

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

F:JAD:ajw
6750-01
6 March 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) GrO 5750.1C

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

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted for the period 1-28 February 1969.

I. L. Morgan
I. L. MORGAN

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

FEB 1969

ENCLOSURE (60)

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Unit: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-28 February 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	1-28 Feb 69
John K. COCHRAN	Executive Officer	Major	1-28 Feb 69
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	1-28 Feb 69
James R. BRYAN	S-1 (Administration)	Capt	1-28 Feb 69
Bobby D. COLE	S-2 (Intelligence)	Capt	1-21 Feb 69
William C. RYAN	S-2 (Intelligence)	1/Lt	22-28 Feb 69
James E. HINDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Capt	1-28 Feb 69
Donald D. BERGMAN	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-28 Feb 69
Vincent C. MAHKS	Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	1-28 Feb 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.....	18
(2)	Naval Flight Officers.....	15
(3)	Aviation Ground Officers.....	4

b. Naval Officers.....	1
c. Marine Enlisted.....	216
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 February.

PART II Narrative Summary

In February, VMFA-323 flew an exceptional 586 combat sorties and at the same time accumulating 701.1 flight hours. During the month, the squadron led all of MAC-13's F4 squadrons in total missions and total flight hours. There was also a marked increase in battle damage inflicted on the enemy during the month by the "Death Rattlers". These fine achievements are doubly meaningful in that they were often accomplished in periods of poor visibility and low overcasts as February's weather was transitional from the monsoon and mostly cloudy skies were encountered.

Aircraft battle damage was only slightly heavier than the previous month and this was surprisingly light when total exposure to hostile fire is considered. One aircraft (BUNO 152270) was hit three (3) times with no serious damage and another aircraft received a small caliber round on OCA final at Chu Lai.

The squadron supported the following operations during the month: Scotland II, Baylor Common, Fayette Canyon, Victory Dragon VI, VII, VIII, Vernon Lake II, Nevada Eagle, Dewey Canyon and Dawson River.

Some of the February mission highlights were:

On 8 February, a flight of two (2) F4's (LtCol SMILLIE(pilot)/1/Lt STAPLETON(RIO) and 1/Lt MURPHY(pilot)/1/Lt SPRAGUE(RIO)) under the control of JAKE 41, attacked an enemy village. The accurate delivery of the flights ordnance resulted in 15 structures destroyed, 2 bunkers destroyed, 3 sustained fires and over 20m of trench line being destroyed.

On 9 February, LtCol SMILLIE(pilot)/Capt LANDON(RIO) and 1/Lt HENZE(pilot)/1/Lt BROWN(RIO) were directed in on a V3 structure complex by HELLX 33. The resulting EDA consisted of 10 structures destroyed, 3 structures damaged and 1 confirmed KBI.

On 20 February, an enemy truck and outpost area were attacked by Capt PETERSEN(pilot)/1/Lt STAPLETON(RIO) and Col COURRY(pilot)/1/Lt SIMPSON(RIO). Pinpoint bombing resulted in 1 truck destroyed, 1 bunker destroyed, 1 secondary explosion, 1 fire and 3 road cuts.

On 20 February, another flight consisting of Maj IVI(pilot)/Capt COLE(RIO) 1/Lt WALKER(pilot)/Capt MASSEY(RIO) attacked an NVA base camp in support of Americal Division. EDA consisted of 1 structure destroyed, 1 large secondary

explosion, 1 small secondary explosion, 1 sustained fire and 20m of trail destroyed.

On 21 February, a CAS mission resulted in 1 bunker destroyed, 3 secondary explosions, 1 confirmed KBA, 1 probable KBA, 5 fighting holes destroyed, 2 fortified positions destroyed and 30m of trench line destroyed. The flight consisted of Capt BATTERMAN(pilot)/1/Lt SPRAGUE(RIO) and 1/Lt COLLYAR(pilot)/1/Lt SIMPSON(RIO).

On 23 February, in Quang Nam Province, under control of LCPUE 56 and in support of ROK troops, LtCol SMILLIE(pilot)/1/Lt BROWN and Maj BERGMAN(pilot)/Capt WENNICH(RIO) attacked a bunker complex. Three (3) bunkers destroyed, 2 bunkers damaged and some 50m of trenchline destroyed was the resulting BDA.

On 26 February, a flight of two (2) F4's attacked VC positions in Quang Ngai Province in support of the Americal Division. Capt LIGHT(pilot)/Capt COLE(RIO) and 1/Lt COLLYAR(pilot)/1/Lt SIMPSON(RIO) accurately delivered their ordnance to destroy 30 structures, 1 50 caliber weapons site and 12 confirmed KBA. The following day additional BDA was phoned in on this flight by the ground forces. It consisted of 11 additional structures destroyed, 1 secondary explosion, 2 cases of M-60 ammunition, 2 cases of hand grenades and 20 home made hand grenades were uncovered by the ordnance concussion. The ground forces also confirmed 15 WBA's of which 3 were captured.

On 26 February, One (1) bunker destroyed, 4 structures destroyed and 4 confirmed KBA was credited to Maj COCHRAN(pilot)/Capt LANDON(RIO) and Maj BERGMAN(pilot)/1/Lt KING(RIO) while supporting Americal Division on an attack on a fortified village north of Chu Lai.

Also on 26 February, a base camp was uncovered and 15 bunkers destroyed by Capt LIGHT(pilot)/1/Lt WHITING(RIO) and Capt BATTERMAN(pilot)/1/Lt CHEATHAM(RIO) in an attack on a suspected enemy concentration south of Chu Lai.

On 27 February, Capt POTTER(pilot)/1/Lt STAPLETON(RIO) and LtCol SHANKS(pilot)/1/Lt RYAN(RIO) destroyed 3 bunkers and were credited with 2 KBA on an attack on VC positions.

On 28 February, 1/Lt MURPHY(pilot)/1/Lt SPRAGUE(RIO) and 1/Lt COLLYAR(pilot)/1/Lt SIMPSON(RIO) zeroed in on an active 23mm position. Working their way through the flack the flight destroyed the site.

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

Enemy Killed By Air.....	19 Confirmed/5 Probable
Enemy Wounded By Air.....	15 Confirmed
Secondary Explosions.....	13
Secondary Fires.....	43
Military Structures.....	129 Destroyed/14 Damaged
Bunkers.....	52 Destroyed/5 Damaged
Fighting Holes.....	7 Destroyed

Road/Trail Cuts.....	19
Trench Lines.....	310mm Destroyed
Bridges.....	2 Destroyed
Road Slides.....	1
25mm Positions.....	1 Destroyed
Ammunition Caches Uncovered.....	2 cases grenades, 20 home made grenades, 2 cases M-60 rounds
50 cal Position.....	1 Destroyed
Trucks.....	4 Destroyed
Bats.....	3 Destroyed/1 Damaged
Tunnels.....	1 Destroyed

PART III Significant Events

1. Personnel:

Joined	Officers	0	Enlisted	4
Dropped	Officers	2	Enlisted	21
Promotions	Officer	0	Enlisted	4

2. Awards: Strike/Flight Air Medals - 72

3. Air Operations:

Total Combat Sorties...586	# Group/Other Pilots.....6(pilot)/3(RIO)
Total Flights.....603	Avg Group/Other Sorties...10(pilot)/13(RIO)
Total Combat Hours.....677.1	Avg Group/Other Hours.....12(pilot)/16(RIO)
Total Flight Hours.....701.1	Avg WFO Strength.....16
Avg Pilot Strength..... 19	Avg WFO Sorties.....37
Avg Pilot Hours..... 32.6	Avg WFO Hours.....43.8
Avg Pilot Sorties..... 26	High Day (Sorties).....26 Feb/41
	High Day (Hours).....26 Feb/46.5

4. Maintenance: February Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	18
Aircraft on Board.....	16
Aircraft Available.....	11
Avg Hours for Aircraft on Board.....	44

Aircraft Transferred/Received:

153064 to VMFA-115 on 18 Feb 69	151463 from VMFA-542 on 18 Feb 69
151498 to VMFA-115 on 18 Feb 69	150448 from VMFA-542 on 18 Feb 69
152245 to EAS Custody at NAS Atsugi on 20 Feb 69	

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage:

153064 sustained a small caliber hole on door 83L on 7 Feb 69. Extremely minor damage occurred and it is believed the aircraft was hit on GCA final at Chu Lai.

152270 sustained three (3) small caliber holes on 8 Feb 69. One round penetrated the radome, another the right wing and the third penetrated the missile cavity panels. No rounds were sustained by aircrew members and the aircraft damage was easily repairable.

5. Ordnance: February expenditures by type and number are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TONNAGE</u>
MK-81 250 lb LD/GP	603	37.435
MK-82 500 lb LD/GP	3468	932.892
MK-82 500 lb Conical	30	7.270
MK-77 500 lb Fire Bomb	254	66.548
MK-77 (Modified)	17	4.454
MK-83 1000 lb LD/GP	185	92.500
CBU-24	98	40.670
M-117 750 lb LD/GP	103	41.632
2.75 Rockets (19 shot pod)	54	4.320
5" Zuni Rockets (4 shot pod)	75	4.748

Total Stores Tonnage - 1307.257

Total Bomb Tonnage - 1298.159

Drop/Shot Rate - 98.5%