

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:DRG:rjj  
05750  
Ser: 03A06469  
6 March 1969

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for 1-28 February 1969; submission of

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.10

Encl: (1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*L. T. Preston, Jr.*  
L. T. PRESTON, Jr.

VMA-223

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VMA 223  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 - 28 FEBRUARY 1969

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- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
Marine Aircraft Group 12  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
FPO, San Francisco 96602

Major Leonard T. PRESTON, Jr.  
1 - 28 February 1969

NO SUBORDINATE UNITS

NO UNITS ATTACHED

2. LOCATION

Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major Charles D. ROBINSON	1-28 February 1969
Operations Officer	Major Richard S. ROBERTSON	1-28 February 1969
Administrative Officer	1stLt Larry C. SWINEA	1-28 February 1969
Maintenance Officer	Major Donald E. ANDERSEN	1-28 February 1969
Materiel Officer	1stLt Peter D. WALTERS	1-28 February 1969

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
29	157	1	0
<u>NA</u>	<u>AG</u>		
24	5		

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During February 1969, VMA-223 flew 1049.4 hours and 965 sorties of which 1035.6 hours and 952 sorties were flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. The Squadron delivered 1287.83 tons of aviation ordnance with the highest daily total being 84.11 tons delivered on 12 February 1969.

Reported Battle Damage Assessment for February 1969:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
KBA	8 (c)	10 (p)
Bunkers	70	24
Structures	156	69
Gun Sites	4	3
Trucks	3	4
Bridges	1	1
Secondary Explosions	41	
Secondary Fires	48	
Road Cuts	20	
Caves	3	
Trench Line	783 meters	
Barrels	6	
Sampans	1	

The "Bulldogs" of VMA-223 increased to 10,219.2 the combat hours and 9,333 the combat sorties flown since returning to Vietnam on 22 April 1968. The total hours flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam by the Squadron is 30,013.9 hours during 24,792 sorties. VMA-223 flew 177 more sorties than any other Squadron in Marine Aircraft Group 12 during February 1969 and in doing so established a new MAG-12 record for February. The previous record was 908 sorties by VMA-121 during February 1968.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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a. Personnel strength varied throughout the month of February. Eight Officers joined the Squadron including six Naval Aviators. Thirteen enlisted men also joined VMA-223. Departures due to expiration of tours included five Officers and fourteen enlisted men.

b. The Civil Affairs Program sponsored 57 students among 410 in the 3 supported schools. A flag pole, Vietnamese national flag, paint and 5 bags of cement were given to the Khuong Quang school for the construction of flag pole and base. Khuong Hiep school received 20 metal stakes and 3 rolls of barbed wire to improve their border fence. Khuong My school has progressed in building its sanitary toilet. They received 8 bags of cement, a paint brush, one bundle of re-bar, and two pallet grids for reinforcing their roof and walls.

The schools closed on February 7 in preparation for the TET holiday. On that day, a party of 9 Marines, 4 carrying guitars, entertained the students. Boxes of oranges, apples, cookies and candy were distributed at this time. At Khuong Hiep a feast with traditional ceremony was celebrated on February 17; invitations to family celebrations were answered throughout the area.

c. Personnel Promotions

- (1) W. R. DILLON was promoted to Captain.
- (2) P. D. WALTERS was promoted to First Lieutenant.
- (3) C. F. HATMAKER was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.
- (4) K. R. MOORE received a Meritorious Combat promotion to Corporal.
- (5) J. G. KLIMA was promoted to Corporal.
- (6) R. D. ELLIOT received a Meritorious Combat promotion to Lance Corporal.
- (7) L. E. GOTTSCHALK received a Meritorious Combat promotion to Lance Corporal.
- (8) R. B. SHEPARD was promoted to Lance Corporal.

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CONFIDENTIAL**CONFIDENTIAL**3:DRG:rjj  
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6 March 1969**2. OPERATIONS**

a. VMA-223 conducted air operations on each day of February in support of I Corps, II Corps and 7th Air Force targets. Operations and Units supported are listed in Part IV.

b. At the end of February 1969, VMA-223's accident free hours totaled 4712.1. The last operational accident occurred on 21 October 1968.

c. Two Naval Aviators assigned to VMA-223 have over 500 combat missions, two have over 300, six have over 200 and nine have over 100.

**d. Training**

(1) Two Naval Aviators attended Nuclear Weapons Delivery School at MCAS, Iwakuni.

(2) One Naval Aviator attended Forward Air Controller School on Okinawa.

(3) One Ground Officer and four enlisted men attended Nuclear Weapons Loading School at MCAS, Iwakuni.

**3. MAINTENANCE**

a. The Squadron had a daily average of 19 aircraft on hand, 14.28 daily availability and averaged 55.23 hours per aircraft for the month for 138.7% utilization.

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PART IV

OPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTED

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>
Taylor Common	37	7th Marines	78
Dawson River	12	1st Marine Division	72
Bewey Canyon	46	AMERICAN	110
Scotland II	14	7th Air Force	97
Nevada Eagle	48	24th Corps	14
Linn River	2	2nd ROK	20
Bright Light	2	3rd Marine Division	89
Valiant Hunt	4	9th Marines	40
Blue Spruce	2	Task Force YANKEE	52
		Special Forces	14
		3rd Marines	9
		101st Airborne	16
		1st Recon Bn	18
		ARVN	40
		3rd Recon Bn	2
		4th Marines	6
		1st Marines	4
		26th Marines	8
		5th Marines	13

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