

## HEADQUARTERS

Marine Aircraft Group 16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

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3:GTY:jfw  
 5750  
 Ser: 003A10668  
 15 Apr 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1968, submission of

Ref: (a) Wgo 5750,1B

Enclos:  (1) MAG-16 Command Chronology

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

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

*E. O. Reed*  
 E. O. REED

## DISTRIBUTION:

1st MAW (6)  
 MAG-16 Files (1)  
 MAG-16 S-3 (1)

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
1551-68	1

MAG-16	
SAC #	00305-68
COPY #	1088

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
Marine Aircraft Group 16  
Marble Mountain Air Facility  
Republic of Vietnam  
Period covered: 1 through 31 March 1968

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PART I  
Organizational Data

ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~SECRET~~1. Command Composition

<u>BILLET</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
CO, MAG-16	E. O. REED	Colonel	1-31 March
XO, MAG-16	S. G. BEAL	LtCol	1-31 March
Adjutant	G. J. MAREK	1stLt	1-31 March
S-1 Officer	T. A. GOLDSBOROUGH	Major	1-31 March
S-2 Officer	D. V. HOLLES	Major	1-31 March
S-3 Officer	F. M. KLEPPSATTEL, Jr.	LtCol	1-31 March
S-4 Officer	R. LEWIS	LtCol	1-31 March
CO, H&MS-16	H. A. BRUCE	LtCol	1-31 March
CO, MABS-16	S. J. FULTON	LtCol	1-31 March
CO, VMO-2	M. G. ROBBINS	LtCol	1-31 March
CO, HMM-265	W. L. WHELAN	Major	1-31 March
CO, HMM-361	D. M. WILSON	LtCol	1-25 March
CO, HMM-361	F. W. CRONE	Major	26-31 March
CO, HMM-463	J. L. SADOWSKI	LtCol	1-31 March
CO, HML-167	R. C. FINN	Major	15-31 March
CO, 245th SAC	L. W. GARTEN	Major AUS	1-31 March

2. Task Organization

H&MS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 MABS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 VMO-2 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 HMM-265 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 HMM-361 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 HMM-463 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN  
 \* HML-167 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

\* Activated on 15 March 1968

3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
H&MS-16	65	504	0	0
MABS-16	20	630	3	27
VMO-2	37	159	1	0
HMM-265	51	190	1	0
HMM-361	40	150	1	0
HMM-463	59	259	1	0
HML-167	1	0	0	0

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Major General Normal J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the command on 4 March to inspect rocket caused damage, along with the Assistant Wing Commander, Brigadier General R. P. KELLER.

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b. Major General William J. Van RYZIN, Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, visited the command on 15 March 1968.

c. Major General Frank C. THARIN, Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, visited the command on 22 March 1968.

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PART II  
Narrative Summary

ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~SECRET~~1. Special Operations

a. Operation ScotJland	1-31 March
b. Operation Lancaster II	1-31 March
c. Operation Kentucky	1-31 March
d. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa	1-31 March
e. Operation Fortress Attack	1-14 March
f. Operation Jeb Stuart	1-31 March
g. Operation Saline II	1-2 March
h. Operation Saline/Napoleon	3-31 March
i. Operation Muscatine	1-31 March
j. Operation Hue City	1-2 March
k. Operation Dinosaur	1-5 March
l. Operation Tampa	1-4 March
m. Operation Houston	1-31 March
n. Operation Rock	1-10 March
o. Operation Mingo	5-10 March
p. Operation Samurai IV	5-31 March
q. Operation Dinosaur II	6-13 March
r. Operation Worth	13-26 March
s. Operation Ford	5-10 March
t. Operation Marching Dragon	14-23 March
u. Operation Rice Bowl	24-31 March
v. Operation Pegasus	-31 March

2. General Summary

a. The main enemy effort against MAG-16 occurred on 4 March when MTAF was struck by enemy rockets early in the morning causing extensive damage to aircraft. An Hoa Airfield received mortar fire early the same morning causing very limited damage.

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b. MAG-16 supported Marine, Army, Navy, ARVN, and ROK units throughout ICTZ during the month.

c. Search and rescue efforts were continued throughout the month for the missing CH-53A, with negative results.

3. Chronological Summary

1 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

2 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

3 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal. An O-1 Detachment pilot and observer flying an O-1C, spotted an estimated battalion of NVA at coord. YD 770500 and controlled an air strike on that position.

4 March - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the DaNang area one HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 919514 resulting in major injuries to the pilot. At 0220H the enemy conducted a 122mm rocket attack against Marble Mountain Air Facility. 29 rockets impacted within the facility resulting in 2 WIA USMC, both minor, and the following damage to aircraft: 1 CH-53A destroyed, 12 damaged; 14 CH-46A damaged; 13 UH-1E damaged; 2 USA OV-10 damaged. Minor damage was inflicted on some structures and equipment. Two VMO-2 UH-1E gunships observed rockets being launched from BT 057626 and struck the zone with rockets and 7.62 machinegun fire. An Hoa Airbase received sporadic mortar fire from 0130-0430. No Marine casualties resulted.

5 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

6 March - In support of Operation ROCK, two divisions of HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft lifted 468 troops into two landing zones in the An Hoa Valley.

7 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

8 March - Two VMO-2 UH-1E aircraft attacked sampans and personnel at coord. AT 890514 in support of Operation ROCK. A MAG-16 photographer was wounded at Khe Sanh while taking pictures for MAG-16 ISO.

9 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

10 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal. One HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 940605, no injuries.

11 March - One VMO-2 UH-1E aircraft was hit by enemy fire at BT 073586, no injuries.

12 March - One HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft was hit by enemy fire while enroute to An Hoa from MMAF. Exact coord. of position unknown.

13 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

14 March - MAG-16 participated in Operation WORTH by inserting 433 Marines onto Charlie Ridge. No opposition to landing reported.

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15 March - An O-1 Detachment pilot and observer controlled an air-strike at XD 834365 resulting in seven confirmed enemy killed and nine structures damaged.

16 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

17 March - One HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft was hit by a flat trajectory rocket at coord. AT 993570. The aircraft crashed and burned in the valley below the zone. The crew survived the crash, but 9 of 15 med-evacs aboard were killed. One HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft crashed while attempting to land at coord. ZC 211508 at 1200 feet elevation. The crew sustained minor injuries but the aircraft was destroyed by ground troops after it was determined to be unsalvageable. One HMM-361 UH-34D was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 998518, no injuries, and two more UH-34D's were hit at AT 976513 resulting in minor wounds to crew chief. Another HMM-361 UH-34D was hit by six S.A. rounds at coord. BT 083673, no injuries.

18 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

19 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

20 March - HMM-265 aircraft received mortar fire while in a landing zone at coord. AT 850663 but no hits were reported.

21 March - One VMO-2 UH-1E was destroyed by enemy mortar fire at coord. AT 855663. The aircraft had just lifted from the zone when 3 mortar rounds struck the zone. The pilot and crew chief died as a result of the crash. One HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft was hit by enemy fire at coord BT 115515 resulting in major injury to the pilot of the A/C.

22 March - One HMM-361 UH-34D aircraft was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 923601, no injuries. One VMO-2 UH-1E was hit 7 miles south of DaNang, resulting in major injury to an enlisted crewman.

23 March - HMH-463 performed the following TAR's:

3 UH-34D's - 1 Field, 2 Admin

3 CH-46D's - 3 Admin

24 March - While participating in Operation WORTH, one HMM-265 CH-46A received enemy fire at a point nine miles west of DaNang resulting in major injuries to the pilot.

25 March - MAG-16 operations in all areas were normal.

26 March - A change of command ceremony was held at NFA hospital. Major F. W. CRONE relieved LtCol D. M. WILSON as CO, HMM-361. One HMM-265 CH-46A was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 993573, no injuries.

27 March - The following HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft received hits: one at coord. AT 999567, one at AT 101652 and one at AT 103530, no injuries.

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28 March ~ One VMO-2 UH-1E while on an APD (Airborne Personnel Detector) mission fired on three elephants with one confirmed kill and two possible kills.

29 March ~ MAG-16 operations were normal in all areas.

30 March ~ MAG-16 operations were normal in all areas.

31 March ~ In the DaNang area, one HMM-265 CH-46A was hit by enemy fire at coord. PT 074514, no injuries.

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PART III  
Significant Events

ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~SECRET~~1. Personnel

a. Number Joined	203
b. Number Dropped	110
c. Promotions	
(1) 1stLt to Capt	1
(2) 2ndLt to 1stLt	3
(3) MSgt to MGySgt	1
(4) SSgt to GySgt	3
(5) Sgt to SSgt	4
(6) Cpl to Sgt	3
(7) LCpl to Cpl	6
(8) PFC to LCpl	34
(9) Pvt to PFC	4

2. Awards

## a. Air Medal

H&MS-16	37
HMM-265	320
HMH-463	17

## b. Navy Commendation

H&MS-16	1
MABS-16	1
HMM-265	10

## c. Good Conduct Medal

H&MS-16	3
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3. Casualties (Hostile)

RANK	NAME	DATE	PLACE
Capt	T. R. KIRKMAN	8MAR68	22 Miles SW DaNang, RVN
Cpl	J. L. BRAND	8MAR68	Khe Sanh Base, RVN
LCpl	G. L. FOULK	17MAR68	7 Miles SW DaNang, RVN

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RANK	NAME	DATE	PLACE
1stLt	P. H. MOODY	17MAR68	9 Miles SE DaNang, RVN
1stLt	R. J. HIMLER	17MAR68	9 Miles SE DaNang, RVN
Cpl	C. E. FUGGER	17MAR68	9 Miles SE DaNang, RVN
Cpl	E. D. PITMAN	17MAR68	9 Miles SE DaNang, RVN
SSgt	F. E. CONWAY	17MAR68	5 Miles SE MMAF, RVN
Cpl	J. L. HESTER	18MAR68	9 Miles W DaNang, RVN
LtCol	D. M. WILSON	21MAR68	12 Miles S DaNang, RVN
HM. 1	N. G. WEYANT	21MAR68	20 Miles N DaNang, RVN
1stLt	G. L. LAKEY	21MAR68	11 Miles SW DaNang, RVN
Cpl	R. J. RCMERO	21MAR68	11 Miles SW DaNang, RVN
GySgt	C. STOEL	22MAR68	7 Miles S DaNang, RVN
Capt	D. W. ARISS	24MAR68	12 Miles SW DaNang, RVN

#### 4. Civic Action

a. Medical/Dental Assistance. The MAG-16 MedCap team visited the Stella Maris dispensary and orphanage, the Protestant orphanage and Boy's Town orphanage during the month and treated 2546 medical patients and 17 dental patients.

b. Education. Each Thursday of the month, the housemaids of MAG-16 were given instruction in the English language, each one-half hour long. Seven students are studying under the General WALT scholarship program.

c. Projects. Work on the Hoa Long dispensary was continued.

d. Give-Away. MAG-16 donated 9 rolls of barbed wire, 12 barbed wire stakes, and 8 bags of cement to the Hoa Long village. To the village of Nui Kim-Son 1000 loaves of bread, 500 pounds of clothing, 20 pounds of candy and 60 plywood sheets were donated.

e. Summary. Throughout the month the villager's attitude remained good and the village chief continued to give MAG-16 Civic Action Team much help.

#### 5. Moral/Welfare

a. Schedule of Weekly Religious Services

Sunday		
Catholic Confession	0730	
Catholic Mass	0800	
Protestant Sunday Schools	0900	
Protestant Divine Services	1000	
Latter Day Saints Services	1300	
Catholic Confession	1730	
Catholic Mass	1800	
Protestant Evening Services	1900	
Protestant Communion	2000	

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<u>Monday through Saturday</u>	Catholic Mass	1800
	Protestant Prayer Services	1900
<u>Thursday</u>	World Religious Classes (Interdenominational)	1830
<u>Saturday</u>	Protestant Choir Practice	

6. Intelligence/Counterintelligence

- a. 276 fire incidents were reported during the month.
- b. 39 of the above incidents resulted in damage to aircraft.
- c. 21 spot reports of intelligence value were received from aircrews and other sources, evaluated and disseminated to subordinate, higher, and adjacent commands.

d. Statistical Data

Flight hours per fire incident	20.6
Flight hours per aircraft hit	115.6
Flight hours per spot report	270.0

7. Air Operations

<u>HMM-265</u>	<u>CH-46A</u>	<u>HMM-361</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>
Hours	1348.6	Hours	1054.5
Sorties	4930	Sorties	3673
Pax	10,417	Pax	11,79
Evacs	623	Evacs	1075
Cargo	831.2 Tons	Cargo	20.8 Tons
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>TAR</u>	<u> </u>
Hours	1011.3	28 UH-34D	
Sorties	2850	5 UH-1E	
Pax	7433	14 CH-46A	
Evacs	0	1 H-23	
Cargo	3402.7 Tons		
<u>VM0-2</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>245th SAC</u>	<u>OV-10B/C</u>
Hours	1459.8	Hours	944
Sorties	4312	Sorties	524
Pax	1758	Pax	0
Evacs	19	Evacs	0
Cargo	0	Cargo	0

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<u>H&amp;MS-16</u>	<u>O-10/G</u>	<u>C-117D</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>	<u>CH-53A</u>
Hours	802.5	151.8	15.4	0.5
Sorties	289	85	12	1
Pax	0	821	0	0
Cargo	0	24.7 Tons	0	0
<u>MAG-16</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>		
Hours		6783.4		
Sorties		16,756		
Pax		21,908		
Evacs		1717		
Cargo		4279.4 Tons		

8. Ground Defense. During the month of March at Marble Mountain Air Facility, additional bunkers were built and defensive positions were constantly worked on and improved.

9. Motor Transport. During the month the Marble Mountain Air Facility Motor Transport Section travelled 64,893 miles; hauled 1,564,000 gallons of water; 40,800 gallons of MOGAS; 35,800 gallons of Diesel fuel; 1925 gallons of oil; 24.07 tons of general cargo and transported 35,621 passengers.

10. TAFDS. During the month, the TAFDS Section issued the following amounts of fuel:

	<u>115/145</u>	<u>JP-4</u>
MMAF	127,498 gals	521,324 gals
An Hoa	1,690	45,354
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>129,188 gals</u>	<u>566,678 gals</u>

11. Crash Crew. The Crash Crew responded as follows:

<u>Field</u>	<u>A/C Standbys</u>	<u>A/C Fires</u>	<u>Structural Emergency</u>
MMAF	31	3	1
An Hoa	3	None	1

12. Base Operations

a. During the month a TRN-16 Low Frequency Homer was received for installation.

b. Total operations handled by MMAF tower are as follows:

(1) Fixed Wing Operations	1595
(2) Helicopter Operations	19,194
(3) Total Operations	23,789
(4) IFR Operations	345

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13. Food Services. There were approximately 204,600 meals served at Marble Mountain during the month.

14. Base Services/Utilities

a. Water Point. During the month the Water Point personnel processed a total of 1,789,970 gallons of water. Of this 1,747,570 gallons were potable and 42,400 gallons were non-potable.

b. Paint Shop. During the month of March, the Paint shop personnel completed twenty-eight (28) work orders.

c. Electric Shop. The Electric shop completed one hundred and two (102) work orders.

d. Plumbing Shop. The Plumbing shop completed thirty two (32) work orders.

e. Refrigeration Shop. Refrigeration shop personnel completed sixteen (16) work orders.

f. Heavy Equipment Shop. The Heavy equipment shop completed six hundred and sixty two (662) equipment runs throughout the base during the month.

g. Carpenter Shop. Carpenter shop personnel completed ninety-five (95) work orders during the month.

h. Base Laundry. The Base laundry processed 51,300 pounds of clothing and collected organizational gear to be turned over to the civilian laundry.

15. Exchange. During the month of March, the Exchange sales were \$66,625.75. Sales for James S. LEE totaled \$2,996.20. Sales for Saehan Photo totaled \$2,229.80. Sales for Huynh Phung Gift Shop totaled \$6,382.60. Sales for Sax Tailor totaled \$6,159.95. Sales for LOC SVP Ltd. Barber Shop totaled \$1,489.35.

16. Ordnance. The Ordnance section issued a total of 3,514 2.75" White phosphorus and high explosive rockets; 317,250 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition; 26,000 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition for FAM firing the M-16 within this command and 2,564 pounds of assorted smoke and pyrotechnics.

17. Logistics. The Air Freight and Passenger Section processed 291,184 pounds of cargo and 704 passengers.

18. Communications

a. Total volume of messages traffic handled was 8,581. 109 hours of down time was recorded.

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- b. 122 items of equipment were processed by the repair section.
- c. During the rocket attack of 4 March a total of 28 shrapnel cuts were found in communication lines. All were repaired by 7 March 1968.

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## PART IV

## Supporting Documents

## Contents

MAG-16 S&C Log No.

✓ Command Chronology of H&MS-16 ~ Appendix 1	Filed Jep Cmb Chron	None
✓ Command Chronology of MABS-16 ~ Appendix 2		None
✓ Command Chronology of HMM-265 ~ Appendix 3		None
✓ Command Chronology of HMM-361 ~ Appendix 4		0291-68
✓ Command Chronology of VMO-2 ~ Appendix 5		0290-68
✓ Command Chronology of HMH-463 ~ Appendix 6		0285-68
✓ Command Chronology of 245th SAC ~ Appendix 7		None

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 245th SURVEILLANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY  
 212th COMBAT SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION  
 APO 96337

**CONFIDENTIAL**

3 April 1968

TO: Commanding Officer  
 MAG 16  
 ATTN: S-3

FROM: Commanding Officer  
 245th SAC  
 APO 96337

SUBJECT: Command Chronology for period 1-31 March 1968; submission of  
 REF: (a) 1st MAW Order 5750.1B

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information  
 is submitted.

2. Command Composition

BILLET CO	NAME Garten, Lynn W.	RANK Major	PERIOD 1-31 Mar 68
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3. Task Organization

Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

4. Air Operations - Period 1-31 March 1968

Type Aircraft	OV-10B, C	U-6A
Hours	944	
Sorties	524	
Pax	N/A	
Evacs	N/A	
Cargo (tons)	N/A	

  
 LYNN W. GARTEN  
 MAJ AT  
 COMMANDING

**CONFIDENTIAL**