

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

3:JRB:www
5750-01
9 November 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) WgC 5750.1B
(c) GruC 5750.1C

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

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

D. J. SIEB
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VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

OCT 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-31 October 1968

PART I - Organizational Data

1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Don J. SLEE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31 Oct 68
Daniel I. CARROLL	Executive Officer	Major	1-24 Oct 68
Henry C. IVY	Executive Officer	Major	25-31 Oct 68
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	1-24 Oct 68
James R. BRYAN	Operations Officer	Captain	25-31 Oct 68
David V. DENSON	S-1 (Administration)	Captain	1-31 Oct 68
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-31 Oct 68
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-31 Oct 68
John L. WERNICH	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-31 Oct 68

2. Task Organization and Data

Organization

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

Date of Office

Lieutenant Colonel Don J. SLEE

16 May 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officers

- (1) Naval Aviators.....18
- (2) Naval Flight Officers.....22
- (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 6

b. Naval Officers..... 1
 c. Marine Enlisted..... 233
 d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Brigadier General FISE, Assistant Commander of the First Wing, visited MAG-13 during the middle of October.

b. On 30 October, Lieutenant General WALT and Lieutenant General NICKERSON, visited Chu Lai Air Base and MAG-13. Lieutenant General WALT personally inspected WTA-323 line and hangar shop spaces.

PART II - Narrative Summary

Flight Operations for the first part of October began very slowly due to extremely poor weather. Heavy rains, low ceilings and bad visibility prevailed at the air base and in the target areas permitting few missions other than TFQ.

In spite of the slow start, the squadron finished the month with 537.9 hours which is only slightly below the mean for the past several months. This was accomplished by flying 477 combat sorties which dropped 972.3 tons of ordnance plus 13 missions for test and ferry purposes.

During October the squadron spent 14 days on the air-to-ground alert, 7 of which were the 6 plane pad, and 7 days on the air-to-air alert for a total of 21 hot pad days during the month.

For the second consecutive month, no WTA-323 aircraft sustained any major battle damage and no accidents were recorded. This achievement is considered highly notable by squadron personnel and reflects in the pride and morale of all.

Some of the October mission highlights were:

On 7 October, Capt DOTTER (pilot)/Lt CHEATHAM (RIO) and Capt DAVIS (pilot)/Lt SPRAGUE (RIO) were directed by Trail 32 to an enemy supply convoy consisting of 15 elephants. The flight attacked and was credited with 10 elephants killed and 5 wounded. In addition, most of the supplies were destroyed or damaged.

On 24 October, Major FERDINAND (pilot)/Lt PIERSON (RIO) and Lt HENZE (pilot)/Lt BROWN (RIO) were controlled on a Tally-Ho mission by Cat Killer 12. The flight destroyed one heavy artillery piece and damaged another. Also, numerous boxes of 100 mm artillery rounds were seen exploding as the flight left the target area.

Also on 24 October, Capt BATTERMAN (pilot)/Capt WERRICH (RIO) and Capt MARKS (pilot)/Lt WHITING (RIO) received credit for 6 structures destroyed, 4 structures damaged plus a good sized secondary explosion while working

under the control of Topsy 8.

The most notable mission of the month occurred on 25 October when LtCol SLEE (pilot)/Capt MURPHY (RIO) and Lt MURPHY (pilot)/Lt BARRON (RIO), in spite of enemy fire and adverse weather conditions, attacked a target in the DMZ under the control of Barkey 18. The flight, in spite of the above conditions, delivered the ordnance accurately and as a result 10 enemy were credited as killed by air.

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

Enemy Killed by Air.....	10
Secondary Explosions.....	8
Secondary Fires.....	4
Military Structures.....	64 Destroyed/19 Damaged
Bunkers.....	75 Destroyed/15 Damaged
Artillery.....	1 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Trail Cuts.....	64
Elephants.....	10 KBA/5 WBA
Fighting Holes.....	11 Destroyed
AA Positions.....	1 Destroyed
Mortar Positions.....	1 Destroyed
Bridges.....	1 Damaged
Roads.....	1 Damaged
Caves.....	1 Destroyed
Trucks.....	3 Destroyed
Trench Line.....	455m Destroyed
Rice.....	1000 lbs Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel: Joined Officer 4 Enlisted 12
 Dropped Officer 7 Enlisted 7
 Promotions Officer 0 Enlisted 6

2. Awards: Air Medals - 63
 Meritorious Mast - 1

3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties.....	477	# Group/Other Pilots.....	5
Total Flights.....	490	Avg Group/Other Sorties.....	11
Total Combat Hours.....	520.7	Avg Group/Other Hours.....	13.9
Total Flight Hours.....	537.9	Avg NFC Strength.....	22
Avg Pilot Strength.....	18	Avg NFC Hours.....	24.5
Avg Pilot Hours.....	29.2	High Day (Sorties).....	28/2 Oct
Avg Pilot Sorties.....	27	High Day (Hours).....	32.2/2 Oct