

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

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5750  
6 September 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) WgO 5750.1G

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

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

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

*AMM-161*

*CMD CHRON*

*AUG 1969*

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY OF  
MARINE MEDICAL HELICOPTER SQUADRON-161  
QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM  
1 AUGUST THROUGH 31 AUGUST 1969

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

Commanding Officer .....	Major R. W. CARR ...	1-31 Aug
Executive Officer .....	Major R. J. ADAMS ..	1-31 Aug
S-3 Officer .....	1stLt G. A. KONTEPACKEY	1-31 Aug
S-4 Officer .....	1stLt S. H. PHILLIPS	1-31 Aug
A/C Maint. Officer .....	Capt. P. D. ALFORD .	1-31 Aug
Aviation Safety Officer .....	1stLt V. R. GEER ...	1-31 Aug
NATOPS Officer .....	1stLt V. R. GEER ...	1-31 Aug
SgtMaj. ....	SgtMaj. J. GIBSON ..	1-31 Aug

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 (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators) ....	40
Officers Assigned (Ground).....	3
Officers Assigned (Naval) .....	1
Enlisted .....	157
Total Strength .....	201

d. Important Visitors (U)

Two distinguished visitors toured Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 during August 1969. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General L. F. CHAPMAN, Jr. inspected and interviewed an HMM-161 MedEvac crew and aircraft on 8 August 1969. On the twenty-second of August, Lieutenant General M. ZAIS, 24th Corps Commander, also inspected an HMM-161 MedEvac crew and aircraft.

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**CONFIDENTIAL****PART II. Narrative Summary (C)**

During the month of August, HMM-161 completed ninety-eight percent of its assigned missions. The squadron flew missions as varied as V.I.P. runs, visual reconnaissance, resupply, troop lifts, and sensor drops in support of the Third Marine Division and other friendly forces of Northern ICTZ.

The squadron flew 4,579 sorties to complete 2,632 tasks in support of the First Brigade, Fifth Mechanized Division, First and Second ARVN Regiments, and Third Marine Division. There were 12,529 passengers and 564.5 tons of cargo delivered. One hundred and eight emergency, 230 priority, and 136 routine medevacs were extracted and delivered to medical facilities.

Even though HMM-161 was hampered by certain aircraft parts shortages, a total of 1,252.2 flight hours were accumulated. For the month of August an average of three aircraft per day were in a down status for lack of aft transmissions. On the 24th and 25th of August, six CH-46D helicopters (29% of T. O.) were down awaiting aft transmissions. Transmissions were not the only major component of the sophisticated CH-46D that were in demand during the month. Engines, synchronization shafts/bearings and high speed shafts were also in short supply. The demand for aft transmissions did not begin to subside until the very end of the month.

**Statistics:** 12,529 troops/passengers were carried, 564.5 tons of cargo transported, 474 personnel medically evacuated. This support resulted in 1,252.2 flight hours, 4,579 sorties flown, 2,632 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 163 missions of which 160 were completed for a completion rate of 98%.

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1 Aug Today, HMM-161 was fraged for four missions and completed all four while flying 45.5 hours. Flying resupply, troop lift and administrative missions, the squadron flew 174 sorties to complete 99 tasks. There were 320 passengers, 44.2 tons of cargo, and nine routine medevacs transported in support of the Third Marine Division's ground operations 'Idaho Canyon', 'Arlington Canyon' and 'Georgia Tar'.

One hostile fire incident occurred in the YD9963 grid with one aircraft being hit causing no casualties. The resupply mission was completed.

2 Aug Fraged for medevac and 'Ground Surveillance' support missions, the squadron flew 125 sorties to complete 51 tasks. While transporting 236 passengers, five tenths tons of cargo, and 26 medevacs, the squadron flew 28.8 hours. One section of aircraft, Cattlecall 92-4 and 5, flew two sensor placement missions into the XD8955 and XD8924 grid squares, dropping a string of sensors into each grid.

3 Aug HMM-161, being fraged for resupply, troop lift and administrative missions, flew 53.1 flight hours. Working the main front in support of Third Marine Division's ground operations 'Idaho Canyon', 'Arlington Canyon' and 'Georgia Tar,' the squadron flew 204 sorties while completing 134 tasks. A total of 592 passengers, 48.75 tons of cargo and one medevac were carried.

Two emergency recon team extracts were completed. Cattlecall 92-1, diverted from resupply, extracted a team from the XD9008 grid. Effectively using four UH-1E gunships, Scarface 13 and 37 and Seaworthy 99-7 and 3, the CH-16D was able to extract the team without being hit by enemy fire.

At approximately 2030H Cattlecall 92-10 extracted a recon team from the YD1773 grid. Three of the recon team were wounded. Cattlecall 92-10, using Seaworthy 99-13 and 14 and 98-17 for gun cover, entered the zone and successfully extracted the team without taking any hits.

4 Aug While flying medevac and administrative missions, the squadron flew 70 sorties to complete 40 tasks. A total of 244 passengers and 20 medevacs were transported in 25.1 flight hours.

At 2130H our medevac section launched on an emergency medevac mission to the XD9308 grid area. The medevac was picked up without incident and delivered to the hospital ship.

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- 5 Aug The squadron, fraged for reasupply missions, completed all assigned missions while flying 41.6 hours. There were 206 sorties flown, completing 138 tasks, while transporting 699 passengers and 47 tons of cargo.
- 6 Aug HMM-161, fraged for medevac missions and one administrative mission to Danang, flew a total of 16.9 hours. An extremely light day as far as work being done, the squadron flew forty five sorties completing thirty tasks while transporting 135 passengers, one and one fourth tons of cargo and fourteen medevacs.
- 7 Aug HMM-161 was fraged for an administrative troop lift and resupply missions. The squadron compiled 44.1 flight hours. While transporting 57 tons of cargo, 219 passengers and 12 medevacs, the squadron flew 168 sorties to complete 97 tasks.
- 8 Aug Flying medevac missions, HMM-161 accumulated 26.9 hours while flying 83 sorties and completing 39 tasks. There were 183 passengers and 33 medevacs transported.
- 9 Aug Fraged for resupply and troop lift missions, the squadron flew 171 sorties completing 110 tasks in 41.7 hours. There were 422 passengers, 49.8 tons of cargo and two emergency medevacs transported.
- 10 Aug HMM-161, fraged for medevac and administrative missions, flew 41.5 hours. There were 72 sorties flown to complete 37 tasks while transporting 213 passengers and 75 medevacs.
- The majority of the flying was in support of the Second Battalion, Third Marines. 'Echo' company had made contact with a large NVA element, and had taken heavy casualties. 1/LT V. R. GEER and 1/LT E. J. RITCHIE, leading two medevac sections, extracted 22 emergency, 45 priority and eight routine medevacs. Both aircraft were subjected to small arms fire, mortar and RPO rounds while on approach and in the zone without taking any hits.
- 11 Aug HMM-161 was assigned resupply and administrative troop lift missions. We flew 243 sorties to complete 125 tasks in 60.9 hours. There were 770 passengers and 50.7 tons of cargo transported. In addition, four medevac missions were flown to transport 21 emergency and priority medevacs.
- 12 Aug Given medevac missions, the squadron flew 58 sorties completing 34 tasks while transporting 120 passengers and 33 medevacs in 20.6 hours. The night medevac section, led by 1/LT R. FOGHT, launched to recover two emergency and 12 priority medevacs. The first approach was waved off due to heavy small arms fire. After getting into the zone, KD8659, on the second approach, and after the medevacs were loaded on board, the aircraft was the target of a suspected satchel charge. The medevac mission was completed and the aircraft had negative damage.

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- 13 Aug HMM-161, fragged for resupply and troop lift missions, flew 243 sorties while completing 164 tasks in 50.5 hours. There were 1,210 passengers and 52.2 tons of cargo transported. These totals include the six additional lines added to the troop lift mission by Dong Ha DASC. All missions assigned were completed and resulted in a very successful day.
- 14 Aug Today the squadron was assigned day and night medevac and mission 102, the Third Marine Division's Taxi Run. We flew 124 sorties completing 84 tasks in 41.6 hours. There were 260 passengers, five tenths tons of cargo and 36 medevacs transported.
- 15 Aug HMM-161, given resupply, trooplift and recon missions, flew 126 sorties while completing 72 tasks in 48.4 hours. There were 191 passengers, 35.0 tons of cargo and one emergency medevacs transported.
- 16 Aug Today, the squadron, given the medevac package flew 102 sorties to complete 62 tasks in 33.5 hours. There were 403 passengers, five tenths tons of cargo and 27 medevacs transported.
- 17 Aug HMM-161, assigned two assault troop lift missions and resupply, flew 140 sorties while completing 75 tasks in 30.6 hours. There were 493 troops, 11.0 tons of cargo and one emergency medevac transported.
- Four of the six aircraft on the assault lift damaged rotor blades by striking small trees that remained in the inadequately prepared zone. The poor zone prep was probably due to the artillery prep being shortened by one half hour and the available air prep not being sufficient to properly clear the zone.
- 18 Aug The squadron, being assigned medevac and administrative missions for the Third Marine Division and the 1st MAF, flew 158 sorties while completing 96 tasks in 41.9 flight hours. There were 386 passengers, one ton of cargo and eight medevacs transported.
- 19 Aug HMM-161, being fragged for resupply and administrative missions, flew 105 sorties in 38.2 hours. There were 89 passengers, 30.1 tons of cargo and 19 medevacs transported while completing 54 tasks.
- Night medevac from 18 August flew 12.6 hours, some after midnight, to bring the total to 42.5 hours for the day. The medevac birds were hampered by poor visibility, low ceilings and enemy action against the unit from which the medevacs were successfully extracted.
- 20 Aug The squadron, given the medevac and taxi missions in support of the Third Marine Division, flew 157 sorties while completing 102 tasks in 50.9 hours. There were 402 passengers, 4.0 tons of cargo and 29 medevacs transported.

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21 Aug HMM-161, assigned resupply missions, flew 103 sorties to complete 76 tasks. There were 204 passengers, 35.5 tons of cargo and nine medevacs transported in 30.8 hours.

22 Aug HMM-161, fragged for medevac and administrative missions for the support of the Third Marine Division, flew 153 sorties to complete 82 tasks. There were 167 passengers and eight medevacs transported in 53.8 hours.

23 Aug The squadron, given resupply missions, flew 98 sorties to complete 55 tasks in 21.4 flight hours. There were 199 passengers, 12.2 tons of cargo and 19 medevacs carried.

Of the daily total, the night medevac section of 22 August flew eight hours. The lead A/C, piloted by 1/LT BLACKHERD, recovered seven emergency, seven priority and one routine medevac.

24 Aug Given missions in support of the Third Marine Division, the squadron flew 43.1 hours. There were 148 sorties flown to complete 86 tasks while transporting 410 passengers and 19 medevacs.

At first light, 1/LT E. J. RITCHIE, the night standby section leader, launched on an emergency recon extract. The team had been in contact and had suffered one killed and three wounded. Using Seaworthy gunships for air cover, 1/LT RITCHIE successfully extracted the team.

25 Aug HMM-161, given resupply, administrative, and its first C&C mission flew 46.3 hours to complete 128 sorties and 70 tasks. There were 247 passengers and 14.0 tons of cargo transported.

26 Aug HMM-161 flying in support of the Third Marine Division completed 160 sorties and 89 tasks in 29.9 hours. There were 412 passengers, five tenths tons of cargo and 11 medevacs transported.

Five of the seven emergency medevacs were the result of a rocket attack on Vandergrift Combat Base. None of our aircraft received any damage from the attack.

27 Aug The squadron, given medevac and administrative missions in support of the Third Marine Division, flew 165 sorties to complete 105 tasks in 50.2 hours. There were 563 passengers, 6.5 tons of cargo and 17 medevacs transported.

Maj. R. W. CARR, leading the night medevac mission, extracted five emergency, five priority and one routine medevac from a hostile zone without the aid of gunships or flareships. The medevac mission was accomplished without incident.

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- 28 Aug HMM-161 was assigned medevac, taxi and administrative missions in support of the Third Marine Division. The squadrons daily flight totals were: 145 sorties, 86 tasks and 39.1 flight hours. There were 528 passengers, 2.5 tons of cargo and 11 medevacs transported.
- 29 Aug HMM-161, being fraged for resupply, trooplift and emergency standby, flew 45.3 hours. There were 187 sorties flown to complete 117 tasks. The cargo and passengers delivered were 18.7 tons and 837 respectively. There were no medevacs transported by the squadron today.
- At 0900H 1/LT R. C. ALLEN and 1/LT M. K. HIGGINS successfully extracted a recon team that had just broken contact in the DD1343 grid square.
- 30 Aug HMM-161, assigned medevac and resupply missions for the Third Marine Division and an assault troop lift for the Second ARVN Division, flew 43.9 hours. There were 170 sorties flown to complete 86 tasks. Completion of the tasks included transporting 607 passengers, 19.0 tons of cargo and five medevacs.
- Maj. R. W. CARR lead the seven plane ARVN assault which completed the 458 man lift in only 12.4 hours of total aircraft time.
- 31 Aug HMM-161, being given resupply, administrative troop lift and emergency standby missions, completed all missions. In addition to the given missions, the squadron flew eight hours of pilot and crew member training hops.
- The squadron flew 292 sorties to complete 130 tasks in 59.8 hours. There were 668 passengers and 22.1 tons of cargo transported.

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