

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

Marine Aircraft Group 16  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force Pacific  
FPO San Francisco, 966023:AGD:lrd  
5750  
03A33769  
3 December 1969CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WBO 5750.4

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for period 1 through 30 November 1969

1. In accordance with reference (a), the subject report is hereby submitted.

R. W. CARR

404-161

CMD CARR

Downgraded at 3 year  
Intervals; Declassified after  
12 yearsCopy 1 of 15 CopiesCONFIDENTIAL

Nov 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY OF  
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161  
HUE BAI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1-30 NOVEMBER 1969

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Staff 1. Organizational Data (U)a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer.....	Major R. W. CHAM	1-30 NOV 69
Executive Officer.....	Major L. G. POOL	1-30 NOV 69
S-1 Officer.....	1stLt J. N. CHAPIN	1-30 NOV 69
S-2 Officer.....	1stLt J. A. BOULIE	1-30 NOV 69
S-3 Officer.....	1stLt J. R. BOMER	1-15 NOV 69
S-3 Officer.....	Capt R. W. REISCH	16-30 NOV 69
S-4 Officer.....	1stLt S. H. PHILLIPS	1-30 NOV 69
A/C Maint. Officer.....	Capt J. D. ALFORD	1-16 NOV 69
A/C Maint. Officer.....	1stLt D. L. KOLEK	17-30 NOV 69
Aviation Safety Officer.....	1stLt D. A. FRALLIG	1-30 NOV 69
MATOS Officer.....	1stLt D. A. FRALLIG	1-30 NOV 69
Sgt Maj.....	SgtMaj J. GLESON	1-30 NOV 69

b. Designation/Location (U)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161, Marine Aircraft Group-16, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MAG-16  
Bu Nai, Republic of South Vietnam 1-30 November 1969.

c. Average Strength (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	48
Officers Assigned (Ground)	3
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted.....	<u>164</u>
Total Strength.....	216

d. Important Visitors (U)

On 22 November the following Generals paid an informal visit to the Air Ground Team of MAG-16 Support Unit:

General Lewis B. Walt  
Maj Gen George S. Morgan Jr.  
Maj Gen William G. Thuras

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The month of November found AH-161 flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, ROKC's, and the ARVN's located in the DaNang area. The pilots and crews adapted quickly to the fairly new working area which is mostly dominated by flatlands. Poor weather and low ceilings hampered flying, and on numerous occasions Cobblecall pilots were faced to complete their assigned missions in very hazardous areas under IFR conditions. Cobblecall aircraft received small arms fire numerous times during the month. AH-161 was primarily engaged in resupply, med-evac and administrative missions. On 22 November 1969, General Lewis ~~WALT~~ Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps paid an informal visit to AH-16 Support Unit at Chu Lai.

**Statistics:** There were 7,900 troops/passengers carried, 604.1 tons of cargo transported and 236 personnel medically evacuated. This support resulted in 1126.4 flight hours, 3,356 sorties flown and 1,983 tasks accomplished.

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**CONFIDENTIAL****PART III. Sequence of Events**

1 NOV - HMM-161 delivered 60.5 tons of cargo, carried 378 passengers, and completed all seven assigned missions while flying a total of 43.1 hours in support of the 1st Marine Division. CATTLE CALL One and Two, piloted by 1st Lt G. V. BLACKBIRD and 1st Lt K. E. HIGGINS respectively, delivered much needed resupply into hilltop zones which were intermittently covered by heavy cloud layers.

2 NOV - Low ceilings and low visibility prevailed over much of the working area today. Flying 39.8 hours, we delivered 21.0 tons of cargo and carried 332 passengers in 146 sorties. CATTLE CALL Seven, piloted by 1st Lt G. L. BERRY, evacuated three emergency and one routine medical patients from the field.

3 NOV - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, the squadron logged a total of 45.2 flight hours while completing 102 tasks in 124 sorties. One US casualty was evacuated, while 447 passengers and 38.8 tons of cargo were delivered. (While working on Mission 19, resupply from LZ Baldy, CATTLE CALL Three and Four were extended by 1st MAW G-3 two hours over their max crew time in order to complete their mission.)

4 NOV - HMM-161 participated in the farewell ceremonies for Marine Aircraft Group 36, providing six helicopters for a flyover which was conducted at the parade. In addition the squadron flew 112 sorties, carried 600 passengers and delivered 22.4 tons of cargo. One aircraft was provided for training with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion.

5 NOV - Today the squadron was assigned seven missions. We completed 65 tasks, 127 sorties, and flew 52.8 hours. HMM-161 aircraft delivered 22.3 tons of cargo and carried 419 passengers.

6 NOV - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, we carried 258 passengers, delivered one ton of cargo and completed 45 tasks. A total of 97 sorties were flown in 34.5 hours.

7 NOV - Marginal weather conditions prevailed over most of the DANANG FAOR. HMM-161 completed 73 tasks, flew 127 sorties and logged 38.0 hours of flight time. We delivered 18.1 tons of cargo and carried 189 passengers.

8 NOV - Poor weather conditions in the Phu Bai area and the working area delayed launching of our aircraft for approximately three hours and hampered operations throughout the day. While flying 25.3 hours we completed 50 tasks, 73 sorties, carried 168 passengers, and delivered 15.6 tons of cargo. Two aircraft received hits from enemy ground fire. There were no injuries.

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~~RECLASSIFIED~~PART III. Sequence of Events

9 NOV - Today the squadron was flagged for and completed five missions. A total of 22.0 tons of cargo and 348 passengers were delivered, accounting for 110 tasks and 179 sorties. The squadron flew a total of 47.0 hours. Six US medevacs were completed including one emergency.

10 NOV - HMM-161 flew 45.4 hours while completing 117 tasks. Squadron aircraft, working completely for the 1st Marine Division, delivered 30.9 tons of resupply cargo and 373 passengers.

11 NOV - Flying normal resupply for the 1st Marine Division, the squadron delivered 27.9 tons of resupply cargo and carried 208 passengers. We logged a total of 40.4 hours of flight time while flying 124 sorties and completing 77 tasks.

12 NOV - HMM-161 was assigned six missions today. While flying 42.4 hours, the squadron delivered 20.1 tons of cargo and carried 176 passengers. While flying mission 7, CATTLE CALL 10 and 11 were diverted to pickup seven emergency medevacs. (CATTLE CALL Two and Three took fire and received three hits during a visual reconnaissance mission. One gunner aboard CATTLE CALL Two was wounded and taken to medical facilities at Naval Support Activity.

13 NOV - HMM-161 completed 85 tasks, 160 sorties, carried 485 passengers and delivered 21.1 tons of resupply cargo. Two aircraft were diverted from a resupply mission for a troop assault.

14 NOV - Today the squadron flew 50.2 hours while completing 86 tasks in 138 sorties. CATTLE CALL aircraft delivered 295 passengers and hauled 35.0 tons of cargo. While delivering a load of normal resupply to units of the 7th Marines, CATTLE CALL Six received hits from enemy small arms. The damage sustained was light and no injuries resulted.

15 NOV - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, HMM-161 delivered 36.9 tons of resupply cargo, carried 339 passengers and completed 112 tasks in 178 sorties. While delivering resupply to the 7th Marines, CATTLE CAL Four sustained minor damage from enemy .30 caliber fire but completed the mission. Two priority and one routine casualties were evacuated to medical facilities at DaNang.

16 NOV - Today squadron aircraft flew 43.6 hours, completed 51 tasks and carried 348 passengers. Working with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, two CATTLE CALL aircraft inserted four teams

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~PART III. Sequence of Events

16 NOV (CONT) - and extracted three others. The medevac aircraft flew 34 sorties and evacuated four US emergencies, 22 US priorities, three US routine, and one Vietnamese civilian that was an emergency. Poor weather conditions caused a one and a half hour delay in operations. A lack of gun cover on station delayed a resupply mission for two hours.

17 NOV - HMM-161 flew 94 sorties, completed 42 tasks, carried 159 passengers and delivered 15.6 tons of cargo. Low ceilings hampered the delivery of resupply but all missions were finally completed.

18 NOV - Today the squadron was fraged for tactical medevac and ROKMC resupply. We flew 34.2 hours, carried 58 passengers and delivered 27.0 tons of resupply cargo. Four priority and 11 routine medevacs were taken from the field to the Naval Support Activity.

19 NOV - HMM-161 was fraged for and completed five missions today. Marginal weather conditions held up both fixed wing and helicopter operations for approximately one hour and hampered operations the entire day. One recon team was inserted, one team extracted and two other teams were flip flopped. The Squadron moved 288 passengers, delivered 12.6 tons of cargo and completed 57 tasks in 42.1 hours of flight time.

20 NOV - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, HMM-161 flew 143 sorties, completed 73 tasks and logged a total of 46.2 hours. CATTLE CALL aircraft evacuated seven US emergency and nine priority casualties to the 1st Medical Battalion. A total of 244 passengers and 20.1 tons of cargo were delivered.

21 NOV - HMM-161 completed the seven assigned missions and flew 50.1 hours. Squadron aircraft completed 63 tasks in 130 sorties. We delivered 627 passengers and 12.2 tons of cargo.

22 NOV - Today the squadron flew 35.5 hours while completing 38 tasks in 74 sorties. Eight emergency and 18 priority medevacs were taken from the field to nearby medical facilities. The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Lewis WALT, made an informal visit to HMM-161 and other Marine units at Phu Bai Combat Base.

23 NOV - IFR weather conditions which prevailed over the entire Danang TAOR curtailed helicopter operations. Poor visibility and low ceilings prevented completion of normal missions. Eleven emergency, 14 priority and 21 routine medevacs were taken to the Naval Medical Facility near Marble Mountain. CATTLE CALL aircraft completed 36 tasks in 88 sorties and flew a total of 31.4 hours.

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24 NOV - IFR conditions prevailed throughout the 1st Marine Division TAOR. No aircraft were launched and all flight operations were cancelled.

25 NOV - IFR conditions curtailed operations. The squadron flew 5.8 hours and completed six sorties.

26 NOV - HMM-161 flew 28.1 hours and completed 26 tasks. We delivered 17.0 tons of cargo and 23 passengers. Three emergency, two priority, and seven routine medevacs were carried to medical facilities at Danang.

27 NOV - Today the squadron delivered 13.5 tons of cargo and 60 passengers. We completed 55 tasks and 86 sorties. Low ceilings and poor visibility continued to hamper operations.

28 NOV - HMM-161 was flagged for four missions and completed all four assignments. We flew 14.1 hours and accomplished 18 tasks while flying 34 sorties. The squadron delivered 67 passengers and 3.4 tons of cargo.

29 NOV - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division the squadron flew 46.0 hours and completed 62 tasks while flying 109 sorties. Still operating under low ceilings with poor visibility the squadron completed all assigned missions and transported 328 passengers while carrying 9.6 tons of cargo. CATTLE CALL Seven, piloted by Major L. G. POOL, inserted a reaction team to secure the wreckage of a downed CH-46 helicopter.

30 NOV - The squadron flew 48.6 hours, completed 88 tasks and 152 sorties, transported 414 passengers and delivered 16.5 tons of cargo. There were seven emergency, 11 priority and six routine medevacs evacuated from the field to medical facilities at Danang.

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During the month of November the members of our Civic Action team headed by 1stlt T. B. JOBE made five trips to the Buddhist Day Care Center at LAM SON. During these visits the members participated in the building of tables and chairs and the painting of one of the class room buildings. Some of our material was supplied by the 101st Airborne at Camp Eagle. Our work in Hué has been in close coordination with the 161st and the Catholic Relief Society. Participation by members of the 161 totaled approximately 25 enlisted and 5 Officer's.