

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

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2 Aug 1968

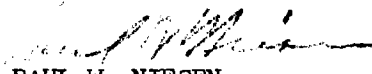
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AAZ)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 39
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) MCO 5750.1
(c) FMFPACO 5750.8

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the information contained herein is submitted.


PAUL W. NIESEN

HMM 161 S&C #406-C

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C.O. CHRON

JULY 1968

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1 July through 31 July 1968

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PART I (U) Organizational Data

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	LtCol. PAUL W. NIESEN	1Jul68 to 31Jul68
Executive Officer	Major ROBERT W. BARBER	1Jul68 to 24Jul68
	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	25Jul68 to 31Jul68
S2 Officer	Lt. ROLAND A. FRECH	1Jul68 to 13Jul68
	Lt. JOHN A. PROMBO	14Jul68 to 24Jul68
	Lt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	25Jul68 to 31Jul68
S3 Officer	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	1Jul68 to 24Jul68
	Major JAMES L. BOLTON	25Jul68 to 31Jul68
Safety Officer	Capt. MILTON T. WARRING	1Jul68 to 31Jul68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1Jul68 to 31Jul68
SgtMajor	SgtMajor JOHN H. GOODFELLOW	1Jul68 to 31Jul68

b. Designation/Location (U)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC, Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam.

c. Average Strength (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	50
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Assigned	207
Total Strength	262

d. Important Visitors (U)

NONE known.

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PART II Narrative Summary (C)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 provided the following helicopter services for the 3rd Marine Division, the majority of which supported Operation Lancaster II.

Statistics: 18,110 troops/passengers carried, 1665.5 tons of cargo transported, 960 personnel medically evacuated, 56 reconnaissance teams inserted and 28 teams extracted. The aforementioned support resulted in 1962.8 flight hours, 8313 sorties flown and 4745 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fragged for 175 missions, 172 of which were completed for a mission completion rate of 98.2 percent.

PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 5 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Mar Div.
- 6 Jul 68: Withdrawal of Task Force Hotel from the Khe Sanh to Stud commenced.
- 7 11 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd Mar Div.
- 12 Jul 68: Withdrawal of troops from Hill 689 completed the withdrawal of Task Force Hotel from the Khe Sanh area.
- 13 16 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Mar Div.
- 17 Jul 68: Provided 8 aircraft joined by 8 aircraft from HMM 262 to form a ProvMAG 39 (Walnut Hill) flight which was to place one battalion of Marines into the Lancaster II area of operations. The morning placement of a recon element by LtCol. NIESEN went without incident however, heavy enemy contact in the early afternoon forced the emergency extraction of the recon team. After preparation of the landing zone by UH 1E gunships and fixed wing aircraft the battalion lift was commenced in the face of heavy enemy small arms fire. The lift was completed successfully with 13 of the 16 participating aircraft receiving enemy inflicted damage.
- 18 22 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Mar Div.
- 23 27 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Mar Div.
- 28 31 Jul 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Mar Div.

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