

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


3:JRB:ajw  
5750-01  
9 Oct 1968

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

Ref: (a) MEO 5750.2  
(b) WgO 5750.1B  
(c) GruO 5750.1C

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

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

  
D. I. CARROLL  
Acting

VMFA-323

CMO CHRON

SEP 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGYUnit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of VietnamPeriod: 1-30 September 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	1-30 Sep 68
Daniel I. CARROLL	Executive Officer	Major	1-30 Sep 68
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	1-30 Sep 68
Jerome L. HESS	S-1 (Administration)	Captain	1-30 Sep 68
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-19 Sep 68
Charles R. PETTY	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	20-30 Sep 68
Karl S. SMITH	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-16 Sep 68
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	17-30 Sep 68
John L. WENRICH	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-30 Sep 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 Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Don J. SLEE

Date of Office

16 May 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....20  
 (2) Naval Flight Officers.....20  
 (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 5

## 4. Maintenance: October Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned..... 20  
 Aircraft on Board..... 15  
 Aircraft Available..... 12  
 Avg Hours for Aircraft on Board..... 36.6

Aircraft Transferred/Received

<u>BUNO</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Date</u>
153036	VFMA-115/VFMA-323	2 Oct 68

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage

On 18 October, F4B 150648, flown by Major D. I. CARROLL received minor battle damage. A small arms round, probable .30 caliber, creased the wind-screen causing only slight damage. The aircraft returned to Chu Lai without further incident.

## 5. Ordnance: October expenditures by type and number as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
HK-81 250lb Snakeye	893	129.03
HK-81 250lb LD/GF	179	33.76
HK-82 500lb Snakeye	1652	440.55
HK-82 500lb LD/GF	535	132.04
LAU-3A (2.75"Rkt) Pods	93	19.82
LAU-10A (Buni) Pods	70	3.74
FK-77 500lb Napalm	324	84.88
HK-117 750lb LD/GF	292	128.48

Total Stores Tonnage - 972.30  
 Total Bomb Tonnage - 948.74  
 Drop/Shot Rate - 97.5 %

b. Naval Officers..... 1  
 c. Marine Enlisted.....223  
 d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

#### 4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Major General ADAMS, Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, visited Chu Lai Air Base and the Marine Aircraft Group 13 area during the period 21-23 September.

#### PART II - Narrative Summary

During September VMFA-323 completed its fourteenth consecutive month of combat operations. The squadron flew the highest number of sorties of any unit in the Group. A total of 549 combat sorties were flown and these flights dropped a total of 1212.6 tons of ordnance.

During the month, VMFA-323 spent seven (7) days on the Air-to-Ground hot pad and seven (7) days on the Air-to-Air alert. Also, the airborne alert/CAP sorties which were begun in August were continued and provided timely assistance with a short reaction time.

A notable achievement during the month was that, although the sortie rate was above average when compared to the monthly mean for the year, no aircraft sustained battle damage. In fact, September marked the first calendar month of operation in Vietnam without a single aircraft receiving hits from enemy ground fire.

Some of the September highlight missions were:

On 7 September, LtCol. SLEE(pilot)/Capt. MURPHY(RIO) and Capt. PETERSEN (pilot)/1/Lt. MASSEY(RIO) flew a Close Air Support mission in support of the Special Forces in Quang Tin Province. Their accurate delivery of MK-81 Snakeye bombs and MK-77 Napalm resulted in the destruction of four (4) bunkers, one (1) AA position, one (1) observation post and a suspected mortar site.

On 19 September, Capt. HESS(pilot)/1/Lt. SIMPSON(RIO) and 1/Lt. MURPHY (pilot)/Capt. WENRICH(RIO) flew a Direct Air Support TPQ mission in support of the 7th Marines. The flight destroyed three (3) bunkers and 100 meters of trench line as well as being credited with four (4) enemy killed by air.

During the month of September the combined Squadron Battle Damage Assessment received from controlling agencies was as follows:

Enemy Killed by Air.....	6
Secondary Explosions.....	13
Secondary Fires.....	2
Military Structures.....	69 Destroyed/34 Damaged
Bunkers.....	119 Destroyed/17 Damaged

Fighting Holes.....	11 Destroyed
AA Positions.....	1 Destroyed
Mortar Positions.....	2 Destroyed
Bridges.....	1 Damaged
Roads.....	1 Damaged
Caves.....	1 Destroyed
Trucks.....	1 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Trench Line.....	354m Destroyed/1m Damaged

### PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel:    Joined            Officer 10            Enlisted 13  
                      Dropped          Officer 3            Enlisted 32  
                      Promotions      Officer 3            Enlisted 3

2. Awards:    Air Medals - 79  
                      Meritorious Mast - 2

3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties.....	549	# Group/Other Pilots.....	5
Total Flights.....	564	Avg Group/Other Sorties..	13
Total Combat Hours.....	599.8	Avg Group/Other Hours....	15.0
Total Flight Hours.....	615.1	Avg NFO Strength.....	20
Avg Pilot Strength.....	20	Avg NFO Hours.....	26.0
Avg Pilot Hours.....	25.0	High Day (Sorties).....	19 Sep/27
Avg Pilot Sorties.....	23	High Day (Hours).....	19 Sep/28.2

4. Maintenance:    September Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	21
Aircraft On Board.....	15
Aircraft Available.....	14
Avg Hours for Aircraft On Board.....	41.0

Aircraft Transferred/Received

<u>BUNO</u>	<u>To/From</u>	<u>Date</u>
152329	VMFA-115/VMFA-323	25 Sep 68
152213	VMFA-323/VF-121	15 Sep 68

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage

None during the month.

5. Ordinance:    September expenditures by type and number as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
MK-81 250lb Snakeye.....	494.....	59.0
MK-81 250lb LD/GP.....	104.....	13.5
MK-82 500lb Snakeye.....	2636.....	753.1

Ordinance (Con'd):

<u>Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
MK-82 500lb LD/GP.....	885.....	234.9
LAU-3A (2.75" Rkt) Pods.....	188.....	39.1
LAU-10A (Zuni) Pods.....	81.....	3.6
MK-77 500lb Napalm.....	238.....	61.8
MK-117 750lb LD/GP.....	124.....	49.6

Total Stores Tonnage - 1212.6

Total Bomb Tonnage - 1171.0

Drop/Shot Rate - 99.1%