

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group-16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 96601

3:JEB:sag  
 5750  
 Ser: 003A34765  
 14 December 1965

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Subj: Command Chronology; submission of (U)  
 Ref: (a) MCO 5720.2  
 (b) Wing Order 5750.1A

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the attached Command Chronology is hereby submitted.

*H. W. Steadman*  
 H. W. STEADMAN  
 By direction

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
5613-65	1

AMG 10 S-2  
 LOG 00948-65  
 1000 1007

DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
 DECLASSIFIED APR 1978  
 1000 1007

NARRATIVE:

1 Nov - <sup>3</sup>CH-37's flew to the assistance of MAG-36 when a UH-34D crashed in the vicinity of Heip Duc. (AT 914-246) The engine and all removable gear was flown out and plans made to external the transmission and fuselage on 2 Nov. Fuel contamination held up UH-1E operations today. The contamination was traced to the refueling area at Chu Lai. After an inspection all VMO-2 aircraft were returned to an operational status. Hostile fire was received by two UH-1E's from (BT 065-627). Rocket fire was placed on the hut from which the fire came. Redwood Bravo 6 directed the fire.

2 Nov - A CH-37 of Sub Unit #1 MAG-16 accompanied by a UH-34 proceeded to (AT 914-246) to complete salvage operations on the MAG-36 downed UH-34. While externalizing the UH-34 transmission, the CH-37 experienced a transmission failure and made a forced landing at (BT 180-280). The crew and weapons were picked up by the UH-34 chase and taken to Chu Lai. A security force was flown in by MAG-36 aircraft. In the interval between the rescue of crew and arrival of security personnel, enemy forces had grenade the interior of the CH-37 and shot up the fuselage with rifle fire. Field repair was not possible. Salvage operations were conducted under fire and the aircraft abandoned. After dark the helo was intentionally destroyed by air to ground rocket fire from a UH-1E of VMO-2. 6 UH-34 escorted by 2 UH-1E's departed MMAF at 2013H on a night retrograde of 33 troops from (AT 868-729) to (AT 923-736). Small arms fire was received on the approach to the zone. No hits were received and the mission was completed at 2230H.

3 Nov - Continuous surveillance of the Da Nang TAOR was flown by a UH-1E/UH-34 team. Small arms fire was received from (BT 088-665).

4 Nov - A UH-34 was launched to the 3rd Marines C.P. to coordinate the selection of suitable zones for MAG-16 helo dispersal.

5 Nov - The surveillance flight observed between 0400 and 0500 two boats in the Da Nang Harbor operating without lights and with unusual activity aboard. The boats were illuminated with the helo landing light until the harbor patrol boat took them under tow at gun point. HMM-161 carried out two resupply missions worthy of note. On the first mission 8 UH-34's lifted over 42,000 lbs of cargo and 52 pax from (AT 992-760) to Nong Son (AT 814-383), and Dia Loc (AT 915-582). The second mission, flown by 6 UH-34's airlifted 37,600 lbs of cargo and 77 pax between La Vang (YD 341-507) and Ba Long (YD 164-403).

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6 Nov - The night surveillance flight received sporadic small arms fire throughout the area of the TAOR. No hits were taken.

7 Nov - 6 UH-34's lifted "L" Co. 3/3 from Da Nang to MMAF. The company has been assigned to provide security for the Air Facility.

8 Nov - Weather hampered operations in the local areas and forced cancellation of some fixed wing support. The TAOR surveillance flight encountered hostile fire in the vicinity of (BT 035-601) and grid square (BT 02-60). No hits were taken. On a resupply mission from La Vong to Ba Long and Ca Lu a UH-34 piloted by 1stLt D. B. WILLIAMS had complete engine failure at 2500 feet. A perfect autorotation was made to a small unsecure jungle clearing (YD 022-462). The wingman immediately picked up the crew and guns of the downed helo. The other section of the division proceeded to Ca Lu (YD 009-456) where they picked up ARVN troops and returned to the downed aircraft. The landing zone was secured. The aircraft was repaired in the field and flown to the base at Hue/Phu Bai.

9 Nov - Very low ceilings and poor visibility hampered helo operations and forced cancellation of fixed wing support. UH-1E's provided escort for two recon patrol insertions and a recon pick-up. Two CH-37's of H&MS-16, SU #1 lifted the organic vehicles of "L" Co, the security force for MMAF from Chu Lai to Marble Mountain Air Facility.

10 Nov - 7 UH-34's of HMM-263 and 1 CH-37 of SU #1 launched to Ky Ha air field at Chu Lai to support MAG-36 on Operation "Blue Marlin". Col. T. J. O'CONNOR, C.O. MAG-16 cut the ribbons and the MAG-16 Enlisted and SNCO clubs were officially opened for the Marble Mountain edition of the 190th Marine Corps Birthday. Commanding General, 1st MAW, BGem Kieh B. Mc KUTCHEON presented the first piece of birthday cake.

11 Nov - The Marble Mountain Air Facility security forces were augmented by a squad of eight war dogs. Employment of these dogs on patrols assisted the security force in apprehending several V.C. suspects.

12 Nov - The night TAOR surveillance flight received fire from (BT 035-623). One hit was taken by the UH-1E. There was no serious damage. MAG-16 helos carried 54,760 lbs of cargo and 162 pax in support of III MAF and ARVN I Corps operations.

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13 Nov - A UH-34 of HMM-263 was shot down while providing SAR support for the USAF 2nd Air Division. The wingman effected pickup of the crew and armament. The helo was destroyed by fixed wing aircraft to preclude its capture by enemy forces. A UH-34 made a precautionary landing at the ARVN outpost at Que Son (BT 045-350). Miss Martha RAYE visited various Marine Positions in the Da Nang and Hoi An areas. Congressman J. CORMAN and Judge H. PREGERSON toured Landing Zones of the Da Nang enclave and visited with Marines.

14 Nov - CH-37's of SU #1, H&MS-16 carried a damaged UH-34 pylon to Da Nang, then lifted R1820 engine and stand to the site of the UH-34 down at Que Son (BT 045-350). The engine was changed and the UH-34 flown back to Hue/Phu Bai. Following that the CH-37 was launched to retrieve a UH-1E that had crashed at (BT 132-120), the hulk was externalled to Ky Lai air field at Chu Lai. Two UH-34's on an admin mission in the vicinity of Hoi An, received automatic weapons fire from (AT 950-583) the lead aircraft took one round through a tail rotor blade. There was no appreciable damage and the mission was completed.

15 Nov - 2 UH-34's of HMM-263 operating in support of the 9th Marines received small arms fire from (BT 015-637) but no hits were taken. A reconnaissance mission flown by 2 UH-34's of HMM-361 drew fire from the vicinity of (BT 00-637). There were no hits taken. The TAOR surveillance team encountered small arms fire at (BT 09-65) no hits were taken. The CH-37's of SU #1, H&MS-16 carried various helo parts between MMAF and Da Nang Air Freight. In all, 19,000 lbs of UH-34D's were lifted.

16 Nov - 6 UH-34's, 2 UH-1E's, and 2 CH-37's were utilized in support of operation "Blue Marlin". The UH-1E's fired rockets and guns on V.C. caught in the open. Thirty four V.C.S. were transported by UH-34's from the operational area to the collecting point. HMM-161 purchased and distributed two tons of rice to civilians in the city of Hue. Purchasing the rice was made with funds from the Staff NCO Club. Congressman SAYLOR (R-Pa) and Congressman EDMUNDSON (D-WI) were provided with a helo tour of the Da Nang TAOR, including a visit to MMAF.

17 Nov - 12 UH-34's were sent to Chu Lai to assist MAG-35 in operation Q.T. 152 in support of ARVN I Corps. 198 pax were carried from Quang Ngai to (BS 712-440). 16 UH-34's were committed to Operation "Blue Marlin". 1 UH-34 supporting the operation received a hit through the stabilizer at (BT 208-493). There were no injuries. A UH-1E flying observation in support of "Blue Marlin" received moderate automatic weapons fire at (BT 202-523). Capt. W. B. COLE the observer, was wounded by one round.

18 Nov - Support of Blue Marlin continued. The Viet Cong overran the District Headquarters, (Hiệp Đức), during the early hours of 18 Nov. 12 UH-34's and 2 UH-1E's were dispatched from MAG-16 to assist MAG-36 in a lift of ARVN forces to retake the District Headquarters. Landing zones were reconned and a small hilltop area was selected for the landing. The zone would accomodate three aircraft but was considered the least likely to be ambushed. The CG, 2nd ARVN Division would permit air prep only in the immediate landing zone area, because of the probability of injuring VN civilians. The first three plane division of three helos received light small arms fire from an area just north of the landing zone. Succeeding divisions received intense small arms and heavy 12.7 mm fire from the area east of the landing zone. One UH-34 was shot down in flames and three others badly damaged immediately. After the first wave had braved the gauntlet of fire to land troops the flight withdrew with one KIA and 3 WIA among the crews. It was obvious that extensive preparations had been made by Viet Cong Forces with a view toward ambushing the helo force. At least three 12.7 mm machine guns had been strategically placed to cover the avenues of approach by the helos. The Viet Cong were well dug in, camouflaged, and had not fired on the recon aircraft which made low passes through the objective area just prior to the helo flights arrival. When an easily accessable landing zone near the village was ignored in favor of landing on higher ground, pilots noted large numbers of Viet Cong leaving prepared positions around it and forming a column to march to the battle area. A landing in the large inviting zone would certainly have resulted in the annihilation of the helo assault force. Following the withdrawal of the first wave of helos, the fixed wing aircraft was called in on villages, tree lines, and hills within 600 meters of the landing zone. VN aircraft using 1,000 # bombs were unable to silence all of the 12.7 mm positions but the lift was resumed and continued till darkness necessitated termination. A total of 521 ARVN troops were lifted by MAG-16 aircraft. 10 UH-34's and 1 UH-1E of the Group were hit by enemy fire. In addition to the helo shot down in the landing zone area, 1 was forced to land near Tien Phuoc and 2 others at Ky Nai air field (Chu Lai). Helo commanders involved in the operation recommended the use of napalm, V.T. fuse or "Daisy Cutter" bombs, and "Lazy Dogs" on future landing zone prep for helo landings. Preps should be of at least one hour duration. A CH-37 escorted by a UH-34 departed MMAF to pick-up a radio jeep at (BT 257-452) for return to Da Nang. The CH-37 developed engine trouble and was forced down in the zone. The approach of darkness and departure of friendly troops would have necessitated leaving the helo in an unprepared landing zone overnight. The bad cylinder was eliminated.

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the engine, and the aircraft flown back to MMAF on one good engine and 17 cylinders of the 2nd engine. The crash crew at MMAF met the aircraft and extinguished a small fire that had developed in the bad engine.

19 Nov - A UH-1E of VMO-2 was launched to rescue drowning victims from the surf off China beach. The pilot 1/Lt Norman MAHALICH hovered the helo with the skids in the water while his crew chief and flight surgen exited from the aircraft to assist the victims. Two of the victims were towed to shore and the third brought in by rescue personnel. Two UH-34's in support of the 9th Marines received small arms fire from the vicinity of (BT 045-675) The Lead Helo was hit by one round but was able to continue the mission.

20 Nov - A CH-37 was launched to assist in calibration of the USAF Radar at Da Nang. A CH-37 escorted by a UH-34 carried an R 1820 engine and 38 empty fuel drums from Tam Ky to MMAF. Weather in the Hue/Phu Bai area caused cancellation of all routine flights. Rainfall measured 7.8 inches for the 24 hour period.

21 Nov - Weather again forced the cancellation of all missions in the Hue/Phu Bai area. 3 UH-34D's and 2 UH-1E's were launched in heavy weather for an emergency pickup of a Marine Patrol that was under fire in a zone rapidly filling with water. The aircraft were forced to land at Da Nang for a short period due to extremely heavy rain showers. After a ten minute wait, the aircraft relaunched and picked up the 17 man patrol. BGen JONES and party visited MAG-16 late in the afternoon where he was briefed by Col. T. J. O'CONNOR, C.O. MAG-16.

22 Nov - Weather at Hue/Phu Bai prevented launching of aircraft in that area. Rainfall was measured at 6.1 inches during the 24 hour period. Weather in the Da Nang area greatly restricted helo operations. 2 UH-34's of HMM-361 (AT 945-888) were launched on a search for survivors of a sunken LVT (AT 945-888). Three men were picked up and a Coast Guard Cutter was directed to three other men. 2 UH-1E's carried out a visual recon in the vicinity of (BS 765-467). Eight to ten Viet Cong were sighted in the area and opened fire, the lead aircraft was hit three times. Rocket and machine gun fire was placed on the position. No damage estimate could be obtained. There were no injuries to crew members.

23 Nov - 8 UH-34's of HMM-361 augmented MAG-36 aircraft for two strike missions, 1 from Ky Ha to (BS 764-469) and the 2nd from Ky Ha to (BS 732-470) and (BS 764-469), 225 U.S. Marines and 2,000# of cargo were lifted into the zone.

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H-34's on a resupply to Que Son received automatic weapons fire from (ZC 168-540) and (ZC 125-530). There were no hits taken. Six UH-34's of HMM-161 attempted a resupply of Ca Lu (YD 012-455) in the Ba Long Valley. Fixed Wing Escort aircraft were unable to enter the valley because of weather. The flight was able to make only one lift due to intense enemy ground fire. Two aircraft received hits in the landing zone. One crewmember was wounded and med evaced to "A" Med, at Hue/Phu Bai. Pilots reported small arms automatic weapons fire and 60 MM mortar fire, VT fused for air bursts. The remainder of the mission was cancelled.

24 Nov - UH-34's of HMM-263 on a resupply mission for the 3rd Marines received fire from (AT 073-630), resulting in one hit on the lead aircraft. The crew returned fire and claimed 1 possible KBA. Four UH-34's operating in the Que Son area in support of the 2nd ARVN Division received sporadic ground fire. Two helos were hit. There were no injuries to crew-members. UH-1E's of VMO-2 providing armed escort placed suppressive rocket and machinegun fire on suspected VC positions at (AT 979-090) and (AT 979-253). Two structures were destroyed at the first location with two secondary explosions observed. At the second location four structures were destroyed. Light ground fire was encountered in return but the aircraft received no hits.

25 Nov - Monsoon weather prevailed in the Hue/Phu Bai region. The squadron launched two aircraft carrying 6 troops each on a "hunter-killer" patrol in the Hue/Phu Bai TAOR. Negative results. In the Da Nang area normal support of the III MAF and ARVN I Corps was carried out. Thanksgiving Dinner, consisting of turkey and all the trimmings was enjoyed by all.

26 Nov - Marginal weather restricted flight operations in the Hue/Phu Bai area. Except for the "Hunter-Killer" patrol within the TAOR, all flights were cancelled. In the Da Nang area 40 Marines were lifted to Hiep Duc in marginal weather. A flight of two aircraft was fired on while approaching Hot An (BT 145-569) from the South for a landing. The lead helo took two hits. There were no injuries. Gen WALTS UH-1E was forced to land at Thon Quat outpost due to failure of the hydraulic system. All personnel were evacuated by escort aircraft. Spare parts were flown in from MMAF and the UH-1E was repaired and flown back to the base.

27 Nov - CH-37's made an attempt to recover the HMM-361 aircraft shot down in the Hiep Duc area. The mission was forced to abort due to weather. Small arms fire was received by a UH-34 from (BT 032-612), there were no hits. Two UH-34's in

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support of the 3rd Marines received small arms fire from (AT 436-622). One aircraft was hit but continued on the mission. Two UH-34's supporting the 9th Marines received small arms fire from (BT 090-663) and automatic weapons fire from (BT 969-629). No hits were taken.

28 Nov - 2 aircraft of HMM-161 operating in support of the 9th Marines received fire from three different locations but no hits were taken. 8 UH-34's of HMM-263 escorted by 2 UH-1E's of VMO-2 were launched to Tien Phuoc in support of I Corps. Weather forced termination of the lift prior to completion. Small arms fire was received from (BT 129-150), (BT 150-140) and (BT 200-206). One aircraft was hit. There were no injuries. UH-34's of HMM-263 retrograding troops from (AT 909-337) to landing zone Vulture received small arms fire from (AT 911-842). There were no hits. A UH-1E of VMO-2 crashed while lifting from the III MAF pad. There were no injuries to personnel. The aircraft received Overhaul damage.

29 Nov - Aircraft of HMM-263 supporting the 7th Marines received small arms fire from (BT 132-547). No hits were taken. Bishop LEWIS and four chaplains were flown on a tour of the Da Nang TAOR. The night recon flight of the Hue/Phu Bai airfield received small arms fire from (YD 885-180) twice. There were no hits.

30 Nov - Four UH-34's were launched to the Hiep Duc area to recover the aircraft downed by 12.7 mm fire on 18 November. The aircraft was determined to be beyond salvage. Admiral HEAMAN was flown on a tour of the Da Nang TAOR.

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Marine Aircraft Group 16, Marble Mountain Air Facility,  
Danana, Republic of Vietnam

Period Covered - 1 thru 30 November 1965

Task Organization:

H&MS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 MABS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 VMO-2, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 HMM-161, Hue Phu Bai, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 HMM-163, Futenma, Okinawa (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 HMM-263, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 HMM-361, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 Sub Unit #1, H&MS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)  
 MATCU-68, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 30 November 1965)

Command Rank Composure:

<u>Billet</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Period</u>
CO, MAG-16	T. J. O'CONNOR	Colonel	1-30 Nov 65
XO, MAG-16	R. L. SIMMONS	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
Adjutant	C. D. DICKEY	Captain	1-30 Nov 65
S-1 Officer	F. A. MATHEWS	Major	1-30 Nov 65
S-2 Officer	L. P. GLENN	1stLt	1-30 Nov 65
S-3 Officer	C. A. HOUSE	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
S-4 Officer	A. MCBARRON	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
CO, H&MS-16	J. L. GOEBEL	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
CO, MABS-16	T. E. VERNON	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
CO, HMM-161	R. C. DENNY, Jr.	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
CO, HMM-163	N. G. EWERS	Colonel	1-30 Nov 65
CO, HMM-263	T. CLARK	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
CO, HMM-361	L. J. CHILLERS	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
OIC, SU #1	G. C. PENNEL Jr.	Captain	1-30 Nov 65
CO, VMO-2	G. F. BAUMAN	LtCol	1-30 Nov 65
OIC, MATCU 68	R. C. COULTER	Captain	1-30 Nov 65

## Average Monthly Strengths:

<u>Squadron</u>	USMC: <u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	USN: <u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
H&MS-16	32	280	0	0
MABS-16	12	330	4	8
SU #1	12	61	0	0
VMO-2	33	141	1	4
HMM-161	52	180	1	4
HMM-163	44	145	1	2
HMM-263	53	180	1	2
HMM-361	55	363	1	2
MATCU 68	6	60	0	1
TOTALS	<u>299</u>	<u>1540</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>23</u>

CASUALTIESKILLED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERNO</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u>
BROOKS, B.	Sgt/1391769	HMM-361	18 Nov 1965
ANTONELLY, C. J.	Cpl/2015792	HMM-161	5 Nov 1965

WOUNDED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK/SERNO</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u>
LAZERATION, J. Jr.	GySgt/603443	HMM-361	18 Nov 1965
WALTON, R. L.	Cpl/1846880	HMM-361	18 Nov 1965
DUCKWORTH, T. L.	Cpl/1949654	HMM-361	18 Nov 1965
COLE, W. B.	Capt/076876	VMO-2	7 Nov 1965
GARCIA, I. E.	1stLt/086657	HMM-161	18 Nov 1965
WRIGHT, C. F.	Cpl/1559490	HMM-161	23 Nov 1965

MORALE AND WELFARE PROGRAMS

Morale and Religious programs conducted by MAG-16 Chaplains are as follows:

Roman Catholic. Holy Mass celebrated daily at 1700 in Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Sunday Masses at 0830 in the New Mess Hall. Confessions heard one half hour prior to Masses.

Additional Sunday Mass at 1/9 CP at 1030; Confessions heard at 1000. Four requiem Masses celebrated for individual Companies of 1/9.

Instruction classes held each Tuesday and Wednesday from 0830 to 0930.

Protestant. Divine Worship every Sunday at 0930 in the New Mess Hall.

Frequent trips to Da Nang Old Age Home, Sacred Heart Orphanage and the refugee village at China Beach. Left over "C" rations, clothing, medicine, soap, baby food, candy and CARE packages distributed accordingly.

HMM-161

Four tape recorders, with tapes, were obtained from the 1st MAW Special Services for use in the squadron clubs. The squadron Special Services now employs two barbers on a full time basis.

CIVIL AFFAIRS

The Chaplain's of MAG-16 were active in the Civil Affairs Program throughout the month. Their activities were as follows:

Visited Refugee Village 2X. Distributed candy, food, and 5,000 piasters.

Three visits to refugee village, China Beach. Donated material for clothing, left over "C" rations, candy, 2,000 piasters, midwife kit, 2 volley ball sets.

Two visits to Catholic Orphanage and Nursery near MMAF. Donated tooth brushes and tooth paste, 5,000 piasters and left over "C" rations.

Three visits to Catholic Seminary. Donated tooth brushes and tooth paste, 3,000 piasters, 4 volley ball sets, left over "C" rations. A donation of \$165.00 was made as a part of the program of the Catholic Chapel sponsorship of seminarians.

Two visits to Old Age Home, Da Nang. Donation of left over "C" rations, material for clothing, scrap wood, and 3,000 piasters.

Arranged for CB's to aid Catholic Seminary in building a road by the donation of laterite dirt.

Two visits to Sacred Heart Orphanage, downtown Da Nang. Visit with Dr. ARK, new bishop of diocese of Bien Hoa.

Four visits to World Evangelization Crusade Orphanage. Donated 7,000 piasters, left over "C" rations, vitamins, candy and nuts, and four cartons of new and used clothing.

Distributed two bags of Christmas Cards and letters and three cartons of cookies to personnel of MAG-16 as a part of Operation Christmas.

HMM-161

During the month of November arrangements were made with the Air Force to get transportation for two of the sisters from the Daughter of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent from Hue to Saigon to visit a member of their family who was critically ill. On 16 November two tons of rice was purchased for the Kim Long Orphanage in Hue with funds donated by the Da Nang SNCO Club. On 28 November supplies ordered and received through CARE were distributed to the Kim Long Orphanage.

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These supplies included 100 blankets, 3 cartons of assorted clothing, salt, baby food, vitamins, Medi-Quick first aid cream, and two cartons of soap. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent received salt, Medi-Quick Cream and soap. Additional items of this nature are expected to be forth coming in the near future. Plans for the Squadron Christmas Party at the Kim Long Orphanage are well under way. At the present time coloring books, candy, gum, 20 playground balls and a soft drink mix are available for the party. Individual members of the squadron have written home requesting that small toys be sent to them for distribution at the party.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION/ISO

HMM-161

Four hometown releases submitted to the Wing. During this period, PIO coverage included awards presentations, the Marine Corps' 190th Birthday celebration, and a memorial service for Cpl. Charles J. ANTONELLY, who was killed in action on 5 Nov.

MAG-16

News photographers from television station WWL TV, New Orleans held television interviews utilizing several people who maintain their permanent residence in or about the New Orleans area. The tape is to be telecast during the Christmas holidays in the United States.

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AIR OPERATIONS STATISTICSNOVEMBER TOTALS

<u>VMO-2</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>HMM-161</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	401	Pax	6230
Sorties	650	Sorties	4366
Cargo	0	Cargo	109,935 lbs
Hours	969.7	Hours	1595.7
Med Evacs	23	Med Evacs	79
<u>HMM-162</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>	<u>HMM-263</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	1105	Pax	3087
Sorties	1336	Sorties	2671
Cargo	6,550 lbs	Cargo	248,500 lbs
Hours	829.0	Hours	994.2
Med Evacs	2	Med Evacs	125
<u>HMM-361</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>	<u>SU # 1 H&amp;MS</u>	<u>CH-37C</u>
Pax	3681	Pax	145
Sorties	3356	Sorties	197
Cargo	323,625 lbs	Cargo	100,880 lbs
Hours	1073.4	Hours	62.8
Med Evacs	194		

MAG-16 TOTALS

Pax	- - - - -	14,649
Sorties	- - - - -	12,639
Cargo	- - - - -	542,224 lbs
Hours	- - - - -	5,524.2
Med Evacs	- - - - -	423

COMMAND AND CONTROLVMO-2

During the month a total of 148 Air Medals, 4 Navy Commendation Medals, 10 Bronze Stars, 1 Purple Heart, and 2 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry awards were presented to officers and men of VMO-2.

HMM-161

Distribution of 15 Air Medals, 1 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", and 4 Good Conduct Medals were made.

HMM-163

Air Medals were awarded to 15 personnel of this command. There were also 4 Good Conduct Awards. 1 recommendation for a Navy Commendation Award was submitted.

HMM-361

Recommendations for 8 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 10 Air Medals, and 4 Purple Hearts were made for HMM-361 personnel. In addition, a Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to Sgt. B. BROOKS.

HMM-263

Recommendations for 45 Air Medals, 4 Purple Hearts and 15 Bronze Stars were put in for HMM-263 personnel.

INTELLIGENCE

The MAG-16 Intelligence Section conducted normal intelligence functions throughout the reporting period.

Numerous VIP briefs were conducted by the Intelligence section for this reporting period.

HMM-161

During the month of November primary areas of interest were the Northern provinces of Quang Tre and Thra Thein. An increase of flight operations in the areas west of Da Nang and Tam Ky necessitates the keeping of the Viet Cong order of Battle information from north of Chu Lai to the DMZ.

Squadron aircraft have received fire on 14 occasions during the month with 7 hits being inflicted upon the aircraft. 1st Lt. I. E. GARCIA was wounded on 18 November while flying as co-pilot in a strike against the Viet Cong in H. Duc area. Cpl. C. F. WRIGHT was wounded while flying on resupply of the Ca Lu outpost on 23 November.

Listed below are the anti-aircraft fire incidents during the month of November:

- (1) 061900H courier run returning from Da Nang received small arms fire from ZD 025102. No hits.
- (2) 151850H Aircraft received several rounds of small arms fire from BT 070770. Aircraft had just departed Marble Mountain and was at 700 feet. No hits.
- (3) 181500H 6 Aircraft on an ARVN troop lift received small arms automatic fire from BT 146518. One aircraft was hit in the main rotor blade. The aircraft continued to fly with no injuries sustained. Aircraft was at 100 feet with an airspeed of 50 knots. Fire was returned by aircraft but the effect could not be judged.
- (4) 181530H 4 aircraft participating in a strike mission at AT 925217 received .30 and .50 calibre machine gun fire. 2 of the aircraft were hit. One aircraft was hit while in the zone, the round hit the cockpit on the co-pilot's side wounding the co-pilot. The other aircraft was hit in the tail cone. Pilot noted that a mortar round hit in the zone as soon as he had lifted out. All the aircraft returned fire but due to friendly troops in the area the fire could not be delivered effectively. All the aircraft returned to base safely.
- (5) 181700H 4 aircraft returning from Da Nang received small arms fire from AT 9095 and YD 9014. Fire was returned at first coordinate, results unknown. No hits.
- (6) 231020H 1 of 6 aircraft on an emergency resupply mission received small arms fire from YD 2951. No hits.

(7) 231030H 6 aircraft on an ARVN emergency resupply mission received moderate ground fire from YD 050452, 2 of the aircraft were hit, damage was minor. One crew chief was wounded in the shoulder on this mission. Two of the aircraft returned fire, results unknown. All the aircraft returned safely.

(8) 241700H 2 aircraft received small arms fire from BT 100300. Aircraft were at 700 feet with an airspeed of 100 knots. Both aircraft were hit with only minor damage being inflicted. No injuries sustained.

(9) 251100H 2 aircraft received small arms fire from BT 160605 and BT 220430. No hits.

(10) 271320H 2 aircraft on a resupply and recon mission received small arms fire from AT 9961 and AT 9962. No hits.

(11) 272345H 1 aircraft on a night recon mission received small arms fire from YD 900155. No hits.

(12) 281230H 2 aircraft on a recon mission received small arms fire from YD 900155. No hits.

(13) 291100H 8 aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from YD 175415. No hits.

(14) 291500H 2 aircraft returning from Da Nang received small arms fire from ZD 045115. No hits.

#### HMM-163

In addition to daily recognition training of friendly and unfriendly ground weapons and ships, the Intelligence Officer and squadron load masters are enrolled in the Vietnamese Language School. Access lists and security clearances have been received and brought up to date. A problem in the Northern Training area has been plotted on a Situation Map, and Enemy Activity Reports are being plotted. This will be used for squadron training problems, giving current intelligence at the briefs.

#### HMM-263

During November 1965, the Squadron had a total of 40 hostile fire incidents, of which 9 involved aircraft being hit by the fire. On 13 November 1 of 2 aircraft on a SAR North rescue mission was hit by an automatic weapon vic (XE 962-059), and forced to land (XE 950-085). The crews were recovered safely and the aircraft was destroyed by friendly aircraft in the area.

Of the hostile groundfire reports, the geographic distribution indicated several areas of significance:

13 of the 40 reports were in grid square (AT 9.6)

6 of the 40 reports were in grid square (BT 0.6)

3 of the 40 reports were in grid square (BT 0.5)

[REDACTED]

Of the remaining 18 reports, 10 were outside the Da Nang TAOB.

Intelligence generated by the squadron aerial observation consisted of two major types: illicit boat traffic reports, and suspicious movement of indigenous personnel.

The only significant counterintelligence problem encountered by the squadron was the loss of a map by a pilot which contained LZ information on it. Corrective measures have been taken to overcome this problem of sensitive information being carried by air crews.

HMM-361

During the month, it became evident the Viet Cong ground fire has definitely increased in accuracy. The 24 ground fire incidents reported by the squadron and the large number of hits for the number of incidents -- 28 plus those of the aircraft lost at Hiep Duc -- bear this fact out. Twenty-five spot reports were also processed along with one incident report of possible UHF jamming.

VMO-2

The squadron continued to fly PSYWAR operations. A total of 3 aircraft received battle damage during this reporting period.

SU #1, H&MS-16

Intelligence program well organized and functioning within guide lines emanating from next senior command.

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

GROUND DEFENSE

The MABS-16 Security Section comprising of 90 permanent personnel and 75 augmentation personnel from all units of MMAF provided security during the hours of darkness. Also formed a PMO for internal security. This unit consists of 1 Officer and 36 Enlisted. Also one infantry company attached.

During this reporting period there were a number of small probes by groups of undetermined sizes.

HMM-161

A new ground defense order was written and executed this month. Practice alerts have been conducted in coordination with the exterior perimeter defense with gratifying results.

HMM-361

With the formation of "Z" Company, the five machinegun bunkers west of the line area were dismantled. In their place, bunkers for shelter were constructed behind each tent, certain of them with steel and sand bag roofs. The bunkers in front of the office area were also improved with steel and sand bag roofs.

SU #1, H&MS-16

Complying with existing directives, construction of additional fortifications in areas of responsibility complete. Aircraft are being dispersed in accordance with Group planning.

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE/LOGISTICSSUB UNIT #1, H&MS-16

Aircraft parts supply problem partially alleviated. Presently have 24 AOCP parts outstanding. Lack of replacement parts has curtailed aircraft availability.

HMM-161

Aircraft availability for the month averaged 78%. AOCP's for the month amounted to 47 aircraft days.

Six engine changes occurred for the month. Two were for metal contamination, three for high oil consumption and one for damaged prop shaft.

Safety signs have been constructed and are displayed throughout the hangar and in shop spaces.

Crew chief training in all NATOPS subjects was started and nightly classes are being held. Emphasis is being placed on both NATOPS and mechanical training.

HMM-163

During the month, 7 engines were received. Two of the engines were rejected due to low power, and two more because of corrosion during shipping.

The squadron is presently AOCP for three engines. There are AOCP's for 4 main transmissions, one of which has been on order since 23 September. Transmissions have become a critical item. The daily average of outstanding AOCP's was 25.

HMM-263

During most of the month, the squadron operated with 16 aircraft in an A-1 status, while holding 4 in an EK (awaiting) shipment to overhaul status. We have been AOCP against three aircraft during the month and are still awaiting clam shell door sets for them.

The squadron maintained an average of 9 aircraft up during the month, and average availability has been 11 during the last week of the month. On several occasions, the maximum number of aircraft (13), were up. An average of 110 hours per 9 aircraft up was flown during the period.

Three recently overhauled aircraft were received on 3 November. Two aircraft were struck during the month, EG 18 and EG 17. EG 18 (150197) suffered B damage in a hard landing and incurred A damage during its recovery from the zone. EG 17 (150575) was shot down on a classified mission and destroyed to prevent capture.

HMM-361

Through the period an average of 16.5 aircraft were assigned to the squadron. Utilization averaged 35.8 hours per aircraft. Daily average availability was 12.2 aircraft -- 74%. One aircraft was lost and over 28 hits were taken during the month.

VMO-2

During the month of November VMO-2 aircraft used 68,037 gallons of JP-4 fuel, 25,300 rounds of 7.62 ammunition were expended, and 301 2.75 rockets expended.

VMO-2 averaged 15 aircraft. Also 4 aircraft were accepted during the month.

One UH-1E status changed from A1 to EK due to aircraft accident. Cause Unknown. Extent of damage is Bravo, requiring rework. Date of accident 28 Nov 1965.

One UH-1E was struck by flying debris from another UH-1E on 28 Nov 1965, and extent of damage is Echo.

Two engine changes were completed during the month.

CAMP MAINTENANCE

During the month of November, MABS-16 performed routine services in support of VMO-2, HMM-263, HMM-361, HMM-161, and H&MS-16. These services consisted of messing facilities, baking facilities, transportation, heavy maintenance of generators and vehicles, sewage disposal and plumbing installations, communications and with the TAFDS, provided aviation fuel for the squadrons located at MMAF and outlying fields at Quang Tri, Phu Bai and Quang Tien.

The E.M. Club and SNCO club were completed in time for the Marine Corps Birthday. The second well was completed and the first pump was purchased and installed. A water point has been established at this second well and is being test pumped. Water from this well began to be used for non-drinking purposes on 29 November. It is hoped that this facility will become self sufficient for its total water needs by the end of the first week of December. A second pump will be purchased in the very near future. A work request for the Seabees to build three water towers for use at both wells and at the galley was approved and assigned to MCB-9. MCB-9 and MABS-16 personnel continued construction on the new mess hall and galley. MABS-16 personnel screened the inside and outside of the new galley, built the mess officers office, plus two other rooms and closed in the bake shop. In addition 9 doors for the mess hall were constructed and installed.

Five MABS-16 utilities personnel were sent to Phu Bai for two weeks. While there they built 30 strong backed tents, 3 heads and made repairs on the HMM-161 mess hall.

A completely new MABS-16 laundry building was constructed and the laundry relocated. Due to the monsoon rains the main access road and many of the streets within the cantonment area became almost impassable. An almost continuous effort by MABS-16, MCB-9 and MCB-8 personnel and equipment have been required to keep these roads open. MABS-16 does not have the capability to perform the maintenance required on the primary road system within this camp. A request that this responsibility be assigned to 30th NCR was submitted. Construction was begun on two permanent shower facilities by MCB-9. The building for the first permanent head was completed. One concrete slab extension for the galley was poured. All temporary heads were repaired with permanent flooring and complete fly proofing installed.

The following electrical construction was completed; wired 14 living tents, 14 tents on the flight line, 13 tents for Group Supply, one tent for the medical department, the

[REDACTED]

SNCO Club, the E.M. Club, the new MABS laundry, the CP bunker, the bake shop in the galley, installed upright panel board and ran overhead feeder line on the flight line; installed pole line from 75 KW generator to galley and mess hall; relocated and rewired the movie, replaced rotor and stator in one 75 KW generator, and repaired 5-30 KW generators.

The following projects were completed by the MABS-16 plumbing shop; installed 2 - 27 foot and 2 - 34 foot concrete culverts in road behind the flight line, installed concrete drains in the officers and SNCO showers and at the new laundry, moved sick bay water tower and tank to operating room tent and installed plumbing including electric hot water heater, installed plumbing in dental tent, dug 14 heads and replaced 14 urinals, installed plumbing in SNCO and E.M. Clubs, made repairs to officers and E.M. showers, repaired one water trailer, installed ovens in bake shop, and set up water point at new MAG-16 well.

Reefer personnel made daily checks on all reefers, repaired the flake ice machine and ice cream machine; rebuilt one MQ51 refrigeration unit.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications section of MAG-16 is now established in a more or less permanent posture. Up until this time normal working operations were negligible due to our semi-tactical situation. Approximately 95% of necessary communications are established and functioning. Radio and wire sections are now in the process of bringing PM and modifications cards up to date. A maintenance program is being established by repair section and routine operator maintenance and cleaning is in full process on telephones, which due to understrength and over commitment, was difficult. The Command and Control Communications established in the S-3 operations office were transplaced to the Command and Control bunker. All systems are functioning and checked daily. The TSC-15 van has been relocated in close proximity to the "Bunker". Wing Command and Wing Tactical are now being operated from the TSC-15 with success.

The following replacements have been effected:

Comm Chief: GySgt W. R. GRIMES vice GySgt J. E. SMITH  
Repair Chief: GySgt R. W. SNYDER vice SSgt J. REAM  
MsgCen Chief: SSgt H. F. KILCREASE  
Wire Chief: Sgt E. L. KNIGHT vice SSgt F. E. JESSE

The last of one for one replacements with MAG-36 have been completed. Six (6) promotions were effected 5 Cpl to Sgt.

Cpl R. W. FULKERSON to Sgt  
Cpl E. R. OVERBY to Sgt  
Cpl R. J. MILES to Sgt  
Cpl R. L. COOPER to Sgt  
Cpl J. L. SMITH to Sgt

and one (1) Lt to Captain

Lt J. S. SIROTNIAK to Captain

Communications for the month of November have been generally good, with a high percentage of reliability. The radio relay teams attached from 5th Comm Bn have been doing excellent work in maintaining our link to Wing. Constant effort is being devoted to care and maintenance of equipment especially during this monsoon season.

The wire section continued to install field phones and trouble shooting, and the largest percentage of trouble calls show up as cut lines or the absence of personnel to answer the phone.

[REDACTED]

As a result of the attack on 28 Oct 1965 all wire lines located on the flight line were re-located and overheaded.

With the arrival of an infantry company, the wire system was reinstalled as a company tactical net.

The wire portion of the command and Control center was relocated in the recently constructed defense bunker similar to the operations in the S-3, but not duplicating.

Continuous operations of Wing CMD#2 and Wing Tac net were maintained. Some difficulty has been experienced on the Wing Tac net. BARRELHOUSE is capable of receiving all stations but can not easily transmit. To remedy this situation an AN/TRC-75 and E-499 were sent to HMM-161. However, due to lack of suitable 50/60 cycle power supply the AN/TRC-75 has not been in operation.

Free Bulletin 2000 has administratively deadlined all radio vehicles. They will be used only in emergency conditions and with approval of the Commanding Officer.

The design of radio's tent is being altered to provide more storage space and easier access to equipment.

A serious shortage of BA-279's has occurred and supply has been alerted to the problem. Outstanding requisitions have not been filled, resulting in this critical situation.

On 7 Nov 1965 the accidental destruction of a KL-47 occurred due to a faulty thermite grenade. The necessary report has been filed.

A considerable amount of trouble has been experienced with the KW-7, believed due to the fluctuating camp power.

Modification and maintenance records are being initiated and maintained on all equipment within the section.

In spite of COMUSMACV, FMFPAC and Wing directives the volume of traffic has greatly increased-reason unknown. All units within the MAG are making every attempt to utilize other means of sending messages to info addees. An SOP governing message handling is soon to be published.

In regard to repairs, 143 pieces of equipment were processed; 14 pieces of equipment sent to higher echelon; 147 pieces of equipment returned to sections and 146 requisitions were processed by supply.

~~SECRET~~

The once crippled supply system is regaining it's footing. Requisitions are being filled close to the expected times as indicated by the PRIORITY.

A well needed maintenance program is being established to facilitate the care and cleaning of equipment.

~~SECRET~~

COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU  
III Marine Amphibious Force and Naval Component Command  
Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
c/o FPO, San Francisco,  
California 96601

Release No: 749-65 Photo No: 1-330-65  
First Marine Air Wing Release No: X-319-65  
By: Sgt. Don Kellet

Da Nang Press Center  
Da Nang, Vietnam  
Tel: Falcon 6259

donations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DA NANG, Vietnam, Oct. 9 — Part of a \$1500 donation by staff non-commissioned officers of Marine Aircraft Group-16 (MAG)-16 was distributed at two local orphanages here this week.

FirstSgt. William L. Akers (Arlington, Va.) and GySgt. Kent F. Nickerson (Westbrook, Conn.), representing all staff non-commissioned officers of the group, made the contributions at the two orphanages.

The recipients of the donations are the World Wide Evangelization Crusade and the Sacred Heart Nursery Homes, located near Marine Aircraft Group-16's Marble Mountain Air Facility, two miles east of Da Nang.

In coming weeks, through the unit's chaplain, the remainder of the donations will be given to other institution for the homeless.

-usmc-

Enclosure (1)

COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU  
 III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND NAVAL COMPONENT COMMAND  
 MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM  
 C/O FPO, SAN FRANCISCO  
 CALIFORNIA

Release No: 717-65  
 First Marine Air Wing Release No: X-297-65  
 By: Sgt. Don Kellett

Da Nang Press Center  
 Da Nang, Vietnam  
 Tel: Falcon 6259

corpsman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DA NANG, Vietnam, Oct 1 -- "Doc" Fred E. Davis is a Navy corpsman whose ambulance is a Marine Corps helicopter.

If one person can be typical of a profession, "Doc", a seven year Navy veteran and a Hospitalman second class rank, is typical of the many helicopter airborne corpsman. He has an unshakable belief in his job and is here now on an extension which he asked for.

Davis is attached to Marine Observation Squadron (VMO)-2 here, the (MED evac) "Huey" 'copter unit which handles most of the medical evacuation/flights. When his 24-hour stand-by starts, he and the crewmen of the two choppers assigned to med evac stay in a tent on the flight line. A few yards away the pilots and co-pilots wait in another tent used as a ready room.

When a man has been wounded anywhere in the Da Nang perimeter, a claxon sounds. "That thing scares me out of my wits," Doc Davis mumbles. "I've heard it dozens of times and I still jump."

The jump gives him a head start to the nearby Hueys. Davis runs for the copter which has been stripped of armament to allow room for wounded. The other crew runs for the escort craft bristling with machineguns and rockets which provides protection for Davis' copter.

(more)

Enclosure (2)

corpsman2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2

"We are airborne within five minutes from the time the ground people have radioed," explains the Dravosburg, Pa. native, "and we can fly to any spot in this area within ten minutes. Add another ten to get to the field hospital, and we can deliver a wounded man within 25 minutes of the time he's hit. That's maximum time."

It's maximum time if all goes well in the pick-up zone.

"Time is against me in the zone. The longer it takes me to get a patient into the helicopter the more time we're eating out of his life."

That's why heli-corpsmen, like Davis, are usually on the ground running before the chopper fully settles down. He is giving first aid as the ground Marines are hauling the stretcher towards the Huey.

The wounded man aboard, the copter joins its armed escort, which has been serving as an armed umbrella.

First aid continues in the air. It may be nothing more than carrying on where a corpsman attached to the ground unit left off. Or it may be as involved as a tracheotomy.

Davis says: "The really important thing is letting the patient know that someone who really knows something about medicine is there to help him. I've given morphine to men who've been hurt bad, then had them shoot the breeze with me all the way back."

Once Davis has delivered his patient -- or sometimes, patients -- to the hospital his responsibility ends.

His emotions don't.

"You know, in those minutes we have together...well there's a closeness. A comradeship I guess you could call it. I wonder how they're making out afterwards."

(more)

ENCLOSURE (2)

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corpsman3-3-3-3-3-3-3

That's why, on the few days he has off, you'll find Doc Davis at the field hospital.

usmc

ENCLOSURE(2)

DECLASSIFIED



## ENCLOSURE (2)

Supporting art  
III. MAF Release No: 717-65  
corpsman #2 of 2

IN-AIR TREATMENT — Fred E. Davis, HM2, one of the many U. S. Navy corpsmen assigned to medical evacuations with the Marine helicopters at Da Nang, administers to a wounded Marine enroute to a field hospital. "Doc" Davis may treat a dozen wounded men his 'copter has taken out of firefights during a 24-hour tour of watch.

ENCLOSURE (2)

OFFICIAL  
U. S. MARINE CORPS  
PHOTOGRAPH

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE

1st MARINE AIRCRAFT WING/

MARINE UNIT VIET NAM

FPO, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96601

NUMBER MAW VN - 2-312-65

DATE 24 SEP 1965

PHOTOG Sgt. John C. McCullough

COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU  
III MARINE CORPS AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND NAVAL COMPONET COMMAND  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM  
C/O FPO, SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA 96601

Release No: 765-65  
First Marine Aircraft Wing Release No: 327-65  
By: Sgt. Don Kellet

Da Nang Press Center  
Da Nang, Vietnam  
Tel: Falcon 6259

pre-show

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DA NANG, Vietnam, Oct 11 -- It was Big Brother-ism at its most powerful, plus a steel-encased warning to the Viet Cong to leave the little guys alone.

The smaller brothers were six UH34D helos from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-261, sent to resupply an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) outpost, 35 miles southwest of Da Nang.

More than a month ago, another column was hit by small arms fire as it attempted to unload supplies on the same knoll. The VC continually harrassed the outpost so it has been resupplied with parachuted air drops. This type of drop has its limitations. It was decided to try the copters again.

The small ones brought their larger brothers along this time. As the choppers circled overhead, out of rifle range, two U. S. Air Force bombers blasted the hills surrounding the ARVN position. Then, four Marine Skyhawk jets raked the area with bombs, rockets and cannon fire. Finally, four Marine Huey armed helicopters buzzed alongside the hills, machine-gunning and rocketing at closer range. There was random small arms fire from the Viet Cong at this time but the Hueys smashed the token resistance.

UNCLASSIFIED

more

Enclosure (3)

DECLASSIFIED

pre-show2-2-2-2-2

With only the echoes of Big Brothers' thunder disturbing the peace,  
HMM-261 birds sat down and off-loaded thousands of pounds of supplies.

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ENCLOSURE (3)

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COMBAT INFORMATION BUREAU  
 III Marine Amphibious Force and Naval Component Command  
 Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
 c/o FPO, San Francisco,  
 California 96601

Release No: 759-65 Photo No: 1-327-65  
 First Marine Air Wing Release No. X-325-65  
 By: Sgt. Don Kellett

Da Nang Press Center  
 Da Nang, Vietnam  
 Tel: Falcon 6259

gear

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DA NANG, Vietnam, Oct. 10 — There are few chamber of commerce type items to publicize about the Marble Mountain Air Facility, home of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-16. While the heli field is hot, dusty and barren, it does have the most natural shoreline anywhere along the South China Sea.

When they're off duty, MAG-16 Marines head for the water to cool off. Some find that the pounding surf hides treacherous undertows and riptides.

That's why 1st Lt. Walter J. Gallagher (Philadelphia, Penn.) wrote to a chamber of commerce. For years the lieutenant was a lifeguard at Wildwood Beach, N. J. He wrote explaining Marble Mountain's need as a recreational spot.

The mayor of North Wildwood sent the town's answer almost immediately...a huge air mail package containing new bouys, ropes and life-saving essentials.

There were also a few non-essentials, such as jerseys with N. W. B. P. blocked on them, which prompted MAG-16 to erect a huge sign on the beach.

"North Wildwood, N. J., Beach Patrol," it reads, then adds, "Eastern Division, Da Nang, Vietnam."

-usmc-

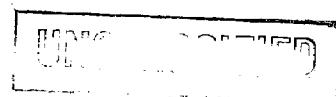
Enclosure (4)

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ENCLOSURE (4)



Supporting Art  
III MAF Release #759-65  
Photo Release #1-327-65



ON THE BEACH -- Col. Thomas J. O'Connor (29 Palms, Calif.) fits a lifeguard jersey to 1st Lt. Walter J. Gallagher (Philadelphia, Penn.). 1st Lt. Gallagher wrote to the North Wildwood, N. J., Chamber of Commerce, and received lifesaving equipment to be used at the new Marble Mountain Air Facility beach near Da Nang. The town responded with a box of lifelines, bouys, etc. The lieutenant was a lifeguard at a New Jersey beach, which, along with the donated equipment, explains the sign. At right is Cpl. Robert C. Barr (Chillicothe, Ohio). (OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO by Sgt. J. G. McCullough)

-usmc-

ENCLOSURE (4)

Top Secret

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group 16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 96601

LJO:jep  
 9 Oct 1965

Honorable Anthony T. Catanese  
 Mayor of the City of North Wildwood  
 City Hall  
 North Wildwood, New Jersey

My Dear Mayor Catanese

It is with a feeling of deep gratitude that we, here at Marine Aircraft Group 16, extend our thanks to you and the people of North Wildwood, New Jersey.

It is not often that a military unit deployed in the field has the good fortune to be blessed with a beach like ours. However, even though the beach has provided the backbone of our recreation program, the problem of water safety has been an object of great concern. Through your generosity our task of making the beach a safe recreation area has been made much easier.

First Lieutenant Walter J. GALLAGHER, a former member of your community has been highly instrumental in the success of our water safety program. He has personally screened our life-guards and on one occasion displayed a great amount of courage and ability in saving the lives of three Marines on our beach. Through his efforts and your concern we are confident that our beach will reflect the standards of safety that your city has attained at the North Wildwood beach.

The sign in the enclosed picture was erected on our beach as a token of our gratitude. From left to right are Colonel T. J. O'CONNOR, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16, First Lieutenant Walter J. GALLAGHER, and Corporal R. C. BARR.

Sincerely yours,

T. J. O'CONNOR  
 Colonel, USMC

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Enclosure (5)

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S-4/1

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X	O
X	
S	3

3600

SUMMARY OF EVENTS OF MORNING OF 28 OCTOBER 1965

At 072400H a VC force estimated at 200 men launched an attack on Marble Mountain Air Facility, MCB-8, and MCB-9. Simultaneously with this diversionary attacks were made on Battery "D" (BT 063680), Company "A" (BT 092668), and a squad from the 3d Platoon, Company "C" located at the French bunker (BT 082897). The main VC force apparently landed by boat between coordinates (BT 070740) and (BT 078724) and penetrated the perimeter of MIAF. This force employed small arms, including automatic weapons, grenades, satchel charges, and Bangalore torpedoes. The action lasted from 072400H until 080300H and MIAF suffered two KIA, 15 WIA, and 26 helicopters destroyed. Nineteen VC were KIA and four WIA VC were taken POW. Fifteen grenade clusters (six grenades per cluster), four M49 SMG, one Cal. .45 pistol, three satchel charges, two Bangalore torpedoes, and one ChiCom rocket launcher were captured.

At 080010H MCB-8 (BT 064727) was hit from the north and west by an unknown number of VC armed with semiautomatic and automatic weapons. The fire fight continued until 080300H when the VC broke contact. There were no friendly losses and VC casualties, if any, are not known. Three civilians were apprehended for interrogation.

At 080004H MCB-9 (BT 062734) received heavy fire from 60mm mortars located at (BT 064745) and automatic weapons from the northwest and southeast. The number of VC is not known. Mortar fire ceased at 080015H but sporadic small arms fire continued until 080204H. During the fire fight one VC was seen to be hit and MCB-9 had 67 WIA. During this fight the USN Hospital at (BT 060728) was overrun and two generators and several buildings were destroyed, probably by satchel charges. There were no casualties at the hospital among friendly forces. These actions were the main attacks. Interrogation of POW's indicated that the initial force of 200 VC was to be followed up by another group of the same size. However this group never landed and it is believed that the attacking force withdrew by sea. It is further believed that the mortar crews escaped by boat to the west on one of the several possible rivers.

At 080245H a vehicle from 1/9 enroute to MIAF carrying personnel to assist in interrogation of the WIA POW's, struck a mine at coordinates (BT 067725) resulting in four WIA's from 1/9. After this the road was swept by engineers from 1/9 CP (BT 063737) and a mine consisting of 15 pounds of 15 pounds of TNT and an electrical detonator was discovered and blown in place at coordinates (BT 063737). These mines emplaced some time after 072400H. The infantry along with the engineers observed two VC at a distance of about 400 meters and opened fire, hitting one. The area was not physically checked.

The 1/9 CP (BT 068717), Company "B", 3d Tank Battalion Cr (BT 068717), the 1/9 OP (BT 073703), the water point (BT 071701), and the supply point (BT 071708) did not have any contact with the VC. However, three

UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

ounds of mortar fire impacted approximately 300 meters to the north of the Company "B", 3d Tank Bn CP.

At 280005H Battery "D" (BT 043680) received 12 rounds of semi-automatic rifle fire from an estimated four VC. The fire was at a distance of 300 meters and from the south and east. Fire was returned and the VC broke contact at 280020H. There were no losses.

A squad from Company "C" located at the French bunker (BT 081697) received 10 rounds from one carbine and one automatic weapon from the southwest at a distance of 75 meters. Fire was returned and the VC broke contact. This action began at 280015H and ended at 280035H. There were no casualties.

Company "A", located at coordinates (BT 088668), received 10 rounds of carbine fire from several directions from approximately four VC. The firing began at 280030H and ended at 280045H without losses on either side.

These last three actions are considered to have diversionary in nature and intended to harass and divert our attention.

At 280115H the 3d Platoon, Company "B" left the 1/3 CP with three tanks and proceeded to coordinates (BT 088696) to set up an ambush in an attempt to block the VC. At 280230H the platoon patrolled to (BT 084703) approaching four VC. They then proceeded to TAN AN (BT 084687) then south to (BT 097680) where they fired on three boats sinking one. The platoon proceeded back to the 1/3 CP without further incident, and arrived at 280330H.

At 280445H Company "A" dispatched its 3d Platoon to join its patrol, Kien Giang, at coordinates (BT 097681), and then move to coordinates (BT 094685) and occupy blocking positions while the 3d Platoon, Company "B" searched TAN AN (BT 084687). Two tanks attached to the blocking force observed three boats off the coast and brought fire on them, sinking two. No other contact was made and the platoon returned to its CP at 280615H.

The 81mm Mortar Platoon fired normal H&I fires between 273000H and 280030H at which time fire was intensified. HE was fired in grid squares (BT 0670), (BT 0670), (BT 0671), (BT 0671), (BT 0671), and (BT 0473). Illumination was fired in grid squares (BT 0670), (BT 0671), (BT 0672), (BT 0672), (BT 0671), (BT 0670), (BT 0669), (BT 0770), (BT 0771), (BT 0772), (BT 0871), (BT 0870), and (BT 0769). Illumination expenditure was 63 rounds and HE light was 233 rounds. All fire missions secured at 280615H.

Battery "D", 2/12 fired 113 HE and two illumination rounds between 272100H and 280600H. HE was fired in grid squares (BT 0962), (BT 0861), (BT 0661), (BT 0762), (BT 0761), (BT 0661), (BT 1061), (BT 1062), (BT 1161), (BT 1162), (BT 1263), (BT 1261), (BT 1362), (BT 0869) and (BT 0870). Illumination was fired in grid square (BT 0870).

[REDACTED]  
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A flare ship was on station between 280130H and 280615H and provided continuous illumination. An AC arrived over the TAOR at 280230H and is still on station. He received heavy small arms fire over TAN AN (BT 084607) at 280330H. From 280300H to 280400H two F4B's were on station but were not employed. Helicopters for the MedEvac of 44 WIA from MCMB were provided by USAF.

26  
Friendly casualties totaled two KIA, and 84 WIA while the VC lost 19 KIA, four POW (WIA), and two possible WIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (6)

GMC 7

RECORDED  
 Marine Aircraft Group 26  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 94601

40 Miles  
 4000  
 3 November 1965

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-4)

Subj: Comprehensive Damage Report

1. The following damage was sustained to installations and equipment based at Marble Mountain Air Facility during the Viet Cong attack of 29 October 1965.

a. MMF-26

- (1) Two (2) T-53 Engines in containers. Damaged.
- (2) One (1) T-53-54C Engine (REK). Damaged.
- (3) One (1) A-46 Avionics air conditioner. Damaged.
- (4) One (1) Low pressure air compressor. Badly damaged.
- (5) Two (2) Butler ridge bullet and shrapnel holes. Minor damage.

b. VMO-2

- (1) Thirteen (1) UH-1H's. Destroyed.
- (2) One (1) UH-1H. Major damage.
- (3) One (1) UH-1H. Charlie damage.
- (4) Three (3) UH-1H. Minor damage.
- (5) The following Navy & Marine Corps equipment was destroyed.

ITEM	QTY.
Antenna: GP	One
Antenna: Fly	One
Antenna set	One
Antennas: 4000 CPS	One
Machine gun: M60A	One
Machine gun: M16	One
Nett stand	One
Nett bar	One
Machinet: Cleaning	One
Machinet: Fly	One
Probator: A/C	One
Hyd test machine	One
Generator: Vacuum	One
Nett story	One

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (7)

UNCLASSIFIED	ITEM
Compressor	1ea
Compressor	1ea
Cylinder assy	2ea
Sprayer unit	1ea
Light marker	1ea
Handle	1ea
Cover assy	1ea
Jack set	2ea
Hoist assy	1ea
Wrench	1ea
Bench assy	2ea
Gage	2ea
Bender	2ea
Wrench	2ea
Sling	2ea
Link	4ea
Indicator	1ea
Wrench: Torque	1ea
Wrench: torque	1ea
Gear assy	17ea
Socket: Wrench	1ea
Socket: Wrench	1ea
Installer & recover	1ea
Sling: Angles	2ea
Vibration Pick-Up	1ea
Cable assy	1ea
Adapter assy	1ea
Mount assy	1ea
Adapter assy	1ea
Helmet	1ea
Gloves	1ea
Life vest	1ea
Jug: Vacuum	2ea
Separator	1ea
Spray gun	1ea
Drill: Pneumatic	1ea
Kit: Hack	1ea
Hammer: Pneumatic	1ea
Armor kit: A/C	1ea
Avocet: Body	1ea
Machine: Add a Subt	1ea
Machine gun: M600	26ea

## e. HEM-361

- (1) Four (4) UH-34D's. Destroyed.
- (2) Three (3) UH-34D's. Brown damage/Three (3) engine
- (3) Twelve (12) UH-34D's. Brown damage/Three (3) engine
- (4) One (1) External APU. Untrapel minor.
- (5) Five (5) UH Units. Minor damage. Can be repaired.

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ENCLOSURE (7)

4. ~~BBB-263~~

- (1) One (1) UH-34D. Destroyed.
- (2) Six (6) UH-34D's. Bravo damage/Five (5) engines.
- (3) Eight (8) UH-34D's. Minor damage.
- (4) One (1) UH-34D. Engine change.

## 5. CH-37 Det.

- (1) Five (5) CH-37. Shrapnel & bullet holes. Minor damage.

## 6. KAB3-16

- (1) Group motor transport equipment sustained following damage.

- (a) One (1) M-50 Water truck. Destroyed.
- (b) One (1) M-63 Refueler. Major damage.
- (c) One (1) M-422A1 Tmk utility 1 Ton. Destroyed.
- (d) Two (2) M-422A1 Tmk utility 1 Ton. Minor damage. Shrapnel & bullet holes.
- (e) One (1) M-5 Crash truck. Major damage.
- (f) Two (2) M-5 Crash trucks. Minor damage. Shrapnel & bullet holes.
- (g) One (1) MB-1 Tow tractor. Minor damage.
- (h) One (1) Tmk Oil MA-1B. Minor damage.

- (2) One (1) TAPDS hose. Destroyed.

- (3) One (1) QP Tent. Shrapnel holes. Needs survey.

7. Approximately 25,000 sq ft of parking apron FOF matting and burlap membrane destroyed by fire and explosive. Needs new burlap and matting.

A. MC BARROW  
By direction

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

ENC 8

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group 16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 96601

C O  
X O  
 211500z Nov 65  
 3000  
 29 Oct 1965

## MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 (Attn: ACORS, C-2)

Subject: Recovered Items, Inventory and Disposition of

1. The following armaments, ammunition, explosives and equipment were captured during the night of 28 October 1965.

a. Seven (7) assault rifles, six (6) forwarded to CG, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: ACORS, C-2), serial numbers W000  
 1202284, 3112737, 3100280, 2009900, 2012252, 2015677; one (1) forwarded to CO, Third Marine Division (Attn: ACORS, C-2). Thirty  
 Four (34) magazines were with these weapons.

b. One (1) Chinese Pistol, serial number 222141, forwarded to CO, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, (Attn: ACORS, C-2).

c. Two (2) US Cal 45 Pistols, M911 A1; one (1) forwarded to CO, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: ACORS, C-2), serial number 1720666. One (1) retained by BOS for destruction due to malfunction of weapon.

d. One (1) Smith & Wesson Cal 38 Special serial number 273279 returned to VMO-5 sergeant who was signed for the weapon. It had been captured in the VMO-2 combat area by one of the saboteurs.

e. One (1) Chinese Rocket Launcher serial number 399779, identified by EOD personnel as a 57mm, with three rounds. (Weapon recovered for by CO, Third Marine Division Staff C-2)

f. Five (5) Bazooka Mortars retained by EOD personnel.

g. One hundred twenty (120) to two hundred (200) grenades of various types; retained by EOD personnel.

Enclosure (8)

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b. Approximately thirty (30) pounds of personal equipment and papers; approximately half of this material was passed to 1st Marine Amphibious Force HQ, the other half to 1st Lt. Marine Aircrews Wing, (AACB, C-2).

L. D. SIEGMUND  
By direction

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (8)

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT  
Marine Aircraft Group Sixteen  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing FMFPac  
c/o FPO San Francisco  
96601

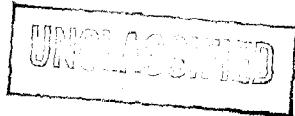
DRC/jll  
30 October 1965

From: Medical Officer, MAG-16  
To: C.A. House, Lt. Col. USMC

Subj: Activities of MAG-16 Dispensary the morning of 28 October  
1965; report of

1. At approximately 0003, 28 October 1965, first charges were heard coming from the area of the flight line. The dispensary lights were secured and all hospital corpsmen, dentalmen, the Chaplain, Medical Officers, and ward patients were in the bunker shortly thereafter. The first ambulance departed the dispensary at 0015 with three corpsmen and proceeded to the BAA, HMMS hanger and the VMO-2 line area.
2. The second group of corpsmen and an ambulance departed the dispensary area five minutes later.
3. By 0030, the first Marine casualties arrived and they continued arriving for one and one-half hours. The final count of those wounded in action from MAG-16, twenty-five, and those killed in action, three.
4. A total of seven wounded V.C. were seen and treated. Four of these were subsequently transferred via ambulance to the ARVN Hospital, DaNang Air Base.
5. By 0330 all casualties had been air evacuated to "C" Med and no others were received at this facility.

D.R. CAIN  
LT MC USNR



Enclosure (9)