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MARINE MEDICAL HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MAFAC
750 San Francisco 95602

3-RVF:mbb
5750
2 February 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MAC)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
(2) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, MAFAC
Subj: COMBAT TECHNOLOGY
Ref: (a) MCC 5750.2a
(b) MCC 5750.1
(c) MAFAC 5750.3

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

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HMM-161

CMD CHRON

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

HMM 161 S&C 506-C

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MARINE MEDICAL HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1969

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PART I Organizational Data (U)

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer . LtCol DAVID L. BLANK 1 - 31 Jan 69
 Executive Officer .. Major JOSEPH L. FELTER . 1 - 31 Jan 69
 S-2 Officer Capt TIMOTHY W. SMITH .. 1 - 31 Jan 69
 S-3 Officer Major HARVIN L. CROWDIS 1 - 31 Jan 69
 Safety Officer Major RICHARD W. BROWN . 1 - 31 Jan 69
 NATOPS officer Major DONALD R. REICHERT 1 - 23 Jan 69
 Sgtnaj Sgtnaj JOHN W. GOOFELLOW 1 - 31 Jan 69

b. Designation/Location (U)

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

c. Average Strength (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	43
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Strength	177
Total Strength	<u>225</u>

d. Important Visitors (N)

There were no important visitors to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 during the period 1 January through 31 January 1969.

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 SCOTLAND II, DANSON RIVER, KENTUCKY and MARSHALL MOUNTAIN. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 provided augmentation helicopter service for the 1st Marine Division.

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Statistics: 16,690 troops/passengers carried, 375.9 tons of cargo transported, 1,531 personnel medically evacuated, 42 reconnaissance teams inserted and 30 teams extracted. This support resulted in 1,525.5 flight hours, 5,938 sorties flown and 3,116 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraggged for 207 missions of which 184 were completed for a completion rate of 89%.

PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 Jan 69: HMM-161 aircraft completed three (3) recon inserts and three (3) extracts. The Squadron flew 44 sorties, 24 tasks and 12.8 flight hours in support of the 1st Marine Division. HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift carrying 724 troops and 8.5 tons cargo in 127 sorties and 64 tasks for 24.6 flight hours.
- 2 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a troop lift carrying 1,010 troops and 6.0 tons of cargo in 165 sorties and 82 tasks for 48.8 flight hours. Huey gunships provided airborne cover.
- 3 Jan 69: HMM-161 launched on a quick Reaction mission to KD 305-290 for an emergency recon extraction. The team had 2 MIA (USMC) and reported movement around their position. On landing one aircraft took automatic weapons fire. Mission was successfully completed. Huey gunships provided airborne cover and coordinated fixed wing cover.
- 4 - 7 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided Helicopter support to the 3rd Marine Division. Operations were severely hampered by low ceilings and poor visibility.
- 8 Jan 69: HMM-161 launched on a quick Reaction to insert troops at KD 925-410. The troops were inserted as a result of an alert helo crew-member spotting an enemy vehicle and troops in the area. 178 troops were inserted in 29 sorties for 8.8 flight hours.
- 9 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew 5 recon inserts. Two (2) teams were inserted inside the DMZ at KD 943-669 and KD 058-698. Huey gunships provided airborne cover. No fire incidents occurred during the mission.
- 10 Jan 69: Provided Helicopter support to the 3rd Marine Division. Squadron operations were affected by the weather.

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- 11 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift carrying 1,481 troops and 9.4 tons of cargo in 225 sorties and 104 tasks for 46.4 flight hours. Two Huey gunships provided airborne cover and coordination.
- 12 - 14 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division. Normal resupply and Med Evac missions were flown primarily.
- 15 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift in support of the ARVN's. Eight aircraft flew a total of 24.4 flight hours, carrying 632 troops and 6.9 tons of cargo. A low cloud cover hampered the lift but the mission was completed without incident. Two Huey gunships provided airborne cover.
- 16 - 17 Jan 69: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division. Operations were hampered by low ceilings and poor visibility at Quang Tri and in the operational areas.
- 18 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift carrying 885 troops in 281 sorties for 58.6 flight hours.
- 19 Jan 69: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division. The squadron flew 66 sorties, carried 64 passengers and 14.9 tons of cargo for 23.2 flight hours in support of the 1st Marine Division.
- 20 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift carrying 625 troops and 7.0 tons of cargo in 53 tasks for 18.3 flight hours. Two Huey gunships provided airborne cover.
- 21 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division and the 1st Marine Division. Squadron aircraft launched on a Quick Reaction troop lift from Quang Tri Combat Base to YD 275-434. 120 troops were carried in 12 sorties and 6 tasks for 3.5 flight hours. Two Huey gunships provided airborne cover.
- 22 Jan 69: HMM-161 completed the initial strike into the northern part of the A SHAU VALLEY. 12 aircraft flew for a total of 42.3 flight hours carrying 681 troops into two assault zones. Seven (7) flights of fixed wing, four (4) Huey gunships and two (2) OV-10A's

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provided zone prep and close air support. No enemy resistance was encountered.

- 23 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided helicopter support to the 3rd Marine Division.
- 24 Jan 69: HMM-161 made an emergency Med-Evac pick-up near the DMZ at YD 132-733 under fire. Two Huey gunships and two OV-10A's provided airborne coverage.
- 25 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 26 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift from LZ TUN TAVERN to LZ CUMMINGHAM. 200 troops were moved in 40 sorties for 10.1 flight hours. There were no fire incidents. HMM-161 launched on a quick reaction mission to insert a SPARCOY HAWK platoon to assist a recon team in contact with enemy insurgents. 12 sorties were flown for 6.4 flight hours.
- 27 Jan 69: HMM-161 flew an emergency night extraction of a recon team from YD 907-516 under enemy fire. Huey gunships provided airborne cover and "SPARCOY" aircraft provided flare illumination.
- 28 Jan 69: While enroute to VANDERBRIEF Combat Base, a single OV-10A aircraft of HMM-161 heard a call from a unit at YD 04-63 that they were under mortar and artillery attack. They needed mortar resupply and had some emergency Med-Evacs. This aircraft took a load of mortar ammunition to the beleaguered unit and extracted the Med-Evacs while under enemy fire.
- 29 - 30 Jan 69: HMM-161 provided helicopter support to the 3rd Marine Division.
- 31 Jan 69: Squadron operations were limited to two (2) aircraft working resupply missions due to low ceilings and poor visibility. The aircraft flew 26 sorties, carried 18 passengers and 9.5 tons of cargo for 9.2 flight hours in support of the 3rd Marine Division.

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