

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

3:JAD:ajw
5750-01
9 January 1969

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) GMAO 5750.1C

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

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

I. L. Morgan
I. L. MORGAN

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

Enclosure (6)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-31 December 1968

PART I - Organizational Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Don J. SLEE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-11 Dec 68
Ira L. MORGAN	Commanding Officer	LtCol	12-31 Dec 68
Henry C. IVY	Executive Officer	Major	1-31 Dec 68
James R. BRYAN	Operations Officer	Captain	1-15 Dec 68
Donald D. BERGMAN	Operations Officer	Major	16-31 Dec 68
David W. DENTON	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-31 Dec 68
Bobby D. COLE	S-2 (Intelligence)	Captain	1-31 Dec 68
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-31 Dec 68
Richard J. PEREIRA	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-31 Dec 68
John L. WENRICH	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-8 Dec 68
Vincent C. MARKS	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	9-31 Dec 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 - 11 December 68
Lieutenant Colonel Ira L. MORGAN	12 December 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....18
 (2) Naval Flight Officers.....19
 (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 4

b. Naval Officers..... 1
 c. Marine Enlisted.....218
 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 December.

PART II - Narrative Summary

In December, VMFA-323 flew 449 total flights and 430 combat sorties. According to the squadron maintenance plan for the month of December, 593 flight hours were planned based on projected availability and number of aircraft assigned to the squadron. In actuality, VMFA-323 flew 604.5 flight hours. There were no accidents recorded this month and no battle damage sustained.

It is noteworthy that VMFA-323 flew missions that covered the complete spectrum of the capabilities of the F4B Phantom. The squadron flew 78 BARCAP sorties providing protection for friendly surface and air elements. In addition, VMFA-323 flew 14 F-52 escort missions. The remainder of the squadron's responsibilities involved CAS missions (the majority of sorties flown were of this category) employing both low and high drag ordnance and direct air support strikes against distant enemy lines of communications.

VMFA-323 was on the air-to-air and air-to-ground alert pads for a total of 21 days (7 days on air-to-air and 14 days on air-to-ground). Squadron aircraft and crews supported the following major operations during the month: Henderson Hill, Vernon Lake, Kentucky, Menda River, Dawson River, Nevada Eagle, Victory Dragon VI, Scotland II, Taylor Common, Fayette Canyon, and Marshall Mountain.

Some of the December mission highlights were:

On 14 December, Capt. BENDWELL(pilot)/1/Lt. HUBIS(RIO) and Capt. MARKS (pilot)/1/Lt. SIMPSON(RIO) attacked an enemy troop concentration. The accurate delivery of 20 low drag 500 lb. bombs resulted in 32 enemy KBA.

On 27 December, Capt. PETERSEN(pilot)/1/Lt. STAPLETON(RIO) and 1/Lt. BAIN(pilot)/1/Lt. HILL (RIO) attacked an EVA position with soft ordnance. Working with HOSTAGE VICTOR in Quang Nam Province, the resulting BDA was 3 structures destroyed, 3 structures damaged, 3 bunkers destroyed and 2 secondary fires.

On 28 December, Major DENTON(pilot)/Capt. BRYAN(RIO) and Capt. NICHOLSON (pilot)/1/Lt. HILL(RIO) attacked a VC village and suspected AA site. They were controlled by SEAWORTHY 98-8 and the action occurred in Quang Tri Province. Resulting BDA was 4 structures destroyed, 2 structures damaged, 1 bunker destroyed and 1 bunker damaged.

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

Enemy Killed by Air.....	32
Secondary Explosions.....	26
Secondary Fires.....	16
Military Structures.....	40 Destroyed/9 Damaged
Bunkers.....	46 Destroyed/11 Damaged
Roads.....	9 cuts
Trench Lines.....	410m Destroyed
For Holes.....	8 Destroyed

PART III - Significant Events

1. Personnel:

Joined	Officers	7	Enlisted	25
Dropped	Officers	6	Enlisted	32
Promotions	Officer	1	Enlisted	4
2. Awards:

 - Distinguished Flying Cross - 1
 - Single Mission Air Medals - 3
 - Strike/Flight Air Medals - 54
 - Meritorious Mast - 10
3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties..	430	# Group/Other Pilots.....	5
Total Flights.....	449	Avg Group/Other Sorties...	7
Total Combat Hours....	582.5	Avg Group/Other Hours.....	12.6
Total Flight Hours....	604.5	Avg WFO Strength.....	19
Avg Pilot Strength....	18	Avg WFO Sorties.....	23
Avg Pilot Hours.....	22	Avg WFO Hours.....	32.6
Avg Pilot Sorties.....	30.3	High Day (Sorties).....	26 Dec/22
		High Day (Hours).....	9 Dec/38.1
4. Maintenance: December Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	20
Aircraft on Board.....	16
Aircraft Available.....	7
Avg Hours for Aircraft on Board.....	31.7

Aircraft Transferred/Received: None.

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage: None.

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

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TONNAGE</u>
MK-81 250lb Snakeye	747	107.19
MK-82 500lb Snakeye	256	68.73
MK-82 500lb LD/GP	1446	359.23
LAU-33A (5" Zuni)	44	1.98
MK-77 500lb Napalm	233	61.04

Total Stores Tonnage = 598.17

Total Bomb Tonnage = 596.19

Drop/Shot Rate = 98.7%