

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

3:HAH:rjj  
05000  
Ser: 03A09369  
5 APR 1969

CONFIDENTIAL (Declassified upon removal of enclosure (1))

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for 1-31 March 1969; submission of  
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1C  
Encl: (1) VMA-223 Command Chronology

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

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

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VMA-223

CMD CHRON

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
OF  
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 223  
FOR THE PERIOD  
1 - 31 MARCH 1969

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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 - 31 March 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	1-31 March 1969
Operations Officer	Major Richard S. ROBERTSON	1-31 March 1969
Administrative Officer	1stLt Larry C. SWINEA	1-31 March 1969
Maintenance Officer	Major Donald E. ANDERSEN	1-31 March 1969
Materiel Officer	1stLt Peter D. WALTERS	1-31 March 1969

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
31	142	1	0
<u>NA</u>	<u>AG</u>		
26	5		

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

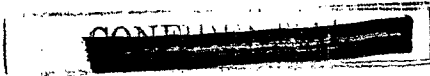
During March 1969, VMA-223 flew 1,080.2 hours and 1,002 sorties of which 1,042.4 hours and 971 sorties were flown in support of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. The Squadron delivered 1,338.63 tons of aviation ordnance with the highest daily total being 60.96 tons delivered on 1 March 1969.

Reported Battle Damage Assessment for March 1969:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
KBA	78 (c)	7 (p)
Bunkers	140	40
Structures	306	80
Gun Sites	9	1
Trucks	2	
Bridges	3	1
Secondary Explosions	40	
Secondary Fires	75	
Road Cuts	14	
Freight Cars	2	
Trench Line	735 meters	
Fighting Holes	21	
POW's who surrendered	17	

The "Bulldogs" of VMA-223 increased to 11,261.6 the combat hours and 10,304 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 31,056.3 hours during 25,763 sorties. VMA-223 flew 129 more sorties than any other Squadron in Marine Aircraft Group 12 during March 1969.

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PART III  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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1. ADMINISTRATION

a. Personnel strength varied throughout the month of March. Seven Officers joined the Squadron, all of them Naval Aviators. Thirteen Enlisted personnel also joined. Departures due to expiration of tours included fifteen enlisted. A total of four Officers and five Enlisted were transferred from this Squadron to other WestPac units.

b. On the morning of 21 March several incoming rockets impacted in the line area of VMA-211 and VMA-311. In a desperate attempt to save the aircraft of these Squadrons from further damage, a number of men from VMA-223 assisted the neighboring squadrons in pushing aircraft to secure areas. During this period five men distinguished themselves and were awarded the Bronze Star for their courage and dedication.

MSgt J. D. SIMMERMAN  
SSgt S. I. SPAWN  
LCpl E. D. MONTGOMERY  
LCpl K. R. MOORE  
LCpl R. D. SHEPARD

c. During the month of March, three Squadron personnel reenlisted for another tour. SgtMaj R. B. HAMILTON is starting his fifth tour, SSgt R. J. JACOBSON is starting his third, and Sgt A. G. DECROO is beginning his second enlistment.

d. Personnel Promotions

- (1) J. D. SIMMERMAN was promoted to Master Sergeant
- (2) C. SANTOYO was promoted to Staff Sergeant
- (3) L. D. BAKER was promoted to Sergeant
- (4) R. G. BENSLE was promoted to Sergeant
- (5) S. J. BRUNST was promoted to Sergeant
- (6) W. C. COLLINS was promoted to Sergeant
- (7) P. DIVISCONTI was promoted to Sergeant
- (8) L. A. HEFFELFINGER was promoted to Sergeant
- (9) G. C. HENDRICKS was promoted to Sergeant
- (10) L. L. HIGGINBOTTAM was promoted to Sergeant
- (11) C. W. JACKSON was promoted to Sergeant
- (12) D. K. JOHNSON was promoted to Sergeant
- (13) N. E. KLESAT was promoted to Sergeant
- (14) M. C. MASON was promoted to Sergeant
- (15) J. W. MESKUN was promoted to Sergeant
- (16) M. W. PERRY was promoted to Sergeant

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- (17) S. K. PETERSON was promoted to Sergeant  
 (18) D. L. RADDER was promoted to Sergeant  
 (19) R. C. SCHAEFFER, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant  
 (20) P. M. SCHOLLE was promoted to Sergeant  
 (21) S. VILLAFRANCO, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant  
 (22) D. R. COLYER received a Meritorious Combat Promotion to Corporal  
 (23) G. H. MIKESSELL was promoted to Corporal  
 (24) H. D. MARQUIS received a Meritorious Combat Promotion to Lance Corporal  
 (25) J. W. VANSANDT received a Meritorious Promotion to Lance Corporal  
 (26) J. BUNEVICIUS was promoted to Lance Corporal

## 2. OPERATIONS

a. VMA-223 conducted air operations on each day of March 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 March 1969, VMA-223's accident free hours totaled 5,792.3. The last operational accident occurred on 21 October 1968.

c. One Naval Aviator assigned to VMA-223 has reached 600 combat missions, one has over 500 missions, one has over 400, three have over 300, four have over 200 and nine have over 100.

d. On 21 March it should be noted that even though flight operations were suspended during the morning, VMA-223 was able to react following the rocket attack, assume the alert, and delivered a total of 57.02 tons of ordnance. This makes 21 March the second highest day for ordnance delivered, even though only flying half a day.

### e. Training

- (1) Three Naval Aviators attended Jungle Survival School at Clark AFB, Republic of the Philippines.  
 (2) One Enlisted man attended MK-36 school at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

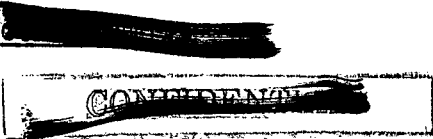
## 3. MAINTENANCE

a. The Squadron had a daily average of 19.3 aircraft on hand, 14.3 daily availability and averaged 55.9 hours per aircraft for the month for 140.4% utilization.

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ENCLOSURE (1)



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PART IV

OPERATIONS/UNITS SUPPORTED

<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>
Kentucky Jumper	18	ROK Marines	44
Purple Martin	18	3d MarDiv	121
Main Craig	14	1st MarDiv	62
Kentucky	2	5th Marines	53
Warship Hotel	2	1st Recon Bn	12
Dewey Canyon	13	7th Air Force	82
Lancaster II	2	7th Marines	26
Bright Lad	4	AMERICAL	168
Scotland II	6	101st Airborne	27
Mass Striker	11	3d Recon Bn	2
Taylor Common	32	4th Marines	24
Dragon Victory	4	9th Marines	26
India	2	ARVN	29
Valiant Hunt	2	U. S. Army	4
Nevada Eagle	5	3d Marines	15
		5th Special Forces	12
		5th Air Force	2
		Task Force HOTEL	2
		26th Marines	18
		Task Force YANKEE	6

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