

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

3:HCI:gra
5750
9 August 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology, submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1A
(b) WgO 5750.1B
(c) GruO 5750.1B

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

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


D. I. CARROLL
Acting

VMFA-323

CMD CHRON

JULY 1968

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

UNIT: Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323

Location: Chu Lai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

Period: 1-31 July 1968

Part I - Organization Data

1. Commander and Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Billet</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Period</u>
Don J. SLEE	Commanding Officer	LtCol	1-31 July
Daniel I. CARROLL	Executive Officer	Major	1-31 July
Henry C. IVY	Operations Officer	Major	1-31 July
Edward R. BAILEY	S-1 (Administration)	Major	1-9 July
Jerome L. HESS	S-1 (Administration)	Captain	10-31 July
Larry T. HIGBEE	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	1-18 July
James E. BIRDWELL	S-4 (Logistics)	Captain	19-31 July
Charles L. ZANGAS	Maintenance Officer	Major	1-31 July
Philip R. KRUSE	Aviation Safety Officer	Captain	1-31 July

2. Task Organization and Data

Organization

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

Date of Office

Lieutenant Colonel Don J. SLEE 16 May 1968 - Present

3. Average Monthly Strength

a. Marine Officers

- (1) Naval Aviators..... 17
- (2) Naval Flight Officers..... 17
- (3) Aviation Ground Officers..... 4
- (4) Marine Enlisted..... 248
- (5) Naval Enlisted..... 0

Enclosure (1)

b. Other Officers

(1) Naval Officers(MC).....1

Part II - Narrative Summary

The month of July marked twelve months of continuous combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam for VMFA-323. The twelve month period was closed out with an active month of flying. The squadron logged 580 combat sorties while delivering 1428.5 tons of ordnance. These monthly totals were the highest among the three squadrons presently attached to MAG-13.

Of the six aircraft receiving battle damage, five of them were sustained during the first twelve days of the month. This period coincided with a week of air to ground Hot Pad duty and also the withdrawal of Marine elements from Khe Sanh. Air support in the Khe Sanh area during this period was almost exclusively with "soft" ordnance and low angle deliveries within very close proximity to friendly troops. The percentage of low angle ordnance deliveries during the latter part of the month declined sharply.

During the month of July the squadron also began to receive assigned missions north of the DMZ and in the southern portion of North Vietnam. Enemy resistance was found to be light on most targets and no aircraft received hits.

The squadron joined nine new officers during the month which helped considerably in the area of aircrew shortage. The enlisted ranks however experienced a net loss of thirteen men, making an already critical shortage more acute.

Some of the highlight missions flown during July were:

On 11 July LtCol SLEE (pilot)/Capt HIGBEE (NFO) and Capt POTTER (pilot)/1stLt PIERSON (NFO) attacked a fortified village in support of Operation Allenbrook with a BDA of 4 bunkers destroyed, 2 structures destroyed, and one secondary explosion.

On 12 July Maj ZANGAS (pilot)/1stLt HUBIS (NFO) and Capt HESS (pilot)/Capt GULDI (NFO) attacked a NVA position in support of Operation Kentucky III with a reported BDA of 12 bunkers destroyed, 20 bunkers uncovered and one mortar position destroyed.

On 29 July Capt HESS (pilot)/1stLt CHEATHAM (NFO) and Maj SMITH (pilot)/1stLt MASSEY (NFO) attacked a fortified village in support of the 2nd ARVN Division with a reported BDA of 7 structures destroyed and 4 KBA.

Enclosure (1)

During July the combined squadron battle damage assessment received from controlling agencies was as follows:

Enemy Killed by Air.....	6	Confirmed
Secondary Explosions.....	14	
Secondary Fires.....	10	
Military Structures.....	74½	Destroyed/21 Damaged
Bunkers.....	85	Destroyed/24 Damaged/ 20 Uncovered
Fighting Holes.....	3	Destroyed
Rocket Position.....	1	Destroyed
Mortar Position.....	1	Destroyed
Anti Aircraft Position.....	1	Damaged
Artillery Position.....	1	Damaged
Roads Cut.....	13	
Trench Line (meters).....	535	Destroyed
Bridge.....	1	Destroyed
Bridge Approach.....	2	Destroyed
Cave.....	1	Destroyed
Boats.....	2	Damaged
Truck.....	1	Destroyed
Revetment.....	1	Destroyed

Part III - Significant Events

1. Personnel: Joined Officer 9 Enlisted 10
 Dropped Officer 1 Enlisted 23
 Promotions Officer 1 Enlisted 8

2. Awards: Air Medal..... 24
 Meritorious Mast..... 4

3. Air Operations: July Statistical Summary

Total Combat Sorties	580	#Group/Other Pilots Flying - 7
Total Flights	592	Average Group/Other Pilots Sorties - 14
Total Combat Hours	644.8	Average Group/Other Pilots Hours - 15.6
Total Flight Hours	659.4	Average NFO Strength - 17
Average Pilot Strength	17	Average NFO Hours - 37.9
Average Pilot Sorties	29	High Day (Sorties) 6 July - 25
Average Pilot Hours	32.4	High Day (Hours) 6 July - 33.1

4. Maintenance: July Monthly Averages

Aircraft Assigned.....	18
Average Aircraft on Board.....	13
Average Aircraft Available.....	8
Average Hours for Aircraft on Board....	50.7

Enclosure (1)

Aircraft Transferred/Received:

<u>BuNo</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>
148423	USS RANGER	1 July 68
151424	USS RANGER	1 July 68
149452	USS RANGER	1 July 68
151459	USS RANGER	1 July 68

<u>BuNo</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Date</u>
153034	VF-92	1 July 68
153036	VF-96	1 July 68
153064	VF-96	1 July 68
151498	VF-96	1 July 68

Aircraft Sustaining Battle Damage:

<u>Incident No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>BuNo</u>	<u>Side No</u>
1-69A	4 Jul 68	CHARLIE	151484	WS - 14
2-69I	6 Jul 68	ECHO	151498	WS - 10
3-69I	7 Jul 68	ECHO	151498	WS - 10
5-69I	12 Jul 68	ECHO	152313	WS - 01
6-69I	12 Jul 68	ECHO	148391	WS - 17
8-69I	25 Jul 68	ECHO	152313	WS - 01

5. Ordnance: July Expenditures by Type and Number

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Mk 81 250lb Snakeye Bomb	137	20.2
Mk 81 250lb L/D Bomb	106	13.8
Mk 82 500lb Snakeye Bomb	4044	1156.6
Mk 82 500lb L/D Bomb	272	72.2
Mk 77 500lb Napalm Bomb	291	75.7
Mk 117 750lb L/D Bomb	158	63.2
LAU 3A/A	87	16.5
LAU 10A	117	5.5
D-27 CBU	12	4.8

Total Ordnance Pieces Loaded..... 5325
 Total Ordnance Pieces Dropped/Shot.....5224

Total Bombs Loaded..... 5122
 Total Bombs Dropped.....5020

Total Tonnage..... 1428.5
 Drop Percentage..... 98.1%

Enclosure (1)