

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

3:JAD:ajw
5750-01
5 February 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) GruO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the month of January 1969

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1-31 January 1969.

I. L. Morgan
I. L. MORGAN

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

JAN 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-31 January 1969

PART I Organizational Data1. Commander and Staff

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
Ira L. MORGAN	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31 Jan 69
Henry C. IVY	Executive Officer	Major	1-27 Jan 69
John C. COCHRAN	Executive Officer	Major	28-31 Jan 69
Donald D. BERGMAN	Operations Officer	Major	1-27 Jan 69
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	28-31 Jan 69
David V. DENTON	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-5 Jan 69
James R. BRYAN	S-1 (Administration)	Capt	6-31 Jan 69
Bobby D. COLE	S-2 (Intelligence)	Capt	1-31 Jan 69
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Capt	1-31 Jan 69
Richard J. PEREIRA	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-27 Jan 69
Donald D. BERGMAN	Maintenance Officer	Major	27-31 Jan 69
Vincent C. MARKS	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-31 Jan 69

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 Ira L. MORGAN

12 December 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strengtha. Marine Officers

(1) Naval Aviators.....	17
(2) Naval Flight Officers.....	16
(3) Aviation Ground Officers.....	4

b. Naval Officers..... 1
 c. Marine Enlisted.....228
 d. Naval Enlisted..... 0

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

PART II Narrative Summary

In January, VMFA-323 flew 420 total sorties and 405 combat sorties. The squadron planned 466 hours and actually flew 511.6. There was one (1) aircraft accident sustained this month. 1/Lt. BAIN and 1/Lt. HYAN were forced to eject after their aircraft caught fire while attempting to jettison hung ordnance. The ejection was successful with both aircrewmembers being rescued approximately fifty (50) minutes after ejection. The aircraft (BUNO 151441) was lost at sea. Battle damage sustained during the month consisted of one (1) .50 caliber machinegun round through the stabilator of aircraft BUNO 152237. Damage in this instance was extremely light, the stabilator, requiring minor patching.

The majority of VMFA-323's missions were close air support. There were also twenty-four (24) BARCAP's and twenty-two (22) B-52 Escorts. The squadron supported the following operations during the month: Taylor Common, Dawson River, Vernon Lake, Nevada Eagle, Scotland II, Fayette Canyon, and Victory Dragon VI.

Some of the January mission highlights were:

On 3 January, Capt. BATTERMAN (pilot)/1/Lt. STAPLETON (RIO) and 1/Lt. BAIN (pilot)/1/Lt. SIMPSON (RIO) attacked an enemy fortified village in Quang Tri Province. Under the control of CATKILLER 12, the flight accurately delivered their soft ordnance load for a resultant BDA of 9 bunkers destroyed, 3 caves destroyed and 3 structures destroyed.

On 11 January, a flight of two (2) F4's, LtCol. SMILLET (pilot)/1/Lt. HYAN (RIO) and Capt. HODGES (pilot)/1/Lt. HILL (RIO), attacked an enemy base camp in Quang Nam Province. The ordnance delivery resulted in 13 structures destroyed, 12 structures damaged, 2 bunkers destroyed, 1 bunker damaged and 1 secondary explosion.

On 16 January, Capt. PETERSEN (pilot)/1/Lt. STAPLETON (RIO) and Capt. HODGES (pilot)/1/Lt. HILL (RIO) attacked an enemy village. The accurate delivery of 12 250 lb. bombs, 3 napalm and utilization of the MK-4 Gun Pod resulted in the destruction of 6 structures, damage to 2 others, 1 KBA and 1 water buffalo KBA.

On 28 January, LtCol. MORGAN (pilot)/1/Lt. SIMPSON (RIO) and Capt. PETERSEN (pilot)/1/Lt. STAPLETON (RIO) attacked enemy positions in Quang Nam Province, resulting in 6 structures and 2 bunkers being destroyed.

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

Enemy Killed by Air.....	3
Enemy Wounded by Air.....	2
Secondary Fires.....	16

Military Structures.....	70 Destroyed/25 Damaged
Bunkers.....	48 Destroyed/10 Damaged
Trail Cuts.....	2
Caves.....	3 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Trails.....	55m Destroyed
Road Grader.....	1 Destroyed
Huts.....	11 Destroyed/4 Damaged
Water Buffalo.....	1 Destroyed
Supplies (rice uncovered).....	1 Ton

PART III Significant Events

1. <u>Personnel:</u>	Joined	Officers	2	Enlisted	31
	Dropped	Officers	5	Enlisted	14
	Promotions	Officer	2	Enlisted	12

2. Awards: Strike/Flight Air Medals - 60
Meritorious Mast - 1

3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties...405	# Group/Other Pilots.....4(pilot)/4(RIO)
Total Flights.....420	Avg Group/Other Sorties...6(pilot)/4(RIO)
Total Combat Hours...495.8	Avg Group/Other Hours.....8(pilot)/6(RIO)
Total Flight Hours...511.6	Avg NFO Strength.....16
Avg Pilot Strength.....18	Avg NFO Sorties.....25
Avg Pilot Hours.....26	Avg NFO Hours.....30
Avg Pilot Sorties.....22	High Day (Sorties).....21 Jan/29
	High Day (Hours).....21 Jan/30.6

4. Maintenance: January Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	22
Aircraft on Board.....	14
Aircraft Available.....	8
Avg Hours for Aircraft on Board.....	37.0

Aircraft Transferred/Received:

151406 from VF-142 on 8 Jan 69	152983 from VF-143 on 8 Jan 69
152262 from VF-143 on 8 Jan 69	158393 from VMFA-314 on 11 Jan 69
151441 Strike Damage on 13 Jan 69	

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage: 152237 sustained a .50 caliber hit which penetrated the stabilator. Very minor damage occurred.

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

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TONNAGE</u>
MK-81 250lb. Snakeye	607	87.71
MK-82 500lb. Snakeye	1864	500.48
MK-82 500lb. LD/CP	87	21.61

DECLASSIFIED

2.75" Rockets (19 shot pods)	8	1.92
LAU-33A (5" Zuni)	113	10.12
MK-77 500lb. Napalm	245	64.31
MK-117 LD/CP	70	30.80
CBM-24	49	20.75
MK-77 (Modified)	82	20.50

Total Stores Tonnage - 757.20
Total Bomb Tonnage - 746.16
Drop/Shot Rate - 98.0%