

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

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2 Oct 1968

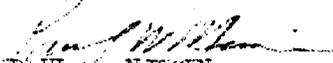
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AAZ)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAW

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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

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


PAUL W. NIELSEN

HM-161

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161
QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM
1 SEPTEMBER THROUGH 30 SEPTEMBER 1968

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PART I (U) Organizational Data

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	LtCol. PAUL W. NIELSEN	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
Executive Officer	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
S-2 Officer	Capt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
S-3 Officer	Major MARVIN L. CROWDIS	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
Safety Officer	Capt. MILTON T. WARRING	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1 Sep to 30 Sep 68
SgtMajor	SgtMaj. JOHN H. GOODFELLOW	1 Sep to 30 Sep 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)	49
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Strength	<u>194</u>
Total Strength	248

d. Important Visitors (U)

There were no important visitors to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 during the period 1 to 30 September 1968.

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: 16,526 troops/passengers carried, 714.7 tons of cargo transported, 1,319 personnel medically evacuated, 108 reconnaissance teams inserted and 71 teams extracted. The aforementioned support resulted in 1385.8 flight hours, 5,920 sorties flown and 3,156 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 155 missions, 136 of which were completed for a mission completion rate of 87.7 per cent.

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PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 2 Sep 68: 4 CH-46's on mission 301 transported 120 troops from XD894376 to XD820466, using 2 Huey gunships for escort encountered negative enemy action. 4 more CH-46's flew a total of 5.4 flight hours on mission 402 in support of Lancaster II. 24 troops were moved from XD985545 to XD968617 resulting in the second aircraft into the zone being hit by mortar and small arms fire. The aircraft was a strike and injuries were 1 serious 1 minor. The 24 troops were later extracted and returned to the Rockpile.
- 3 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 28 sorties in 12.7 flight hours carrying 147 troops in support of recon operations. One aircraft received 6 hits from small arms fire resulting in minor damage, no injuries.
- 4-7 Sep 68: Provided limited helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv due to inclement weather.
- 8 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 23.6 flight hours and 110 sorties, of which 18.6 flight hours and 79 sorties were in support of 3rd MarDiv. 3 aircraft were involved in moving 600 Army troops of the 1st Brigade 5th from Charlie-2 to YD135653. 2 USMC and 2 USA gunships combined to fly cover for the lift. No enemy fire was taken.
- 9 Sep 68: Mission 401 flew 14 flight hours, had 69 sorties, 30 tasks, carrying 343 troops from LZ Vandergrift to XD903588. Fire was received twice but no battle damage or injuries occurred. 3 recon team inserts and 1 extraction were performed without incident.
- 10 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 158 sorties, 82 tasks, carrying 471 troops and 15.6 tons of cargo for 48.4 flight hours.
- 11 Sep 68: Mission 401 flew 202 sorties carrying 848 troops, 13 tons of cargo for 45.6 flight hours. Cattlecall medevac picked up one U.S. emergency during the night at XD9260 with enemy contact 20 yards outside the friendly perimeter. 2 Huey gunships and a flership were on station. No other injuries occurred.
- 12 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 251 sorties, 122 tasks, carrying 907 troops for 53.9 flight hours for 3rd MarDiv.

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- 13 Sep 68: HMM-161 launched 10 CH-46's on mission 401 flying 292 sorties carrying 1366 troops and 24.6 tons of cargo for 60.5 flight hours. This involved moving troops from the Rockpile and Camp Carroll to drop zone XD903610, which was prepped by both artillery and fixed wing. Except for some .50 cal and automatic weapons fire that Huey gunships and fixed wing aircraft immediately suppressed, the lift went smoothly and no damage to squadron aircraft occurred.
- 14 Sep 68: 2 CH-46's received battle damage while trying to reinforce recon teams "Cpl Pete" and "Barcraft" resulting in making field repairs. The teams were later extracted. Totals of the day were 244 sorties 146 tasks, carrying 771 troops and 38.9 tons of cargo for a total of 56.7 flight hours.
- 15 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv. One crewman received a minor wound when 2 CH-46's received battle damage at XD983543 when one incoming rocket exploded.
- 16 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 17 Sep 68: HMM-161 participated in a combined ProvMag-39 (Walnut Hill) flight consisting of 24 aircraft from HMM-161, HMM-262, and HMM-364. 2 battalions were helilifted into the DMZ, grids XD9167 & XD9468. One aircraft, Walnut Hill-7 shut down in the zone at XD9167 due to mechanical failure. The aircraft is still in the same place but stripped of necessary gear.
- 18-20 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 21 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 619 sorties, 320 tasks, carrying 934 troops and 59.2 tons of cargo for a total of 77.3 flight hours. 2 squadron aircraft participated in the recovery of personnel from HMM-262 aircraft that crashed at XD929608. 4 of 5 bodies were recovered.
- 22-24 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 25-27 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv, hampered by marginal weather conditions.
- 28 Sep 68: HMM-161 flew 245 sorties, 105 tasks, carrying 916 troops and 17.7 tons of cargo for 50.8 flight hours, in support of the 3rd MarDiv.
- 29-30 Sep 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.

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