

DECLASSIFIED

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

3:RPG:bew  
5750  
003A28570  
12 October 1970

\_\_\_\_\_ - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 - 30 September 1970

Ref: (a) WFO 57504

Encl: (1) Marine Aircraft Group 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).

*L. C. Street*  
L. C. STREET III

DISTRIBUTION: 1st MAW (3)  
MAG-16 S-3 (1)

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MAG-16  
SAC # 00660-70  
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12 October 1970

PART IOrganizational Data

1. <u>Designation</u>	<u>Commander</u>	1-30Sep70
Marine Aircraft Group 16	Colonel H. R. SMITH	1-30Sep70
	<u>Subordinate Units</u>	
H&MS-16	LtCol C. E. REESE	1-30Sep70
MABS-16	Major P. E. BENET	1-30Sep70
HML-167	LtCol D. A. MCCAGHEY	1-30Sep70
HML-367	LtCol H. E. SEXTON	1-30Sep70
HMM-262	LtCol G. S. PATE	1-30Sep70
HMM-263	LtCol L. K. KECK	1-30Sep70
HMM-364	LtCol P. C. SCAGLIONE	1-15Sep70
HMH-463	LtCol H. W. STEADMAN	16-30Sep70
	LtCol C. A. BLOCK	1-10Sep70
	LtCol R. R. LEISY	11-30Sep70

2. Location

1-30 September 1970: Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	LtCol B. H. MANN	1-30Sep70
Adjutant	Capt J. F. DARRACOTT	1-30Sep70
S-1	Major J. D. HAYNES	1-10Sep70
S-2	LtCol C. A. BLOCK	11-30Sep70
S-3	Capt R. E. FIX	1-30Sep70
S-4	LtCol R. P. GUAY	1-30Sep70
	LtCol W. R. FAILS	1-30Sep70

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	USN
OFF	ENL
378	2,004
6	25

DECLASSIFIED AF 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AF 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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PART II

Narrative Summary

During the month of September 1970, MAG-16 flew a total of 8,623.6 hours in support of Free World Military Assistance Forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Over 65% of the hours (5,905.2), and 75% of the sorties (22,492), were flown in direct support of First Marine Division. The remaining hours were flown in support of the First Marine Aircraft Wing, the Republic of Korea Marines, the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam and the United States Army. A loss of hours can be attributed to the torrential rain which began the last two days of the month.

There were two Change of Commands within MAG-16 during September. LtCol P. C. SCAGLIONE relinquished command of HMM-364 to LtCol H. W. STEADMAN prior to his return to CONUS. Additionally, LtCol C. A. FLOCK relinquished command of HMH-463 to LtCol R. R. LEISY and assumed the duties of MAG-16 S-1 Officer.

September witnessed another demonstration of the flexibility and versatility of the Marine Corps' Vertical Assault Doctrine. MAG-16 assumed the task of inserting a company of Army assigned personnel deep behind enemy lines in a highly classified and denied area. The operation was titled "Tail Wind" and had a two-fold objective; to disrupt enemy supply lines and to create a diversion for friendly forces. Air assets assigned came from various services. The total package included five Marine CH-53D, four Marine AH-1G and five Army AH-1G/UH-1E helicopters as well as two Marine OV-10, one Air Force OV-10 and numerous fixed wing aircraft. Under the superb leadership and control of Marine pilots the mission was highly successful, inserting the recon force in the vicinity of a Regiment size enemy force despite intense anti-aircraft and automatic weapons fire. Later the same air assets, led by Marines, extracted the friendly forces over a two day period while encountering an astronomical amount of enemy resistance. Against seemingly impossible odds, Marines successfully accomplished one of the most difficult missions of the war. Although two helicopters were destroyed without loss of personnel, the price was small in comparison to the results achieved. Over 432 NVA were killed of which 115 were destroyed by Marine Helicopters. Additionally, material destroyed was substantial and a large quantity of documents were captured. Saigon Intelligence expects these documents to yield the best intelligence information of the war. Without doubt, this extremely difficult task was achieved in a large part because of the Marine Corps' expertise, flexibility and creative spirit in Vertical Assualt tactics.

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PART III

Sequential Listing of Significant Events

1. Awards. 1 Bronze Star, 1 Navy Commendation Medal, 2 Single Mission Strike/Flight Air Medals, 4 Purple Hearts and 351 Strike/Flight Air Medals were presented during the month of September 1970.
2. Enemy Casualties and Damage Inflicted. MAG-16 inflicted 27 KBMA (Confirmed), 18 KBMA (Probable), 59 Hootches destroyed, 11 Hootches damaged, 11 bunkers destroyed, 15 bunkers damaged, 3 sampans destroyed, 1 boat destroyed, 7 secondary explosions and 1 water buffalo KBMA.

3. Intelligence. 16 aircrew spot reports of intelligence value were received from aircrews and other sources.

4. Sequential Listing of Significant Events by Date

- 1 September 1970: Five CH-53D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the First ARVN Regiment on a strike mission lifting 380 troops.
- 2 September 1970: Four CH-46D and two AH-1G helicopters supported the 7th Marines lifting 160 troops on a tactical extract. Immediate result for helicopters was 2 hootches destroyed and 1 Secondary explosion.
- 4 September 1970: Nine CH-46D, three CH-53D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported a strike of the 5th Marines which included a Napalm drop by the CH-53D helicopters. 305 troops were inserted on the strike.
- 6 September 1970: Eight CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter inserted 320 troops on a strike in support of the 5th Marines.
- 8 September 1970: Six CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter inserted 440 troops on a strike in support of the 5th Marines.  
Two CH-53D and 2 AH-1G helicopters supported Korean Marines operations with a Napalm drop.
- 9 September 1970: Three CH-53D, four AH-1G, six CH-46D and one UH-1E helicopter supported the Koreans on a strike tactically inserting three companies. The result was thirty-five confirmed enemy KIA.
- 10 September 1970: Six CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 5th Marines on a tactical assault.  
Eight CH-46D, six AH-1G, two CH-53D and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 1st Marines on Operation "Ballard Valley" inserting 505 troops along with support equipment.

III-1

Enclosure (1)

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11 September 1970: Nine CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 5th Marines on a Pacifier mission. Immediate results for helicopters was one NVA killed.

12 September 1970: Six CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 5th Marines on a tactical assault inserting 395 troops.

13 September 1970: Six CH-46D, two AH-1G, one CH-53D and one UH-1E helicopter tactically extracted 358 troops of the Vietnamese 5th Mobile Strike Force.

14 September 1970: Eight CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter tactically extracted 550 troops of the Vietnamese 5th Mobile Strike Force.  
Eight CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported a strike for the 5th Marines inserting one company.

15 September 1970: Four CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 1st Marines on a strike inserting one company. Immediate result for helicopters was one NVA killed and 10 hootches destroyed.

18 September 1970: Six CH-46D, four AH-1G, one CH-53D and one UH-1E helicopter tactically extracted the 1st Marines after completion of "Ballard Valley".

22 September 1970: Four CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported the 5th Special Forces on a strike.  
—A HMM-262 CH-46D crashed while on night medevac. The aircraft was completely destroyed and all five members of the crew were killed.

24 September 1970: Three CH-53D, two AH-1G and one UH-1E supported the 11th Marines on the tactical establishment of a fire support base.

25 September 1970: Nine CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter conducted a Pacifier Mission in support of the 5th Marines. Immediate helicopter result was 2 NVA killed and 3 hootches destroyed.

26 September 1970: Nine CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported a strike for the 5th Special Forces inserting 175 troops.  
Nine CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter supported a strike for the 51st ARVN Regiment tactically inserting 450 troops.

29 September 1970: Nine CH-46D, four AH-1G and one UH-1E helicopter conducted a Pacifier mission in conjunction with the 5th Marines.

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5. Air Operations

HML-167(UH-1E)      HML-367(AH-1G)

Hours	1,947.4	1,490.6
Sorties	5,486	3,694
KBA(Confirmed)	11	16
Pax	3,208	Ø

HMM-262(CH-46D)      HMM-263(CH-46D)      HMM-364(CH-46D)

Hours	1,332.8	1,339.2	1,486.4
Sorties	5,544	5,063	6,262
Evacs	520	571	441
Pax	11,077	11,024	15,692
Cargo (Tons)	268.2	264.4	443.3

HMH-463(CH-53D)      H&MS-16(CH-46D)

Hours	1,024.9	2.3
Sorties	3,485	2
Evacs	Ø	Ø
Pax	24,439	Ø
Cargo (Tons)	3,971.7	Ø
TAR's	8	N/A

MAG-16      TOTAL

Hours	8,623.6
Sorties	29,536
Pax	65,440
Cargo (Tons)	4,947.6
Evacs	1,532
KBA (Confirmed)	27
TAR's	8

MAG-16      TOTAL FY 71

Hours	29,842.5
Sorties	100,019
Pax	241,211
Cargo (Tons)	18,085.3
Evacs	5,245
KBA (Confirmed)	142
TAR's	21

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PART IV

Supporting Documents

MAG-16 Control Number/  
Letter Identification

✓ Command Chronology of HML-167	03A27970
✓ Command Chronology of HML-367	03A24770
✓ Command Chronology of HMM-262	03A27870
✓ Command Chronology of HMM-263	03A27870
✓ Command Chronology of HMM-364	03A27770
✓ Command Chronology of HMH-463	CO, HMH-463 ltr 3; MEE:ldl 50ct70
✓ Command Chronology of H&MS-16	CO, H&MS-16 ltr 1/CTL/erg 5213 of 60ct70
✓ Command Chronology of MABS-16	CO, MABS-16 ltr of 50ct70