

HEADQUARTERS  
 Marine Aircraft Group 16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
 FPO San Francisco 96602

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 5750  
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 15 March 1966

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
 (b) WGO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) MAG-16 Command Chronology

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

2. This letter is downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

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

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
1098-66	1

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 DOD DIR 5200.10

MAG-16 S&C  
 LOG # 00382-66  
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MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 16  
MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIR FACILITY  
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
PERIOD COVERED: 1 THROUGH 28 FEBRUARY 1966

ENCLOSURE (1)

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. COMMAND AND RANK COMPOSURE (C)

<u>Billet</u>	<u>Name/Rank</u>	<u>Period</u>
CO MAG-16	THOMAS J. O'CONNOR Col	1-28 Feb 1966
XO MAG-16	ROBERT L. SIMMONS LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
Adjutant	CLARENCE D. DICKEY Capt	1-14 Feb 1966
Adjutant	HARVEY J. OLITSKY 1stLt	15-28 Feb 1966
S-1 Officer	FREDERICK A. MATHEWS Maj	1-28 Feb 1966
S-2 Officer	LAWRENCE D. GLENN 1stLt	1-28 Feb 1966
S-3 Officer	HENRY W. STEADMAN Maj	1-28 Feb 1966
S-4 Officer	ALDON MCBARRON LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO H&MS-16	JEROME L. GOEBEL LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO MABS-16	LEWIS I. ZEIGLER Maj	1-28 Feb 1966
CO HMM-161	REX C. DENNY Jr LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO HMM-163	CHARLES A. HOUSE LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO HMM-263	TRUMAN CLARK LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO HMM-361	LLOYD J. CHILDERS LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
CO VMO-2	GEORGE F. BAUMAN LtCol	1-28 Feb 1966
OIC SU #1 H&MS	JAMES C. BROKAW Capt	1-28 Feb 1966
OIC MATCU-68	ROBERT C. COULTER Capt	1-28 Feb 1966

2. TASK ORGANIZATION (C)

H&MS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
MABS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
HMM-161 - Marine Corps Air Facility, Futema, Okinawa	1-28 Feb 1966
HMM-163 - Hue/Phu Bai, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
HMM-263 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
HMM-361 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
VMO-2 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
SU#1 H&MS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966
MATCU-68 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN	1-28 Feb 1966

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHS (C)

<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
MAG-16	294	1583	9	25
H&MS-16	29	282	0	0
MABS-16	13	352	3	8
HMM-161	51	187	1	3
HMM-163	51	176	2	2
HMM-263	50	167	1	3
HMM-361	51	165	1	3
VMO-2	36	143	1	5
SU#1 H&MS	6	56	0	1
MATCU-68	6	55	0	0

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4. Important Visitors to the Command (U)

a. H&MS-16. There were a number of distinguished visitors transported by this unit in the C-117D. They were Admirals Westerly and Pressy, USN, Major General McCutcheon, USMC, Colonels Chaisson (USMC), St Clair (USA), Morrison (USMC), Dodson (USMC), Wegley (USMC), and Harper (USMC).

b. HMM-361. Actor Robert Mitchum and his party were carried to various outposts in the Danang and Phu Bai Areas.

c. VMO-2. The first week of the month, the squadron transported Generals Krulak, Walt, English, McCutcheon, Cheon, Carl, and Trang about the Danang TAOR, and also General Walt to the Double Eagle area.

d. HMM-161. During the month of February a number of distinguished visitors were transported about the Okinawa area. They were Lieutenant General Krulak (USMC), Major General Fields (USMC), Brigadier General Henderson (USMC), Vice Admiral Hyland (USN), Colonel Delong (USMC), Brigadier General Stiles (USMC), and Brigadier General Van Stockum (USMC).

e. VMO-2 - On 21 February, liaison aircraft carried Congressmen Zablock and Welan plus a party of four to various points in the Danang area.

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 February 1966

HMM-263 - (S) HMM-263 has a ready force of 3 aircraft from 0700 to 1900 every other day for operation Sparrow Hawk. Sparrow Hawk launches will be mentioned in this summary as they occur, but other daily commitments will not be mentioned unless they are unusual or significant.

Today supported the USAF by standing SAR North at Quang Tri. The aircraft were not launched but RON at Quang Tri. Launched operation Sparrow Hawk twice during the day to (BT 110-632) and (AT 962-652). The first operation received small arms fire from (BT 122-630), with no hits. Two UH-34D's attempted to insert a demolition team at (AT 822-661), an unsuitable zone, fire from small arms was encountered and 1 hit was received while waving off. The pilot of one helo was slightly wounded on this flight. During the afternoon resupply of the 3rd Marines, small arms fire was received from (AT 825-660) with no hits.

VMO-2 - (C) In an operation southwest of Danang, the Squadron provided armed escort for HMM-263 transport helicopters, and acted as TAC(A) for an air-strike by fixed wing aircraft of MAG-11. Hostile fire encountered resulted in one hit, but the round passed through the tail rotor, and did no serious damage.

2 February 1966

HMM-163 - (U) 14 aircraft were placed on alert at Dong Ha in continued support of Lam Son 231. By the completion of the alert, six aircraft had been committed for resupply and med evacs.

HMM-263 (S) While on stand-by Med Evac, lifted 1 KIA U.S. Mil and 15 WIA U.S. Mil to "C" Med and Marble Mountain Hospital. Three ARVN WIA's and 2 VN Civ WIA's were taken to the ARVN Hospital in Danang. The Med Evac aircraft received small arms and automatic weapons fire from (AT 830-658), (BT 094-638), (BT 027-634), and (BT 035-684) where grenades also were detonated in the zone. There were no hits received in any of these incidents. Supported Operation Blue Spring by lifting 29 Nungs, 1 Australian Mil, and 1 U.S. Mil to (AT 912-820). One aircraft became entangled in a parachute while landing and had to be left in the zone over night. Operation Double Eagle was augmented by lifting 2,200 lbs of cargo and 69 U.S. Mil. .30 and .50 Cal. fire was received from (BS 632-455), (BS 768-532), (BS 797-380), and (BS 795-312) with no hits.

VMO-2 - (C) Two UH-1E's escorted a Sparrow Hawk mission and laid suppressive fire on the village of Phong Luc (1). The med evac aircraft encountered intense automatic weapons fire, including .50 caliber, while on the deck at a point south of Danang. No hits were received.

3 February 1966

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HMM-263 - (S) Supported I Corps by evacuating 5 WIA ARVN's from LZ's at (BS 372-886), (BS 344-882), and (BS 649-732). Small arms fire was received from (BS 362-883) with one hit. Augmented MAG-36 by lifting 8,600 lbs cargo, 196 U.S. Mil, 1 WIA U.S. Mil, and 6 Red Cross personnel. Sparrow Hawk was launched to (AT 945-655) and (AT 950-645). Sixty one U.S. Mil were lifted and fire was received from (AT 945-655) and (AT 950-645) with no hits. While supporting MAG-16 by lifting 700 lbs cargo and 18 U.S. Mil, fire was received from (AT 905-825), no hits were taken. On a recon mission of the Danang TAOR small arms fire was received from (BT 0469) with no hits.

HMM-361 - (U) LtCol CHILDERS led a six-plane ARVN resupply from the Quang Tin provincial headquarters to the outposts of Ky Tra, Tien Phuoc, Lac Son and Phouc Lam. In 32.8 hours and 90 sorties, the flight transported 383 passengers and 41,000 lbs of cargo.

SU #1 - (U) Retrieved downed UH-34D hull from (AT 913-280).

4 February 1966

HMM-263 - (C) Supported III MAF by evacuating 4 WIA U.S. Mil from (BT 065-718). Continued support of I corps with 6 UH-34D's lifting 16,250 lbs cargo, 2 U.S. Mil, and 20 ARVN's. The flight was escorted by F-8's and A-4's with fire being received from (AT 914-565), no hits were taken. Operation Double Eagle was augmented with 2 aircraft lifting 950 lbs cargo, 17 U.S. Mil, 3 U.S. Mil WIA's, and 1 WIA VN Civ.

HMM-361 - (S) Capt. B. D. RINEHART's section was launched from Quang Tri into Laos to attempt the rescue of two U.S. Army men whose OV-1C Mohawk had been downed by enemy ground fire. The crew, one officer and one enlisted man, was located at (XC 840-960). Capt RINEHART was unable to land his aircraft due to stumps in the zone and the rescue was effected by hovering with one wheel on a stump while the downed airmen boarded the helicopter via the stump and the landing gear. For his meritorious actions, Capt. RINEHART was recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross. His co-pilot, 1st Lt H. A. LOCKE, and a crew chief, Sgt. G. D. GARRETT, were both recommended for single-mission Air Medals.

VMO-2 - (C) A UH-1E escorting Sparrow Hawk delivered suppressive rocket and machinegun fire on the villages of Phu Son (2) and Duyen Son (3) south of Danang, leaving two houses in flames. Suppressive fire was also placed on a raft in the river southwest of Danang.

5 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) 1,100 lbs of refrigerated medical supplies were air-lifted from White Beach to Camp Hansen.

HMM-263 - (C) The daily routine resupply of the 3rd and 9th Marines received small arms fire from BT 024-640 and AT 982-583 with no hits. Two UH-1E recon missions were escorted in the Danang TAOR in support of the III MAF. Small arms fire was received from (BS 025-635), no hits taken

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6 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) SAR standby crews were the only scheduled flight for this day.

HMM-263 - (C) Supported III MAF by escorting 1 UH-1E on a recon of the Chu Lai TAOR, small arms fire was received from (BS 430-932), no hits taken.

VMO-2 - (C) Hostile fire was encountered from a tree line in the southern Danang TAOR, but no hits were received and the aircraft replied with rocket and machinegun fire on the tree line.

7 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Five aircraft airlifted 35 personnel from the Northern Training area to Camp Hansen. Five aircraft were launched for night training and instruments.

HMM-163 - (U) Operation Lam Son 232 was supported by 16 Superchief and 6 Powerglide aircraft. Ground fog forced a three hour delay and a minor change in plans. Due to the fog hanging over Hue, the Hac Bao Company of the 1st ARVN Div were trucked to Phu Bai and then lifted to (YD 326-359). Troops from the 1st Bn., 3rd Reg., 1st ARVN Div. were carried from Quang Tri to (YD 326-359). Upon completion of the initial troop lift, 10 Superchief aircraft remained at Quang Tri for any further commitment and returned to Phu Bai at 1700H.

HMM-263 - (C) I corps was supported by launching 6 aircraft to Phu Bai to augment HMM-163. 600 lbs cargo, 26 U.S. Mil, 196 ARVN's and 1 VN Civ were lifted. While flying a UH-1E recon escort of the Danang TAOR small arms fire was received from (AT 865-738), no hits. Two aircraft were launched in support of the III MAF to recon Highway #1 in the vicinity of Quang Ngai. Small arms fire was received from (BS 783-445) with 2 hits being taken. One aircraft was forced to RON at Quang Ngai because of the hits.

HMM-361 - (U) LtCol CHILDERS' flight of 13 aircraft flew a series of strikes and troop lifts in support of Operation Double Eagle. In 66.9 flight hours and 180 sorties, 217 troops and 36,540 lbs of cargo were lifted.

8 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Five aircraft airlifted 37 personnel from Camp Schwab to the Camp Hansen Training Area. Five aircraft were launched for night training and instruments.

HMM-263 - (C) Operation Sparrow Hawk launched twice lifting 46 U.S. Mil and 48 U.S. Mil, respectively. Small arms fire was received from (BT 015-627), (BT 005-633), and (BT 010-637), but no hits were taken.

VMO-2 - (C) The med evac aircraft received one hit from hostile fire west of Tam Ky, during a night mission to an ARVN outpost. The bullet passed through the nose of the aircraft with no injuries or serious damage resulting.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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SU #1 - (U) Retrieved downed UH-34D hull from (ra 817-061).

9 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) The SAR standby crew were launched at 1415 on a Med Evac of an injured Okinawan male to Kume Jima, an island 46 miles west of Okinawa. The flight returned the evacuee to Hamby Airfield where a Ryukus ambulance was waiting.

HMM-163 - (U) 14 aircraft carried ARVN troops from (YD 326-359) to Quang Tri and Hue on the retrograde of Lam Son 232.

HMM-263 - (C) While escorting a UH-1E on a recon of the Danang TAOR, 1 aircraft received small arms fire from (BT 434-150), no hits taken.

HMM-361 - (C) Leading a three-plane Sparrow Hawk division, Capt. E. HERNANDEZ flew an assault against Viet Cong at (BT 105-645) south of Danang. The single UH-1E assigned to support the lift could only cover one side of the flight and heavy ground fire from the unprotected side of the flight damaged two of the three aircraft. Following a resupply to the outpost of Giao Ai along Highway 14, in which several thousand rounds were expended against Viet Cong, Maj. P. E. BENET's flight of six proceeded north to (YD 327-359) to aid HMM-163 in an ARVN retrograde. A mountain zone, bordered by high trees, made the operation hazardous but 188 Vietnamese troops were lifted out of the area and back to Quang Tri in 22.3 hours and 68 sorties.

10 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) 37 troops were airlifted from Camp Hansen to Camp Schwab on a helicopter indoctrination troop lift. One aircraft was diverted after completion of the lift to the Northern Training Area for a medical evacuation of a Marine with a broken ankle to Camp Schwab. 7 aircraft were launched in the evening for night familiarization and instrument training. One aircraft was diverted to the island of Tokashiki-shima, 15 miles west of Okinawa to pick up an ill Army enlisted man.

HMM-263 - (C) Operation Sparrow Hawk launched to (BT 105-633), lifting 46 U.S. Mil. Small arms fire was received from (BT 104-628), no hits. Supported the 3rd Div Recon on an insertion of a recon patrol at (AT 825-736). Automatic weapons fire was received on the approach to the LZ, no hits taken.

11 February 1966

HMM-263 - (C) 3 recon missions of the Danang TAOR were flown. Small arms fire was received from (BT 022-636), no hits. Supported Operation Double Eagle by launching 12 aircraft to augment MAG-36, 171 U.S. Mil were lifted and 378 rounds of ammunition were expended when small arms fire was received from (BS 568-375), no hits were received.

12 February 1966

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HMM-263 - (C) Continued support of Operation Double Eagle by launching 2 aircraft for a courier resupply run. 200 lbs cargo and 16 U.S. Mil were lifted. Small arms fire was received from (AT 972-640), no hits.

HMM-361 - (C) A routine resupply to the Vietnamese outpost of Phong Thu led by LtCol CHILDERS turned into a sharp combat engagement when Viet Cong took the six-plane flight under heavy fire. Friendly patrols in the area were to mark their positions with yellow smoke. But the Cong were also marking with yellow smoke making target acquisition for gunners very difficult. One helicopter, flown by Capt D. L. CHAMBERS, was downed in the zone with two fuel lines shot out. The aircraft was later repaired and flown out of the zone.

VMO-2 - (U) Suppressive rocket and machinegun fire was placed on Dong Tien (1) south of Danang by UH-1E's escorting a UH-34D troop lift.

13 February 1966

HMM-263 - (S) 8 aircraft were flown in support of Operation Double Eagle. The aircraft participated in a strike with MAG-36, lifting 1,900 lbs cargo and 165 U.S. Mil. Small arms fire was received while approaching the strike LZ at (BS 560-448), no hits were received. The flight also received small arms fire from (BT 132-629) while enroute to MMAF, one hit was taken.

VMO-2 - (C) Hostile fire was encountered from a hut in Dong Tien (1), no hits. The aircraft replied to the fire with rockets and machineguns, partially destroying the hut. A UH-1E on a recon mission in the Danang TAOR landed to apprehend a VC suspect, who was delivered to an infantry unit.

14 February 1966

HMM-263 - (U) 8 aircraft were launched to the BSA of Operation Double Eagle. The mission was cancelled upon arrival at the BSA because of adverse weather.

VMO-2 - (U) An armed UH-1E flying escort to UH-34D aircraft at Chu Lai killed a VC with machinegun fire, then landed to retrieve his weapon. While on the deck, the crewman captured a second VC who was subsequently delivered to an infantry unit. Pilot of the aircraft: Gen M. E. CARL.

15 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Two aircraft were launched at 1656 for a medical evacuation of a merchant mariner aboard a freighter 80 miles at sea but were diverted back to base by Kadena ADC.

HMM-263 - (C) 6 aircraft were launched in support of Operation Double Eagle. The aircraft flew 41.6 hours, lifting 147 U.S. Mil and 1,500 lbs cargo. The aircraft received automatic weapons fire while evacuating U.S. Mil from (BS 566-393). The fire was received from (BS 567-395) and (BS 568-392). While supporting I Corps, 2 VN WIA's were med evaced from (AT 990-640) and (AT 985-584) and taken to the ARVN Hospital. Small arms fire was received from (AT 985-580) with no hits received.

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VMO-2 - (U) Squadron aircraft used their guns and rockets and acted as TAC(A) for fixed wing aircraft of MAG-11 during an airstrike on VC villages in the mountains southwest of Danang.

H&MS-16 - (U) VIP lift: Cols CHAISSON USMC, ST CLAIR USA, MORISSON USMC from Danang to Saigon. Col CHAISSON returned to Danang.

16 February 1966

HMM-263 - (S) 8 aircraft were launched along with 12 aircraft from HMM-361 for a retrograde of the 3rd Recon Bn from Happy Valley. The operation was normal. Two aircraft were launched on an SAR mission of 2 downed F-4's, in support of the 1st MAW. The search area was located at (ZC 185-955).

HMM-361 - (C) The retrograde of 3rd Recon Bn took LtCol CHILDERS' flight of 12 into Happy Valley, southwest of Danang. The landing zone, (ZC 190-650), would only accomodate one aircraft and even then it was necessary to hover with only one wheel on the ground. Nevertheless, 185 troops were lifted out in 27.1 hours and 84 sorties.

H&MS-16 - (U) VIP lift: ADMs WESTERLY USN and PRESSY USN from Danang to Chu Lai to Phu Bai to Danang.

17 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) 2 aircraft were launched at 1340 for a medical evacuation of a sick merchant mariner aboard an Italian freighter 110 NM SSW of Okinawa. Pickup was made by use of the hoist while hovering over the bow of the ship. The sailor was strapped in a basket stretcher, semi conscious when hoisted. Evacuation was to Camp Kue Hospital on Okinawa.

18 February 1966

VMO-2 - (U) Hostile fire was encountered south of the Marble Mountains. No hits were received.

19 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Two medical evacuations were made to the Northern Training Area for injured Marines.

HMM-263 - (C) On a resupply of the 9th Marines, small arms fire was received from (BT 053-646), no hits were taken.

HMM-361 - (C) 18 HMM-361 aircraft joined Helicopters from MAG-36 and the SLF in the initial strikes of Operation Double Eagle II. The flight, led by LtCol CHILDERS, lifted 523 troops into three landing zones west of Tam Ky; --Duck, (BT 173-164), Swan, (BT 163-168), and Drake, (BT 265-124). Enemy fire was received either in or near all zones throughout the day. Cpl E. F. NOWAK became the squadrons only battle casualty of the month when he was hit in the upper left arm by a VC round. He was evacuated to B Med at Chu Lai. A total  
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of nine VC possible KBAs were credited to the squadron's crew chiefs and gunners. 7 of these in LZ Drake where an estimated company opposed the assault. Squadron aircraft flew 75.7 hours and 222 sorties in support of the strike.

VMO-2 - (U) The Squadron provided armed escort for a convoy from An Nhan to Tam Ky. Hostile fire was encountered along the route, but no hits were received.

20 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Two aircraft launched on a night medical evacuation of an injured Marine from the Northern Training Area to Camp Kue Hospital.

HMM-263 - (C) Small arms fire was received from (BT 065-645) while resupplying the 9th Marines and (ZC 208-910) while supporting the III MAF, no hits taken.

H&MS-16 - (U) VIP lift: MAJGEN McCUTCHEON USMC, COLs DODSON USMC, ST CLAIR USA, and CHAISSON USMC Danang to Nha Trang to Danang.

21 February 1966

HMM-163 - (U) In support of Operation Lam Son 234, 4 aircraft carried 196 troops of the Hac Bao Company, 1st ARVN Div. from Hue to (YD 606-455).

HMM-263 - (C) Supported Operation Double Eagle by launching 6 aircraft. The aircraft participated in 2 strikes and general resupply sorties. While lifting the 2nd Bn, 7th Marines on the first strike mission, small arms fire was received from (AT 187-179) and (BT 0022), no hits. The second strike consisted of lifting members of the 2nd Bn, 3rd Marines. Fire was received from (BT 085-665), no hits.

HMM-361 - (U) The transfer of 126 ARVN soldiers and their 300 dependents between three outposts occupied 38.5 hours for LtCol CHILDERS' flight of 8. Besides the passengers, some 19,300 lbs of cargo were also lifted between Nui Tron, Danh Khuong and Son Ha.

VMO-2 - (U) Suppressive rocket fire was placed on VC in a trench near La Tho Bac (3) after hostile fire had been encountered by UH-1E's on a visual recon mission.

H&MS-16 - (U) VIP lift: Col WEGLEY USMC Danang to Saigon. Col HARPER USMC Saigon to Danang.

22 February 1966

HMM-163 - (C) 60 Hac Bao troops were relocated from (YD 606-455) to (YD 603-260). After the relocation, the assigned aircraft retrograded 64 troops to PK-17 and carried supplies to (YD 596-245).

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HMM-263 - (C) Supported I Corps with 4 UH-34D's carrying 5 U.S. MIL, 49 ARVN, 65 VN Civ, and 20,400 lbs cargo. Small arms fire was received from (BS 5475), no hits taken. Supported Operation Double Eagle by participating in a night troop lift from Tam Ky to LZ Railbird. 50 U.S. MIL were lifted and fire was received from (AT 970-665) with no hits taken. On a 71 U.S. MIL troop retrograde in support of the III MAF, small arms fire was received from (BT 085-665), no hits.

HMM-361 - (C) A trapped 23-man recon patrol brought 1st Lt M. E. BRANDER's three-plane division to the mountains south of Elephant Valley to retract the threatened Marines. Arriving in the area, the landing zone, (ZC 205-805), was found to be held by the Viet Cong. After the zone was cleared, Lt BRANDER landed, surrounded by trees with VC still around the zone. Take-offs could only be made by proceeding under the trees until adequate speed to climb could be attained. All three aircraft made one trip into the dangerous zone with Lt. BRANDER returning to lift the last load of Marines out of danger.

VMO-2 - (C) Recon aircraft encountered hostile fire from Nhi Kinh (2), south of Danang, and received one hit. The bullet nicked the rotor spar, doing no serious damage, and the aircraft responded by strafing the trench from which the fire had come.

23 February 1966

HMM-263 - (U) Operations were curtailed due to inclement weather.

VMO-2 - (C) Two armed UH-1E's led by the Squadron Commander responded to a call for help from a 17 man Recon Bn patrol which was encircled by an estimated VC Battalion deep in Elephant Valley northwest of Danang. An attempted strike by fixed wing aircraft was aborted due to adverse weather in the valley so the UH-1E's assumed the close air support role, making repeated rocket and machinegun runs on the advancing enemy until fuel was dangerously low. Relief came with arrival of two more UH-1E's, and just as dusk was closing in. A retraction team of UH-34D's and two UH-1E's succeeded in evacuating the entire patrol without a casualty. The patrol leader, impressed with the UH-1E's performance against enemy fire, attributed 30 KBA to the Squadron. See attached patrol report (Appendix 1) (Original only).

24 February 1966

VMO-2 - (U) Two UH-1E's attacked two VC mortar positions discovered within the Danang TAOR, totally destroying one of them. Hostile fire was received and suppressed during the operation, and no hits were received by the aircraft.

SU #1 - (U) Retrieved Army L-19 from (BT 031-652).

25 February 1966

HMM-161 - (U) Two aircraft launched on night medical evacuation to the Northern Training Area for an injured Marine to Camp Kue Hospital.

ENCLOSURE (1)

HMM-163 - (C) Intelligence reported VC activity in the vicinity of (YD 836-215). Again the Hac Bao Company and Superchief teamed up, this time they were carried from Hue to (YD 845-214). On the first pass to the zone, 3 aircraft received hits, forcing two of them to remain at Hue for inspection. Upon arriving in the area, enemy contact was made in the vicinity of (YD 867-202).

HMM-263 - (C) While lifting elements of the 9th Marines from LZ (BT 012-605) to LZ Railbird, small arms fire was received from (BT 012-604) during the approach and departure from the zone. No hits were taken.

HMM-361 - (C) Capt. R. W. STEVENS' 3 plane Sparrow Hawk division was launched to attack VC at (BT 013-607) south of Danang. After landing and discharging the troops under enemy fire, the flight returned to LZ Railbird and made 2 trips to zones near the initial strike zone with reinforcing elements. During the course of the operation, two aircraft were hit while LOpl L. J. MASTERS, Capt. STEVENS' gunner, downed five Viet Cong. Shortly after their return to Marble Mountain, the flight was again launched to lift two more groups of Marines into the fight. Their landings were again opposed. One helicopter was hit by ground fire. LOpl MASTERS hit two more Cong to give him a total of 7 for the day. Later in the day, the relief Sparrow Hawk flight, led by Maj. SHIFFLER, lifted the troops back to Railbird and Marble Mountain. At dusk, the flight was called out to lift elements of L Co, 2/9, against VC spotted by a VMO-2 recon flight. Fighting in gathering darkness and enemy fire from all around the zone at (BT 113-628), the troops were landed and later successfully retracted back to their company CP.

SU #1 - (U) Hauled UH-34D from Ky Ha to Danang (Admin Transport).

26 February 1966

HMM-163 - (U) The war tempo continued to pick up and Marine reinforcements were flown in from Danang. Shortly after arrival they embarked aboard J2 Superchief Aircraft and were landed at (YD 692-324) and joined up with other Marines. After approximately 24 hours, they returned to Phu Bai by convoy.

HMM-263 - (C) Sparrow Hawk launched to (BT 112-628) with 24 U.S. Mil. Small arms fire was received while the aircraft were on the deck in the zone. No hits were taken.

HMM-361 - (U) 8 aircraft, led by LtCol CHILDERS left for a morning resupply to Vietnamese forces at Binh Son and Nui Vang. It was nearly 14 hours later when the flight finally returned to Marble Mountain after being held at Quang Ngai for an ARVN strike at (BS 756-635) and associated missions. In all, 318 passengers, 3 med evacs and 18,960 lbs cargo were lifted in 47.5 flight hours and 129 sorties.

27 February 1966

ENCLOSURE (1)

HMM-163 - (C) At approximately 2030 hours on 27 Feb 1966, word was received that the VC were attacking the ARVNs approximately 4 miles Northeast of Phu Bai, Marine reinforcements had been requested, and Superchief would be requested to lift them in. At approximately 2230 hours the commitment was received and members of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines reinforced by elements of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines were staged at the Phu Bai Airstrip. At approximately 2330 hours the lift of 575 troops commenced to (YD 935-195) utilizing 8 Superchief aircraft. The lift was completed at approximately 0200 hours on 28 Feb 1966. This helilift, accomplished without incident, is believed to be the largest tactical night lift in history. The remainder of the day was spent carrying med evacs and supplies in support of the 2nd Bn, 1st Marines on the operation now entitled Task Unit Hotel.

Expecting the VC to ex-filtrate by boat at night, a request was received for two aircraft to be on station all night for observation in the bay area East of Phu Bai. Utilizing a flare ship in support of Task Unit Hotel, two UH-34D's started the night long vigilance at approximately 2230 hours. Upon arriving on the scene, approximately 15 junks were sighted and a fire mission was requested. Authorization was received some time later and two UH-1E's from VMO-2, which had been assigned to support Superchief, were called in. At the time, the effects were unknown, but later reports indicated all that had been fired on were sunk or damaged.

HMM-263 - (C) Continued support of the I Corps with 6 aircraft lifting 3,700 lbs cargo, 1 U.S. Mil, and 12 VN Civ from Loc Son (BT 020-288) to Giac Ai (AT 947-584). During the approach and departure of Giac Ai the aircraft received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from (AT 946-580), (AT 949-585), (AT 944-588). Two of the aircraft were hit and a crew chief was wounded. The 6 aircraft returned the fire with M-60's and 2 A-4's escorting the flight expended their ordnance on the village south of the LZ.

VMO-2 - (U) A recon aircraft piloted by the Squadron Commander landed to apprehend three VC suspects, who were delivered to an infantry unit conducting a sweep nearby.

SU #1 - (U) Hauled 50,400 lbs of lumber from (AT 942-755) to (BT 050-764).

28 February 1966

HMM-263 - (C) On a mission flown in support of I Corps with 8 UH-34D's being utilized 31,205 lbs cargo, 2 U.S. Mil, 88 VN Mil, and 116 VN Civ were lifted from Hoi An to Nong Son (AT 812-391), Duc Duc, and Dai Loc. Small arms fire was received from (AT 918-578) with no hits being taken.

VMO-2 - (C) Two UH-1E's flew to Hue/Phu Bai for an operation continuing into the night. The aircraft attacked VC positions southwest of Phu Bai. During the night, they attacked VC boats in the Cau Hai lagoon, damaging twenty of them.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

## PART III

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel (C)

a. HMM-161 - For the month of February a total of 10 enlisted and one officer were transferred out, while 4 enlisted and 5 Officers were joined.

b. HMM-163 - 4 Men, 2 officers and 2 enlisted went to CONUS on emergency leave during the month. No reenlistments were noted this month, there was one man who extended for six months.

c. HMM-263 - 4 officers and 5 enlisted joined the squadron with 2 officers and 4 enlisted being transferred.

d. HMM-361 - 2 officers and 3 enlisted were transferred and 5 officers and 6 enlisted joined.

e. Sub Unit #1 - 1 officer joined and 1 enlisted was transferred.

2. Administration (C)

a. HMM-161 - GySgt Donald G. PAYTON 563198/0141 joined the squadron on 5 February as the new administration chief and under his expert guidance the administrative section continued to prepare for the forth coming pre-rotation inspections scheduled for 2-3 March.

b. HMM-163 - Capt. COWPER joined the squadron and became the Administrative Officer.

3. Awards (C)

a. HMM-161 - 12 Air Medals and 2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V" were awarded during the month.

b. HMM-163 - 87 Air Medals, 5 Good Conduct Awards, 2 Meritorious Masters, and 2 Purple Hearts were awarded to squadron personnel this month.

c. HMM-263 - Application for 131 Air Medals and 1 Purple Heart were made to 1st MAW. 11 Air Medals, 1 Purple Heart, 2 Navy Unit Commendation Medals, and 9 Combat Aircrew Insignia's were awarded this month.

d. HMM-361 - One Distinguished Flying Cross, 144 Air Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals, and one Purple Heart were recommended for members of this command.

e. VMO-2 - Squadron personnel were nominated for 97 Air Medals, 1 Distinguished Flying Cross, and 7 Navy Commendation Medals.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

f. MABS-16 - The following awards were given to squadron personnel during February:

- 1 - 1st Air Medal
- 1 - Navy Commendation Medal
- 1 - Bronze Star with Combat "V"

g. H&MS-16 - Cpl BARTLEY, F. L. was awarded the Purple Heart.

#### 4. Casualties (C)

a. HMM-163 - During the month of February 1966, this squadron had 6 men wounded as a result of enemy fire. Of these, five have returned to duty. The other one was evacuated after receiving treatment at "A" Med.

b. HMM-361 - Cpl. E. F. NOWAK sustained wounds as a result of action on 19 February 1966.

c. Sub Unit #1 - One non-battle casualty. Acute anxiety - Med evaced on 17 February 1966.

#### 5. Civic Action (U)

a. HMM-161 - The Squadron continued to support the Kim Long Orphanage in Hue. During the month of February soap, clothing and Medical supplies were forwarded on the 9th and 17th of the month to the Civil Affairs Officer of HMM-163 for delivery to the orphanage.

b. VMO-2 - A gift of corn starch and diapers was presented to the Sacred Heart Orphanage. Work on the My Thi school was stopped because tin for the roof is not readily available through government channels. By the end of the month, plans had been made to supply thatch for the roof until tin can be procured.

c. Sub Unit #1 - School restoration project in Hamlet of My Thi continuing with joint support of VMO-2.

#### 6. Morale/Welfare Programs (U)

a. HMM-161 - The squadron organized an internal bowling league, entered a basketball team in the First MAW Basketball tournament, and made plans for a Squadron Picnic to be held early in March.

b. HMM-163 - Two Chaplains were assigned to this unit during this reporting period. Church and Mass hours have been established and widely publicized.

c. Group Chaplain. Church services were held at scheduled hours for both Catholic and Protestant men. Special services were held for neighboring units. The Chaplain continued his civic work in nearby villages and Orphanages during the month.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~



SECRET7. Informational Services (U)

a. HMM-161 - Appropriate publicity was given to local squadron activities, including awards ceremonies. Articles on squadron activities have appeared in each weekly issue of "The Rotor Blade" the MCAF Futema paper, and a feature article appeared in the February issue of "Leatherneck Magazine". Home town news releases on promotions and awards have been forwarded to MAG-16 ISO for release.

b. VMO-2 - The Squadron has been "adopted" by Duhme Hall, a woman's dormitory at Purdue University, and extensive correspondence has been initiated between the two organizations.

c. Sub Unit #1 - Articles and photographs have appeared in local and CONUS publications. Liaison continuing.

8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence (C)

a. HMM-263 - During the month of February, the squadron had 43 hostile fire incidents reported, of which 13 were received while in support of Operation Double Eagle. In addition two incidents involved possible .50 caliber weapons. Involved in the total number of incidents were five aircraft receiving a total of 9 hits.

The greatest concentration of fire incidents occurred in the same areas as usual: grid squares (BT 0.6)(8 incidents), (BT 1.6)(5 incidents), and (BT 9.5) (5 incidents).

Suppressive fire from squadron aircraft accounted for four probable VC KBA during February.

No ground activity involving squadron personnel or counterintelligence problems occurred during February.

b. HMM-361 - There were 39 fire incident reports and 8 spot reports submitted in February.

c. Sub Unit #1 - Intelligence program well organized and functioning within guidelines emanating from next senior command.

9. Air Operations (C)

a. H&MS-16 - Received 17 UH-34D aircraft for issue to the HMM squadrons of the Group. While ferrying one of the aircraft from the aircraft carrier Point Cruz, 2nd Lt. KELLY, W.D. made a water pick up of a downed B-57 pilot.

b. Sub Unit #1 - Two aircraft made precautionary single engine landings due to engine failure. Both aircraft repaired and recovered without further incident.

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRETAIR OPERATION STATISTICSJANUARY TOTALS

<u>HMM-161</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	1,899
Sorties	686
Cargo	24,000
Hours	745
Med Evac	7

<u>HMM-163</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	9,888
Sorties	4,564
Cargo	71,343
Hours	1,734.2
Med Evac	287

<u>HMM-263</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	5,409
Sorties	3,838
Cargo	508,703
Hours	1,439.8
Med Evac	92

<u>HMM-361</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Pax	6,139
Sorties	4,877
Cargo	740,239
Hours	1,590
Med Evac	135

<u>VMO-2</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>
Pax	236
Sorties	2,532
Cargo	0
Hours	1,218.6
Med Evac	319

<u>SUB UNIT #1</u>	<u>CH-37C</u>
Pax	701
Sorties	447
Cargo	255,000
Hours	118.7
Med Evac	61

<u>H&amp;MS-16</u>	<u>C-117D</u>
Pax	170
Sorties	35
Cargo	29,315
Hours	47.3
Med Evac	0

MAG-16 TOTALS

Pax.....	24,442
Sorties.....	16,979
Cargo.....	1,628,600
Hours.....	6,223.1
Med. Evac.....	901

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~10. Air Control (C)

a. MATCU-68 - During the month of February our tower has been in full operation 24 hours a day. GCA has been up for VFR approaches, with a total of 158 for the month.

11. Ground Defense (C)

a. HMM-163 - The triple concertina fence around the camp area has been completed. The southern and part of the eastern boundaries are illuminated by flood and search lights. Approximately fifty (50) trip flares have been emplaced. Eight perimeter firing positions have been constructed; additional protective shelters have been completed in the tent area. Aircraft fuel storage areas (TAFD's & bulk fuel) have been reveted. Work has been commenced on a command bunker. New defense and internal security plans for aircraft (Passive Air Defense) has been published. The squadron is provisionally organized as a rifle company. The squadron reaction platoons have been employed on five occasions.

12. Training (U)

a. HMM-161 - The squadron is in an area where most of its flight time can be devoted to training. Instruments, 202.7 hours, night training, 192 hours, and aerial gunnery were the subject of the majority of the training flights. Instruments flights in the flight simulator are being flown and instrument cards are being renewed. Ranges were obtained for pistol, rifle, and M-60 firing. The PRT Test was conducted by all officers and enlisted personnel on 19 February. The squadron was called upon to assist in the evaluation of new TACAN and GCA units at MCAF. A practice VFR approach has been designed utilizing the new TACAN station.

b. VMO-2 - A total of four officers and three enlisted attended the jungle environmental survival school at Cubi Point in the Philippines.

c. Sub Unit #1 - Crew member OJT continuing.

13. Logistics (C)

a. Logistics support of all organic units continues; sources of supply remain the same. One Butler building has been completed for aeronautical spares storage. 82% of the 1st increment of the new helicopter parking apron has been completed. A maintenance shelter for H&MS-16 has been erected. Cantonment area, consisting of sixteen strongbacks for arriving squadron personnel, has been completed. Strongbacks for command, operations, materiel and maintenance for arriving squadron are under construction.

b. HMM-161 - The logistics functions during the month of February centered around improving the Combat Readiness of the squadron by upgrading the availability of Motor Transport Equipment and improving the Embarkation Section to combat readiness status.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~SECRET~~

SECRET14. Maintenance

a. HMM-161 - Twenty four UH-34D aircraft were assigned to HMM-161 as of 1 Feb. The location of these aircraft was as follows: 18 at MCAF Futema, one at FAWPRA, SMIC in an A-1 status and five at FAWPRA, SMIC in a G-3 status.

On 7 February Bu No. 150248 was placed in A-1 status after completion of 250 hours of work by an O&R team from Cubi Point.

Two aircraft were sent to FAWPRA, SMIC on 9 February for O&R and two were picked up from the same facility on 15 February.

Two engines were changed this month. One using the 161 hangar facilities and the second in the field at Camp Hansen. Men, equipment, and the engine were trucked up Highway #1 to effect the replacement at Camp Hansen.

Twelve aircraft were completely repainted this month.

The hydraulic shop had been functioning without a test stand until one was constructed with the use of a transfer pump.

Technical training has been highly stressed in preparation for the return to Vietnam. A small part of this training is the weekly maintenance publication, Engineering Hints.

Aircraft availability for the month was down to approximately 75% due to a high number of AOCF's.

b. HMM-263 - During the month of February the squadron flew a total of 1439.8 hours, an average of 51.4 hours per day, including the day and a half the squadron had off. This is a new high, as last month's average was 48.5 hour per day.

The Squadron had an average availability of 15 aircraft, and the availability reached a high of 19 aircraft at the end of the month.

Using an average of 15 aircraft up, the average useage per aircraft for the month was 96 hours, or a utilization of 240%, based upon computed times of 40 hours per month for normal useage-the accepted BUWEPs figure.

The squadron had three aircraft AOCF (average) during the month. Supply problems still exist, particularly in the case of items which are very low useage, such as Section III driveshafts.

The four aircraft at overhaul, 148797, 148810, 148816, 148818 were finally dropped from the Squadron's custody this month. These aircraft were sent to HMM-161 at Futema directly from overhaul.

On 16 Feb, the Squadron received UH-34D 148100 from overhaul at North Island. On 17 Feb, a second UH-34D, 148113, was received from the same source. The squadron operated the remainder of the month with 23 aircraft in an A-1 status.

EG-4, 149382, as damaged on 2 Feb when a parachute was blown into the tail rotor-the aircraft was turned up-with subsequent sudden stoppage on the drive train. The aircraft has been down all month awaiting parts. It should fly next month, if the drive shaft is received.

EG-24, 150722, was damaged on 21 Feb when it was inadvertently landed in trees with subsequent sudden stoppage. Due to this aircrafts close induction (for Overhaul) date, no attempt was made to repair the damage. The aircraft was taken by CH-37C to Danang for air shipment to FAWPRA (SMIC).

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

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c. HMM-361 - Average number of aircraft was 22.7 with an average utilization of 69.9. Daily average availability was 69.5%. A total number of 19 hits were received during the month.

d. VMO-2 - Major repairs required in February were minimal, with rotor blades the most important item needing replacement. Battle damage necessitated the replacement of one main rotor and one tail rotor, and contact with trees led to the replacement of two tail rotors. One tail rotor was replaced for link damage, and four main rotor blades because of erosion. Squadron aircraft consumed 78,700 gallons of JP-4 and expended 588 2.75 inch rockets and 45,490 rounds of 7.62mm machinegun ammunition.

e. Sub Unit #1 - Acquisition of replacement parts is continuing at an acceptable pace. Eleven AOCF's as of 28 February 1966.

15. Base Development/Military Construction (C)

a. HMM-163 - The roads in the camp have been greatly improved to resist water erosion and to assist in the easier flow of traffic. Drainage still presents a problem in the camp even though improvements have been made. Existing structures have been improved and new structures improved to increase the effectiveness of the squadron.

b. MABS-16 - The following construction was completed by the MABS-16 construction section: Built an officer/SNCO barber shop; converted the dental tent and 9 tents in the officers' area to tin buildings; constructed 21 tin building kits; erected two towers for the bulk fuel section, one for the enlisted club, and one for the officer/SNCO barber shop; laid the forms for a third echelon motor transport shop; pre-cut three strongbacks for MACS-7 and furnished one carpenter to MACS-7 to supervise construction; fabricated and painted signs throughout the group area.

The electrical section wired the dispensary operation room; installed 15 electrical poles in the officers', SNCO, enlisted and motor transport areas to balance the loads on all generators; completely wired a secondary electrical system in one block of the enlisted area; wired 8 tin buildings in the officer's area; started wiring in the officer/SNCO barber shop, the officers' club, and the rest of the enlisted area.

The refrigeration section fabricated and installed one two-ton air conditioner in the dispensary operating room; placed two new ME-10 100ft. reefers into service at the messhall; installed and made repairs on the water cooler in the enlisted mess; fabricated and installed one ME-10 chill box in the messhall.

The plumbing section relocated plumbing lines and fixtures in the dispensary operating room; started drainage/plumbing systems in the officer/SNCO barber shop and officers club, and replaced the GI house leech bed in the messhall.

The water supply point produced 585,105 gallons of potable water and issued 10,000 gallons of raw water.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~SECRET~~16. Communications/Electronics (S)a. General

The extended use of field equipment in a static position has begun to demonstrate it's wear by the excessive outage within message center. Wire and radio have maintained a "status quo" with respect to reliable communications.

In addition there is a prevalent lack of harmony between Wing and Group in message center functions and repair/maintenance. Steps are being taken to solve this difficulty. Generator repair is now performed by MABS-16 and FLSG. All equipment at MWHG-1 repair, downed for various purposes, have been removed by MAG-16 and evacuated to FLSG. With the exception of "float" items it is recommended that this be continued.

In normal fashion an FMFPAC assistance team arrived and gave assistance with an inspection. The discrepancies noted (see appropriate inspection report (Wing CEO)) have been long recognized and even longer have been the attempts at correction. Official results of the inspection have not yet been disseminated.

The Base Development board has approved, after many requests, an 8'X16' addition to repair section which will provide an issue point and BA-451 storage/charging area. This addition should be completed by the end of March.

Communications with HMM-163 at PHU BAI have shown improvements due to the extra men and equipment sent there for support. Their need is considered a priority, due to their dislocation, and every effort should be made to give them the utmost in support.

b. Particular(1) Repair

- (a) 35 pieces of equipment processed
- (b) 27 pieces of equipment evacuated to higher echelon
- (c) 24 pieces of equipment returned from higher echelon
- (d) 125 pieces of equipment returned to sections
- (e) 146 new requisitions processed

Attempts have been made to establish a cross training program with H&MS AVIONICS. This is in the formative stages at present.

A long due reconciliation with supply is in process and should be completed this month, in addition the ready issue room should be operating this month also.

(2) Radio

Good communications have been maintained over Wing Cmd #2 and TAC nets. The message traffic has been very light. Attempts should be made to utilize the Cmd #2 in every possible aspect since it has demonstrated a high reliability factor.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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SECRET

Radio support for HMM-163 has been excellent with every effort being made to keep HMM-163 highly operational.

The proposed sandbag revetment for radio vehicles has been halted due to unavailability of sand bags.

A major item of equipment, PU-388, has been added to the section and now powers the PRC 47 operating the Wing TAC net.

(3) Wire

Wire operations continued with maximum effort to maintain the most effective communications.

2nd echelon maintenance of all field phones has been completed and once completed begun again. Additional phones have been installed and relocated. Thus our present phone availability is two (2).

Priority assistance has been given to the perimeter defense by trouble shooting and installing SID-150's.

(4) Message Center

Message traffic handled this period:

Incoming	Outgoing
2,329	470

A noticeable decrease from the previous period.

The introduction of five (5) AN/TGC-14A(V)'s into the message center has relieved the burden placed on the TT4's. Their ditto copy capability appears to be adequate at the present.

This month has shown a high teletype outage at MAG-16. This is resulting from mechanical and electrical breakdowns. Many hours have been spent by men of the repair section to keep our teletype equipment operable.

c. Personnel

Departed:		
GONZALEZ, L	LCpl	2533
GROTTE, M.	LCpl	2533

Arrived:		
MCIVER, J. E. Jr	LCpl	2533

Total strength:  
1 Officer and 56 Enlisted

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

SECRET

## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTTABLE OF CONTENTSPART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commander and Staff
2. Task Organization and Unit Location
3. Average Monthly Strength
4. Important Visitors to the Command

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARYPART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel
2. Administration
3. Awards
4. Casualties
5. Civic Action
6. Morale/Welfare Programs
7. Informational Services
8. Intelligence
9. Air Operations
10. Air Control
11. Ground Defense
12. Command Relationships/Command and Control
13. Training
14. Logistics
15. Maintenance
16. Base Development/Military Construction
17. Communication/Electronics

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Table of Contents
- ✓ 2. Appendix A (Patrol Leaders Report)

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET



C O N F I D E N T I A

Operation Order: 9-66  
Patrol: 3rd Plt. Co. A  
Debriefing: 1stLt. E.W. NASH  
Map Sheet: 6558 I, Ser. L-701

Copy No 31 of 30 Copy  
3rd Reconnaissance Bn.  
DANANG, RVN  
221830H February 1966

PATROL REPORT

## 1. SIZE, COMPOSITION AND EQUIPMENT:

- a. COMPOSITION: (1) Off, (14) Enl, (1) USN, (1) ARVN
- b. SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: None.
- c. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT: (1) AN/PRC 10, (1) AN/PRC 25
- d. OBSERVATION EQUIPMENT: (2) 7x50's.
- e. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: None.
- f. SPECIAL WEAPONS: M-79, Stoner LMG

## 2. MISSION: To conduct an area reconnaissance in the vicinity in and around (ZC 2081) and to attempt the capture and return to U.S. Control of enemy or suspected enemy.

## 3. TIME OF DEPARTURE/RETURN: 201400H/221830H February 1966

## 4. ROUTE: Refer to Overlay

## 5. OBSERVATION OF ENEMY AND TERRAIN:

a. SYNOPSIS: 52 continuous hours of patrolling resulted in one sighting of (3) Vietnamese men and one contact with a minimum of 65 Viet Cong and an estimated 80-90. Weapons of semi-automatic and automatic characteristics up to and including one 30 cal. machingun were identified. Clothing consisted of the usual black pajamas, grey and khaki uniforms. There was one confirmed VC KIA and five confirmed wounded. No USMC casualties were sustained. No enemy weapons, equipment or documents were captured.

## b. ENEMY:

(1) 202000H patrol heard 4-5 rounds of semi-automatic rifle fire in the vicinity of (ZC 205814).

(2) 211400H, (ZC 207810), three Vietnamese men cutting wood in a field while the patrol moved through the brush towards the clearing. Upon arriving at the clearing the Vietnamese had moved away.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Appendix 1

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(3) 212000H, patrol again heard 4-5 rounds of semi-automatic rifle fire in vicinity of (ZC 205814).

(4) 220700H-1200H, as patrol moved South drums were heard throughout the morning to the North.

(5) 221530H-1830H, the patrol moved into their intended night position at (ZC 208806) and set into a perimeter defense (See Figure 1). It became evident that this unit had occupied the same position on a previous patrol on 1 February 1966. At this time however, panji stakes had been placed every foot in an area 50 square feet. On the Western and Northern sides of the positions the stakes were pointed inboard. A half-filled basket of unused panji stakes were also found in the area.

At approximately 1600H a heavy volume of fire utilizing K-50's and M-2 Carbines was directed at position #2 (See Figure 1) from less than 15 meters. One incoming M-26 grenade followed from a position about 10 meters distance from position #2 and exploded 5 feet from the position. No friendly casualties. Fire was returned by the patrol and one M-26 grenade was thrown. It was caught by a Viet Cong about 10 meters away and thrown back into position #2 where it exploded. No friendly casualties. They continued to return fire wounding one Viet Cong. Another M-26 was thrown by the men in position #2 wounded another Viet Cong. The latter began to yell in broken English, "CORPSMAN", "YANKEE GO HOME", "YANKEE GET OUT OF VIETNAM", and "LONG LIVE VIETNAM". All Viet Cong seen thus far wore black pajamas. The patrol continued to return fire.

At this time (2) M-2 Carbines opened up on position #3 from about 20 meters away. More than 100 rounds were fired from each weapon. Fire was returned and the two Viet Cong attempted to flee but were both cut down, wounded, and possibly killed.

Semi-automatic weapon fire from an M-1, Mauser or MAS 36 began coming from down hill into position #4. One M-14 and one Stoner light machinegun began returning fire. The Stoner jammed after 20 rounds and then intermittently thereafter until extraction.

The second assault came from across the stream and consisted of five to seven minutes of heavy automatic weapons fire covering the entire patrol base and pinning down all hands. There was then three or four rounds of a heavy semi-automatic weapon after which the assault ceased. After waiting approximately five minutes the patrol began moving in the direction of the LZ. Large, thick blotches of blood were found along the trail. The Viet Cong sniped at the rear of the column as the patrol moved towards the LZ.

The patrol was in the LZ by 1700H at which time they received 4-5 rounds from the left flank to the Southwest. The M-79 was fired into the area and one Viet Cong wearing black fell out of a tree from about 50 feet up.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

A column of Viet Cong were spotted moving toward the patrol from the North at (ZC 205813). They numbered 30 or more and as they moved to about 500 meters from the patrol they deployed on line and began firing as they advanced. Besides semi-automatic and automatic weapons fire, there was at least one 30 cal. machine-gun. They were wearing grey uniforms and appeared to be wearing soft covers. HU-1E's were requested and began making passes over the area. The patrol began taking a heavy volume of automatic fire from their right flank to the East. At this time as two UH-34's began to make their descent into the LZ a Viet Cong ran to the center of the LZ firing point blank at the first Helicopter. The point shot and killed him. He wore black pajamas. The patrol then noticed 5-10 Viet Cong firing as they attacked from the South. They were dressed in khaki uniforms. The helicopters were taking fire from 360 degrees as they made the extraction. The HU-1E's continued to provide effective covering fire for the pick-up and it was completed at 221830H.

## c. TERRAIN:

(1) Several foot paths approximately 18 inches wide were found throughout the area. All had been freshly used by large numbers of people. A few heavy animal prints probably of cows were noted on the trails. All tracks appeared less than 48 hours old.

(2) A fence which was located in the landing zone at (ZC 205817) had been torn down by the patrol on 1 February 1966. It had been repaired upon inspection on 20 February 1966.

(3) All streams are easily forded.

(4) Cultivated area had been worked since patrol was last in area on 1 February.

## 6. OTHER INFORMATION:

a. As mentioned in paragraph 5b above, the Stoner Light Machinegun jammed several times while being fired.

7. RESULTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENEMY: (1) enemy KIA and (5) WIA.

8. CONDITION OF PATROL: Good, morale good.

## 9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

## Conclusion:

(1) The unit contacted was a well trained, well disciplined unit of at least a company size. Morale seems to be high.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(2) Large cultivated area indicates food supply for large number of personnel. Area adequate for battalion size unit.

(3) Village or housing area nearby.

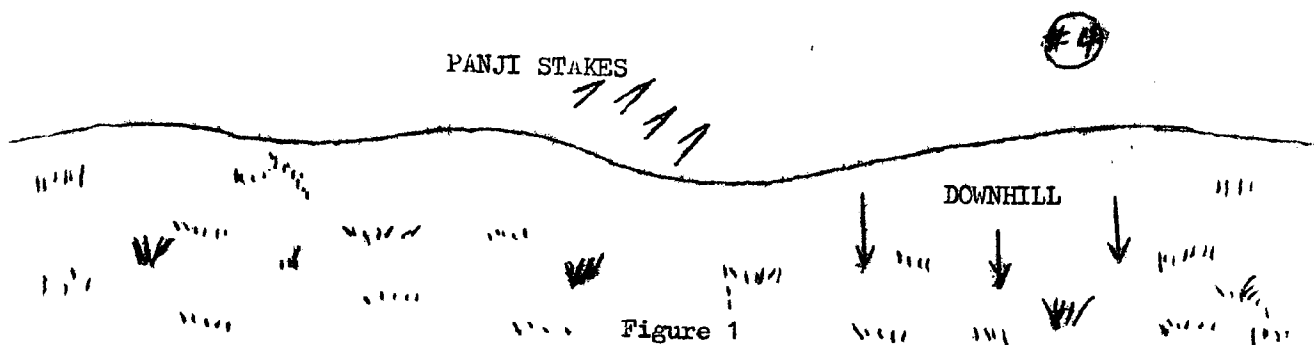
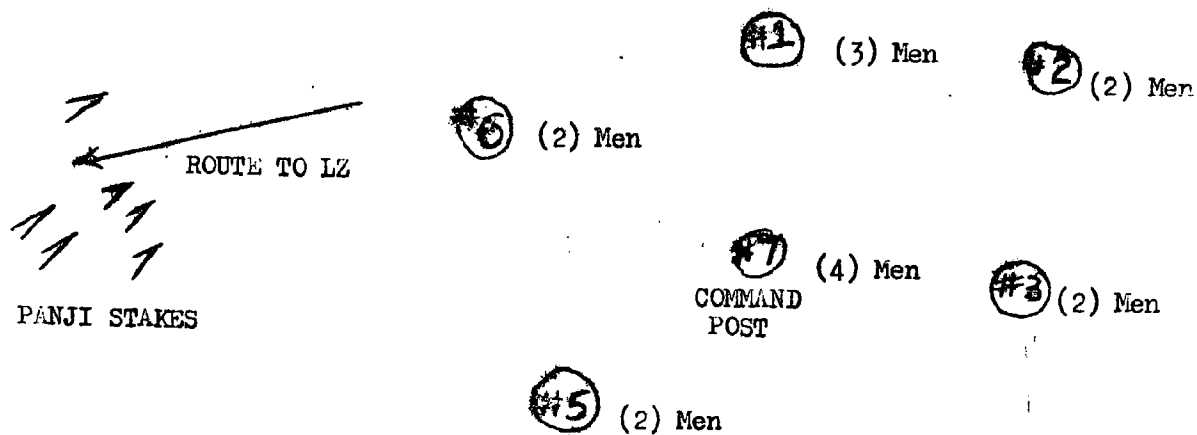
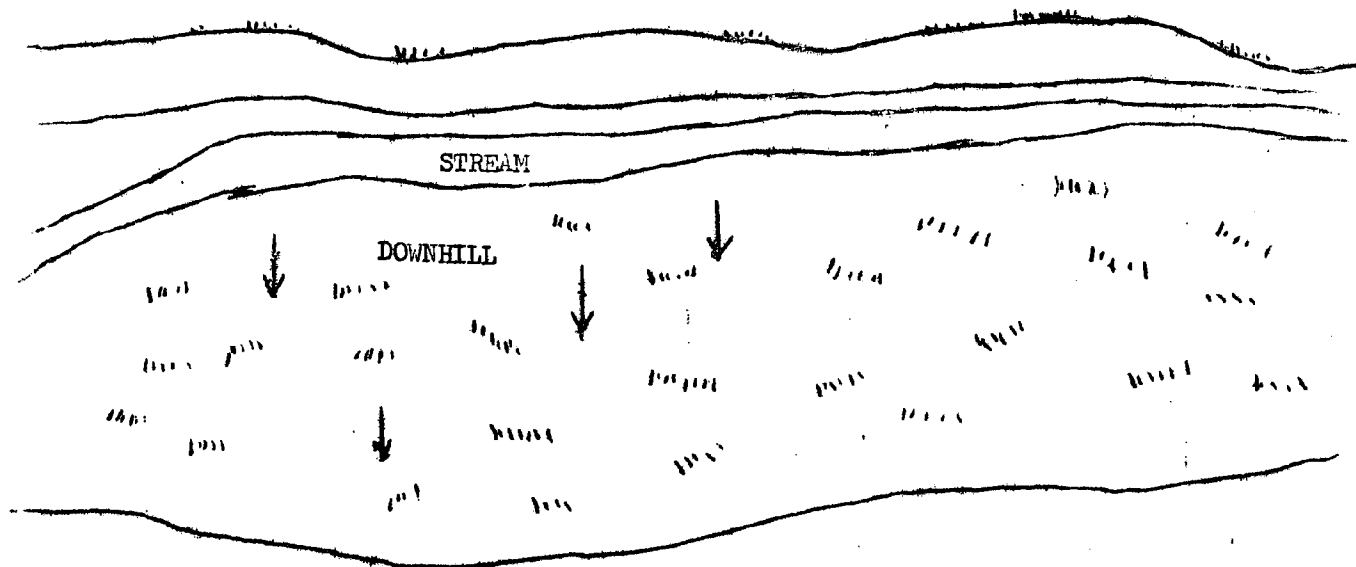
Recommend:

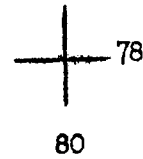
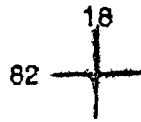
(1) Immediate reaction to information in the form of TPQ missions and ground operations in this area.

J. LATERRA  
1stLt Co. A

10. DEBRIEFER COMMENTS: Probably main force unit of battalion size. Unit unidentified.

C O N F I D E N T I A L





LEGEND	PATROL ROUTE OVERLAY
• LZ = LANDING ZONE	SCAT 3 ALFA MAP SHEET: 6659III & 6559II SER: L-701.

- ① Request for H-V-E cover made at 1600
- ② H-V-E on station by the time patrol moved to LZ approx 1720-1740.
- ③ 9-0 taking fire from position that was obscured from patrol by woodline. Patrol leader unable to direct fire into this position. With first lift of Turbans the VC in the above position opened fire on H-34's. One VC was killed less than 35M from first H-34.
- ④ 14-0, 14-2 kept the enemy unit to our front from occupying terrain from which they could effectively cover the LZ with a heavy volume of fire. After the first 20 min of adjusting the H-V-E fire most of the rounds were right on target.
- ⑤ Patrol leader was unable to direct fire of choppers to the rear because of vegetation. However, it is certain that the fire placed in this area kept the VC from assaulting the LZ from that direction until there was only one helo team left on the deck. At this time they were forced to use a deep stream bed and move in column. This made their fire ineffective.

J. Laterra