

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

3/MLG/ccd
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2 Sep 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.

J. L. Felter
J. L. FELTER
Acting

HMM-161

CMD CHRON

HMM 161 S&C #407-C

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1 AUGUST THROUGH 31 AUGUST 1968

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PART I (U) Organizational Data

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	LtCol. PAUL W. NIERSEN	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
Executive Officer	Major. JOSEPH L. FELTER	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
S-2 Officer	Capt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
S-3 Officer	Major. MARVIN L. CROWDIS	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
Safety Officer	Capt. MILTON T. WARRING	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68
SgtMajor.	SgtMaj. JOHN H. GOODFELLOW	1 Aug to 31 Aug 68

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)	51
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Assigned	<u>199</u>
Total Strength	255

d. Important Visitors (U)

Visitors to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 during the period 1 to 31 August 1968, were Gen. L. F. CHAPMAN Jr, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt.Gen. R. E. CUSHMAN, Jr., Commanding General III Marine Amphibious Force, Maj.Gen. C. J. QUILTER, Commanding General 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and Maj.Gen. P. J. FONTANA, Assistant Commander, FMFPAC.

PART II Narrativ 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.

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Statistics: 21,854 troops/passengers carried, 1,429.4 tons of cargo transported, 1058 personnel medically evacuated, 48 reconnaissance teams inserted and 26 teams extracted. The aforementioned support resulted in 1652.5 flight hours, 8124 sorties flown and 4506 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 162 missions, 159 of which were completed for a mission completion rate of 98 per cent.

PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1-3 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 4 Aug 68: HMM-161 was involved in two troop lifts, 10 CH-46D's were involved in the lift with 2 Huey gunships. A total of 50.9 hours were flown, 1100 troops were transported, and 19.1 tons of cargo were carried. No enemy fire was received.
- 5-7 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 8 Aug 68: Mission 111 flew 110 sorties and 65 tasks carrying 1076 troops for a total of 40.3 flight hours.
- 9-13 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 14 Aug 68: Mission 111 of HMM-161 carried 888 troops, 15.9 tons of cargo in 174 sorties and 89 tasks.
- 15 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 16 Aug 68: On mission 110 HMM-161 carried troops from YD 032-628 to YD 060634 and YD 070635. Four aircraft moved 693 troops in 101 sorties and 49 tasks. Mortar fire was received in both drop zones and YR-29 received minor schrapnel damage. The troop lift was successfully completed.
- 17 Aug 68: During mission 111 HMM-161 flew 43.2 hours carrying 1184 troops in 206 sorties and 86 tasks.
- 18 Aug 68: Three H-46's from HMM-161 received battle damage in trying to extract a recon team under heavy enemy fire before the extract was successfully completed. One crew member was seriously wounded.
- 19 Aug 68: HMM-161 participated in a combined PROVMAG-39 (Walnut Hill) flight consisting of CH-46's from HMM-161, HMM-262, and HMM-364.

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HMM -161 carried 609 troops in 125 sorties, utilizing 6 aircraft. The troop lift consisted of carrying troops into three drop zones located within the DMZ. 4 HMM-161 aircraft received battle damage with two WIA, one serious.

20 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.

21 Aug 68: HMM-161 flew 205 sorties, 110 tasks carrying 818 troops and 21.8 tons of cargo for a total of 39.9 flight hours. One aircraft received 3 rounds of small arms fire with no injuries.

22 Aug 68: HMM-161 participated in 5 recon inserts and extracts. Cattlecall 5-11 received intensive small arms fire while inserting "Harbor Queen" recon team on Hill 697, XD 894458. Mission aborted and returned to 3rd MED with 1 KIA and 2 WIA crew members.

23 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.

24 Aug 68: One HMM-161 aircraft received minor battle damage on a recon insert. There were no injuries. One HMM-161 aircraft performed a night pick-up of 5 injured crew members of an HMM-262 aircraft that had crashed on a night troop lift.

25-28 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.

29 Aug 68: HMM-161 flew 199 sorties, 106 tasks, carrying 861 troops and 17 tons of cargo for a total of 34.2 flight hours in support of missions 111/112.

30-31 Aug 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.

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