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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON -161
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MARPAC
370 San Francisco 96602

3:RFB:mbb
5750
4 January 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, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MARPAC

Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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

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

D. L. ELAM

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HMM 161 S&C 485 C

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HMM-161

CMO CHRON

DEC 1968

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161
QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM
1 DECEMBER THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1968

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PART I Organization Data (U)

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	LTCol. DAVID L. BLAM	1 - 31 Dec 68
Executive Offices	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	1 - 31 Dec 68
S-2 Officer	Capt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	1 - 31 Dec 68
S-3 Officer	Major MARVIN L. CROWDIS	1 - 31 Dec 68
Safety Officer	1stLt ROBERT W. MULLINS	1 - 13 Dec 68
Safety Officer	Major RICHARD H. BROWN	14 - 31 Dec 68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1 - 13 Dec 68
NATOPS Officer	Major DONALD P. REICHERT	14 - 31 Dec 68
Sgt Major	SgtMaj. JOHN W. GOODFELLOW	1 - 31 Dec 68

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)	46
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Strength	<u>182</u>
Total Strength	233

d. Important visitors (U)

There were no important visitors to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 during the period 1 December through 31 December 1968.

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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 and MARSHALL MOUNTAIN.

Statistics: 20,699 Troops/Passengers carried, 1,039.2 tons of cargo carried, 1,541 personnel medically evacuated, 67 Reconnaissance Teams inserted and 46 Teams extracted. This support resulted in 1,734.4 flight hours, 7,163 sorties flown and 3,708 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fraged for 186 missions of which 176 were completed for a completion rate of 95%.

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PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 Dec 68 HMM-161 completed five (5) recon inserts and six (6) extracts. No fire incidents reported. Huey gunships provided air cover.
- 2 Dec 68 On Mission 401, a troop lift, HMM-161 moved 258 troops in 56 tasks for 21.1 hours from LZ CATES to XD 920-405 and from the ROCKPILE to YD 043-213.
- 3 Dec 68 HMM-161 completed three (3) recon inserts and five (5) extracts. Huey gunships provided airborne cover.
- 4 Dec 68 HMM-161 was scheduled a tactical troop lift in support of the 1st ARVN Battalion. Two aircraft flew 6.3 hours, 46 sorties, 22 tasks and carried 293 troops and 4.0 tons cargo from YD 463-395 to YD 290-345 and from YD 290-396 to LZ SPARON.
- 5 Dec 68 Four HMM-161 aircraft conducted SPARROW HAWK operations at YD 128-502. A number of NVA had been spotted. 67 troops were inserted in 7 sorties and 6.2 flight hours. Huey gunships provided aircover and coordinated fixed wing support.
- 6 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew a troop lift carrying 106 troops in 37 sorties for 7.0 flight hours from XD 955-388 to VANDERGRIFT.
- 7 Dec 68 In support of mission 203, HMM-161 flew 38 sorties carrying 120 Recon Team members for 14.4 flight hours. Eight (8) teams were inserted and three (3) teams were extracted.
- 8 Dec 68 On a tactical troop lift HMM-161 carried 1,470 troops and 8.5 tons cargo in 255 sorties and 103 tasks for 56.0 flight hours.
- 9 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew 121 sorties, 47 tasks for 28.8 flight hours on a tactical troop lift. One (1) HMM-161 aircraft was shot down in the vicinity of YD 037-290. The aircraft made a forced landing across the Laotian border. The crew was picked up with one (1) crew member slightly wounded. Huey gunships and OV-10A's provided airborne cover.

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- 10 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew 25 sorties, 14 tasks and carried 164 troops for a total of 6.2 flight hours on a strike mission into YD 052-281.
- 11 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 12 Dec 68 An HMM-161 aircraft while attempting to insert a recon team into YD 344-270 came under small arms fire. The aircraft sustained damage believed caused by a grenade or RPG round. The team was extracted without sustaining casualties.
- 13 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 14 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift. They flew 99 sorties, 44 tasks and carried 384 passengers for 23.2 flight hours. HUAY gunships provided airborne cover, and OV-10A's coordinated air strikes.
- 15 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 16 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew two tactical troop lifts. One lift flew 40 sorties and 17 tasks lifting 202 troops for 8.6 flight hours. The second lift flew 37 sorties, 19 tasks lifting 158 troops and 8.5 tons cargo in 8.2 flight hours.
- 17 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift flying 25 sorties, 11 tasks carrying 102 troops for 5.6 flight hours. OV-10A's provided cover.
- 18-19 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 20 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew a strike mission from LZ SHARON to YD 335-487, YD 333-314 and YD 330-300. The squadron flew 58 sorties, 26 tasks while carrying 308 troops and 3.1 tons cargo for 15.1 flight hours.
- 21 Dec 68 HMM-161 took part in a tactical troop lift. Aircraft flew 6 sorties carrying 40 troops for 2.7 flight hours. HUAY gunships provided airborne cover and fixed wing coordination.

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- 22 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division. Tactical operations were hampered due to poor weather conditions.
- 23 Dec 68 HMM-161 night Med Evac package launched on an emergency mission to YD 773-546. The med-evac had been mauled by a tiger. In the course of 4 sorties, 1 task for 2.2 flight hours, the mission was completed. The med-evac aircraft also extracted the recon team of which the med-evac was a member, also, an 8 foot, 500 lb dead tiger.
- 24 Dec 68 HMM-161 aircraft, while attempting to extract a recon team at XD 840-630 came under intense small arms fire and .50 caliber machine gun fire. The aircraft took two (2) hits, one in the fuel cell, but continued into the zone and successfully completed the extraction.
- 25 Dec 68 HMM-161 carried 1.5 tons of Christmas presents.
- 26 Dec 68 HMM-161 moved 1,200 troops flying 214 sorties for 35.4 flight hours.
- 27 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 28 Dec 68 HMM-161 flew a tactical troop lift flying 160 sorties, 84 tasks carrying 969 troops for 27.9 flight hours. HUEY gunships provided aircover.
- 29 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.
- 30 Dec 68 HMM-161 aircraft ran an emergency extraction of an eight (8) man recon team at XD 715-534 due to the team's position being compromised. The mission was successfully completed, HUEY gunships provided airborne cover.
- 31 Dec 68 Provided helicopter support for the 3rd Marine Division.

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