

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

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1 December 1966

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

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-30 November 1966 (U)

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-30 November 1966

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

R. D. Bianchi
R. D. BIANCHI

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Appendix #1

HMMA-163

Cmd Chron

Jan 1966

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Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

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

2. Task Organization

- a. Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet-Nam, 1-30 Nov 66

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
56	162	1	3

4. Important Visitors

- a. None, during the reporting period.

B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Nov 66 - Normal combat operations in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai area, consisting of resupply and administrative flights. Three search and rescue sorties were flown, one VIP flight for a code 5 Marine Officer, and a recon insertion were flown for a total of 53 sorties and 20.1 flight hours.
- 2 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai area, with one VIP flight and routine resupply and admin flights being flown. One recon extraction and an aerial recon was conducted in the Phu Bai area, while two battle medevacs

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were flown at Dong Ha. The squadron flew a total of 149 sorties for 47.4 hours.

- 3 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, consisting of 19 medevacs, only one of which was in the Dong Ha area. Of the 37.4 hours flown at Dong Ha, most missions were resupply, carrying a total of 6.2 short tons of cargo, while one additional armed escort was flown. The squadron flew a total of 182 sorties for 69.4 hours.
- 4 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, consisting of normal resupply and administrative runs, with 49 medevac flights being flown evacuating 45 casualties. The squadron flew 210 sorties for a total of 79.5 hours.
- 5 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, with the majority of Dong Ha missions being resupply runs carrying 11.0 short tons of cargo. Sixty-three (63) battle evacs were flown carrying 197 personnel, while 23 medevacs were launched to evacuate 15 personnel. The squadron flew a total of 167 sorties for 48.1 hours.
- 6 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, with missions consisting of resupply and recon insertions. In the combined area, 10 medevac missions were launched to evacuate 9 personnel, while 522 passengers were carried along with 8.2 short tons of cargo, this being accomplished in a total of 220 sorties and 58.6 flight hours for the day.
- 7 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, with 22 medevacs being launched to evacuate 10 personnel, and normal resupply and admin runs carrying 221 passengers and 4.6 short tons of cargo. The squadron flew 167 sorties for 53.1 flight hours.
- 8 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, consisting of normal resupply missions, 4 medevacs, 1 recon insertion and 2 recon extractions. There was also an aerial recon overflight conducted, with a total of 192 sorties and 67.5 flight hours being flown for the day.
- 9 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, with missions including resupply and 16 medevacs. Six battle evacs and 100 other passengers were carried, while a recon flyover, a recon extraction, admin and VIP flights

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made up the bulk of the remaining flights. Two pilots were wounded in support of a recon extraction in the Phu Bai area. A total of 158 sorties were flown for 58.0 hours.

- 10 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in both the Dong Ha and Phu Bai areas, with 5 medevac sorties, a recon overfly, admin and logistic troop lifts accounting for 21.4 hours in the Dong Ha area, in support of 3rd Marine Division, while 11 medevac sorties and a recon insertion, a flyover and one VIP flight for a flag officer and photo team, plus normal admin and logistics flights comprised the total of flight time in the Phu Bai area. Combined operations accounted for 158 sorties and 56.0 hours flight time.
- 11 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, consisting of resupply and aerial recon flights. A recon insertion was flown in support of I Corps, and two (2) POW's were removed to Phu Bai from the northern areas. Flight time for the day consisted of 136 sorties for 61.0 hours.
- 12 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, with the primary mission being the emergency extraction of a Recon Company caught on a sand bar on a flooding river. Another emergency request was complied with when the squadron flew urgently needed medical equipment to the Dong Ha area from "A" Med in marginal weather. Total flight time for the day was 32.3 hours.
- 13 Nov 66 - Operations were performed in both the Dong Ha and Phu Bai areas, with resupply missions moving 11 short tons of cargo and 178 passengers. In the Phu Bai areas, 3 Recon Team insertions and 4 extractions were performed, with 3 medevacs also requested. Total sorties/hours were 136 for 57.7 hours.
- 14 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai area, amounting to resupply and admin liaison flights, with one medevac launched to bring an ARVN woman to "A" med then to Hue Hospital with mortar inflicted wounds. A recon insertion was made and one aircraft was lost over water due to engine failure, there were no casualties among the crew. Flight hours for the day totaled 41.5 hours.

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- 15 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai area, consisting of 4.3 hours of flight time for resupply missions to Hill #180 and the evacuation of 1 ARVN battle casualty. A search and rescue mission for the crew of a sunken swift boat was flown with the aircrew completing a spectacular rescue with a crewman going into the water to aid the boatcrew. Poor weather reduced daily flight time.
- 16 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai area were four emergency medevacs flown and completed despite poor weather. Two Recon teams were extracted with the aircraft being fired upon by small arms. In the Dong Ha area, 2 medevacs were flown, one receiving automatic weapons fire in the LZ, injuring the copilot and crew chief, however the mission was completed. The other medevac was hit with intense small arms and automatic weapons fire while unloading a USMC battle casualty in a forward area LZ, resulting in Alpha damage to the aircraft although the crew and evacuees escaped unharmed. Normal resupply and admin liaison flights were flown for a daily total of 31.3 hours.
- 17 Nov 66 - Operations in the Phu Bai area were comprised of four Recon insertions and one extraction with flights receiving automatic weapons fire on one of the extractions. Four emergency medevacs were flown evacuating 7 battle casualties, while 105 passengers and 2.5 short tons of cargo were carried on troop lifts and normal resupply runs. Sorties/time for the day was 45.3 hours and 96 sorties.
- 18 Nov 66 - Due to poor weather, flight time was reduced to 22.9 hours in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas, being limited to normal resupply and light troop lift missions.
- 19 Nov 66 - Marginal weather reduced flight capabilities, with 13.1 hours being flown supporting 3rd Mar Div, and the extraction of two Recon Teams. One medevac carried a wounded ARVN to Hue hospital, and a survey team was inserted and extracted on the completion of their mission.
- 20 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas were hampered by weather, permitting 16.4 hours to be flown at Phu Bai in support of 3 recon insertions. One additional flight for routine medevac was flown. At Dong Ha, 54 sorties carrying 43 passengers and 3.7 short tons of cargo were carried for a total of 42.8 hours.
- 21 Nov 66 - Limited operations were conducted at Phu Bai for a total of 13.9 hours flown. One emergency and 1 priority medevac were flown evacuating 1 VC and 1 ARVN casualty.

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- 22 Nov 66 - Inclement weather in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas curtailed flight operations to a total of 1.1 hours flown, for medevac purposes removing one (1) US casualty, and 1 resupply mission to Hill #100.
- 23 Nov 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha area were primarily resupply and troop lift to the Dong Ha area. One Recon insertion was flown and a Recon flyover was accomplished for a total flight time of 55.7 hours for combined operations.
- 24 Nov 66 - Flight operations in the Phu Bai area accounted for 21.5 hours of the daily total, being flown primarily for the purpose of medevac's. Normal resupply and admin liaison flights were made, plus one aerial recon flight. Total flight time for the day was 51.4 hours.
- 25 Nov 66 - Inclement weather kept flight operations to a minimum, with three medevac launches in the Phu Bai area, for a total of 13.6 hours, while at Dong Ha, no flights were flown.
- 26 Nov 66 - Flight operations were nearly non-existent, with a local test for a total 0.4 hours being the only time flown for the day. All other operations were weathered out.
- 27 Nov 66 - Inclement weather held flight operations to a total of 2.9 flight hours, flown for test and one light resupply mission.
- 28 Nov 66 - Operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas accumulated a total of 15.0 flight hours, consisting of an attempted medevac in the Phu Bai area that did not complete the mission due to extreme weather conditions, and normal resupply in the Dong Ha area.
- 29 Nov 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas, with normal resupply, a medevac and Recon insertion, and convoy transport taking place in the Phu Bai area. At Dong Ha, 81 sorties were flown for a total of 24.6 hours with a combined total of 62.6 hours for all operations.
- 30 Nov 66 - Operations in the Phu Bai area consisted of resupply missions, recon insertions and extractions and the evacuation of two (2) VC prisoners. Total time for the day was 30.1 hours flown.

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C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced a slight decrease in personnel over the month. The number of Officers on hand decreased due to combat attrition, while the number of enlisted personnel increased. Total number of personnel on hand as of 30 November 1966, were 55 Officers, including one Naval Medical Officer, and 167 enlisted, including 3 Navy Medical Corpsmen.

2. Administration.

a. No significant events

3. Awards.

a. During the month, there were no awards ceremonies.

b. There were three Officers promoted to Captain, during the month. There were no enlisted promotions.

4. Casualties.

a. There were four casualties during the month, three (3) Officers were injured due to direct enemy action, and one (1) enlisted injured by enemy fire, all four occurring while engaged in flight operations.

5. Civic Action.

a. No significant events.

6. Morale/Welfare Programs.

a. No significant events.

7. Informational Services.

a. During the month of November, an ISO Correspondent/Photographer team arrived from 1st MAW, and was engaged in a series of operational reporting regarding HMM-163.

8. Intelligence/Counter-intelligence.

a. No significant events.

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9. Air Operations

- a. Flight Hours - 1205.5 hours flown.
- b. Flights/Sorties - 572 flights/2393 sorties.
- c. Passengers - 4129.
- d. Cargo - 650.1 short tons.

10. Special Operations - None

11. Ground Defense

a. The Squadron Ground Defense Officer and Squadron Security Officer commenced implementation of a modification to the perimeter defenses of the squadron area. A new ground defense plan was drawn up and is being evaluated.

12. NBC Warfare - No significant events.

13. Training

a. Ground training for enlisted personnel was conducted in the following subjects:

- (1) Interior Guard.
- (2) M-60 Machinegun Familiarization/Firing.
- (3) Technical training by shops.

14. Logistics - No significant events.

15. Motor Transportation - No significant events.

16. Maintenance - No significant events.

17. Avionics - No significant events.

18. Base development - Enlisted quarters were rebuilt by MCB-1 to ensure permanent, leakproof, comfortable living accommodations for fifty percent of the squadrons enlisted complement. Metal roofed huts were built to replace 10 tent covered structures. Additional huts will be constructed as materials become available.

19. Communications/Electronics - No significant events.

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D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

a. None.