

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

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1 January 1967

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

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

Ref: (a) Gru0 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1-31 December 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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MM-163

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Dec 1966

MM-163 S & C FILES
NO 670007
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Appendix 1

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3:RMK;jd
5750
1 January 1967

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

1-31 December 1966

MACAF, HUE PHU BAI, Republic Of Viet-Nam

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3:DMK:jd

5750

1 January 1967

A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

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

2. Task Organization

- a. Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet-Nam, 1-31 Dec 66

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
55	186	1	3

4. Important Visitors

- a. None, during the reporting period.

B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 37.3 hours were flown, the majority of these were flown in the Phu Bai area. LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight on a recon team extraction. No fire was received by any aircraft. Normal resupply and admin hops constituted the remainder of flight hours.

2 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Pong Ha area. A total of 24.9 hours were flown. The majority of hops in the Dong Ha area were logistic flights both troops and cargo. In the Phu Bai area the majority of flights were admin and VIV hops. Major BENO led a flight of aircraft on a series of recon insertions and extractions in the Phu Bai area. No fire was received by any aircraft.

3:BNK:jd
5750
1 January 1967

- 3 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. Operations were limited in the Phu Bai area due to weather. A total of 24.8 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major BENO led a flight in three (3) medevac missions, one into an unsecure zone. In the Dong Ha area the majority of flights were recon team insertions and extractions. The flight was led by Captain BARWETT and small arms fire was recieved on one extraction but no hits were recieved. Captain HAVICAM led a flight on a night medevac mission in the Phu Bai area evacuating ten (10) local mercenary forces.
- 4 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 37.5 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight on a recon insertion. One emergency medevac was flown. In the Dong Ha area the majority of flights were resupply with two (2) medevac missions flown. Fire was recieved on one of the medevac missions, no hits were recieved. Major AYRES led a flight on two (2) recon team insertions.
- 5 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 35.3 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area two (2) recon team insertions and three (3) extractions were completed and two (2) emergency medevacs were flown. In the Dong Ha area two (2) recon team insertions and one (1) extraction was flown. Captain WALKER led a flight on an emergency night medevac evacuating three (3) MIA and one (1) KIA US troops. The remaining flight hours were devoted to resupply.
- 6 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas. A total of 18.8 hours were flown. Weather limited flying in both areas today. In the Phu Bai area Major McDONALD led two (2) recon team insertions and one (1) extraction. Major COWLEY led an emergency medevac mission at night and evacuated three (3) civilians (Vietnamese). Fire was recieved but the aircraft did not take any hits. In the Dong Ha area Captain WALKER led one (1) recon team extraction and one (1) insertion.
- 7 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas. A total of 9.7 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area one (1) medevac mission was flown and normal resupply consisted of the remaining flight time. No flying in the Dong Ha area due to weather.
- 8 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 49.6 hours were flown. The majority of operation in the Phu Bai Area was devoted to SAR for missing pilots. One (1) recon team insertion and one (1) extraction was flown. Three (3) medevac missions were flown, two were led by Major BENO and one by Captain BOYAN. In the Dong Ha area four (4) medevac missions were flown by Captain BOWMAN.

3:RMK:jd

5750

1 January 1967

- 9 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 55.9 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area SAR was continued and completed when Pilots were picked up and taken to "C" Med. One (1) emergency extraction of recon team was flown by Major McDONALD and two (2) VC suspects were brought in. One (1) emergency and two (2) priority medevac missions were flown. Three (3) recon team insertions and three (3) extractions were completed. In Dong Ha area four (4) medevac missions were flown, two (2) were emergency medevacs and fire was taken on one but no hits were recorded. Two (2) recon team extractions and one (1) insertion were flown. One (1) emergency resupply was made.
- 10 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 77.9 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area two (2) recon insertions and one (1) extraction were flown. Major AYRES led a medevac mission that commenced before dawn during which 100 battle evacs were evacuated. Fire was received on one of the sorties, but no hits were taken. At Dong Ha five (5) medevac missions were flown four of which were at night and one during the day. Fire was received on one of the night medevacs, no hits were recorded. One (1) recon team insertion was flown. Remainder of flights were normal resupply and admin.
- 11 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 45.5 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area five (5) medevacs were flown. Major McDONALD leading a flight on one of the medevac missions received small arms fire, however, the aircraft didn't receive any hits. LtCol. BIANCHI led an aerial recon of the TAO. One (1) recon team was inserted. In the Dong Ha area Captain WOVIAN led a flight on an aerial recon and in two (2) recon team insertions and three (3) recon team extractions. He received fire on one of the insertions and one (1) of the extractions. The aircraft did not receive any hits. One (1) medevac mission was flown and one (1) VIP hop was completed. The remaining hops were admin and resupply.
- 12 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 57.5 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area two (2) recon team insertions were completed along with one (1) extraction. LtCol. BIANCHI was the flight leader. Three (3) medevac missions were flown. In the Dong Ha area Captain OLIVO led a flight on four (4) recon team insertions and three (3) extractions. Major CARROLL completed two (2) medevacs. The remaining flights were resupply and admin.

3:MMK:jd

5750

1 January 1967

- 13 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 72.3 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major McDOWELL led a flight in the insertion of three (3) recon teams and the extraction of four (4) recon teams. Three (3) medevac missions were flown. In the Dong Ha area Major CARRILL was leading a flight on a series of recon team insertions. On one of the insertions he received heavy automatic weapons fire. Major CARRILL's aircraft received hits to the tail cone section and he made a precautionary landing to Landing Zone Eagle. A test pilot flew the aircraft to Dong Ha. It was discovered that the aircraft had received fifty caliber fire. Damage to the radio compartment and skin damage was recorded; no one was injured. Four (4) aerial recon flights were requested and flown. Resupply and administrative flights comprised the remaining flight time.
- 14 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 28.3 hours were flown. LtCol BLANCHET was on an admin hop to MMF when he experienced tail rotor control problems and was subsequently forced down. The aircraft landed without further damage and was repaired and returned home. Captain PRESTON led a flight on six (6) medevac missions. Major COMPTON led a flight on an SAR mission for downed aircraft. In the Dong Ha area three (3) recon team insertions and three (3) recon team extractions were flown. One (1) UH-34P was committed to act as TACA for strike mission. The remaining hops were resupply and admin.
- 15 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 41.7 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area one (1) medevac mission was flown. Recon insertions and extractions were flown. The remaining hops were recon overfly, troop logistics and admin. One (1) night medevac was led by Captain WALKER. In the Dong Ha area Captain DOWNHAM led a night medevac to carry nine (9) US troops. Fire was received in the zone, however, the aircraft was not hit. Two (2) recon team insertions and one (1) extraction were flown. Three (3) medevac missions were flown during the day. The remaining hops were resupply and admin.
- 16 Dec 66 - Operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 34.1 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area two (2) recon team insertions and two (2) extractions were flown. Three (3) medevac missions were launched and the remaining hops were resupply and admin. In the Dong Ha area one (1) medevac mission was flown. Two (2) recon team insertions and two (2) extractions were flown. Captain PRESTON led a flight on a forty-man troop lift. The remaining flights were normal resupply and admin.

3:MM:jd

5750

1 January 1967

- 17 Dec 66- Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 50.8 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area four (4) medevac missions were flown. Major BFWO led a flight on a strike mission. The mission was committed to the insertion of "Sparrow Hawk". In the Dong Ha area two (2) recon team inserts and two (2) extracts were completed. Admin and resupply constituted most of the time.
- 18 Dec 66- Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 65.6 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major BFWO led a flight to extract two (2) recon teams. Six (6) medevac missions were flown. The remaining missions were normal resupply, VIP chase and convoy escort. In the Dong Ha area four (4) medevac missions were flown. Major McDONNELL led a flight on three (3) recon team extractions. One (1) recon team insertion was also completed. Admin, resupply, and aerial recon made up the remaining flights in the Dong Ha area.
- 19 Dec 66- Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 50.2 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area three (3) medevac missions were flown. Two (2) medevacs were emergencies led by Major BFWO. Major CARROLL led a flight on one (1) recon team insertion and one (1) extraction. In the Dong Ha area Major McDONNELL led a flight on an emergency recon team extraction and on a recon team insertion. The flight also did two (2) aerial recons. Captain WALKER led an emergency night medevac to pick up one (1) wounded NVA. Lieutenant HUGHES led a flight on two (2) recon team extractions. The remaining flights were resupply, admin and two (2) additional aerial recons.
- 20 Dec 66- Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 58.6 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area a total of seven (7) recon inserts and extractions were made. One (1) medevac mission was flown. In the Dong Ha area four (4) medevac missions led by Captain THOMAS were completed. Three (3) recon team inserts and one (1) extraction was completed. The remaining hops were admin and normal resupply.

3:RMK:jd
5750
1 January 1967

- 21 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 66.4 hours were flown. Eight (8) medevac missions were flown. The remaining missions were admin and resupply. In the Dong Ha area Major COWPER led a flight on three (3) medevac missions and an emergency retraction of a recon team. The remaining hops were admin and resupply.
- 22 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas. A total of 32.8 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major SAMARAS led a flight to insert "Sparrow Hawk" and later extract them. One (1) recon team extraction was flown. In the Dong Ha area two (2) medevac missions were flown, one (1) recon overfly, and one (1) recon team extraction led by Major COWPER. Major COWPER's flight attempted to insert several recon teams, but had to abort due to unfavorable weather and unsuitability of the area. Admin hops comprised the remaining flight time.
- 23 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Dong Ha/Phu Bai areas. A total of 41.4 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area five (5) medevac missions were flown. Major McDONALD led a flight on one (1) recon team insertion and one (1) retraction. LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight on a troop and cargo movement. Support aircraft were hit in the landing zone by enemy fire. Remaining flights were routine admin and resupply hops. In the Dong Ha area two (2) resupply hops were flown and one (1) UH-34D acted as TACA for a strike mission.
- 24 Dec 66 - Weather limited flying in both areas to 7.9 hours for maintenance test hops.
- 25 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 46.5 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area four (4) medevac missions were flown. An emergency insertion of forty-five (45) troops was made to guard beached tug-boat. Four (4) recon team insertions and four (4) extractions led by Major McDONALD were made. Admin and resupply constituted the remaining hops. In the Dong Ha area Major CARROLL led a flight on three (3) night medevacs. One (1) day medevac was flown. Major AYRES led a flight on nine (9) administrative cargo flights in the area. One (1) resupply and one (1) aerial recon were the remaining hops.
- 26 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 17.1 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major BENO led three (3) emergency medevacs. A resupply mission was completed to stranded tug-boat. In the Dong Ha area one (1) resupply and an troop lift was completed.

3:RMK:jd
5750
1 January 1967

- 27 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 7.9 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area one (1) emergency medevac was flown and one (1) resupply was flown. At Dong Ha two (2) emergency medevacs were flown.
- 28 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 22.4 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area Major McDONALD led a flight on an emergency recon team retraction. One (1) emergency medevac and one (1) priority medevac was flown. In the Dong Ha area one (1) night medevac and one (1) day medevac was flown.
- 29 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 30.3 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area two (2) recon teams were inserted and two (2) were extracted. Three (3) medevac missions were flown. On one (1) of the medevac missions small arms fire was recieved, no hits were recorded. The remaining hops were resupply. In the Dong Ha area two (2) medevac missions were flown. Captain OLIVO led a flight on a night medevac and Captain THIEN led a flight on a day medevac. Two (2) recon teams were inserted and two (2) were extracted. One (1) supply mission was flown.
- 30 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 60.7 hours were flown. In the Phu Bai area three (3) recon teams were inserted and one (1) team was extracted. A recon overfly was also completed. Three (3) medevac missions were flown. All emergencies. The remaining hops were routine admin and resupply. In the Dong Ha area four (4) medevac missions were flown. Three (3) recon team inserts and three (3) recon team extracts were completed. Major SAMARAS led a flight on a resupply mission. Going into the zone he recieved 12.7/.50 caliber fire. A number of hits were recieved. All four (4) crewmembers recieved injuries due to the aircraft being shot down.
- 31 Dec 66 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. A total of 17.7 hours were flown. Weather limited flying in the Phu Bai area to two (2) test hops. In the Dong Ha area four (4) recon team inserts were completed. The remaining hops were resupply.

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3:RHK:jd

5750

1 January 1967

C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced an overall increase in personnel this month. Eight (8) officers and fifty-eight (58) enlisted personnel were joined between 1 December 1966 and 31 December 1966. Total number of personnel on hand as of 1 December 1966 was fifty-four (54) officers and one hundred and sixty-six (166) enlisted. Total number of personnel on hand as of 31 December 1966 was fifty-seven (57) officers and two hundred and six (206) enlisted.

2. Administration

a. The squadron experienced two (2) reenlistments, four (4) reductions in rank, two (2) extensions for two years, and five (5) promotions to the rank of Sergeant.

3. Awards

a. No awards were presented during the month of December.

4. Casualties

a. The squadron experienced four (4) casualties as a direct result of enemy action. Two (2) pilots and one (1) crewmember received minor injuries. The one (1) remaining crewmember received extensive leg injuries as a result of aircraft being shot down. Three (3) personnel were injured this month while in the performance of their duty but not as a result of enemy action. One (1) officer and one (1) enlisted man were injured as a result of helicopter accident. One (1) officer received injury to his leg while manning his aircraft in response to a medevac mission.

5. Civic Action

a. No significant events

6. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. No significant events

7. Informational Services

a. Hometown news releases were prepared and submitted for fifty-two (52) personnel in the squadron. News releases were also prepared for the two (2) reenlistments and two (2) extensions.

8. Intelligence/Counter-Intelligence

a. The S-2 section prepared special briefings of "Operation Chinook". This entailed special liaison with the Third Marine Division G-2 because no information was furnished this squadron through normal channels.

3:RMK:jd
5750
1 January 1967

9. Air Operations

- a. Flight Hours - 1228.8
- b. Flights/Sorties - 729/1947
- c. Passengers - 2591
- d. Cargo - 103.3 short tons

11. Special Operations

- a. None

12. Ground Defenses

- a. The security of the squadron area perimeter was enhanced by the deployment of concertina wire around strategic points of the camp area. Trip flares were also installed.

13. Training

- a. Two (2) classes were scheduled and conducted for enlisted personnel concerned on general familiarization with the M-60 Machinegun.

14. Logistics

- a. No significant events

15. Motor Transport

- a. No significant events

16. Maintenance

- a. No significant events

17. Avionics

- a. No significant events

18. Base Development

- a. A renovation program was conducted on the individual bunkers attached to the living quarters.

3:MM:jd
5750
1 January 1967

- b. An improved communications center was conducted.
- c. Shrubby was planted around the base chapel.
- d. General improvements were made to the Officer's Club.
- e. A significant improvement was made to the Officers's head by the installation of plastic toilet seats.

19. Communications/Electronics

- a. See Base Development.

2. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 1. None