

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

3/DEB/ccd
 5750
 3 Dec 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, FMFPAC

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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

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

David L. Elam
 DAVID L. ELAM

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1 NOVEMBER THROUGH 30 NOVEMBER 1968

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PART I (U) Organizational Data

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	ItCol. PAUL W. NIESEN	1 Nov to 8 Nov 68
	ItCol. DAVID L. ELAM	9 Nov to 30 Nov 68
Executive Officer	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	1 Nov to 30 Nov 68
S-2 Officer	Capt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	1 Nov to 30 Nov 68
S-3 Officer	Major MARVIN L. CROWDIS	1 Nov to 30 Nov 68
Safety Officer	Capt. MILTON T. WARRING	1 Nov to 8 Nov 68
	1stLt. ROBERT W. MULLINS	9 Nov to 30 Nov 68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1 Nov to 30 Nov 68
SgtMajor	SgtMaj. JOHN H. GOODFELLOW	1 Nov to 30 Nov 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)	47
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Strength	<u>193</u>
Total Strength	245

d. Important Visitors (U)

Important visitors to HMM-161 during the month of November 1968, were BGen. HOMER S. HILL Assistant Commander 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and Gen. GARRETTSON, Assistant Division Commander, Task Force Hotel.

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 operations Lancaster II and Scotland II.

Statistics: 26,425 troops/passengers carried, 925.8 tons of cargo transported, 1375 personnel medically evacuated, 63 reconnaissance teams inserted and 35 teams extracted.

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The aforementioned support resulted in 1749.0 flight hours, 7300 sorties, flown and 5600 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fragged for 176 missions of which 173 were completed for a mission completion rate of 98% per cent.

PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 Nov 68: HMM-161 flew 325 sorties, 183 tasks carrying 1708 troops and 25.3 tons of cargo for over 78 hours of flight time mostly supporting mission 401/402 of the 3rd MarDiv.
- 2-4 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 5 Nov 68: HMM-161 provided support for resupply of Vandergriest Combat Base for the 3rd MarDiv. 184 sorties, 103 tasks, carrying 266 troops, 34.2 tons of cargo, 47 medevacs for a total of 48.1 flight hours.
- 6-7 Nov 68: Provided limited helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv, due to inclement weather.
- 8 Nov 68: HMM-161 flew 286 sorties, 116 tasks, carrying 1035 troops, 30.9 tons of cargo, 45 medevac for 61.7 flight hours. This was mostly in support of mission 401 transporting troops from YD0532 to XD8248, XD9239 to YD3536, XD3840 to YD0029, XD9531 to YD0132. One small arms fire incident took place with no damage or injuries occurring. 4 Huey gunships provided cover. The squadron held a change of command today at 1530 with the Assistant Wing Commander Assistant Commander Task Force Hotel and Commanding Officer ProvMag-39 in attendance.
- 9-10 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 11 Nov 68: Mission 401 accounted for the moving of 874 troops, in 145 sorties and 70 tasks for 39 hours of flight time. The troops were moved from Vandergriest to YD0634, YD0436, YD0632 and from XD9644 to XD7553 and from XD7553 to Hill 691. 2 Huey gunships provided air cover.
- 12 Nov 68: YR-31 (Cattlecall 5-11) took 5 hits of small arms fire at YD0920, near Con Thien, and proceeded to land at ConThien to repair battle damage. No injuries occurred and the rest of the day was in support of the 3rd MarDiv.
- 13 Nov 68: HMM-161 flew 381 sorties, 195 tasks, carrying 1198 troops and 55.4 tons of cargo for 84.6 hours, accomplishing mission 401 and 402 for the 3rd MarDiv.

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One aircraft received small arms fire at XD6757 resulting in 2 minor wounds of crew members but the aircraft was safely brought home.

- 14 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 15 Nov 68: HMM-161 flew 415 sorties, 221 tasks carrying 894 troops 88 tons of cargo for 86.4 hours of flight time. Mission 402 carried troops from Camp Carroll to XD9462, YD1753 to YD1346 and YD1754 to YD1447. Small arms fire was received at YD1346 and YD1447 and fire was returned by the transports. No damage or casualties to friendlies. 3 flights of fixed wing and 4 Huey's provided air cover.
- 16-17 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 18 Nov 68: Mission 203/505 called for an emergency recon extract at XD9249. Heavy ground fire took place within 50 meters of the zone but the team was successfully recovered without casualties occurring and only 1 hit was taken by the pickup aircraft.
- 19 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 20 Nov 68: HMM-161 supplied 6 aircraft to MAG-16 for operation MEADE RIVER, in support of the 1st MarDiv. Four of the six aircraft took hits in the vicinity of AT999569, two of which had to make precautionary landings at Hill 55 to inspect battle damage. All six aircraft returned to Quang Tri at completion of the lift. 66 sorties, 21 tasks carrying 277 troops for 27.5 hours supported this mission.
- 21 Nov 68: HMM-161 flew 383 sorties, 205 tasks carrying 1773 troops, 27.5 tons of cargo for 80.4 hours in support of the 3rd MarDiv. Cattlecall 92-7 answered a distress call of an Army CH-47 who had an engine flame out at YD0640. Cattlecall 92-7 rendered assistance by inserting a reactionary force by the downed aircraft and then flew in 4 barrels of JP-4 fuel so the CH-47 could lift out before nightfall. No fire incidents occurred.
- 22 Nov 68: Mission 401/402 flew 127 sorties, 80 tasks carrying 700 troops for 36.5 hours. 4 Huey gunships were used for air cover with one of them experiencing engine failure and crashing. Cattlecall 92-8 recovered the unhurt crew.

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- 23-25 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 26 Nov 68: Walnut Hill 3, 4, 5 (Cattlecall aircraft) inserted a reactionary force at YD096735. The force was withdrawn in the afternoon with negative results.
- 27-29 Nov 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 30 Nov 68: Mission 403 (4 CH-46's) flew 144 sorties, 75 tasks, carrying 852 troops and 7 tons of cargo for 30 hours of flight time. Troops were taken from Vandergrift to YD099233 and YD042249. Other troops were taken from YD042249 and YD038281 back to Vandergrift. 2 Huey's and 2 OV-10A's provided air cover.

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