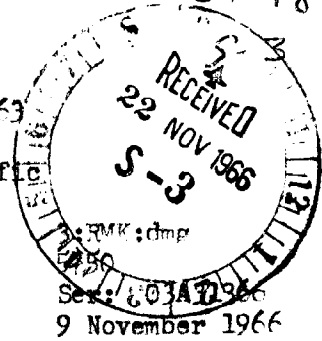


MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-163  
 Marine Aircraft Group-16  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FIF, Pacific  
 FPO, San Francisco, 96602



From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-16

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-31 October 1966 (U)

Ref: (a) GrigO 5750.1  
 (b) MAG-15 msg 190423Z Aug66  
 (c) MAG-16 GruO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1-31 October 1966

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is declassified to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. D. IANCHI

Copy to:  
 → CO, MAG-15 (Rein)  
 File

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66-1889 - copy 2 of 3

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5750

7 November 1966

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

1-31 October 1966

MCAF, HUE PHU BAI, Republic Of Viet-Nam

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## A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

### 1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Rocco D. BIANCHI, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- b. Joseph P. BENO, Maj., Executive Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- c. Daniel V. McDONALD, Maj., Operations Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- d. Thomas J. COWPER, Maj., Material Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- e. Albert AYRES, Maj., A/C Maintenance Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- f. John E. CARROLL, Maj., Aviation Safety Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- g. Forrest E. WALKER, Capt., NATOPS Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- h. Robert L. THIEN, Capt., Administrative Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- i. James R. FOWLER, Lt., USN (MC), Medical Officer, 1-30 Oct 66
- j. Floyd W. MURIBUT, Capt., Intelligence Officer, 1-31 Oct 66
- k. Frank CAUGHEY, 1stLt., Custodian, S&C, 1-31 Oct 66

### 2. Task Organization

Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet Nam, 28-31 Oct 66  
 USS Iwo Jima, LPH-2, 2-27 Oct 66  
 MCAF, Futema, Okinawa, 1-2 Oct 66

### 3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Marine</u>		<u>Navy</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
58	162	1	3

### 4. Important Visitors

- a. None during the reporting period.

## B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Oct 66 - Normal training operations were conducted at MCAF, Futema. At 1730 hours, two (2) SAR aircraft were launched to site 13, where three men were reported lost. A total of 15.5 hours were flown, of which 2.2 hours were flown at night.
- 2 Oct 66 - The squadron commenced the on-loading of HMM-163 from MCAF Futema to the USS Iwo Jima, LPH-2. The on-loading commenced at 1300 and was secured at sundown. A total of 51.2 hours were flown. One (1) aircraft received minor damage while landing aboard ship.

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- 3 Oct 66 - The squadron is completely aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Squadron activity is concentrated on setting up aboard ship. A minimum of flights are flown, all being ship to shore admin flights. A total of 5.6 hours were flown. The ship is underway at 1620.
- 4 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. One admin run was conducted between USS Iwo Jima and USS Vancouver. Carrier qualifications which were scheduled for the day were cancelled due to unfavorable winds. A total of 1.3 hours were flown.
- 5 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Carrier qualifications were conducted during the morning hours. Flights were cancelled during the afternoon due to unfavorable winds. A total of 15.4 hours were flown.
- 6 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Carrier qualifications continue during the day. Three (3) aircraft were launched on an admin run to Danang, RVN. Night carrier qualifications were conducted. A total of 24.8 hours were flown, of which 3.3 hours were logged as night time.
- 7 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Carrier qualifications continued during the day. Four (4) aircraft were launched on an admin flight to Danang, RVN. Flight hours for the day totaled 24.5.
- 8 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. No training operations scheduled or flown. All flights flown were administrative in nature. Included was one VIP flight carrying a code 7. A total of 13.5 hours were flown.
- 9 Oct 66 - Squadron Aboard USS Iwo Jima. Carrier qualifications were conducted during the day. The remaining flights were divided between administrative and test flights. A total of 20.3 hours were flown.
- 10 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. No training operations scheduled or flown. Included was a VIP flight carrying a code 7 to Dong Ha, RVN. One (1) logistic flight was flown to Danang, RVN, and two aircraft were launched on an SAR mission to investigate alleged sighting of a raft in the water. SAR aircraft reported object was not a raft. Total hours flown were 24.2.

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- 11 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Instrument training flight scheduled but cancelled due to weather. One (1) admin flight was flown to Danang, RVN. Two (2) logistic flights were flown to Danang and Dong Ha. One (1) flight flown to Marble Mountain, RVN, on a maintenance run. A total of 25.8 hours were flown. Two test hops were also flown.
- 12 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. Three flights were launched on administrative missions to Dong Ha and Danang. Two hops were scheduled and flown for instrument training. A total of 22.8 hours were flown.
- 13 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. Three (3) administrative flights were launched to Danang, RVN. Two (2) flights were launched as an administrative run between the USS Iwo Jima, USS Thomaston, and the USS Vancouver, along with conducting instrument training. A total of 35.0 hours were flown.
- 14 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Three (3) administrative runs were conducted to Danang and Dong Ha. Two (2) flights were launched conducting instrument training. One admin run was launched between ships. A total of 30.0 hours were flown.
- 15 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Three flights were launched on administrative runs to Danang, RVN. Two flights launched on administrative runs to the hospital ship USS Repose. One flight launched to the USS Thomaston and then to Marble Mountain, RVN on an admin flight. One flight was launched to participate in embarkation training with the 3/3 BCT on the USS Vancouver. One flight was committed to an administrative run throughout the task group. Two flights flew to Camp Henshaw, RVN, to pick up twenty (20) troops for ships crews aboard the USS Iwo Jima. One VIP flight was flown between the USS Iwo Jima and the USS Vancouver. A total of 37.6 hours were flown.
- 16 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. One flight was launched on an admin run to the USS Vancouver and then to Danang. One flight was launched to carry the Chaplain throughout the task group. One flight launched to Danang on squadron business. A total of 14.2 hours were flown.

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- 17 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Two flights were launched on administrative runs to Danang. Four flights were committed to administrative runs between ships. Two flights conducted instrument training. A total of 20.4 hours were flown.
- 18 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Two flights were conducted for administrative purposes to Danang. One flight conducted instrument training. A total of 17.1 hours were flown.
- 19 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. One hop was launched on a logistic mission to Marble Mountain. One flight to Danang for administrative purposes. One flight launched for admin run between Iwo Jima and USS Estes in Danang harbor. A total of 20.3 flight hours flown.
- 20 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. Two admin flights flown to Danang. One flight on maintenance run to Marble Mountain. One test hop was flown. A total of 11.2 hours flown.
- 21 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. Two flights launched on admin runs to Danang. A total of 11.3 hours were flown.
- 22 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. One liaison hop flown to Dong Ha. Two administrative hops flown throughout the task group. A total of 5.4 flight hours flown.
- 23 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. Four admin flights to Danang were flown along with two admin flights throughout the task group. One admin run to Marble Mountain and one VIP flight were launched, with a code 7 aboard the latter. A total of 23.6 hours were flown.
- 24 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Two flights committed to carry the Chaplain throughout the task group. Two hops were launched on administrative runs. A total of 13.0 flight hours were flown.
- 25 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Two administrative flights to Danang flown. One administrative flight was flown to Dong Ha. One flight carried blood to hospital ship Repose. Two admin runs went throughout the task group, and two test hops were flown. A total of 21.0 hours were flown.
- 26 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Administrative flights were flown to Danang, Dong Ha and throughout the task group. One flight on a logistic mission was flown to Danang. Two test hops were flown. A total of 26.5 hours were flown.

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- 27 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. Administrative flights were flown to Danang and throughout the task group. five flights flown for the purpose of taking advance party of 3/3 BJT to Dong Ha. One medivac was flown to the USS Repose. One admin run was flown to the USS Valley Forge. A total of 42.4 flight hours were flown.
- 28 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard USS Iwo Jima. All squadron operations were committed to the off-loading of 3/3 BJT from USS Iwo Jima, USS Vancouver to Dong Ha, VN. A total of 129.0 hours were flown.
- 29 Oct 66 - Squadron aboard the USS Iwo Jima. All squadron operations committed to the off-loading of HMM-163 from the USS Iwo Jima to Hue Phu Bai, RVN. A total of 68.8 hours were flown.
- 30 Oct 66 - Squadron located at Hue Phu Bai, RVN. The squadron flew in both the Dong Ha and Hue Phu Bai areas. One (1) VIP hop, one (1) convoy escort, and one armed helicopter mission were flown. Fire was received while inserting a survey team at coordinates YD857242, however, the aircraft were not hit. A total of 38.7 hours were flown.
- 31 Oct 66 - Squadron located at Hue Phu Bai. The squadron flew in the Dong Ha and Hue Phu Bai areas. Included were one (1) non-battle med-evac, two administrative flights, and one maintenance hop. A total of 13.6 hours were flown.

### C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

#### 1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced a decrease in personnel over the month. Total number joined during the month were three enlisted, while 2 officers and 12 enlisted were dropped. The total personnel on hand as of 31 October were 58 officers and 162 enlisted.

#### 2. Administration

a. No significant events.

#### 3. Awards

a. Nine officers and five enlisted received air medals with a total of twenty one (21) air medals being presented.

b. One enlisted man received the Purple Heart Medal.

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c. Four (4) enlisted personnel were awarded the Combat Aircrew Insignia, and seven (7) enlisted personnel earned Good Conduct awards. The total number of awards for the month were thirty-three (33) presented from 1 - 31 Oct 66.

d. During the month, there were fifty (50) enlisted promotions, and nine officer promotions, of which two were of field grade rank.

4. Casualties - None.
5. Civic Action - No significant events.
6. Morale/Welfare programs - No significant events.
7. Informational Services - No significant events.
8. Intelligence/Counter-intelligence - No significant events.
9. Air Operations
  - a. Flight Hours - 825.7 Hours flown
  - b. Flights/Sorties - 386 flights/2650 sorties
  - c. Passengers - 2445
  - d. Cargo - 115.3 short tons
10. Special Operations - None.
11. Ground Defense - No significant events.
12. NBC Warfare - No significant events.
13. Training

a. Ground training for officers was conducted and the following lectures were presented:

- (1) Aircraft Handling and shipboard procedures
- (2) Watch Standing and Radio Security
- (3) Night shipboard operations and TACAN procedures
- (4) Ditching Procedures and Troop Vest Operations

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- (5) Emergency Action and External Cargo Emergency Action
- (6) Water Landings

b. Ground training for enlisted personnel was conducted and the following lectures were presented.

- (1) Ships Indoctrination
- (2) M-60 Fan Firing
- (3) Ships Drills
- (4) Technical Training in each shop.
- (5) Map Reading
- (6) Naval Correspondence
- (7) .45 Cal Pistol, M1911A1, Fan Fire
- (8) Repair and cleaning of flight gear
- (9) Survival Equipment

- 14. Logistics - No significant events
- 15. Motor Transportation - No significant events
- 16. Maintenance - No significant events
- 17. Avionics - No significant events
- 18. Base Development - No significant events
- 19. Comm/Electronics - No significant events

D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. None