

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

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5750  
5 June 1969

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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, First Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for period 1 through 31 May 1969

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*R. W. Carr*  
R. W. CARR  
Acting

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY OF  
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161  
QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM  
1 MAY THROUGH 31 MAY 1969

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PART I. Organizational Data (U)a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	.... LtCol. D. L. WEAH	..... 1-31 May 69
Executive Officer	.... Major R. W. GARR	..... 1-31 May 69
S-3 Officer	.... Major R. J. ADAMS	..... 1-9 May 69
S-3 Officer	.... Major J. G. KORMUSCH	....10-31 May 69
S-4 Officer	.... Capt. P. D. ALFORD	..... 1-9 May 69
S-4 Officer	.... Major R. J. ADAMS	.....10-31 May 69
A/C Maintenance Officer	Major J. S. LOOP	..... 1-31 May 69
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt. P. D. ALFORD	..... 1-31 May 69
PARCS Officer	1stLt V. R. GERR	..... 1-31 May 69
SgtMaj	SgtMaj J. M. GOODFELLOW	.. 1-25 May 69
SgtMaj	SgtMaj J. GIBSON	.....26-31 May 69

b. Designation/Location (U)

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

c. Average Strength (U)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	....	41
Officers Assigned (Ground)	.....	3
Officers Assigned (Navy)	.....	1
Enlisted	.....	143
Total Strength	.....	188

d. Important Visitors (U)

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

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PART II. Narrative Summary (C)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 provided helicopter support for the Third Marine Division, the majority of which supported Operations PURPLE MARINE, MAINE CRAIG, VIRGINIA RIDGE, HANMER MTN, APACHE and CATERON FALLS.

Statistics: 11,937 troops/passengers were carried, 1,049.8 tons of cargo transported, 902 personnel medically evacuated, 18 Recon Teams were inserted, while 6 Teams were extracted. This support resulted in 1,605.1 flight hours, 5,320 sorties flown, 3,029 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 136 missions of which all were completed for a completion rate of 100%.

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- 1 May - HMM-161, fragged for three missions, flew 193 sorties, completing 122 tasks while carrying 617 passengers and 32.5 tons of cargo in 53.2 flight hours. Four medevac missions were flown carrying 16 medevacs, as follows: 1 priority and 15 routine. Seventy-two sorties were flown in support of operations PURPLE MARTIN and MAINE CRAIG.
- 2 May - HMM-161, fragged for mission 401, flew 194 sorties, completing 97 tasks carrying 828 troops and 7.4 tons of cargo in 49.2 flight hours. The mission, 401, in support of MAINE CRAIG and PURPLE MARTIN was completed without incident.
- 3 May - HMM-161 flight operations were slightly affected by weather. While flying 50.2 hours, the squadron flew 199 sorties, completing 132 tasks, carrying 1063 troops and passengers and carried in two medevac missions. In support of operation MAINE CRAIG, the squadron flew 140 sorties carrying 984 passengers in 30.1 hours.
- 4 May - HMM-161, fragged for 5 missions, flew 173 sorties, 99 tasks, carrying 124 passengers and 43.6 tons of cargo. Fifteen medevac missions were flown carrying 15 emergency, 9 priority and 28 routine medevacs in 46.7 flight hours. One emergency recon extraction was flown. CATTLECALL 92-5, while taking fire on approach, to the zone and on departure successfully extracted the recon team from XD 995675. Suppressive fire was provided by SEAWORTHY D & F.
- 5 May - HMM-161 flew 147 sorties, 84 tasks while carrying 173 passengers, 39.2 tons of cargo, and six medevacs. HMM-161 was fragged for four missions and completed five, by having two aircraft diverted to mission 203. Thirteen recon inserts and two extracts were completed.
- 6 May - A normal day of resupply and medevac missions, hampered by thunder showers in the afternoon. The squadron flew 124 sorties, 63 tasks while carrying 177 passengers and 19.6 tons of cargo in 30.3 flight hours. Twenty-two medevac missions were flown carrying 4 emergency, 14 priority and 41 routine medevacs. Fifty-seven sorties were flown supporting Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE.

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- 7 May - HMM-161, fragged for 3 missions, flew 179 sorties, completing 98 tasks, while carrying 986 passengers and 6.1 tons of cargo. The squadron flew a tactical troop lift from VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE to YD 141185 in support of operation APACHE. Supporting operation APACHE, the squadron flew 174 sorties, 85 tasks in 44.4 flight hours while hauling 982 passengers and 5 tons of cargo.
- 8 May - HMM-161 flew 114 sorties, 67 tasks, carrying 85 troops and 16.8 tons of cargo. Twenty medevac missions were flown carrying 11 emergency, 36 priority and 17 routine medevacs in 37.0 flight hours. Weather severely hampered flight operations. Today, the lead medevac bird, 92-1 while hovering at YD 995615, was hit in the forward rotor head by an RPG round. The pilot, LT CLAYTON, was able to fly the helicopter from the position to the ROCKPILE FIRE BASE, YD 981545, there making an emergency landing. None of the crew were injured, and the medevac being hoisted from the zone was taken from the downed medevac bird to the 3RD MEDICAL BATTALION at QUANG TRI.
- 9 May - The weather improved today. All aircraft flew their fragged missions and scheduled hours. The squadron flew 158 sorties, 82 tasks carrying 47 troops and 48.0 tons of cargo. Eight medevac missions were flown to recover 5 emergency, 4 priority and 9 routine medevacs in 50.8 flight hours. Support was flown in support of operations VIRGINIA RIDGE, APACHE and PURPLE MARTIN.
- 10 May - HMM-161 while flying resupply and medevac missions flew 129 sorties, 83 tasks, carrying 140 troops and 28.0 tons of cargo. Seventeen medevac missions were flown carrying 6 emergency, 12 priority and 34 routine medevacs in 46.7 flight hours. Support was flown for operations VIRGINIA RIDGE, PURPLE MARTIN and APACHE.
- 11 May - While supporting operations, APACHE, PURPLE MARTIN and VIRGINIA RIDGE, of the 3RD MAR.DIV., the squadron flew 114 sorties, 98 tasks, carrying 637 passengers and 30.0 tons of cargo. Ten medevac missions were flown carrying 10 emergency, 7 priority and 22 routine medevacs in 56.9 hours.
- 12 May - Today the squadron was again hampered in flight operations by weather. The squadron flew 107 sorties, 52 tasks, carrying 262 troops and 16.0 tons of cargo. Fifteen medevac missions were flown to recover 11 emergency, 14 priority and 20 routine medevacs in 33.1 flight hours. Most of the work was in support of operations VIRGINIA RIDGE & APACHE.

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- 13 May - HMM-161 flew missions 401 & 301 in support of operations HERKIMER MT., VIRGINIA RIDGE, and APACHE. The squadron flew 65.2 hours, flying 212 sorties, 132 tasks while carrying 721 troops and 44.5 tons of cargo. Eleven medevac missions were flown to recover 7 emergency, 7 priority and 5 routine medevacs. VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE received incoming enemy rockets while some of our aircraft were on the ground, none received any damage.
- 14 May - The squadron flew resupply and medevac missions today. Most of the work done was in support of operations VIRGINIA RIDGE and APACHE. HMM-161 flew 177 sorties, 99 tasks, carrying 270 troops and 37.2 tons of cargo in 50.4 hours of flight time. Twenty-four medevac missions were flown to recover 6 emergency, 18 priority and 13 routine medevacs. Two recon inserts were flown. One, at YD 203784, received SAF and returned the fire with .50 caliber automatic weapons fire. Both teams were successfully inserted.
- 15 May - HMM-161 flew 98 sorties, completing 51 tasks while carrying 242 troops and 16.8 tons of cargo. Four medevac missions were flown to recover 2 emergency, 1 priority and 12 routine medevacs in 43.1 total flight hours. The squadron was scheduled for 3 recon inserts and 2 extracts. All were completed.
- 16 May - HMM-161, fragged for 5 missions, flew 191 sorties, completing 119 tasks while carrying 158 passengers and 42.2 tons of cargo. Thirty-one medevac missions were flown carrying 6 emergency, 24 priority and 43 routine medevacs for a total of seventy-three medevacs. Seventy-one and one tenth hours were flown while supporting HERKIMER MT., APACHE and VIRGINIA RIDGE operations. A recon team located at YD 9462 had observed enemy movement around their position and had observed the enemy with high caliber weapons. They requested an emergency extraction and at 2030H CATELECALL 12 & 13 launched to recover the team. With the help of a flareship and SEAWORTHY guns a successful recovery was accomplished without incident.
- 17 May - HMM-161, fragged for 5 missions, flew 204 sorties, completing 134 tasks while carrying 563 troops and 44 tons of cargo in 72.0 flight hours. Fourteen medevac missions were flown carrying 7 emergency, 2 priority and 7 routine medevacs. In support of operation VIRGINIA RIDGE the squadron flew 80 sorties carrying 146 passengers and 28.7 tons of cargo.

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- 18 May - HMM-161, fragged for 4 missions, flew 173 sorties, completing 114 tasks in 49.7 flight hours. One hundred and eight-two troops and 54.8 tons of cargo were transported by the squadron. Nineteen medevac missions were flown carrying 10 emergency, 4 priority and 8 routine medevacs. The squadron worked in support of operations APACHE, HERKIMER MI. and VIRGINIA RUDGE.
- 19 May - HMM-161, fragged for 3 missions, flew 146 sorties, completing 69 tasks in 43.9 flight hours. One hundred and ninety-four passengers and 25 tons of cargo were carried by the squadron. Seven medevac missions were flown carrying 5 emergency, 3 priority and 7 routine medevacs. An eight plane assault was launched to YD 885361 which was completed successfully and without incident.
- 20 May - HMM-161, fragged for 8 missions, flew 238 sorties completing 137 tasks in 58.4 flight hours. One hundred and eighty-two troops and 66.2 tons of cargo were carried by the squadron. Sixty-four medevacs were carried in 17 medevac missions. Four of these were emergency while 3 were priority and 57 routine medevacs. CATTLECALL 5 and CATTLECALL 7 each completed an emergency recon extraction without incident.
- 21 May - HMM-161, fragged for 6 missions, carried 1043 troops and 37 tons of cargo while flying 263 sorties and completing 147 tasks in 61.0 flight hours. Two emergency, 1 priority and 11 routine medevacs were carried in 6 medevac missions. An eight plane assault troop lift was successfully completed to YD 328494. No fire was received during the assault. CATTLECALL 92-12 was diverted to pick up a recon team at XD 945593 which was in contact. SCARFACE 21 & 26 escorted 92-12. Received fire but the aircraft received negative hits.
- 22 May - HMM-161, fragged for 4 missions, carried 134 troops and 47.5 tons of cargo while flying 162 sorties and completing 99 tasks in 51.3 flight hours. Six emergency, 8 priority and 18 routine medevacs were carried in 20 medevac missions. SEAWORTHY 99-1 & 2 provided cover while CATTLECALL 1 & 2 successfully extracted a recon team in contact. No hits were taken by the aircraft.
- 23 May - HMM-161, fragged for 5 missions, carried 333 troops and 58.0 tons of cargo while flying 232 sorties and completing 119 tasks in 60.6 flight hours. Three emergency, 4 priority and 22 routine medevacs were carried in 8 medevac missions. Fire was received and returned by ITCOL ETAM during an emergency extract of the recon team "JOHN BROWN." The team was successfully extracted and returned to QUANG TRI.

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- 24 May - HMM-161, fraged for 4 missions, carried 267 troops and 27.2 tons of cargo while flying 147 sorties and completing 82 tasks in 48.8 flight hours. Five emergency, 17 priority and 26 routine medevacs were carried in 11 medevac missions. Despite high winds in excess of 25 knots HMM-161 completed a successful day of troop lifts and resupply.
- 25 May - While flying 197 sorties and completing 103 tasks, the squadron carried 131 troops and 58.1 tons of cargo. Thirteen medevac missions were flown to recover 7 emergency, 11 priority and 5 routine medevacs in 59.2 flight hours. CATTLECALL 92-11 was diverted from mission 301 to perform an emergency medevac mission for "B" COMPANY 3RD MARINES. The landing zone had been under mortar attack and had some permanent routine and emergency medevacs that needed medical care. CATTLECALL 92-11, landed in the zone and recovered the medevacs despite the incoming mortars. Ground operations supported today were VIRGINIA RIDGE, APACHE and HERKIMER MT.
- 26 May - While flying in support of the THIRD MARINE DIVISION'S operations, HERKIMER MT. and VIRGINIA RIDGE, HMM-161 flew 197 sorties, 120 tasks while carrying 425 troops and 31.2 tons of cargo. Twenty-four medevac missions were flown to carry 13 emergency, 5 priority and 78 routine medevacs.
- 27 May - While supporting the THIRD MARINE DIVISION, the squadron flew 114 sorties, completing 60 tasks, while carrying 77 passengers, 23.4 tons of cargo and 37 medevacs. Specific operations supported were VIRGINIA RIDGE and HERKIMER MT.
- 28 May - The squadrons flight operations were affected by the weather. The squadron was able to fly 198 sorties, completing 102 tasks while carrying 249 passengers and 50.2 tons of cargo. Ten medevac missions were flown to recover 5 emergency, 6 priority and 7 routine medevacs in 54.0 hours of flight time. CATTLECALL 92-10 was diverted from mission 301 to recover medevacs from DARING STAR 83, 3RD MARINES, position. Their zone had been taking incoming mortar rounds. CATELECALL 92-10 was led to the zone by SCARFACE 7 and made his approach to the zone with the help of a strobe light.

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30 May - Fraged for four missions, HMM-161 completed all four while flying 162 sorties in 56.4 flight hours. One hundred tasks were accomplished while transporting 159 passengers and 62.9 tons of cargo. Nine medevac missions were flown to recover thirteen American casualties. Two of our aircraft, while flying an emergency resupply mission for the 9TH MARINE REGIMENT, received heavy small arms fire in the XD 9440 grid square. One of the aircraft, flown by 1/LT E. E. BARRICKS and 1/LT R. CLINTON, took several hits but no one was injured and the mission was successfully completed.

31 May - The main mission the squadron flew today was 401, an assault troop lift into abandoned LZ WEISMAN, XD 9733. Eight planes worked the lift, moving 592 combat troops and two external lifts, while flying 122 sorties in support of operation CAMERON FALLS. The rest of the day, also flown in support of the THIRD MARINE DIVISION and 1ST MARINE AIR WING, gave the squadron 202 sorties flown, 96 tasks completed while carrying a total of 853 passengers and 8.5 tons of cargo. Nine medevac missions were flown to recover 10 emergency, 10 priority and 14 routine medevacs. The squadron was also involved in Operations DUAL BLADE/DUFFLEBAG.

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