

SECRET

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

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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
 Encl.: (1) Photo of Communication equipment off-load from CH-37C in support
 of Operation "Harvest Moon" 1/15
 2. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the attached Command
 Chronology is hereby submitted.

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

MAG-16 SMC
 LOG # 0077-66
 COPY 1 OF 8

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DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR 5200.10

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NARRATIVE

1 December 1965 . . .

HMM-161 - (U) Two flights were launched for reconnaissance missions in the Danang TAOR. Both flights received small arms fire. Suppression fire was returned at (AT 010646) and one Viet Cong was probably wounded. Immediately after breaking contact, one aircraft made a precautionary landing into LZ Railbird because of an engine sump warning light indication. Maintenance check was complete and flight continued on mission. The other flight called artillery fire into (AT 959603). Fire suppression was returned. Neither flight received any damage.

Four flights were flown in logistic support of the III MAF. These flights were in support of the Ninth Marines, Third Marines and Third Battalion Fourth Marines.

Six command liaison flights flew to Marble Mountain in administrative support of various III MAF units. Four Vietnamese doctors, two nurses and four technicians were taken to Quang Tri from Hue to conduct a day long clinic at an orphanage.

Increased enemy movement reports from the intelligence section had this squadron launching two night reconnaissance flights over the Phu Bai airfield and TAOR.

The orphanage of Kim Hong, located in the city of Hue, was presented with various comfort items donated by HMM-161. Among the items were two electric hair clippers, underwear, material, towels, thread and needles.

HMM-263 - (U) Normal commitments for this month remain the same as for November. These include daily III MAF support, 3rd and 9th Marine support, and occasional I Corps support. The night dispersal has been continued with the same frequency as during the month of November. In support of I Corps, 54 VN military and VN civilians were lifted from Hoi An to (BT 055355), 9 US military, 306 VN military and 12 VN civilians were lifted from (BT 115135) to (ZC 006092) (Cam Duc). Small arms fire was received and returned from (ZC 1209) with no hits.

HMM-363 - (U) Two escort missions of note were those for Senators MCGOVERN AND TOWERS. They were given tours of the installations in the Danang and Chu Lai complexes. Maj. H. W. STEADMAN and 1st Lt. W. ASKINS flew to Quang Ngai where they received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver and Bronze stars respectively, for their parts in the assault on Hiep Duc, 18 November. General LAM of the ARVN Second Division presented the decorations.

VMO-2 - (G) On the First day of December the Squadron provided escort for Tarbush aircraft during an unsuccessful attempt to recover an H-34 hulk from (BT 054718) where it had been dropped by an H-37.

The Med Evac aircraft performed four missions, evacuating three US sick and one US wounded.

HMM-161 - () VIP lift: Admiral U. S. GRANT SHARP, MGEN WALT and party from Danang to Chu Lai to Phu Bai to Danang.

2 December 1965

HMM-161 - (u) All morning flights were cancelled because of low clouds and reduced visibility in rainshowers. The afternoon schedule consisted of administrative and logistical support of the III MAF within the Phu Bai TAOR. An administrative flight in support of the 1st ARVN Division carried 10 civilian from Quang Tri (YD 340540) to Hue. Based on local intelligence reports, the night reconnaissance flight was launched for surveillance of the Phu Bai TAOR and airfield. No enemy activity was observed.

VMO-2 - (U) On the second of December a night reconnaissance was made of the beach area from Danang to Hoi An.

3 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) A resupply to Ba Long from Ca Lu twice was attempted by a flight of eight aircraft. Each attempt was thwarted by low ceilings and reduced visibility. The minimum ceiling and visibility was reduced to 200 feet and one quarter mile. With no forecast weather improvement, the mission was cancelled.

One flight of two aircraft on a reconnaissance mission with an aerial observer aboard received fire from (AT 968655) in the Danang TAOR while investigating a group of personnel at 200 feet altitude. One round penetrated the aircraft tail pylon. The flight was continued without further incident.

The Third Marines were supported by two aircraft in various administrative and logistical flights to subordinate units for the entire day.

The night reconnaissance flight was launched for observation of the Phu Bai airfield and TAOR. No unusual occurrences were noted.

HMM-263 - (C) 10 MedEvacs, 5 VN military, 5 US military were lifted from "C" Med to 8th Aerial Port, 2nd LAAM Bn received the support of 2 helicopters for drone pick-up at Chu Lai. 2 tons of cargo (2 drones) and 7 US military were lifted.

VMO-2 - (u) On three December the MedEvac escort aircraft crashed south of Danang airfield while engaged on a pre-dawn mission. There were no injuries to personnel, and the accident was attributed to disorientation in marginal weather conditions. Maintenance personnel were flown in to disassemble the aircraft, and it was lifted back to MMAF by Junkman with a Deadlock escort.

MedEvac aircraft performed six missions, evacuating six US WIA, one US KIA, one US injured, one civilian WIA, and three civilian KIA.

4 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) An emergency resupply to the ARVN outpost of Ba Long (YD 152400) from the loading zone at La Vang (YD 342507) was accomplished despite extremely poor weather in and around the Ba Long area. Eight aircraft with 4 A4 and 2 F4 escort aircraft departed La Vang and repeatedly entered the valley under adverse weather conditions. Confirmed Viet Cong positions were located at (YD 195397) which is on the western side of the river at the mouth of the valley. Six flights were made into the valley. Each time a different entry was utilized as the weather was constantly changing. At times, the flights of four aircraft had to fly a column formation to enter or depart the valley through a small break in the weather. Each flight of four operated independently of each other but constantly advised the other of their relative position in the area. At times, one flight would hold outside of the valley until other flights were clear of the ridge lines. On the initial landing at Ba Long, the marine adviser passed the Viet Cong position to the flight of helicopters, who in turn relayed the information to the escort aircraft, Oxwood 14-1. The escort aircraft ran a strike mission on this position. At times, it was necessary to operate at 300 feet or less because of the existing weather conditions. Oxwood 14-1 demonstrated a highly professional ability and exceptional courage on this strike. Voluntarily, this flight entered and remained in the valley under extremely hazardous conditions, escorting the helicopters. In summary, the eight aircraft flew 95 sorties, carried 51,950 pounds of much needed cargo and 119 troops into the valley. All flight helicopter and fixed wing support crews demonstrated superb airmanship in the accomplishment of this mission.

Two aircraft, in support of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, lifted a mobile alert team into LZ (YD 875054) after the zone was prepped by artillery fire. No resistance was encountered. One Viet Cong KIA was carried from (YD 907094) to the Battalion Command Post.

In support of the Ninth Marines, two aircraft with two armed gunships, flew a strike of 75 troops to (BT 047718). The landing was unopposed. During a routine supply of other subordinate units, one aircraft received a small round through the tail pylon when compelled to operate at 200 feet because of adverse weather conditions.

Flight operations for the Third Marines were limited because of the poor weather conditions.

HMM-263 - (U) I Corps support consisted of resupply of (AT 813390) (Nong Son), (AT 875476) (Duc Duc), and (BT 043349) (Que Son). 4 tons of cargo, 4 US military, 82 VN military, 57 VN civilians, and 1 VN military WIA were lifted. Small arms fire was received enroute at (AT 976517). A recon mission received automatic weapons fire from (AT 872704), with one hit.

HMM-361 - (C) A flight led by Maj. P. E. BENET encountered mortar fire, exploding at an altitude of 1300 feet, while on a resupply mission to Bato (BS 565330). The weather during this period was generally very marginal and hazardous. Many pilots reported flying with ceilings as low as 300 feet.

VMO-2 - (C) On four December MedEvac aircraft flew three missions, evacuating two US WIA, two US injured, and two civilian WIA.

5 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) Two aircraft on a resupply mission for the Ninth Marines, were diverted for a troop lift into an unsecure landing zone without escort aircraft. While departing the LZ at (AT 968642), the lead aircraft was hit by small arms fire and had to make an emergency landing into LZ 3 (AT 972662). The aircraft was hit by two 30 cal. rounds. One round entered the lower left clamshell door, passed through the magneto ground lead, severed the number four cylinder high tension lead, severed the inner valve oil drain line and lodged in the cooling fins. The second round pierced a spar near the rotor head. Repairs were made by the crew and a quality control inspection was performed by the maintenance aircraft crew upon their arrival. After a short check flight, all aircraft returned to Phu Bai.

The Third Marines utilized two aircraft all day in various administrative and logistical flights for subordinate units. Two local flights were launched for squadron co-pilot training and familiarization. The night reconnaissance flight reported no enemy in or around the Phu Bai TAOR.

Protestant church services were held in the mess hall at 0900. Chaplain Leroy E. MUENZLER of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines conducted the services. Catholic mass was held at 1400 at the Eight R.R.U. Army compound. Squadron transportation was furnished for those desiring to attend.

HMM-263 - (U) Drone recovery was flown at Chu Lai in support of 2nd LAAM Bn. Cargo lifted was 3 tons (3 drones) and 24 US military. 6 aircraft scrambled for a strike on (BT 655045). 76 US military were lifted into the zone. No fire was received.

HMM-361 - (U) Maj. P. E. BENET led a four-plane troop lift to aid a Marine company in trapping a VC unit operating in the vicinity of (BT 655045), south of Chu Lai.

VMO-2 - (C) On the fifth day of the month a visual recon of the Danang TAOR was flown during the hours of darkness, and the aircraft encountered hostile small arms fire from (BT 003-581) and (BT 012614) at 0500H, but no hits were reported.

MedEvac aircraft performed five missions, evacuating three US WIA, two US sick, and one US injured.

6 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Eight aircraft with A4 escort resupplied the ARVN outpost at Que Son (BT 040349), Nong Son (AT815382) and Dai Lac (AT 582-918) from Danang airfield. At Dai Lac, the landing zone received mortar rounds during the resupply. No aircraft received damage.

All remaining flights were within the confines of the Phu Bai TAOR in support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines.

HMM-263 - (S) USAF was supported by launching two aircraft to Quang Tri for SAR. Small arms fire was received by one UH-34D flying escort on a CH-37 with no hits for the UH-34. One US military KIA was lifted from (BS 786424) to "B" Med at Chu Lai.

VMO-2 - (C) During the sixth day of the month there was no significant activity except that the Med Evac aircraft performed nine missions, evacuating eight US WIA, one US sick, and one injured plus one VCS WIA.

7 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Six aircraft resupplied the ARVN outposts at Tien Phouc (BT 113137) and Khan Duc (ZC 090070) from Danang airfield. Two sections of A4s provided escort. No unusual incidents occurred throughout the flight.

Two aircraft carried a reconnaissance patrol from (AT 845862) to LZ Finch. Additional troops and cargo were lifted from (BT 040648) to (AT 990678).

A reconnaissance flight with an aerial observer was made into Elephant Valley (BT 042621). After completion, the flight resupplied various units in the Danang TAOR from LZ Eagle.

While conducting a resupply for the Ninth Marines out of LZ Railbird (AT 992678), an overturned boat in the river was observed. Upon investigation, a marine was discovered clinging to the boat. A rescue was made utilizing the hoist, but the marine slipped out of the horse-collar from about 20' altitude and dropped on the river bank. The aircraft landed and immediately evacuated the injured marine to "C" Med. The flight then continued with it's assigned mission.

Two flights were launched for night reconnaissance of the Phu Bai airfield and TAOR. Numerous low passes were made in the vicinity of the airfield utilizing the aircraft landing light in an attempt to locate enemy patrols suspected in the area. No unusual activity was noted.

HMM-263 - (U) 193 US military were lifted from (BT 043723) and (BT 046718) to (AT 992628) on a priority retrograde for the Ninth Marines. 11 tons of cargo were also lifted. 2nd LAM En was supported by 2 aircraft which lifted 30 US military from Ky Ha to (BT 052150).

VMO-2 - (U) The squadron conducted a search for the victim of an overturned boat in the vicinity of (BT 043723), without success. The aircraft used it's rotor wash to return the boat to shore.

The Med Evac aircraft performed four missions, evacuating 4 US WIA.

8 December 1965.

HMM-161 - (U) Ten aircraft launched on an emergency mission in support of Harvest Moon. Flight leader briefed by MAG-16 S-3 upon arrival at Marble Mountain. The mission consisted of two waves of troops and cargo from Tam Ky (BT 320215) to (BT 122351). Helicopter escort was provided by A4 aircraft while inbound to the landing zone, sporadic small arms fire was received from (BT 105352). No suppression fire was returned. No hits were received.

Two aircraft conducted a reconnaissance mission from LZ Kiwi with an aerial observer south of the Danang TAOR in the vicinity of (BT 1060). Relief aircraft conducted a reconnaissance throughout Elephant Valley to Happy Valley (AT 8085).

The Third Marines utilized two aircraft for the entire day in logistic, reconnaissance and administrative flights for subordinate units in and around the Danang TAOR.

Four aircraft operated in the Phu Bai TAOR in support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines in troop lift, resupply and reconnaissance missions.

The night airborne reconnaissance flight reported no unusual occurrences.

HMM-263 - (S) USAF was supported by launching two aircraft to Quang Tri for SAR. I Corps received 2.5 tons of emergency ammunition at (BT 104-337). Small arms fire was received on the approach and in the zone, resulting in two hits. An aircraft recovering a drone for III MAF received fire from (BT 065976) with no hits, recovery was completed.

HMM-361 - (C)

Elements of the Fifth Regiment, Second ARVN Division had been overrun in 15 minutes by an estimated two battalions of VC main force troops when Maj. A. H. BLOOM's section was called in to evacuate casualties. A total of 41 troops were evacuated under fire. The ARVN force had been setting up a blocking position for the Harvest Moon campaign when they made contact with the Viet Cong.

VMO-2 - (U) On the eighth day of December the tempo picked up somewhat when two UH-1Es performed an armed reconnaissance in support of an ARVN unit in the vicinity of Chau Duc (BT 085342). The aircraft made rocket and machinegun runs on attacking VC. Damage estimates were unavailable.

The aircraft then evacuated four Marines and one ARVN who were surrounded by enemy troops. The aircraft encountered no hostile fire although many VC were evident around the zone. For this reason, the pilot of the lead aircraft, Maj. James E. GILLIS, received the Silver Star Medal from the Commanding General of FMF Pacific.

Two UH-1Es fired rockets and machineguns on VC at (BT 122351) on the request of Lyrical 6. No damage estimate was available. One UH-1E gunship escort carried General HENDERSON to the battle area (BT 160-410), lifted seventeen troops between points in the area; later carried General WALT to observe operations in that area, and in the course of flying these missions, the escort received one hit from small arms fire, probably from the vicinity of (BT 143358). There was no injury to the crew.

An aircraft enroute to III MAF for standby duty encountered one round of small arms fire from (AT 990-760).

Fourteen Med Evac missions were performed, evacuating three US injured, two ARVN WIA, two ARVN injured, four more US WIA, one US KIA, four more ARVN WIA, one VCS WIA, and two VCS KIA, and transferring one US WIA, and two ARVN WIA from "C" Med to other points within the Danang Air Base.

9 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Eleven aircraft in support of Harvest Moon conducted a drop lift of the Third Marine Battalion Third Marines and Second Battalion Seventh Marine from LZ Oak (BT 154450) to Quang Tin (BT 045348) and LZ Spruce (BT 012325). Escort was provided by F4 aircraft. Small arms fire was received from (BT 010305). Two aircraft received hits but no personnel were injured. No suppression fire was returned. This flight logged 98.6 flight hours and 307 sorties. 32,775 pounds of cargo and 508 troops were lifted.

Two aircraft were launched for a Medical Evacuation at the ARVN outpost of Ashua (YC 490-840). The cloud bases were less than 100 feet above the ground so the flight climbed up and navigated above the existing weather. Locating a break in the overcast, the flight penetrated into the valley. The existing weather was beyond possible navigation capabilities so the mission was not completed and the flight returned to Phu Bai.

Ten aircraft were scrambled by MAG-16 for a priority night standby in LZ Oak (BT 153450) in support of operation "Harvest Moon". Two aircraft remained at LZ Oak. The remainder of the flight returned to Marble Mountain for standby. Enroute from Phu Bai to LZ Oak, the flight received small arms tracer fire from (BT 003615) and (BT 137-559). No aircraft or personnel received hits.

One aircraft was airborne for the night reconnaissance patrol of the Phu Bai TAOR. No unusual movements were detected.

HMM-263 - (U) While supporting MAG-16 on a lift from Marble Mountain Air Facility to (BT 224310), small arms fire was received from (BT 320 306) with no hits. In support of I Corps and III MAF while lifting 39 VN military, 230 US military and 1 ton of cargo, small arms fire was received from (BT 020345) and (BT 123352) with two hits resulting at both locations. Continued support of III MAF in Operations "Harvest Moon" by lifting 11 US military KIA, 30 US military WIA, 1 US civilian, 107 US military, and 2.5 tons of cargo. Small arms fire was received from: (BT 165450 with 2 hits, (BT 125300) with one hit, (BT 148456) with no hits, and (BT 117517) with no hits. Automatic fire and aerial mortars were received from (BT 112405) and (BT 117317) with several hits resulting. A crew chief was wounded on approach to (BT 117316) on a night MedEvac.

HMM-361 - (C) The first strike flown by HMM-361 on Harvest Moon was led by LtCol. L. F. CHILDERS. A total of 244 American and 42 ARVN troops were lifted by six aircraft in 122 sorties. Fire was received in all zones and one aircraft was hit. The squadron was also active in resupplying the strike forces. The elements involved were from the Fourth Regiment, Second ARVN Division and Marines of the Second Battalion, Seventh Marines.

VMO-2 - (C) On nine December the squadron was committed to Operation "Harvest Moon" to the south of Danang. It provided two UH-1Es for command aircraft and escort for General HENDERSON. One UH-1E acted as TAC(A) for the operation and also expended its own ordnance on VC at (BT 110315) and (BT 0833) after receiving small arms fire in that area. No hits were received. Two UH-1Es performed visual recon for targets in the area and made rocket and machinegun runs at VC at various points in the vicinity of (BT 0932). The lead aircraft then attempted to perform a MedEvac mission in the vicinity of (BT 1231) but encountered heavy fire from the area of the LZ and crashed. The pilot, Major Donald REILLY, died of wounds received, and the other three crew members were injured in the crash. Major REILLY was recommended for the Navy Cross, posthumously. The A/C was ordered destroyed and the crew members were brought to Warehouse 14 Lima CP for later evacuation. One UH-1E flew to the area and spent the night providing escort for Med Evac missions by UH-34 aircraft in the area.

An escort UH-1E for Gen. WALT flew a Med Evac for twelve ARVN WIA in the vicinity of (BT 0832).

10 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) Eight independent missions were flown in support of operation "Harvest Moon" by the aircraft that were launched to LZ Oak on the previous night. The two aircraft that remained in LZ Oak were launched on two medical evacuations during the night. Neither pick-up zones were secure. With an overcast night, navigation was difficult. Each approach was made with all navigational lights secured. Pickups were made at (BT 123319) and (BT 049314). Enemy ground fire was received in both approaches, but no hits were received. A total of 5 US WIA were lifted to "C" Med.

Two aircraft were launched to Quang Tri (YD 335530) to assume the SAR north mission. No launches occurred out of the area.

One aircraft flew escort for a CH-37 that was to lift a downed UH-34D from (BT 015321) to Marble Mountain. The downed aircraft was not properly prepared for the lift, so both aircraft carried supplies to LZ Oak.

Two aircraft flew convoy escort from the Danang TAOR south along Highway 1 to (AT 999705). Two additional aircraft escorted another convoy from the TAOR to LZ Oak.

Two aircraft launched on a medical evac pick-up at (BT 049314). The coordinates were one mile off location. In searching for the correct zone, the flight received automatic weapons fire from (BT 040273). No hits were received. After locating the landing zone, 7 US WIA were lifted to LZ Oak.

Five aircraft conducted an emergency resupply from the ARVN position at (BT 065581) to LZ Spruce (BT 040358). Two A4 aircraft provided escort. Included among the resupply was a return lift of Vietnamese women and children to (BT 065581).

Four missions were flown in support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines in the Phu Bai region. Logistical, administrative, reconnaissance, and liaison flights were conducted. The Under-Secretary of Navy and party reconnoitered the Phu Bai TAOR and were then flown to the III MAF Headquarters.

Two flights conducted a night reconnaissance of the Phu Bai TAOR. No enemy activity was observed.

HMM-263 - (U) In support of Operation "Harvest Moon", one US military WIA, Moment 3, was taken from (BT 140450) to "C" Med. One US military WIA was also taken from (BT 082296) to "C" Med. Heavy automatic weapons fire was received in the pick-up zone resulting in numerous hits for both aircraft. 3.5 tons of cargo, 35 US military, and 5 US civilians were also lifted in support of Operation "Harvest Moon". 2nd LAAM Bn was supported by lifting .5 tons of cargo and 42 US military.

HMM-361 - (C) Capt. G. N. BAILEY led two aircraft on a medical evacuation mission to retrieve a wounded ARVN at (BT 115345). Upon landing, Sgt. G. D. GARRETT, his crew chief, ran across the zone to get the wounded man. The terrain was rough and fire had been received in the area earlier. Subsequently Sgt. GARRETT gave the casualty first aid and contributed materially toward the saving of his life. For his outstanding effort Sgt. GARRETT was recommended for the Navy Commendation Medal. The squadron totals for the day were 77.2 hours, 326 sorties, 74,912 pounds of cargo, 295 passengers and 42 medical evacuees.

VMO-2 - (C) On ten December two UH-1Es flew a total of 23.8 hours while participating in "Harvest Moon". They were acting as TAC(A) for Condole and Oxwood aircraft for several sorties against VC troops and positions,

and made several rocket and machinegun runs themselves against concentrations of VC, killing and wounding several. No damage assessment available. They acted as Pathfinder aircraft and flew escort for Tarbush trooplifts and Med Evacs. Several fire missions were flown in support of Glimmer 14. The UH-1Es also performed Med Evacs to assist the H-34 Med Evac aircraft, evacuating a total of 13 US WIA. During the various missions heavy enemy fire was encountered by the aircraft on several occasions, the most severe being from (BT 112-302), (BT 104296), and (BT 110-300). No hits were received.

One UH-1E acted as TAC(A) for several airstrikes by Condole and Oxwood during a helilanding at (BT 074297) and operations in the vicinity. The aircraft encountered enemy fire from the area and received one hit from a .50 caliber machinegun, wound the co-pilot, Col. YUNCK. After evacuating the WIA to LZ Oak, the aircraft piloted by Major KUYKENDALL, continued as TAC(A) and expended its own ordnance on VC positions, knocking out at least one mortar. One more Med Evac was performed, on which a US WIA was carried from LZ Oak to "C" Med at Danang.

One UH-1E with a UH-1E armed escort performed routine liaison missions in the Danang area.

In addition to all the activity that was taking place in the "Harvest Moon" operational area, the squadron performed five Med Evac missions, evacuating one US KIA, four WIA, and three US sick. One of the sick was evacuated by hoist from a mountainside with fifty foot trees. (AT 823753).

11 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) Ten aircraft lifted a 105mm Howitzer Battery from ~~QAIK~~ (BT 155456) to Que Son (BT 040350) in support of operation "Harvest Moon". During the lift, seven aircraft were diverted for emergency evacuations from (BT 155456). Seventeen Marine KIA, one Vietnamese girl KIA, nine Marine WIA were carried to "C" Med. Upon completion, the flight rejoined the lift in progress.

In support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines, two aircraft carried 3 Viet Cong KIA and 1 prisoner from (YD 815175) to the battalion command post. One company was moved from (YD 810085) to the battalion command post. The outposts of Hill 180 and Hill 225 were resupplied with food, water, ammunition and troops.

HMM-263 - (S) Supported USAF by launching 2 aircraft to Quang Tri for SAR. 2nd LAAM Bn was supported by lifting 2 tons of cargo and 17 US military. Small arms fire was received from (BT 579165) (Hoi An) while flying escort for a CH-47. No hits to UH-34.

HMM-361 - (C) Major G. M. SHIFFLER and Capt. A. C. HANSEN flew a total of 18.4 hours and 73 sorties while evacuating 76 casualties and lifting 7,200 pounds of cargo. For the first time, HMM-361 aircraft were used to escort truck convoys between Danang and the "Harvest Moon" area.

VMO-2 - (C) On eleven December four UH-1Es participated in "Harvest Moon". Two were utilized in TAC(A) roles for several airstrikes by Condole and Oxwood aircraft. In addition, one of them evacuated two US WIA. One UH-1E with UH-1E armed escort carried commanders on visual recons of front lines and performed TAC(A) missions.

The assigned Med Evac aircraft performed four missions, evacuating one US injured, one ARVN WIA, and two US WIA, in addition to the 13 US WIA mentioned above.

12 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) Four aircraft resupplied the ARVN outpost at Tien Phouc from Danang airfield. Two A4 aircraft provided escort. Enroute to the drop zone, one aircraft received a round through the main fuel cell. All aircraft were able to complete the mission.

A medical evac was launched in support of the I Corps from Phu Bai to (YD 530290). Enroute weather necessitated low level navigation. One ARVN civilian KIA and one ARVN WIA were carried to Hue hospital.

Two aircraft lifted twenty troops from (YD 821081) to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines command post.

Two aircraft were launched at different intervals for night reconnaissance of the Phu Bai TAOR. No enemy activity was observed.

Protestant church services were held in the mess hall at 0900. Captain Leroy MUENZLER of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines conducted the services. Transportation was provided for Catholic personnel desiring to attend church services at the Eighth R.R.U. Army compound.

HMM-263 - (U) Automatic weapons fire was received from (BT 075394) while supporting MAG-16, no hits. 2 US military WIA were lifted from (BT 140450) to "C" Med. Small arms fire received from (BT 223530) with no hits. 7 US military WIA and 2 VN military WIA were also lifted from (BT 140-450) to "C" Med. Small arms fire was received while escorting a truck convoy from Hoi An to Danang at (BT 038618) resulting in one hit. Small arms fire was received at (BT 107412) with no hits. 2nd LAMM Bn received the support of 2 aircraft for range sweep and lifting 17 US military.

VMO-2 - (J) Twelve December; four UH-1E (armed) aircraft performed TAC (A) and escort mission on operation "Harvest Moon". They acted as TAC(A) for several airstrikes by Condole and Oxwood, and for several trooplifts, while providing escort for trooplifts and resupply missions and for a slow Roll convoy on National Route 1. Another UH-1E with armed escort flew visual recon of roads in the area for engineer units and carried General WALT on visual recon of the area of operations. Two UH-1Es were assigned to standby during the night at LZ Oak.

General CARL flew to Que Son and the "Harvest Moon" area of operations. The A/C encountered light small arms fire in the Que Son area, and received one hit through the rotor blade. No serious damage resulted, and the aircraft continued on its mission.

13 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) A section of aircraft in support of the Ninth Marines, operated in the Danang region conducting resupply and reconnaissance missions for subordinate units. Another section duplicated this mission in support of the Third Marines.

Five missions were conducted in support of operation "Harvest Moon". Twenty-three US WIA were lifted from LZ Oak to Bearmat (LPH-8). Nine US WIA were evacuated from (BT 085288), (BT 043297) and (BT 140298) to LZ Oak. An ARVN troop lift was made from LZ Birch (BT 040380) to the city of Hoi An (BT 144575). Included in the lift were two VN civilians WIA. A resupply and troop lift was conducted from LZ Oak (BT 150450) to (BT 129286).

Two aircraft, with four sections of A4s, relief on station, resupplied the Special Forces outposts of Ha Thanh (BS 380695) and Tra Bong (BS 341-350) from Danang airfield.

Two sections of aircraft supported the Third Battalion Fourth Marines in the Thu Bai TAOR. The "Hunter-Killer" team was launched. No unusual movements were noted. Hill 225 (YD 848087) and Hill 180 (YD 845-133) were resupplied.

HMM-263 - (U) During a recon of the TAOR small arms fire was received from (BT 056640), and (BT 010680) with no hits resulting. In support of Operation "Harvest Moon", one US military WIA was lifted from (BT 140450) to "C" Med, 8 VC were lifted between (BT 112277) and (BT 140-450). 3 VCs were taken to Danang. 2.5 tons of cargo were lifted from (BT 140450) to (BT 044347) (Que Son). 55 US military were also lifted to various coordinates during the day.

VM-2 - (C) On the 13th day of the month two UH-1Es sent to Kiep Duc for escort of ARVN H-34s were diverted to site of downed A/C (BT 202-407) for support of ground troops, escort of recovery aircraft, and TAC-(A) in support of the recovery operation. They controlled several airstrikes by Oxwood on suspected VC positions in the area, also expending their own ordnance. The aircraft encountered small arms fire from village at (PT 203465), but with no hits received. Several small buildings were destroyed, and 1 US WIA was evacuated from the area.

The squadron provided escort for Pedro in search for downed aircraft at (BT 201480). Two UH-1Es provided cover for downed Clip Clop aircraft at (BT 275365), and then performed a visual recon of LZ (BT 050250) and TAC(A) for Dixie Diner. They controlled four airstrikes in the vicinity of (BT 016270), and also expended their own ordnance. Small arms fire was encountered by the aircraft in the vicinity of (BT 020282), (BT 025-260) and (BT 016278), but no hits were received.

The Med Evac aircraft performed four mission, evacuating two US sick, two US injured, two US WIA, one VCS KIA, and one VCS WIA.

14 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Six aircraft conducted a night resupply from LZ Oak to (BT 002222). The aircraft were directed into the LZ by means of two hand-held flashlights. Small arms fire was received from (BT 153452). Lack of proper zone marking caused the resupply to be incompletely.

The section of aircraft in support of the Ninth Marines conducted a leaflet drop in the area of (AT 9967). Civil affairs material was lifted from (BT 017684) to (BT 974664). Additional resupply and administrative sorties were conducted for subordinate units.

Normal resupply and reconnaissance missions were conducted in support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines in the Phu Bai TAOR.

VMO-2 - (U) On the 14th of the month, two Hueys acted as TAC(A) for several air strikes in the Harvest Moon area of operations, by Condole and Orwood in support of trooplifts to (BT 000-230) and other LZs in the vicinity.

15 December 1965

HMM-161 - (S) Nine aircraft, with three sections of A4s, relief on station, resupplied the ARVN outposts of Dai Lac (AT 918579) and Nong Son (AT 812391) from Danang airfield. Eight aircraft resupplied the ARVN outposts of Que Son (BT 045350) from Danang airfield.

In support of operation "Harvest Moon", two aircraft made a night Med Evac of one US WIA from (BT 075243) to LZ Oak. A flight of four aircraft conducted an ammunition resupply from LZ Oak to (BT 074244).

In the Phu Bai TAOR, two aircraft evacuated one Nung WIA from the outpost at Ashua (YC 449840) to the ARVN hospital in Hie. Ammunition was carried to a patrol in the vicinity of Ashua. The Third Battalion Fourth Marines outposts of Hill 180 and Hill 225 were resupplied with food, water, ammunition and fresh troops.

HMM-263 - (U) In support of Operation "Harvest Moon", 2.5 tons of artillery rounds were taken from (BT 140450) to (BT 044347) (Que Son). 26 US military, and 5 VN military were also lifted. 4 US military WIA were taken from (BT 140450) to "C" Med. 2.5 tons of Howtar supplies were lifted to (BT 140450) from (AT 9383). During a recon of the TAOR small arms fire was received from (AT 955650), with no hits. An artillery strike was called on the position. 2 VC WIA and 2 VN WIA were taken to "C" Med from (BT 140450). Automatic weapons fire was received from (BT 115482) with no hits. (BT 003220) was resupplied with 2.5 tons of cargo, 32 US military and 3 VC taken from this zone to (BT 140450). 2.5 tons of cargo were lifted to coordinates (AT 076277), (BT 000230), and (BT 003220). 8 VC were taken from these zones to (BT 140450).

On a recon of the TAOR small arms fire received from (AT 8635) with no hits. An air strike was called on the coordinates. *16*

HMM-361 - (U) Capt. J. L. USHER was called upon to hover at approximately 30 feet and drop a radio to a patrol which had lost all communications. Capt. USHER launched into the hills west of Danang and spent 45 minutes searching for the position of the patrol. The coordinates given in the brief were approximately 3 miles from the actual position of the patrol. The mission was accomplished while hampered by poor visibility due to marginal weather and approaching dusk. The terrain was rough with trees up to 60 feet high. Moderate to severe turbulence was encountered during the time the aircraft was hovering.

VMO-2 - (C) On the fifteenth day of the month the squadron Med Evac aircraft were launched to the site of a downed U-6. The crew had already been evacuated, but the Med Evac aircraft performed five other missions, evacuating six US WIA, and one ARVN injured. Light small arms fire was encountered in the LZ at (BT 112652) but no hits were received and the aircraft was able to perform the evacuation of a wounded Marine.

16 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) The flight schedule was hampered by the monsoon rains which have returned. All flights to the Danang area were cancelled because of low ceilings and heavy rains south of the Phu Bai TAOR.

Four aircraft launched on emergency Med Evacs. Enroute weather was 400 feet and 2 miles visibility in rain. Two aircraft carried one ARVN WIA from Calu (YD 009456) to Hue hospital. The second Med Evac flight carried four ARVN WIA from (YD 449591) to Hue hospital. Sniper fire was received from the vicinity of (YD 448590) when departing the landing zone, but no hits were recorded.

An emergency night resupply and Med Evac mission utilizing two aircraft was launched in support of I Corps. Ammunition was carried from Quang Tri to a patrol at (YD 450590). The lead aircraft received shotgun fire which scraped the side of the aircraft. The fire was returned, but no confirmation of accuracy determined due to darkness. Five ARVN WAI were returned to Hue hospital.

The night reconnaissance flight was cancelled because of inclement weather.

HMM-263 - (S) The USAF was supported by launching 2 aircraft to Quang Tri for SAR. An artillery spotting mission received small arms fire from (AT988602) and (BT 002632) with 2 hits resulting. During recon flights of the TAOR small arms fire was received from (BT 029668), (BT 002667) and (AT 928598). Automatic weapons fire was received from (BT 001631), with no hits.

HMM-361 - (U) Although hampered by hazardous weather, a six-plane flight, led by Maj. R. W. DUPHINEY, flew a resupply to Giao Ai (AT 947584). The flight was forced down to 300 feet and below because of low ceilings. They encountered heavy automatic weapons fire in the zone and small arms fire enroute. A total of 27 sorties were flown. 5,000 pounds of cargo lifted, and 18 ARVN troops lifted.

VMO-2 - (C) Nothing of any significance on the sixteenth day of the month. The Med Evac aircraft performed five missions, evacuating four US sick, two US WIA, and one civilian WIA. Hostile small arms fire was encountered in LZ (AT 993645), but the aircraft received no hits and was able to perform the evacuation of a wounded American and a wounded child.

17 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) All flights were cancelled because of bad weather. Gale warnings were in effect until 2400. All aircraft were folded and secured for possible forecast high winds. Four aircraft remained in a ready condition for Med Evac standby. The Camp Maintenance was inspected and all loose gear secured. The HMM-161 choir participated in a chapel dedication at the Third Battalion Fourth Marines.

HMM-263 - (U) 2 US military were taken from (BT 140450) to "C" Med. Small arms fire from (BT 233487) was received while flying escort on CH-37. Support of Operation "Harvest Moon" continued by lifting 168 US military and 87 VN military from (BT 140450) to (BT 170311).

VMO-2 - (C) On the seventeenth of December the Med Evac aircraft had a very busy day performing five missions, evacuating five US WIA, four ARVN sick, four civilian sick, one US sick. Two of these missions were to Thuong Duc outpost (ZC 144534) where the aircraft experienced hostile ground fire. The first incident in the vicinity of (ZC 1853) when the Med Evac aircraft was departing the area and received moderate small arms fire. No hits were received. The second incident was at (ZC 165542), where moderate small arms fire was again encountered, from a wide area. The lead aircraft received two hits, the first round passing through the tail, and the second round entering the cabin and wounding the pilot, Capt. P. M. McALLISTER, who was evacuated to "C" Med. The escort aircraft returned fire, but could detect no damage to the enemy.

The injured pilot directed the return of the flight, although he was in great pain. He sustained injury to his left kneecap.

Armed UH-1Es provided escort for StationBreak trooplifts and White Gold Med Evacs and performed two weather recons in the "Harvest Moon" area. Two other armed Hueys provided escort for Slow Roll and Warhouse movements in the operating area. They encountered hostile fire from (BT 180315) and used rockets and machineguns to suppress the fire. No hits were received.

Med Evac aircraft performed 3 missions, evacuating 1 US WIA, 1 US sick, and 1 civilian WIA.

18 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) All flights were cancelled because of low clouds and reduced visibility in heavy rainshowers.

HMM-263-- (C) 79 Med Evacs; 73 US military WIA and 6 US military KIA were transported between (BT 140450) and "C" Med. During these Med Evacs, fire was received from (BT 215225), no hits, (BT 245255) two hits, slightly wounding one pilot, (BT 140450), (BT 015625), and (BT 052347), with no hits and (BT 214223) with one hit. 43 US military and 13 VN military were lifted from (BT 140450) to (BT 178312). 414 US military and 37 VN military were lifted to (BT 178308). 2 aircraft were launched at 2230H to carry plasma from Danang to (BT 140-450, they received fire while flying at 500' in near instrument conditions, taking 5 hits, slightly wounding one pilot.

HMM-361 - (U) LtCol. L. F. CHILDERS and Maj. G. M. SHIFFLER led four and three plane flights respectively in support of "Harvest Moon". The two flights flew combined totals of 204 sorties with 10,700 pounds of cargo and 625 troops. Each flight was subjected to sporadic Viet Cong fire throughout the day.

VMO-2 ~ (U) On the eighteenth of December, the pace continued to rise at a rapid rate as the squadron provided UH-1Es to act as TAC(A), CAP, and CAS for Dixie Diner and Parkgreen units, as well as escorting Millpoint, Powerglide, Tarbush and Stationbreak aircraft in support of "Harvest Moon".

Two UH-1Es acting as escorts for Stationbreak Med Evac aircraft placed suppressive fire on VC positions at (BT 215225). One of the attacking Hueys received three hits as intense automatic weapons fire was received. No injury to personnel or serious damage was sustained. Four UH-1Es attacked VC positions at Vinh Que (BT 206221) in support of Parkgreen H. Two UH-1Es made a strafing attack on enemy positions in Ky Mu (BT 212-222) in support of Dixie Diner. Two airstrikes were controlled by UH-1Es at (BT 203236). Hostile fire was encountered on the ground by aircraft in LZ at (BT 203221), but no hits were received.

19 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Flight operations were limited because of heavy monsoon weather which remained in the Phu Bai area. All flights beyond the Phu Bai TAOR were cancelled. Two aircraft in support of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines resupplied the outposts of Hill 180 and Hill 225 with food, water and ammunition. The "Hunter-Killer" airborne patrol did not encounter any unauthorized personnel within the TAOR. Because of the existing poor weather, the night reconnaissance patrol of the Phu Bai TAOR was cancelled.

Protestant services were held in the mess hall at 0900. Chaplain Leroy MUENZER, Third Battalion Fourth Marines conducted the services. The HMM-161 choir assisted in the services.

The HMM-161 choir assisted in the dedication of a new chapel at the Eighth Radio Research Unit Army Compound.

HMM-263 - (U) 6 tons of cargo were lifted from (BT 218226) to 'BT 140 450), and 27 Med Evacs were taken from (BT 140450) to "C" Med in support of Operation "Harvest Moon". 34 Med Evacs were lifted from "C" Med to Eighth Aerial Port for evacuation.

HMM-361 - (U) Maj. P. E. BENET's four aircraft transported 24,800 pounds of cargo on an ARVN resupply. This was accomplished in 49 sorties and 15.2 total flight hours. In addition, the flight lifted 67 ARVN personnel.

VMO-2 - (U) On the 19th day of the month, two UH-1Es flew visual recon, escort and CAS missions on Operation "Harvest Moon". The aircraft placed suppressive fire on enemy positions at (BT 228228), and (BT 238231), in support of Dixie Diner, and performed one Med Evac, evacuating one US sick.

A UH-1E flew a night recon of LZ Oak and escorted a convoy in the vicinity of (BT 300235). Two Hueys made an emergency resupply of blood from "D" Med to "C" Med at midnight, then flew visual recon of the ocean east of MMAF.

Med Evac aircraft performed four missions, evacuating one civilian WIA, four US WIA, and transferring eleven US WIA from "C" Med to Air Force Operations.

20 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) All morning flights were cancelled because of heavy monsoon rains which still remained in the area. In the afternoon, the flights were limited in operation to the Phu Bai TAOR.

Three aircraft on a routine resupply of Hill 180 and Hill 225 were diverted for an emergency resupply to an ARVN battalion at (YD 474-455). After the resupply of ammunition and food, one ARVN KIA and six ARVN WIA were evacuated to Hue Citadel airfield. While inbound to the landing zone, the flight received small arms fire. No hits were received or suppression fire returned. Two aircraft conducted training flights for co-pilot familiarization and qualification. Two aircraft carried Major General CHUAN from Hue Citadel to HMM-161.

BGen. CARE, Assistant Wing Commander, First Marine Aircraft Wing, and Colonel O'CONNOR, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16, arrived at HMM-161 by UH-1B helicopter. With the arrival of these distinguished persons in the HMM-161 area, the inner perimeter guard was increased. In the evening, the officers of HMM-161 held a mess night. The guest of honor was Gen. CHUAN, Commanding General, First ARVN Division. Other distinguished guests included BGen. CARE, Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Col. BOSTON, First ARVN Division Senior Advisor and Col. O'CONNOR, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-16. Highlights of this mess night are detailed in the S-1 section of this report.

HMM-263 - (S) I Corps supported by resupplying (AT 914578) (Dai Loc) with 3 tons of cargo, and lifting 48 VN military and 60 VN civilians. Small arms fire was received at (AT 9156) with one hit. The USAF was supported on Operation "Blue Spring" with 3 aircraft.

HMM-361 - (U) LtCol. L. F. CHILDERS led a flight of six on another ARVN resupply. The totals for this day's flying were: 26,750 pounds, 63 sorties, 24.3 total hours, 147 ARVN troops, 25 Vietnamese civilians, one VC prisoner, and four U. S. military personnel.

VMO-2 - (C) On the 20th of December two UH-1Es provided escort for a Slow Roll convoy from LZ Oak to the Danang TAOR. They encountered small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from (BT 031643). Attacking the tree line from where the fire came, one aircraft received one hit, the round entering the battery compartment. No injuries to personnel, but the mission had to be aborted due to damage, and the aircraft returned to Marble Mountain.

One UH-1E provided support for a Redwood patrol by firing on a VC position at (BT0761). The aircraft then escorted Junkman aircraft to LZ Oak and provided escort for Slow Roll convoy north from Oak. Hostile fire was encountered at (BT 051599) and the aircraft expended rockets and machinegun ammunition in response. No damage estimate was available. Two UH-1Es relieved the aircraft and provided escort for the convoy to Danang, encountering hostile fire from (AT 099685). Fire was not returned and no hits were received.

Med Evac aircraft performed four missions, evacuating one US sick, one US KIA, one US WIA and one civilian injured.

21 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Eight aircraft on an emergency resupply in support of I Corps resupplied the First ARVN Division at LZ (YD 472575) with troops and ammunition from Quang Tri (YD 340500). Twelve aircraft with three sections of A4 aircraft relieving on station, commenced an emergency resupply of the ARVN outpost of Balong (YD 164403) from La Vang (YD 342507). Four aircraft on this initial entry into the Balong valley carried replacement troops. The weather in the valley was 200 feet and 1 mile. After landing, all incoming flights were diverted back to La Vang by the flight leader. After a three hour delay at La Vang because of the inclement weather in the Balong valley, the resupply was resumed and completed without incident. On this resupply mission, 131 combat troops and 111,890 pounds of cargo were carried into the Balong outpost.

Two aircraft carried a Vietnamese child, that had stopped breathing, from (YD 881175) to "A" Med. The rapid evacuation and instantaneous medical aid received saved the life of the child.

One aircraft escorted a convoy from Hue Citadel to the Third Battalion Fourth Marines command post.

The night recon patrol reported no unusual movements within the Phu Bai TAOR,

HMM-263 - (U) 12.4 tons of cargo were carried to support 3rd and 9th Marines. 3 VC were lifted from (BT 099660) to (BT 068713). While re-supplying 9th Marines, small arms fire and automatic weapons fire was received and returned from (AT 970655), 3 hits being taken.

VMO-2 - (U) On the 21st of December the squadron Med Evac aircraft performed three missions, evacuating five civilians WIA and one civilian sick. One VCS died while the Med Evac aircraft was loading him, so was not carried out.

SU #1 H&MS-16 - (U) Participated in Operation "Harvest Moon" from 9 December to 21 December 1965. 457 passengers, 310.700 pounds of cargo and 58,000 pounds of fuel were hauled. Cargo consisted of radio jeeps, 105 howitzer carriages, UH-34 hulls and engines and miscellaneous gear.

22 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Fourteen aircraft assisted HMM-261 in the offload of the Second Battalion First Marines from LPH-8 to the battalion command post at (YD 646280) and the on-load of the Third Battalion Fourth Marines to the LPH-8.

Two aircraft escorted a convoy from the beach area at (YD827317) to the Phu Bai airfield. One additional aircraft provided SAR for incoming LCUs from the ship to the beach. An emergency resupply of ammunition in support of the 1st ARVN Division was carried from PK 17 (YD 646280) to LZ (YD845379). Two aircraft on a Med Evac mission to (YD 845379) an outpost near the Laotian border, received small arms fire from (YD 490 330). One hit was received in the oil cooler armor plate but was deflected with no damage. One ARVN WIA was taken to Hue Hospital. In support of the twelfth Marines in the Danang TAOR, two aircraft conducted an area recon of (ZC 9665) and artillery surveillance at (BT0662). Two ARVN WIA were lifted from (YD 752242) to the Arvn hospital at Danang airfield. Two aircraft supported the Third Marines in various resupply, reconnaissance and administrative missions to subordinate units in the Danang enclave. Two aircraft conducted a similar mission in support of the Ninth Marines. Two aircraft, relief on station, patrolled the Phu Bai TAOR on a night reconnaissance flight. No unusual movement was reported.

HMM-263 - (S) The USAF was supported by launching 2 aircraft to Quang Tri for SAR. 4 US military WIA were taken from "C" Med to 8th Aerial Port for evacuation. HMM-263 has assumed a portion of the Mobile Alert Force which involves maintaining 6 aircraft and crews ready to go (30 minutes standby) for a 24 hour period.

HMM-361 - (U) While conducting a routine ARVN resupply, Maj. G. M. SHIFFLER's flight of 6 was assigned to emergency ARVN trooplift to Loc Son (BT 024289). The zone, perched atop a hill, was small and darkness was descending rapidly. Occasional fire was being received from the low areas around the zone. Although short of fuel, all six aircraft negotiated the landing with a total of 72 ARVN personnel.

-VMO-2 - (C) On 22 December two UH-1Es acted as TAC(A) for several airstrikes by Oxwood and Condole aircraft. Damage was inflicted on trench lines and gun positions at (AT 900297). Damage to trench lines and gun position at (AT 918518) was extensive. Two UH-1Es provided armed escort for a USN ship convoy up the Song Huong to Hue. One UH-1E carried Gen. WHEELER to points within the Danang TAOR.

Med Evac aircraft performed five missions, evacuating three USMC WIA and three US sick. Aircraft encountered light small arms fire over the zone in the vicinity (BT 044722) but not hits were received and the Med Evac was executed.

23 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) All flights scheduled in the morning were held because of heavy rain storms in the Phu Bai area.

Two aircraft launched on an emergency resupply and Med Evac in support of the First ARVN Division. Ammunition, food and reinforcements were carried from Quang Tri to (YD 175405). Thirty-six ARVN Med Evacs were lifted from the zones at (YD 379645) and (YD 415614). Twice while entering the landing zones, the flight came under small arms fire but no hits were recorded. Eight aircraft, on a telephone scramble mission from the 1st MAW, with 2 A4 escort aircraft conducted an emergency trooplift of 180 elite troops (Hac Bac) of the Black Panther Battalion, from Hue Citadel to landing zone (YD 385630) in support of the First ARVN Division. Two aircraft were diverted for a medical evacuation of an American Advisor Marine WIA who was critically wounded in the landing zone. He was taken to "A" Med and later evacuated to "C" Med at Danang. The remaining six aircraft upon completion of the troop lift, conducted an emergency ammunition resupply from LaVang to the ARVN outpost of Lang Vei (XD 795360). One section of A4s provided escort. Four ARVN WIA were returned to Hue hospital. In the Danang enclave, two aircraft in support of the Third Marines and two aircraft in support of the Ninth Marines, conducted resupply of ammunition, food, water and various administrative flights for subordinate units.

The Phu Bai night reconnaissance flight reported no enemy activity near the TAOR.

24 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) At the squadron morning muster, Capt. J. M. Coykendall, 070204/7335 was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for twice entering an unsecure landing zone to evacuate wounded personnel while under heavy enemy small arms fire.

The monsoons continued to plague the Phu Bai area and all flights were cancelled.

The HMM-161 choir led the squadron in Christmas carols around the squadron Christmas tree.

A non-denominational Christmas service was held in the squadron mess hall. Chaplain Hadley of the Second Battalion First Marines conducted the service.

HMM-561 - (U) Eight aircraft led by Maj. R. W. DUPHINEY, flew an ARVN resupply to Nong Son (AT 812391) and Que Son (BT 046347). Total cargo carried was 45,270 pounds in 104 sorties and 38.3 flight hours. The flight also lifted 203 Vietnamese in the operation.

VMO-2 - (C) On the 24th of December the squadron provided escort for the recovery of Recon units from (AT 896606) and (ZC 204843).

Med Evac aircraft performed seven missions, evacuating eight US WIA, two US sick, one US injured, and one civilian sick.

25 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) With the monsoon weather still remaining in the Phu Bai area, the flight schedule was cancelled. A weather plane reported a maximum ceiling of 300 feet in the area. Rainfall for twenty-four hour period was 2.0 inches.

HMM-263 - (U) Merry Christmas. On a priority retrograde, 6 aircraft lifted 180 US military from (AT 874714) to (AT 939721). Moderate small arms fire and automatic weapons fire was received and returned on all approaches to the zone with no hits taken. 3 VN military WIA were brought to ARVN hospital from (BT 065548). A hot Christmas dinner was brought to the troops in the field.

VMO-2 - (U) The Med Evac aircraft was used for an unsuccessful search for a missing Marine North of Hoi An shortly before midnight.

26 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Weather conditions improved and eight aircraft with a section of A4 aircraft providing escort resupplied the ARVN outpost of Thuong Duc (AT 143535) from the city of Hoi An enroute to the landing zone, the flight received automatic small arms fire from three positions at (BT 012508), (AT 148549) and (PT 012588). Fire suppression was returned. One aircraft received a round through the tail pylon. With the weather in the landing zone steadily decreasing, the resupply was discontinued and the flight commenced a resupply to the ARVN outpost of Tien Phuoc (BT 118140) from Danang airfield. No difficulties were encountered.

Two aircraft in logistical support of the Third Marines conducted resupply, administrative and troop movements for subordinate units in the Danang TAOR.

Two aircraft on an administrative liaison mission the new Executive Officer, Major Roger D. SWANSON, 057020, from the III MAF Pad to Phu Bai.

Two aircraft conducted a resupply to Hill 180 and Hill 225 in support of the Second Battalion First Marines in the Phu Bai TAOR.

The squadron was honored by a surprise visit by the Navy Chief of Chaplains, RAdm James KELLY. Admiral KELLY was invited and accepted an invitation to conduct church services. He remained one hour in the squadron area.

HMM-263 - (U) While flying 11 recon sorties in the TAOR, small arms fire was received from (AT 960575), (AT 972578), (AT 977580) and (BT 030615) with no hits. 18 US military WIA were lifted from "C" Med to 8th Aerial Port. 2 aircraft supporting 9th Marines were diverted for emergency Med Evac at (AT 051644). They received intense automatic weapons fire entering the zone, and picked up one hit in the cockpit departing the zone. The co-pilot was wounded slightly. 4 US military WIA and 4 VN WIA were picked up in the TAOR during the afternoon and brought respectively to "C" Med and ARVN hospital. 3 VN civilian WIA were picked up on night Med Evacs and brought to "C" Med.

27 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Five aircraft with A4 escort resupplied the ARVN outpost of Tien Phouc (BT 117140) with food and ammunition from Danang airfield. After completion the flight, with two additional aircraft joining the flight, resupplied the ARVN outpost of Dai Lac (AT 917 582) from the Hoi An airfield.

Two aircraft in logistical support of the Third Marines were diverted for a troop lift into an unsecure landing zone at (AT 869695). Escort aircraft were scrambled in support of the flight. After dropping off the reconnaissance party, the flight returned to general support missions for the Third Marines.

Two aircraft conducted general support missions for the Ninth Marines. The flight was diverted by Landshark to carry gas masks and demolitions to the landing zone (BT 005615) and twenty-one Viet Cong prisoners were returned to the battalion command post.

HMM-263 - (U) During a recon of the TAOR automatic weapons fire was received at (BT 024597) with no hits. 4 US military WIA were lifted from "C" Med to 8th Aerial Port.

HMM-361 - (U) Despite marginal weather during the day Maj. G. M. SHIFFLER led a six-aircraft ARVN retrograde from (AT 984584), ten miles south of Danang. The troops involved had previously been lifted in by LtCol. L. F. CHILLERS flight to establish blocking positions. In two trips, 24 sorties, and 6.9 flight hours; 82 ARVN troops and 2 US Advisors were lifted to (BT 019668). Small arms and automatic rifle fire were received from all quadrants and the escort of F4Bs was called in on the target.

VMO-2 - (U) On the 27th of the month the squadron launched two UH-1Es to rescue Marines cut off from a patrol, but they were safe before the aircraft arrived.

During a Med Evac mission the escort aircraft delivered suppressive fire on an enemy position adjacent to the LZ at (BT 064631). The pilot observed VC camouflaged in utilities and disguised as bushes, and he attacked the same. Redwood "B" gave the aircraft credit for 6 KBA, confirmed. This is a significant incident as it shows the versatility of the UH-1E in a role that a fixed wing aircraft would have had difficulty in performing.

SU #1, H&MS-16 - (U) Hauled 10,840 pounds of weed killer from Hoi An to Que Son.

28 December 1965

HMM-161 - (C) Two aircraft in reconnaissance support of the Twelfth Marines in the Danang TAOR received small arms fire at (AT 938979) Bautag. While conducting a positive identification low pass over personnel at (AT 972644), the aerial observer in the left seat of the lead aircraft, 1st Lt. J. S. SCHMID, 084862, was hit by small arms fire and immediately evacuated to "C" Med. Fire suppression was returned. Upon landing at Marble Mountain and received a replacement aerial observer, the flight recommenced a reconnaissance of the Danang TAOR. Small arms fire was received at (AT 962630). One round penetrated the center fuel cell and through a rotor blade and necessitated the flight being aborted.

Two aircraft carried the First ARVN Division briefing team from Hue Citadel to Marble Mountain for a conference and returned them to Hue Citadel after completion.

A flight of two aircraft reconnaissanced the general area of PK 17 (YD 605270). An ARVN UH-34 was located on the ground at (YD 6939). The flight landed to render assistance but no aid was required.

Two aircraft conducted resupply missions to Hill 180 and Hill 225 in support of the Second Battalion First Marines.

One aircraft launched on a night Medical Evacuation to (YD 881175) to pick up one Popular Forces WIA and returned him to "A" Med at Phu Bai.

BGen ENGLISH, Assistant Division Commander, Third Marine Division paid an informal call to the squadron area.

The HMM-163 advance party arrived by C-130 from Futema Okinawa and HMM-161 advance party departed for Futema aboard the same aircraft.

HMM-263 - (U) While resupplying 3rd Marines, small arms fire was received at (BT 922658) and (BT923681) with no hits. In support of I Corps (BT 044347) (Que Son) was resupplied with 9 tons of ammunition. 3 US military WIA were lifted from (AT 155555) to "C" Med. On a recon of Highways 1, 14 and 5, small arms fire was received at (AT 945588).

VMO-2 - (U) Nothing unusual for the 28th. Klondike reported that they had found a cracked lift link on one of their aircraft, and a safety of flight message was sent out, and all UH-1Es were downed by the Wing until they could be x-rayed.

29 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) All flights were cancelled because of the severe monsoon rains and low cloud coverage in the Phu Bai area.

HMM-263 - (U) Operation Big Cheer was lifted from Danang Air Freight to area of performance and returned. 99 civilians and 88 US military were lifted.

HMM-361 - (U) Seven aircraft from HMM-361 were used to transport troops to landing zone Quail to view the "Bob Hope Show". Maj. G. M. SHIFFER led the flight which made 137 sorties in 16.2 total flight hours. US military personnel totalling 499 were lifted.

30 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) All flights were again cancelled because of the heavy rainfall and low cloud coverage in the Phu Bai area. The rainfall for the past two day period totaled 3.3 inches.

HMM-263 - (U) 297 US military and 245 civilians were lifted into (AT 870710) (Moi Vuc) for a search and clear mission, during very marginal weather. Intense automatic weapons fire was received approaching and departing the zone resulting in two hits. Cover aircraft were not utilized because of weather. In support of I Corps, 225 VN military, 33 VN civilians, and 2 US military, were lifted from Hoi An to reinforce (AT 915584) (Dai Lac). 2 VN WIA were extracted.

HMM-361 - (U) Capt. G. N. BAILEY took his seven aircraft to Hoi An (BT 142575) where they embarked a total of 82 ARVN troops. This force was taken to relieve Dai Loc (AT 915570), which was under attack at the time. The aircraft involved flew 28 sorties and a total of 6.7 hours. Fire was received upon entering the zone, and again low ceilings and poor visibility made the operation even more hazardous.

31 December 1965

HMM-161 - (U) Two aircraft conducted a recon of (YD 790090) outside the Phu Bai TAOR for evaluation as a landing zone. Eight aircraft with A4 providing escort resupplied the ARVN outposts in the Quang Tri

province. Four aircraft resupplied the outposts of D-5 (YD 525095) and Con Thien (YD 705112) from Dong Ha (YD 602241). The other four aircraft resupplied the outpost of BaLong (YD 403175) from Le Vang (YD 505343). The resupply to BaLong was discontinued as the hours of darkness approached. BGen CARL flew escort in a UH-1E helicopter and also assisted in the resupply. Eight aircraft with F8 aircraft providing escort resupplied the ARVN outpost of Dai Lac (AT 910580) in the Quang Tri province from the city of Hoi An (BT 145575) and Danang airfield. One aircraft received a small arms round through the aft fuel cell in the approach to Dai Lac but was able to complete the mission. No suppression fire was returned.

HMM-263 - (U) 32 US military personnel were lifted from (AT 875762) on a retrograde, without incident. A lift to several special forces camps in the area carried 18 US military, 2 VN civilians, and 1 Australian military. A retrograde of 96 US military was accomplished from (AT 846722). Small arms fire was received from (872712) with no hits.

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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

Period Covered - 1 - 31 December 1965

Task Organization:

H&MS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 MABS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 VMO-2, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 HMM-161, Hue Phu Bai, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 HMM-163, Futema, Okinawa (1 - 31 December 1965)
 HMM-263, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 HMM-361, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 Sub Unit #1, H&MS-16, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)
 MATCU-68, Danang, Vietnam (1 - 31 December 1965)

Command Rank Composure:

| <u>Billet</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Period</u> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| CO, MAG-16 | T. J. O'CONNOR | Colonel | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| XO, MAG-16 | R. L. SIMMONS | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| Adjutant | C. D. DICKEY | Captain | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| S-1 Officer | F. A. MATHEWS | Major | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| S-2 Officer | L. P. GLENN | 1stLt | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| S-3 Officer | H. W. STEADMAN | Major | 4-31 Dec 65 |
| S-4 Officer | A. MC BARRON | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, H&MS-16 | J. L. GOEBEL | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, MABS-16 | T. E. VERNON | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, HMM-161 | R. C. DENNY, JR. | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, HMM-163 | G. B. HOBSE | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, HMM-263 | T. CLARK | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, HMM-361 | L. J. CHILDERS | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| OIC, SU #1 | J. C. BROKEN | Captain | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| CO, VMO-2 | G. F. BAUMAN | LtCol | 1-31 Dec 65 |
| OIC, MATCU-68 | R. C. COULTER | Captain | 1-31 Dec 65 |

Average Monthly Strengths:

| <u>Squadron</u> | <u>USMC:</u> | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> | <u>USN:</u> | <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| H&MS-16 | | 31 | 281 | | 0 | 0 |
| MABS-16 | | 13 | 358 | | 5 | 6 |
| SU #1 | | 10 | 61 | | 0 | 0 |
| VMO-2 | | 32 | 136 | | 1 | 5 |
| HMM-161 | | 47 | 171 | | 1 | 4 |
| HMM-163 | | 44 | 129 | | 1 | 4 |
| HMM-263 | | 46 | 174 | | 1 | 3 |
| HMM-361 | | 50 | 158 | | 1 | 3 |
| MATCU-68 | | 6 | 62 | | 0 | 0 |

CASUALTIESKILLED IN ACTION

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>RANK/SERNO</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| REILLY, D. J. | MAJ/061230 | VMO-2 | 9 Dec 65 |
| SCHMID, J. S. | 1Lt/C84862 | TAD to VMO- 2 fm 3Div | 28 Dec 65 |

WOUNDED IN ACTION

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>RANK/SERNO</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| JONES, J. D. | GySgt/1130466 | SU #1 | 3 Dec 65 |
| ADAMS, J. W. | SSgt/1390924 | HMM-263 | 7 Dec 65 |
| BABER, R. L. | Cpl/1633919 | HMM-361 | 8 Dec 65 |
| FORSYTH, R. W. | 1Lt/088687 | HMM-263 | 9 Dec 65 |
| CHESTER, J. C. | 1Lt/088390 | VMO-2 | 9 Dec 65 |
| OWENS, J. M. | LCpl/2046424 | VMO-2 | 9 Dec 65 |
| OETJEN, R. T. | LCpl/2012716 | VMO-2 | 9 Dec 65 |
| BEEBE, C. B. | LCpl/2012735 | HMM-263 | 9 Dec 65 |
| PORZIO, L. J. | 2Lt/090579 | HMM-263 | 10 Dec 65 |
| SLAHUCKA, R. F. | Capt/084152 | HMM-263 | 10 Dec 65 |
| RODINSKY, C. L. | SSgt/1368832 | H&MS-16 | 16 Dec 65 |
| KETTERING, A. J. | Capt/067506 | HMM-263 | 18 Dec 65 |
| PORZIO, L. J. | 1Lt/090579 | HMM-263 | 18 Dec 65 |
| RAMSBURG, H. R. | 1Lt/090389 | HMM-263 | 26 Dec 65 |
| SPRING, H. D. | Sgt/1179697 | HMM-263 | 30 Dec 65 |

MORALE AND WELFARE PROGRAMS

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

Roman Catholic. Daily mass in Blessed Sacrement Chapel at 1700. Sunday mass at 0830. Sunday mass at 1/9 CP South of Marble Mountain Air Field. One Memorial Mass for MAG-16, three Memorial Masses for 1/9. Nine men confirmed at St. John Seminary on 27 December 1965. Transportation arranged to Cardinal Spellman's Christmas Day Mass.

Protestant. Sunday worship at 0930. Church party to LDS service at Air Force Chapel, Danang. Wednesday evening bible study. Christmas Eve candlelight service. Christmas Day service (RAdm James W. KELLY, Chief of Naval Chaplains was the guest speaker for the day.

HMM-161

The morale continues, as in the past, to be excellent. The various clubs were decorated for Christmas and a large Christmas tree was erected and decorated by squadron personnel on the southern end of the ~~trade~~ field. The squadron choir sang for the Christmas Eve services, and later performed caroling services throughout the camp. Christmas dinner exceeded all expectations and was superbly prepared from the shrimp cocktail appetizer to the pumpkin pie dessert. Mail service, while hindered by the additional holiday volume, continued to be good, and hundreds of packages were received and distributed by the squadron mail room.

MABS-16

The largest single morale boosting event was the opening of the new mess hall on 9 December 1965. Having three hot meals per day instead of "C" rations at noon has had a tremendous effect on the men of MAG-16. The quality and quantity of the food in the new mess hall has been outstanding.

SU #1 H&MS-16

All hands duly noted Christmas and the passing of the old year. A noticeable increase in morale resulted from the easing of tensions inherent in the traditional observance of these events.

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

Two plane loads of food from Catholic Relief Services (Rice, Wheat, Soybean oil) clothing and toys delivered to 250 widows and orphans of 51st ARVN Regiment.

A total of 80,832 Piastres donated as gifts to the following organizations.

| | |
|--|----------|
| World Evangelization Crusade Orphanage | - 13,922 |
| St. John Seminary | - 15,710 |
| Old Age Home Danang | - 27,600 |
| Refugee Village (China Beach) | - 26,200 |
| Sacred Heart Orphanage | - 5,900 |
| Roman Catholic Orphanage (China Beach) | - 11,800 |
| Bishop of Danang | - 5,900 |

Unused portions of "C" rations delivered to Old Age Home, Danang, Catholic Orphanage, China Beach; Refugee Village, China Beach; and World Evangelization Crusade Orphanage.

Eight cartons of clothing delivered to Refugee Village, China Beach and to World Evangelization Crusade Orphanage.

Ten cases of Gerber Baby Food delivered to Roman Catholic Orphanage, China Beach.

Ten cases of Vitamins, aspirins, and four cases of soap delivered to Old age Home, Danang.

Gifts of candy and toys were made to Roman Catholic Orphanage, China Beach, World Evangelization Crusade Orphanage, and to Refugee Village, China Beach.

A Christmas party was held for 40 refugee children from the village at China Beach on Sunday 26 December in MAG-16 Mess Hall. Candy and toys were distributed to the children.

HAM-161

During the month of December support was given to Lim Long Orphanage, Daughters of Immaculate Mary Convent and the Phu Bai Kindergarten. In addition, a cash donation was made to the representative of the Arch Bishop of Vietnam in support of a newly founded refugee village. On 1 December, the Kim Long Orphanage received assorted clothing, blankets, material, needles, thread and two sets of electric clippers. Throughout the month scrap lumber left over from camp construction was delivered to the orphanage for use in the wood burning cooking stoves.

The request to CARE placed in October for school kits was filled this month and on the 14th 125 school kits were delivered to the Kim Long Orphanage and the Daughters of Immaculate Mary Convent.

The squadrons members request home for toys was extremely fruitfull and over 600 toys were sent in response to our request.

On 21 December a Christmas party was held at the Kim Long Orphanage in conjunction with the U. S. Army Advisors in Hue. At the party a movie was shown, gifts and candy were given to each of the children, and a meal was provided.

On 22 December a representative group of the high school and college students from the city of Hue visited the squadron area to deliver gifts in appreciation of support rendered by the United States Marine Corps in the Republic of South Vietnam.

On 23 December approximately 150 toys were delivered to the Daughters of Immaculate Mary Convent for distribution to the children of refugee families supported by the convent. On the afternoon of the 23rd, 150 toys, paper cups, and assorted Christmas candy were given to the Phu Bai Kindergarten for their Christmas party.

Toys are still being sent to the squadron and will be turned over to the Civil Affairs Officer of HMM-163, our relieving squadron, for distribution in late January on the Buddhist New Year Tet.

SU #1 H&MS-16

School restoration project in Hamlet of My Thi continuing with joint support contributed by VMO-2.

VMO-2

The squadron began a project with SU #1 to reconstruct the school building in My Thi hamlet near MMAF. Several visits have been made to My Thi and a meeting was held with the men of the hamlet to plan the reconstruction beginning in early January. Cost of material purchased has been shared by the two participating organizations, with funds received from Statesides donors. The people of My Thi are providing the labor.

Several sickcalls have also been held in My Thi, and the squadron Flight Surgeon has made plans for a VMO-2 medical action project there.

During the month, the squadron acquired a civic action fund in excess of 600 dollars, with contributions coming from the people of Nebraska City, Nebraska, the Crescent Street Methodist Church of Sioux City, Iowa, the people of Riverdale Illinois, and individual members of the squadron. Disposition of the fund has been planned, with the greater part to go to local orphanages, a leprarium, and a home for the aged. The remainder will be used for local civic action projects, in accordance with the donors desires.

Squadron personnel have participated in civic action visits to Da Me Hamlet, and future plans call for a building reconstruction project in Son Tuy hamlet near Marble Mountain. The squadron also provides a French interpreter to the weekly clinic sponsored by MAG-16. Clothing donated by the people of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was presented to the clinic.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/ISOHMM-161

On 20 December the squadron held a traditional Marine Corps Mess Night. Guests included Major General CHAUN, Commanding General, First ARVN Division, Brigadier General CARL, USMC, Assistant Wing Commander, First Marine Aircraft Wing, Colonel BOSTON, USA, Senior Advisor, First ARVN Division, and Colonel O'CONNOR, USMC, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16. All honored guests delivered short speeches. The high degree of cooperation between the First ARVN Division and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 while working together in Quang Tri Province in the Republic of Vietnam was also emphasized. Major General CHUAN presented a very attractive First Division plaque to the squadron.

SU #1 H&MS-16

Several articles on Unit published locally and in CONUS. Liaison with ISO personnel continuing.

AIR OPERATIONS STATISTICSDECEMBER TOTALS

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <u>HMM-161</u> | <u>UH-34D</u> | <u>HMM-163</u> | <u>UH-34D</u> |
| Pax | 6396 | Pax | 2995 |
| Sorties | 4292 | Sorties | 1397 |
| Cargo | 515.1 Tons | Cargo | 2 Tons |
| Hours | 1585.5 | Hours | 666.0 |
| Med Evacs | 53 | Med Evacs | 0 |
| <u>HMM-263</u> | <u>UH-34D</u> | <u>HMM-361</u> | <u>UH-34D</u> |
| Pax | 7281 | Pax | 5766 |
| Sorties | 4384 | Sorties | 4678 |
| Cargo | 151 Tons | Cargo | 378 Tons |
| Hours | 1422.7 | Hours | 1362.0 |
| Med Evacs | 293 | Med Evacs | 363 |
| <u>VMO-2</u> | <u>UH-1E</u> | <u>SU #1 H&MS-16</u> | <u>CH-37C</u> |
| Pax | 596 | Pax | 1162 |
| Sorties | 871 | Sorties | 418 |
| Cargo | 0 | Cargo | 253 Tons |
| Hours | 1087.0 | Hours | 180.4 |
| Med Evacs | 223 | Med Evacs | 0 |

MAG-16 TOTALS

| | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Pax | ----- | 24,196 |
| Sorties | ----- | 16,040 |
| Cargo | ----- | 1299 Tons |
| Hours | ----- | 6267.6 |
| Med Evacs | ----- | 932 |

COMMAND AND CONTROLHMM-161

BGen CARL, Assistant Wing Commander, First Marine Aircraft Wing, presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to Capt. Alan C. MACAULAY on 6 December while visiting with the squadron at Hué Phu Bai. Captain John M. KUYKENDALL was presented with a Distinguished Flying Cross on the 24th of December by LtCol R. C. DENNY Jr., Commanding Officer of the squadron. Also during the month a Navy Commendation Medal for Major Wydel U. BLAKEMAN, transferred forwarded. During the last four weeks twenty five Air Medals were received and presented to members of the squadron.

HMM-263

Recommendations for 78 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, 4 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V", 3 Letters of Commendation, FMFPac, 1 Letter of Commendation, CG, 1stMAW and 1 man was awarded Meritorious Mast. There were 11 Air Medals awarded and 17 Combat Aircrrew Insignia awarded.

HMM-361

Capt. B. D. RINEHART's Distinguished Flying Cross recommendation was up-graded to a Silver Star for his part in Operation Starlight. Capt. RINEHART successfully evacuated 44 casualties while receiving multiple hits on three different aircraft throughout the day of 18 August 1965.

A total of 139 Air Medal recommendations were submitted by this command during the month. One man was recommended for the Navy Commendation Medal and one man for the Purple Heart.

VMO-2

Squadron personnel were nominated for 67 awards during December broken down as follows: 1 Navy Cross, 1 Silver Star, 6 DFC, 40 Air Medals, 6 Purple Hearts, 13 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V".

H&MS-16

Five officers of H&MS-16 were awarded the Air Medal during the month of December: Maj. H. W. STEADMAN, 5th award. Capt. J. W. BRIDGES, 4th Award, Capt. P. W. BRONSON, 4th award, Capt. J. A. CREECH, 3rd award, and Capt. J. D. STRICKLAND, 1st award.

INTELLIGENCE

The MAC-16 S-2 Section fulfilled normal Intelligence and Counter-intelligence functions during the month of December.

Group Intelligence Section operated as part of MAC-16's forward element during Operation "Harvest Moon".

HMM-161

During the month of December primary areas of interest were the Provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. Additional interest was taken in Quang Tin Province in the areas of Tam Ky and the Phouc Valley. The latter area was the sight of Operation "Harvest Moon", a combined ARVN, Marine Corps Operation against units of the 1st VC Regiment.

Squadron aircraft have received fire on 13 occasions during the month with 7 hits being inflicted upon the aircraft.

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

1. 031330H 2 aircraft on a recon mission received small arms automatic fire from (AT 968655). One aircraft was hit in the tail pylon. No injuries sustained.
2. 041425H Aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from (BT 032720). One aircraft was hit in the tail pylon. No injuries sustained. Crew Chief returned fire, results unknown.
3. 051330H Aircraft received small arms fire from (AT 968642) while participating in a resupply mission. Aircraft took a round through the clam shell door and through one of the inter oil lines. Aircraft was forced to land but managed to fly clear of the unsecure area before landing. Maintenance crew was dispatched and the aircraft repaired and returned to base with no injuries being sustained.
4. 061100H A flight of 8 aircraft received small arms automatic fire from (ZC 145535) while on an emergency resupply mission. While one aircraft was in the zone at this coordinate a 60mm mortar round hit a few yards in front of the aircraft. The pilot immediately took off with no damage or injuries resulting from the mortar round.
5. 090900H A flight of 10 aircraft received small arms fire from (BT 095556) while on a resupply mission. One aircraft received a hit. Round hit the co-pilot's window and cut the top of the cockpit. No injuries were sustained.
6. 121000H A flight of 6 aircraft received small arms automatic fire from (BT 220170). One aircraft was hit in the aft fuel cell. Aircraft continued to fly with no injuries being sustained.
7. 161230H 2 aircraft on Med Evac mission received small arms fire from (YD 499591). No hits or injuries sustained.
8. 221715H 2 aircraft on Med Evac mission received small arms fire from (YD 490330). One aircraft received a hit on the armor plate, pilot's side. No damage or injuries sustained.
9. 221045H 2 aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from (AT 958658). No hits or injuries sustained.
10. 221700H 2 aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from (AT 962653). No hits or injuries sustained.

11. 281140H 2 aircraft on a recon mission received small arms fire from (AT 972644). One round entered the left window of the lead aircraft fatally wounding the aerial observer, 1st Lt. J. A. SCHIMD 084862. The round exited the top of the left canopy.

12. 281515H 2 aircraft on a recon mission received small arms fire from (AT 962630). The aircraft received two small arms hits resulting in minor damage, one round hit the center fuel cell, went through the cabin and exited through the left side of the turtleback. The second round hit the rotor balde. No injuries were sustained.

13. 31 Dec (Time unknown) Aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from (AT 915584). One hit was sustained in aft fuel cell. No injuries were sustained.

HMM-263

In the month of December, the squadron had a total of 80 hostile fire incidents, including 30 aircraft sorties receiving 46 hits. This significant increase in the incidents of hostile groundfire is directly attributable to increased Viet Cong activity in the squadron area of operations. The increased number and percentage of aircraft hits appears to be a consequence of the influx of hard-core Viet Cong/PAVN troops in this area of operations, who are more experienced and proficient in techniques of anti-aircraft firing. This was evidenced in Operation "Harvest Moon" during 3-19 December in which Marine Units were in contact with estimated elements of the 1st VC Regiment and of an unidentified PAVN unit (later evaluated to be from the 319 Anti-aircraft Battalion. Squadron participation in this operation resulted in 33 hostile fire incidents including 15 aircraft sorties receiving 25 hits, one of these being the first incident of a squadron aircraft being hit by a round from a 12.7mm/.50 caliber automatic weapon.

The areas of heaviest hostile groundfire during December were grid squares (BT 66)17 incidents, (AT 95)10 incidents, (BT 13)8 incidents, (BT 03)7 incidents, and (AT 96)6 incidents.

One possible compromise of classified information occurred when a pilot's classified frequency card for Operation "Harvest Moon" blew out the cockpit window during flight. This incident was reported to higher headquarters and corrective measures were effected to prevent a recurrence.

HMM-361

The intelligence section of HMM-361 is now briefing all missions other than those remaining within the local TAOR. During "Harvest Moon", a complete situation map of troop dispositions, enemy gun emplacements, and anti-aircraft incidents was kept at the squadron level. Capt. D. M. LOWE made several trips to the scene in order to supply more information to pilots flying in the area of operation.

There were 42 fire reports and 19 spot reports submitted by the squadron in December. The majority of these reports were in connection with Harvest Moon.

SU #1, H&MS-16

Intelligence program well organized and functioning within the guidelines emanating from next senior command.

GROUND DEFENSEHMM-161

New guard orders put into effect last month have proven to give maximum coverage of the squadron area. Posts number three, four and five on the second and third reliefs have been doubled to provide increased security.

Aircraft continue to be dispersed nightly with a constant shift in parking location in a continuing effort to prevent a discernable pattern from being established.

On the morning of 10 December at 0200, the squadron was notified that the district headquarters two miles to the north had received a mortar attack. The squadron was placed on 100% alert and all defensive positions were manned throughout the night.

The evening of the 10th at approximately 1930 intelligence sources revealed the possibility of an attack that evening on the Phu Bai airfield. Based on this intelligence ten aircraft were dispersed to the Huu Citadel airstrip and the squadron was placed on 100% security. That evening a patrol from the Third Battalion Fourth Marines encountered a VC patrol, intentions unknown, approximately 750 meters east of the airstrip. 8 VC KIA, 1 VC captured. No further incidents were recorded and all aircraft returned to base by 0700 on 11 December.

MABS-16

The provisional rifle company continued to provide security for Marble Mountain Air Facility. This company is formed from personnel from all units aboard this facility and supported logistically by MARS-16.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCEHMM-161

The maintenance section facilities improved this month with the completion of Hardback tents for shop and storage areas. This greatly enhanced the working conditions and certainly was paramount in providing sheltered areas for equipment which may otherwise have been damaged due to the predominance of inclement weather during the last two weeks of December.

The aircraft availability during this month averaged 84%. The AOCP rate decreased 5% during this month. Ingenuity in the repair of fuel cells is note worthy. Rubber cement and battle dressing gauze applied to both sides of the puncture seals the fuel cell effectively. Were it not for this simple repair we would presently have 3 aircraft AOCP for fuel cells.

The squadron received its first 150 series UH-34D this month. Although additional replacement aircraft will of necessity be provided. Periodically it is not necessarily true that 150 series aircraft will be the normal replacement series.

As always typical of a combat situation problems arise which require immediate action under other than ideal conditions. One such case in point was the fact maintenance repair in the field of the tail rotor replacement of a UH-34D at Ashua 25 miles to the west of Phu Bai. One hour and 45 minutes after the aircraft developed trouble it was flying again.

HMM-263

During the month of December, the squadron flew a total of 1422.7 hours, more than any month so far in Vietnam.

Average aircraft availability rose to 11 for the whole month, and 13 during the last week, showing a steady rising number of available aircraft.

The squadron began the month with 20 aircraft assigned, 16 in A-1 status and 4 in a G-3 (in repair at O&R) status. On 2 December one of the aircraft at O&R, EG-10 (150574) was transferred to O&R; on the same day, the squadron picked up a newly overhauled aircraft, EG-21 (150255). On 3 December EG-5 (148797) had an engine failure on take-off from Danang and in subsequent hard landing the aircraft suffered B (overhaul) damage. A priority DIR was requested for the engine; results have not yet been received, but it is strongly suspected that the magneto was the cause of the failure. It was the first (and only) engine failure in the squadron. The aircraft was eventually shipped to O&R. In December the squadron received another newly overhauled aircraft, EG-7 (150263), and another on 13 December, EG-19 (150228). On 23 December, a low time aircraft, EG-18 (148081), was received from HMM-163, bringing the total aircraft assigned to the squadron to 23, 19 in A-1 status. On 26 December, all squadron's aircraft at O&R were transferred to HMM-163, giving the squadron a total of 19 aircraft, all in an A-1 status. On 29 December, the latest aircraft was received, again from O&R, EG-17 (145792). The squadron ended the month with 20 aircraft, all in the A-1 status.

The squadron had 3 aircraft AOCP from 1 through 28 December, and finished the month with 2 AOCP, the lowest number AOCP since arrival in Vietnam.

VMO-2

VMO-2 expended during the month of December, 402 2.75 FFAR rockets, 22,300 rounds of 7.62 and used 41,000 gallons of JP-4.

There were seven engine changes required, ranging in reason from sand erosion on one, stator vane corrosion on one, NL nozzle burnt out on two, to strike damage in three accidents.

There were five aircraft damaged by small arms fire, three by .50 caliber, and three by .30 caliber. One of the five suffered damage by both .50 and .30.

The average aircraft availability for the month of December was 9.4.

HMM-361

The average number of aircraft assigned for the month was 18.2; Average utilization was 74.8 hours with a daily average availability of 12.5 aircraft. The actual availability was 69%. Total number of hits was 17 on 12 aircraft.

SU#1, H&MS-16

Aircraft parts availability has improved considerably. Presently have 14 AOGP parts outstanding.

CAMP MAINTENANCEHMM-161

Keeping up with the drainage, repairs due to water damage and the fresh water and trash details became major projects in the adverse weather conditions. The Officer's and SNCO's side of the mess hall was overheaded with parachute material under the supervision of the Mess Officer. The Mess Hall, pot shack, and Vietnamese head were rescreened. Also, the urinals around the camp were screened with canvas and the washing facilities next to the heads were improved. Usable lumber was segregated from scrap with the scrap lumber donated and delivered to needy Vietnamese families. Pallets, screen wire, lumber, etc. have all been stacked according to size and type.

MARS-16

A new tower for a 3000 gallon water tank was completed at the galley, and construction was begun on a tower to hold 2-3000 gallon water tanks at the well by MCB-9 personnel. MCB-9 completed the two permanent shower facilities except for the required plumbing.

The following constructions completed by the MARS-16 construction section; constructed 125 mess hall tables, built a new Group CO's office and conference room, converted 7 strong-backed GP frames to permanent tinned buildings, converted the S-1, S-2 and S-3 complex from strong-backed tents to permanent tinned buildings, constructed a water tower for a 3000 gallon tank at the EM shower, partitioned off the Staff NCO area in the new mess hall, installed partition and food service counter in the officers mess wing, poured 20' X 40' concrete slab for garbage house, pre-cut all lumber for garbage house, built hot locker and storage room for MARS-16 Material, began construction on five hot lockers for the mess hall, built and installed shutters and sorting bins at MARS-16 laundry, constructed several large boxes for shipment and storage of motor transport and material equipment, and made continuous repairs on all heads.

The following electrical construction was accomplished; pole line construction from pump house to motor transport section, rewired entirely the S-1, S-2 and S-3 offices, the motor transport office and the HMM-263 ready room, wired the new Group CO's office, the water point tent and pump house, the welding and paint shops at H&MS-16, installed runway lighting, wired all VMO-2 tents on flight line, wired eating areas in new mess hall, installed wiring and receptacles in several living tents and MARS-16 office, installed conversion boards for standby generators at sick bay and communications, and repaired 9 generators.

The plumbing section accomplished the following; installed all plumbing in new galley and mess hall, including piping from 3000 gallon water storage tank outside galley, installed leach bed behind mess hall to facilitate drainage, installed drains in all sinks in galley, installed drain and sink at sick bay, cleaned 3000 gallons water tanks at officers and SNCO showers, completed plumbing of SNCO Club, installed shower drains at EM shower, built trap for drain at the officers shower and made plumbing repairs to all showers,

[REDACTED]

The reefer section had the following major jobs: prepared one ME-10 reefer for its transfer to Phu Bai, moved ice flakes machine to new galley and built new ice chest for same and serviced and repaired reefers and ice machines as required.

The TAFDS section issued 289,038 gallons of Aviation Gas at Marble Mountain Air Facility. Members of the TAFDS section conducted a technical inspection on the TAFDS equipment at MAG-11 and established a MARS SOP for safety during TAFDS fuel handling operations. Embarkation data was brought up to date and equipment remarked. Support was given to MAG-36 which had established a TAFDS at landing zone OAK during the Operation "Harvest Moon". Transportation at outlying sites still remains a problem for TAFDS personnel. TAFDS personnel at Dong Ha live at Quang Tri and must rely on Army and Air Force vehicles to travel the 9 miles between the places. At Tam Ky the personnel live at the MACV compound, work at the Province Headquarters 3 miles away and are resupplied by drums which are delivered to an airstrip approximately 8 miles away. Here, again Army and Air Force vehicles must be used (when available) to transport personnel and drums.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications for this period were in most instances at the highest standards, with a reliability factor of 90%. Numerous improvements and additional equipment are largely accountable, namely:

HMM-161 has finally provided adequate power to operate a TRC-75 on the Wing TAC net. This has resulted in reliable 24 hour communications with HMM-161.

Several AN/TT-4s were found in Group Supply Warehouse. Of these, 2 were in excellent operating condition. One is presently installed in MAG-16 Msg center - which has resulted in good quality run-off. The other was sent to MAG-12 who also were in a similar predicament.

Utilities has relocated and rewired their 75 KW generator which supports the mess hall and comm center, thus resulting in constant steady power.

To further alleviate our power source, the AN/MRC-62 van and S-126 crypto shelter were connected to the USAF generator.

But with all these improvements there is one that excels above all. That is the spirit and devotion of the of MAG-16 who stand and work at their "unglorious" tasks. These men, for the most part, realize the mission communications-to Serve the Command and to serve in the highest standards.

During the 2nd and 3rd week of Dec, comm section supported the Advance Operations unit of MAG-16's S-3 section on operation Harvest Moon. Communications were provided for landing zone control and frag missions. Deployed equipment consisted of: 1 MRC-38, 1 PRC-47, 1 PRC-41 plus batteries and accessories, 1 PRC-10 and 1 RC-292.

Enclosure (1) shows the equipment being off loaded. For future operations the following package is recommended depending on the mission and requirements submitted by the S-3. 1 MRC-87, 1 MRC-83, 1 PRC-47, 1 PRC-41, 1 PRC-10, 1 RC-292 and 1 PIQ-5 accessories etc.

As a helpful note to future MAG-16 CommO's. During such operations we are usually called upon to assist other units with additional comm equipment primarily PRC-47's and PRC-41's. Special emphasis should be placed on care and maintenance of this equipment and its power supplies to maintain all in a constant useable status.

Communications section underwent an A&M inspection by CG, 1stMAW. The resulting grade was 90%. Discrepancies which were noted are being corrected.

Particulars: Message Center: Attempts were made to reinstall full duplex TT circuit but either Wing or MAG-16 was without the necessary back up equipment.

Modification and maintenance cards were initiated on all equipment and are being maintained by Tech shop.

MAG-16 message center processed 2,999 incoming and 572 outgoing messages.

There was a notable drop in outage time resulting from MAG-16. Wing however has been plagued with considerable equipment failures.

Radio: Communications over Wing Cmd #2 and Wing TAC Net continued successfully and have improved with the employment of an AN/TRC-75 with HMM-161.

Radio Section made a fine performance of the aforementioned "spirit" by the hard work of the personnel deployed on "Harvest Moon".

Radios for the perimeter guard have been taking unusual rough treatment due to the elements. Constant stress has been placed on care and cleaning.

The BA-279 situation has temporarily been solved by the support of 1st LAAM Battalion. The batteries are available in the system and supply has been notified.

Repair: Under the guidance and knowledge of GySgt SNYDER (maintenance Chief) and the professional skill of repair section close to 90% of "downed" equipment has been brought to an operational status.

A maintenance program has been initiated and kept in progress.

Total repair activity: 138 pieces of equipment processed, 27 pieces evacuated to higher echelon maintenance, 15 pieces returned from higher echelon maintenance, 118 pieces of equipment returned to sections and 121 new requisitions processed.

Wire: Trouble shooting of lines and phones has continued with maximum effort.

Various phones were relocated and 5 additional installed.

Three new speakers (LS-103) were received and installed immediately. Plastic bags are now used to cover the terminal post of these speakers to keep corrosion and rust at a minimum.

MAG-16 paraloft, upon request from comm section, provided blue canvas duck covers for all test stations. These covers are being installed and will prevent moisture and sand from corroding terminal posts and wires.

Personnel: Effective Strength

1 Officer 61 Enlisted

Joined:

Pfc N. C. BOWMAN 2531/2532
LCpl F. GUNTHER 2541

Departed:

Cpl. L. D. STOVER 2511
SSgt F. E. JESSEE 2511

LOGISTICSHMM-161

The logistics work this past month has centered around the completion of camp construction, further work on internal projects and preparations for the move to Okinawa. Monsoon rains hampered the outdoor work seriously, however much time was spent profitably on indoor projects.

Food Services: This month, many of the items on order through Material arrived, and the receipt of stoves, brooms, swabs, glasses and serving dishes has improved the capability to serve attractive and well-prepared meals. A water trailer was mounted on a CONEX box at the rear of the Mess Hall providing running water inside the galley. The request for a galley extension was approved and a bid has been submitted to the Group Fiscal Officer. The Wing Contracting Officer will solicate and approve the final contract.

Material: Inventories are being conducted with the HMM-163 Responsible Officer of our organizational property. At this time, all equipment is in dry storage which was accomplished with our "hot box" and the aid of two sunny days this month. Our cold weather equipment has been turned in to Group Supply and has reduced the amount of storage space that is required for this squadron. A weather shelter was built to shield those items which do not necessarily require indoor storage.

Medical: The medical department has been able to process a considerable amount of backlogged paperwork. This is a direct result of our new "Sick Bay". Daily sanitation reports are now being made which aid both ourselves and Camp Maintenance in sanitation control.

MABS-16

This unit has received 63% of its 180 day spares. This unit still has Pri O2 requisitions out on Diesel parts for 90 days.

MOTOR TRANSPORTMABS-16

MAG-16 Motor Transport section received 21 new M38A1 jeeps and one new MB-5 crash truck on 24 December 1965. These vehicles will replace all M-422 Mighty Mites which will be turned in, and the MB-5 which was destroyed during the Viet Cong attack on 28 October 1965.

VMO-2

The Motor Transport office was able to establish better and more efficient working spaces during the month, and constructed a shop. They turned in one aircraft refueler to MABS-16 MT and received one in replacement. The former was burned during the attack on the morning of 28 October 1965.

The Motor T office received three new jeeps, M-38A1, and one truck, platform, airfield maintenance, from MABS-16.

Fuel consumption was 146 gallons and 313 gallons of diesel. Total mileage was 4,695 miles.

As of 31 December there are no prime moving vehicles on deadline.