

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 101
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
APO San Francisco 96602

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5750
4 Aug 1969

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) FMFPAC 5750.8

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

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

R. W. Carr
R. W. CARR

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

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PART II--Organizational Data (U)a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer....	LtCol D. L. ELAM	1-19 July
	Maj R. W. CARR.....	20-31 July
Executive Officer.....	Maj R. W. CARR.....	1-19 July
	Maj R. J. ADAMS.....	20-31 July
S-3 Officer.....	Maj J. C. MORRISON...	1-19 July
	1stLt G. A. KONTRABECKI.	20-31 July
S-4 Officer.....	Maj R. J. ADAMS.....	1-31 July
A/C Maint. Officer....	Capt P. D. ALFORD....	1-31 July
Aviation Safety Officer	1stLt V. R. GEER.....	1-31 July
NATOPS Officer.....	1stLt V. R. GEER.....	1-31 July
SgtMaj.....	SgtMaj J. GIBSON.....	1-31 July

b. Designation/Location (U)

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

c. Average Strength (U)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)...	40
Officers Assigned (Ground).....	3
Officers Assigned (Navy).....	1
Enlisted.....	<u>162</u>
Total Strength.....	206

d. Important Visitors (U)

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

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UNCLASSIFIEDPART II. Narrative Summary (C)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 provided helicopter support for the Third Marine Division, the majority of which supported Operations UTAH MESA, HERKIMER MOUNTAIN, VIRGINIA RIDGE, ARLINGTON CANYON, WILLIAMS GLADE, IDAHO CANYON and GEORGIA TAR. Augmentation support was also given to the U. S. ARMY, 2nd ARVN Division and the ROK Marines.

Statistics: 11,688 troops/passengers were carried, 744.0 tons of cargo transported, 335 personnel medically evacuated. This support resulted in 1,221.5 flight hours, 4,356 sorties flown, 2,347 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 162 missions of which 158 were completed for a completion rate of 98%.

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PART III. Significant Events

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- 1 July HHM-161, fragged for medevac, resupply and one administrative run to Danang, completed all missions. The squadron flew 112 sorties completing 63 tasks, carrying 288 passengers and 10.0 tons of cargo in 33.7 flight hours. 25 medical evacuees were carried to medical facilities.
- 2 July Today, the squadron was fragged for 10 helicopters to work a troop lift. The aircraft on the trooplift flew 125 sorties carrying 625 combat troops and 8.0 tons of cargo. The totals for the day were, 135 sorties flown, 70 tasks completed while transporting 641 passengers and 10.0 tons of cargo in 63.3 flight hours.
- 3 July No significant action took place against any of our aircraft. The squadron flying medevac and resupply flew 194 sorties, completing 109 tasks while carrying 354 troops, 38.5 tons of cargo and 25 medevacs in 59.6 hours of flight time.
- 4 July Flying resupply missions the squadron flew 196 sorties, completing 111 tasks while carrying 201 passengers and 55.5 tons of cargo. 12 medevacs were carried in 6 medevac missions, giving the squadron 56.6 hours for the day. Capt W. W. BROWN and 1/Lt J. W. WUEHRICH flew an emergency recon extraction taking no fire from the surrounding enemy.
- 5 July Today, flight hours were very low. The squadron was fragged for medevac and defoliation missions. All missions for the day were completed with a total of 19.0 flight hours. Total sorties were 73 to accomplish 44 tasks. 171 passengers and 2.3 tons of cargo were carried.
- 6 July HHM-161 fragged for missions 401, 301 and 113 flew 59.7 flight hours. Maj R. W. CARR led an eight plane troop lift in support of UTAH MESA transporting 529 troops and 12.5 tons of cargo in 38.0 flight hours. The totals for the day were 209 sorties flown, completing 95 tasks while transporting 641 passengers and 34.5 tons of cargo. 5 medevacs were carried in 3 medevac missions.
- 7 July HHM-161, fragged for medevac missions and to assist HHM-262 in a troop lift flew 33.0 hours while flying 120 sorties completing 59 tasks. 375 passengers and 10.5 tons of cargo were transported. 21 medevacs were carried in 3 medevac missions.
- One reason for the low flight hours today is that four of our aircraft were fragged for mission 505, standby at Vandergriest Combat Base, and were shut down for a total of four hours each.

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- 3 July Using morning and afternoon flights, fragged for troop-lift and resupply, the squadron flew 260 sorties completing 134 tasks in 68.2 flight hours. 1,025 passengers and 45.5 tons of cargo were transported. 1 routine casualty was evacuated.
- 9 July Flying medevac, trooplift and resupply missions, the squadron flew 52.9 flight hours. 913 passengers and 35.0 tons of cargo were carried on 242 sorties. 16 medical evacuees were transported in 14 medevac missions.
- 10 July HH-161 fragged for trooplift, resupply and defoliation missions flew 209 sorties, completing 129 tasks while carrying 357 passengers and 50.2 tons of cargo in 53.5 flight hours. 6 medevacs were carried in 5 medevac missions.
- 11 July Severe weather warnings made flight operations almost cease. 82 sorties were flown completing 42 tasks, 243 passengers and 6 medevacs were carried in 21.6 flight hours.
- 12 July Fragged for missions 402, 7, and 511 the squadron flew 133 sorties completing 91 tasks while flying 49.5 hours. 544 passengers and 24.7 tons of cargo were carried by squadron aircraft. Mission 402 was an assault lift for the 3rd Marine Regiment into the YD9462 grid, the lead aircraft piloted by Maj R. J. ADAMS recieved fire while departing the zone but took no hits. No other aircraft in the flight took fire. Mission 7 was flown by one section in support of the 1st Marine Division.
- 13 July Flying medevac missions, the squadron flew 94 sorties completing 57 tasks in 52.5 flight hours. 243 passengers and 2.7 tons of cargo were carried. 8 medevacs were evacuated in 7 medevac missions.
- 14 July Fragged for medevac and resupply missions, the squadron flew 197 sorties completing 109 tasks. 345 passengers and 32.5 tons of cargo were transported. 29 medevacs were carried in 13 medevac missions for a total of 49.2 flight hours.
- 15 July Fragged for trooplift, resupply and medevac missions, the squadron flew 40.5 hours. 719 passengers were carried along with 21.6 tons of cargo in 175 sorties and 95 tasks. 5 medevacs were carried in 5 missions. Maj R. W. CARR led a 6 plane assault for the 2nd ARVN's into the XD9936 grid, the lift took place with no hostile incidents.
- 16 July HH-161 fragged for trooplift and resupply flew 185 sorties completing 105 tasks while transporting 374 troops and 52.8 tons of cargo and picking up 4 emergency medevacs in 50.6 flight hours.

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- 17 July Fragged for medevac and administrative sorties to Phu Bai and Danang. The squadron flew 22.4 hours, 66 sorties were flown completing 38 tasks while carrying 212 passengers and 1.0 tons of cargo.
- 18 July Fragged for resupply, administrative runs and a small troop-lift, HMM-161 flew 128 sorties completing 93 tasks in 36.5 flight hours. 276 passengers, 35.0 tons of cargo and 2 medevacs were transported.
- 19 July Today was a very light day for the squadron. We flew 81 sorties completing 52 tasks in 24.5 flight hours. 185 passengers and 0.8 tons of cargo were transported along with a total of 15 medevacs.
- 20 July Another relatively quiet and light day. HMM-161 sent 6 aircraft to work an ARVN trooplift in Operation Durham Peak for the 1st Marine Division. The aircraft flying an assault lift into LZ Mike in Antenna Valley completed the lift with only one aircraft taking fire, with negative hits taken. The totals for the day were 122 sorties, 67 tasks, 37.3 flight hours transporting 498 troops, 12.5 tons of cargo and 5 medevacs.
- 21 July HMM-161, fragged for medevac missions and an administrative lift to Danang flew 29.7 hours. Total sorties and tasks were 76 and 43. 129 passengers were carried along with 1.7 tons of cargo. 17 medevacs were evacuated.
- 22 July A successful day of resupply and trooplift missions. In 47.7 hours, the squadron flew 253 sorties completing 143 tasks while transporting 1069 passengers, 43.4 tons of cargo and 4 medevacs.
- 23 July Fragged for medevac missions and one resupply section, HMM-161 flew 87 sorties completing 56 tasks in 23.8 flight hours. 198 passengers, 20.0 tons of cargo and 18 medevacs were transported.
- 24 July Fragged for resupply and administrative troop lift missions, the squadron flew 166 sorties, completing 85 tasks in 42.6 flight hours. 368 passengers and 45.25 tons of cargo along with 4 medevacs were transported.
- 25 July Flying resupply missions, the squadron transported 22.0 tons of cargo and 112 passengers plus 12 medevacs in 21.6 flight hours. 90 sorties and 55 tasks were completed.
- 26 July Today the squadron fragged for an ARVN trooplift, Army resupply and Marine resupply flew 48.4 hours. All missions were successfully completed with no hostile incidents taking place. 489 troops, 54.3 tons of cargo and 4 medevacs were transported while the squadron flew 184 sorties and 115 tasks.

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- 27 July The Squadron was fragged for medevac and resupply of the Korean Marines. While flying 28.4 hours, 83 sorties and 39 tasks were completed while transporting 143 passengers and 60 tons of cargo. Of the 143 passengers, 17 were medevacs.
- 28 July Flying resupply missions, the squadron flew 109 sorties completing 56 tasks while transporting 71 passengers, 27.9 tons of cargo and 23 medevacs in 38.7 hours.
The highlight of the day was an emergency medevac mission flown by Cattlecall 92-1. Piloted by 1stLt G. A. KONTRABECKI and 1stLt A. F. GREEN, the mission was accomplished by hovering and airtaxiing up the side of a hill to reach a fire support base. The top 1000' of the hill being completely obscured by clouds.
- 29 July While fragged for medevac missions, and due to winds of gale force flight missions were extremely light. Those that were flown were emergency life or death missions. The totals for the day were 9 sorties, 4 tasks and 2.8 hours.
Maj R. W. CARR and 1stLt T. B. JOBE flying day medevac launched to recover 2 emergency medevacs from 'E' Company, 4th Marine Regiment. By outstanding flying skill while combating severe turbulence, they were able to complete the mission. The only other mission flown was an emergency medevac from the 3rd Medical Battalion to the hospital ship, flown by 1stLt G. V. BLACKBIRD and 1stLt B. J. DUNNIEG.
- 30 July Fragged for administrative troop lift, and resupply missions, the squadron worked for the U. S. Army, 2nd ARVN Division and the 3rd Marine Division. While flying 176 sorties, completing 111 tasks the squadron transported 353 passengers and 47.8 flight hours. 10 routine medevacs were evacuated.
- 31 July HMM-161 fragged for medevac and ground surveillance missions flew 60 sorties and completed 41 tasks in 22.8 flight hours. 139 passengers were transported.
Cattlecall 92-4/5 ran a photograph mission in connection with the sensor drops to be made at a later date.

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