reports shown by the squadron in August.

During the month VMFA-323 spent eighteen days on the Hot Pads. Air to Ground Pads accounted for eleven of these days with the remainder being spent on the Air to Air Pad. Air to Ground launches from the Hot Pad were not as frequent as during previous months. The Hot Pad did become more active when it assumed some of the new 500 Series missions which provide an airborne CAP for quick reaction to CAS needs.

Four aircraft received Battle Damage and one of these was lost at sea. The aircrew did an outstanding job of trying to bring the aircraft safely to the deck without benefit of landing gear. A snapped arresting cable resulted in the aircraft sliding down the runway on external tanks. Afterburner was lit and the aircraft became airborne. A great testimony to the General Electric engines. Both crewmembers ejected with minor injuries.

Some of the August highlight missions were:

On 18 August LtCol SLEE (Pilot)/Capt MURPHY (RIO) and Capt DAVIS (Pilot)/Capt GULDI (RIO) supported Marines pinned down by enemy fire. The flight successfully attacked the enemy through intense 50 cal. fire, while faced with 1500 foot ceilings and a rain shower that covered the target area. The FAC's statement pays tribute to the flight and another VMFA-323 flight for their outstanding ordnance delivery during extremely adverse conditions.

Enclosure (1)

The second VMFA-323 flight was led by Maj SMITH (Pilot)/Lt SIMPSON (RIO), Capt BIRDWELL (Pilot)/Lt HUBIS (RIO) acted as wingman. Though faced with the same conditions as the first flight, ordnance delivery was extremely accurate. The FAC states that these two flights were a primary factor which enabled the Marines to overrun the enemy.

During the month of August, the combined Squadron Battle Damage Assessment received from controlling agencies are as follows:

Enemy Killed by Air	10 Confirmed
Enemy Wounded by Air	3 Confirmed
Secondary Explosions	25
Secondary Fires	9
Military Structures	76 Destroyed/11 Damaged
Bunkers	73 Destroyed/7 Damaged
	25 Uncovered
Fighting Holes	7 Destroyed
Automatic Weapons Positions	1 Destroyed
AAA Position	1 Destroyed
Roads Cut	9
Trench Line	375m Destroyed
Trucks	2 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Artillery Position	1 Damaged
S.A.M. Site (w/misssile)	1 Damaged
Radar Vans	3 Damaged

PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel: Joined Officer 7 Enlisted 18
 Dropped Officer 6 Enlisted 18
 Promotions Officer 1 Enlisted 5

2. Awards: Air Medals - 74
 Meritorious Mast - 1

3. Air Operations

Total Combat Sorties	552	# Group/Other Pilots Flying	6
Total Flight	570	Avg Group/Other Pilots Sorties	13
Total Combat Hours	625.4	Avg Group/Other Pilots Hours	14.9
Total Flight Hours	645.2	Avg NFO Strength	13
Avg Pilot Strength	15	Avg NFO Hours	48.6
Avg Pilot Sorties	32	High Day (Sorties)	19 Aug / 25
Avg Pilot Hours	36.9	High Day (Hours)	20 Aug / 30.9

Enclosure (1)

4. Maintenance: August Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned	20
Aircraft on board	13
Aircraft available	8
Avg Hours for A/C on board	49.6

Aircraft Transferred/Received

<u>BuNo</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Date</u>
151484	Trans North Island	22 Aug 68
151441	Rec'd VMJ-3	11 Aug 68
150427	Rec'd VF-121	13 Aug 68
151450	Rec'd VF-121	25 Aug 68
152217	Rec'd VF-121	25 Aug 68

Aircraft sustaining Battle Damage

<u>Incident No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>BuNo</u>	<u>Side No</u>
2-69A	2 Aug 68	Alpha	149449	WS-06
12-69I	2 Aug 68	Echo	148405	WS-16
14-69I	25 Aug 68	Echo	151498	WS-10
15-69I	21 Aug 68	Echo	151012	WS-19

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

<u>Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
Mk 81 250lb Snakeye Bomb	838	123.6
Mk 81 250lb LD/GP Bomb	53	6.9
Mk 82 500lb Snakeye Bomb	2325	664.9
Mk 82 500lb LD/GP Bomb	1059	287.5
LAU-3A Pods (2.75" rcts)	167	31.7
LAU-10A Pods (5" Zuni)	100	4.7
Mk 77 500lb Napalm	326	84.7
Mk 177 750lb LD/GP Bomb	244	97.6
D-27 CBU	16	6.4

Total Stores Tonnage - 1308.0

Total Bomb Tonnage - 1271.6

Drop/Shot Rate - 97.7%

Enclosure (1)