

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

3:JWB:ajw
5750-01
9 December 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) MGO 5750.1B
(c) GRM0 5750.1C

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

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

D. J. SL'E
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VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

NOV 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-30 November 1968

PART I - Organizational Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Don J. SLWE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-30 Nov 68
Henry C. IVY	Executive Officer	Major	1-30 Nov 68
James R. BRYAN	Operations Officer	Captain	1-30 Nov 68
David V. DENTON	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-30 Nov 68
Bobby D. COLE	S-2 (Intelligence)	Captain	1-30 Nov 68
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-30 Nov 68
Warren A. FERDINAND	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-17 Nov 68
Richard J. PEREIRA	Maintenance Officer	Major	18-30 Nov 68
John L. WENWICH	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-30 Nov 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. SLWE

Date of Office

16 May 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....16
 (2) Naval Flight Officers.....21
 (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 5

b. Naval Officers..... 1
 c. Marine Enlisted.....230
 d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

4. Important Visitors to the Command. There were no visits to this Squadron by any important visitors during the month of November.

PART II - Narrative Summary

November's pace of flight operations was considerably shorter than the average for previous months. The slower tempo was instituted on guidance from higher authority in order to attempt to reduce non-combat aircraft losses.

The squadron flew 369 sorties and 471 hours of which 359 sorties and 454 hours were combat. There were no accidents recorded during the month and no aircraft received any battle damage.

November saw VMA-323 on the alert pad 14 days, 7 air-to-air and 7 air-to-ground. Squadron aircraft and crews supported the following major operations in November: Meade River, Henderson Hill, Vernon Lake, Nevada Eagle, Burlington Trail, Lancaster, Jeb Stuart, Victory Dragon III and Scotland II.

Some of the November mission highlights were:

On 12 November, Maj. IVY (pilot)/Capt. COLE (RIO) and 1/Lt. HENZE (pilot)/1/Lt. BROWN (RIO) under the control of JAKS 42, attacked a VC storage area in Quang Nai Province. The flight was credited with 10 VC KBMA and 4 military structures destroyed.

On 13 November, Maj. DUTTON (pilot)/Capt. BRYAN (RIO) and Capt. FORTIS (pilot)/1/Lt. HIRTS (RIO) worked with JAKS 40 on an enemy occupied village about 15 miles south of Chu Lai Air Base. All ordnance was placed on target and the BDA was 16 bunkers destroyed and 3 damaged.

On 19 November, 1/Lt. MURPHY (pilot)/1/Lt. SPRAGUE (RIO) and Maj. IVY (pilot)/Capt. COLE (RIO) were directed onto a target in northern I Corps by CATKILLER 16. Weather forced the flight to use a shallow dive angle with hard ordnance but they were able to get 90% of the ordnance on 90% of the target. The resulting BDA was 7 VC/NVA KBMA, 14 bunkers destroyed and 7 caves destroyed.

On 21 November, Maj. PEREIRA (pilot)/1/Lt. WHITING (RIO) and Capt. NICHOLSON (pilot)/1/Lt. SANDERS (RIO) were controlled by HELIX 33 in Quang Nai Province on a fortified automatic weapons position. The BDA was 10 structures destroyed and 9 damaged.

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

Enemy Killed by Air.....	17
Secondary Explosions.....	3
Secondary Fires.....	8
Military Structures.....	64 Destroyed/20 Damaged
Bunkers.....	56 Destroyed/6 Damaged
Bridges.....	1 Destroyed
Roads.....	10 Cuts
Caves.....	24 Destroyed/4 Damaged
Trucks.....	2 Destroyed
Trench Line.....	201m Destroyed
Fox Holes.....	2 Destroyed
37mm Positions.....	1 Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

1. <u>Personnel</u> :	Joined	Officer	1	Enlisted	17
	Dropped	Officer	7	Enlisted	20
	Promotions	Officer	3	Enlisted	5

2. Awards: Air Medals - 50
Meritorious Mast - 6

3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties.....	359	# Group/Other Pilots.....	5
Total Flights.....	369	Avg Group/Other Sorties.....	7
Total Combat Hours.....	454.9	Avg Group/Other Hours.....	9.2
Total Flight Hours.....	471.1	Avg NFO Strength.....	21
Avg Pilot Strength.....	16	Avg NFO Sorties.....	18
Avg Pilot Hours.....	29.4	Avg NFO Hours.....	22.4
Avg Pilot Sorties.....	23	High Day (Sorties).....	12 Nov/26
		High Day (Hours).....	12 Nov/ 42.3

4. Maintenance: November Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	20
Aircraft on Board.....	15
Aircraft Available.....	11
Avg Hours for Aircraft on Board.....	31.4

Aircraft Transferred/Received: None.

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage: None.

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

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TONNAGE</u>
MK-81 250lb Snakeye	404	58.37
MK-82 500lb Snakeye	1021	274.13
MK-82 500lb LD/GP	536	133.19
LAV-3A (2.75" Rkt) Pods	4	.90
LAV-10A (Zuni) Pods	36	1.66
MK-77 500lb Napalm	163	42.70
MK-117 750lb LD/GP	244	107.31
CBU	28	11.62

Total Stores Tonnage - 629.88

Total Bomb Tonnage - 627.32

Drop/Shot Rate - 97.7