

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

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Ser: 03A06267  
3 March 1967

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

MAG-16 SER  
LOG # 0323-67  
COPY OF

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-28 February 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-28 February 1967

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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Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

1-28 February 1967

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, 1-28 February 1967
- b. Joseph P. BENO, Major, Executive Officer, 1-10 February 1967
- c. Glenn A. STEPHENS, Major, Executive Officer, 11-28 February 1967
- d. Daniel V. McDONALD, Major, Operations Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- e. Thomas J. COWPER, Major, Logistics Officer, 1-10 February 1967
- f. John D. WAY, Major, Logistics Officer, 11-28 February 1967
- g. Albert B. AYRES, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-24 February 1967
- h. Peter N. SAMARAS, Major, Maintenance Officer, 25-28 February 1967
- i. John E. CARROLL, Major, Aviation Safety Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- j. John W. BOYAN, Captain, NATOPS Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- k. Robert L. THIEN, Captain, Administration Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- l. James R. FOWLER, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- m. Floyd W. HURLBUT, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 1-28 February 1967
- n. Robert F. O'NEIL, 2ndLt., Custodian, S&C, 1-28 February 1967

### 2. Task Organization

- a. Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet-Nam, 1-28 February 1967.

### 3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
51	202	1	3

### 4. Important Visitors

- a. MGen. R. G. ROBERTSHAW, Commanding General, 1st MAW

## B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 February 1967 - Flight operations in both the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas were curtailed due to bad weather. Five medevac were flown by the squadron today, two (2) of the missions were night medevacs.

2 February 1967 - Normal operations were resumed in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew a total of six (6) medevac missions, one of them being a night medevac.

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3 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today, two missions being night medevacs. Major SAMARAS, while leading a flight on one of the day medevacs, took small arms fire from the area surrounding the zone. The aircraft did not receive any hits. Lt. SCHRUPP, leading a flight on an night medevac, also received fire. No hits were recorded. Lt. HUGHES, while on an admin run from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh experienced a rough running engine and was forced to shoot a precautionary landing. The cause was found to be a missing spark plug which was replaced and the flight was completed.

4 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. Eight (8) medevac missions were flown today one being a night medevac. LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight of all available aircraft at Phu Bai on a strike mission supporting a combined Marine and ARVN operation south of Hue City. Captain THEIN received fire while on a medevac mission. Captain THEIN did not receive any hits, but one UH-1E aircraft acting as chase took four (4) hits and was forced to land. No injuries were reported. Major COWPER, after leaving Phu Bai airfield on a recon insertion, experienced a chip detector warning light and made a precautionary landing at Hue landing strip. Aircraft was flown back to Phu Bai after inspection.

5 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. Eight (8) medevac missions were completed by the squadron today. Major McDONALD, while leading a flight on an emergency medevac mission in the Phu Bai area, was forced to make a precautionary landing into a rice paddy at YD 041998 due to a sump light and a loss of power. Engine was found unservicable in the field and aircraft was brought back to Phu Bai by a CH-53. Medevac was completed by Lt. ZOLLER.

6 February 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew a total of eleven (11) medevac missions today, four of them being night medevac missions. On one night medevac mission Captain BARNETT, the flight leader, received small arms fire from the area around the pick up coordinates. No hits were recorded.

7 February 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. Twelve (12) medevac missions were flown today, two being flown at night. Major BENO, while leading a medevac mission in the Phu Bai area, received enemy fire while in the zone. The medevac was completed and no hits to the aircraft were taken.

8 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. Today a total of seven (7) medevac missions were flown, one being a night mission, all occurring in the Phu Bai area. Major CARROLL, leading a flight, completed a night emergency retraction of a recon team (Page title) who were experiencing heavy enemy contact.

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9 February 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. A total of two (2) medevac missions were flown by the squadron. Major BENO, while on a recon team extraction, experienced an engine chip detector light. The engine began trailing smoke with a subsequent rise in oil temperature. He executed an autorotation to a road junction at YD 752168. The aircraft was later returned to Phu Bai by a CH-53. Major CARROLL and flight was involved in a night emergency retraction of a recon team experiencing heavy enemy contact. The team was picked up by a CH-46 with Major CARROLL acting SAR.

10 February 1967 - Operations conducted in the Phu Bai area, weather limited flying in the Dong Ha area to two (2) medevac missions and one (1) admin hop. A total of six (6) medevac missions were flown in both areas today, one being a night medevac. On the night medevac mission, Captain HURLBUT, received fire from the area around the pick up zone. No hits were recorded to the aircraft.

11 February 1967 - Weather limited flying in both the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas to three (3) medevac missions and one (1) recon overflight.

12 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Dong Ha area, while weather limited flying in the Phu Bai area to one (1) medevac. One additional medevac was flown in the Dong Ha area for a total of two (2) for the day.

13 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. Three (3) medevac missions were flown by the squadron today. Lt. HENDERSON, while flying convoy escort over highway #1, experienced an engine failure. He shot an autorotation to a rice paddy at YD 826178. No damage to the aircraft or injury to personnel was reported.

14 February 1967 - Flying in the Phu Bai area was limited due to weather today. LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight on the insertion of two and the extraction of three recon teams. No medevac missions were flown by the squadron and flying was cancelled at Dong Ha due to weather. Major AYRES, while testing an aircraft previously down because of engine failure, experienced an engine failure while in a hover. Right strut was pushed through the fuselage but no injuries were recorded.

15 February 1967 - Weather caused the cancellation of flying in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas except for one (1) medevac mission flown by Lt. HEIN.

16 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. Six (6) medevac missions were completed by the squadron. Major CARROLL flew an aerial recon to the Chinook area and received fire from YD 562432. No hits were taken by the aircraft. Captain BOYAN, while on a medevac mission, experienced a chip detector warning light immediately after dropping casualties at Quang Tri. Captain BOYAN landed aircraft at Quang Tri stadium. Aircraft was later lifted to Phu Bai by CH-53.

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17 February 1967 - Normal operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. Four (4) medevac missions were completed by the squadron today. Major AYRES, while on a recon overflight in the Dong Ha area, received small arms fire. No hits were recorded.

18 February 1967 - Weather limited flying in both the Phu Bai and Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew a total of thirteen (13) medevac missions today evacuating sixty-seven (67) casualties. On an emergency medevac mission to pick up one (1) WIA (US) and two (2) WIA (ARVN) Major McDONALD, the flight leader, received small arms fire while on final to the zone. The medevac aircraft received one hit and the corpsman aboard received minor shrapnel wound in the left buttock. Major McDONALD waved the approach off and proceeded to an alternate zone. The aircraft was landed and while in the zone received another hit, no injuries occurring. The medevac was completed. Major CARROLL led the flight on the three (3) night medevac missions today and received fire on one. No hits were recorded to the aircraft.

19 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew ten (10) medevac missions today. Major CARROLL flew a night SAR mission prior to dawn today. The search was for a downed Army Mohawk aircraft suspected a few miles off the runway at Phu Bai. He received small arms fire from a village at YD 8923. The aircraft received one hit but no injuries occurred. LtCol. BIANCHI led a flight on a recon team insert and an emergency extraction of recon team "Party Line".

20 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew six (6) medevac missions today, two (2) being night missions. Major McDONALD, leading a flight on a recon team insert, made a forced landing to a rice paddy at YD 801191 due to a loss of oil pressure. The aircraft was repaired in the field and returned to Phu Bai.

21 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew ten (10) medevac missions today one of them being a night mission. Captain BARNETT, while flying the night medevac, received small arms fire while on approach to the zone. The aircraft received one hit with no injuries reported. Captain BARNETT waited for support aircraft and then completed the mission.

22 February 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew twelve (12) medevac missions, two of them occurring at night.

23 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew ten (10) medevac missions, one being a night medevac. Lt. HILL while flying a recon overflight received one hit to his aircraft from small arms enemy fire. There were no injuries.

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24 February 1967 - Weather limited the flying in the Phu Bai area to medevacs, one emergency troop retraction and SAR missions. Normal operations conducted in the Dong Ha area were twelve (12) medevac missions. Major AYRES, while leading a flight on an emergency medevac, experienced inadvertant IFR conditions. Major AYRES waved the approach off and was attempting to return to Phu Bai when contact was lost between him and his wingman. Aircraft was later found crashed on a ridge line at YD 559299 with all crew members aboard receiving fatal injuries. A reaction team and the squadron flight surgeon were lifted to the crash site to examine wreckage and return the crew to Phu Bai. One member of the reaction team was killed and one member was wounded by enemy fire upon entering the crash site. Personnel inserted later reported they found what appeared to be four (4) bullet holes in the remaining parts of the fuselage. Bodies of the crew were returned to Phu Bai. Major CARROLL, who was flying the SAR mission and the insertion of reaction force at the crash site, received fire after dropping personnel into the zone. He was in an orbit above the zone when he received the fire and experienced one hit to the main rotor blades. Lt. NELSON, while on a night extraction of recon team, experienced a chip detector warning light and loss of power while in the pickup zone. The troops extracted were flown back to Phu Bai after standing guard around the aircraft until it could be brought back to Phu Bai. Captain HAVICAN received fire on two separate medevac missions today, however, no hits were taken by the aircraft.

25 February 1967 - Weather limited flying in the Phu Bai area again today. Normal operations conducted at Dong Ha. The squadron flew a total of sixteen (16) medevac missions today, five (5) being night medevacs. Lt. HUGHES on one of the night medevac missions received sniper fire while approaching the pickup zone at YD 594395. The aircraft took one hit to rotor blades and no injuries were reported.

26 February 1967 - Flying was limited in the Phu Bai area today due to weather. The squadron flew three (3) medevac missions today. Normal operations conducted in the Dong Ha area.

27 February 1967 - Weather limited flying in both the Dong Ha and Phu Bai areas today to nine (9) medevac missions. Captain HURLBUT, while on an emergency medevac, took fire while enroute to the zone. He was flying at 50 feet due to low ceiling and received two (2) hits to the aircraft. No injuries reported.

28 February 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. A total of thirteen (13) medevac missions were flown by the squadron today.

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## C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced a slight decrease in personnel over the month, with eight (8) personnel being joined and eighteen (18) being detached. The total number of personnel on hand as of 28 February 1967 were forty-seven (47) officers and two hundred and one (201) enlisted.

## 2. Administration

a. The squadron realized one (1) extension of enlistment, two (2) extensions of overseas tour, and nineteen (19) enlisted promotions during the month of February 1967.

## 3. Awards

a. The following person was awarded the PURPLE HEART MEDAL during the month of February 1967:

(1) HM 1 W. R. TUCK 9017507 USN

The above mentioned man was presented the medal for wounds inflicted by Communist (Viet Cong) forces, in informal ceremonies during the month of February, by Major General ROBERTSHAW, USMC, 1st MAF Commanding General

b. The following AIR MEDALS were presented during the month of February:

(1) Five (5) officers and twenty-five (25) enlisted were presented their first Air Medal.

(2) Three hundred and thirty-eight (338) additional Air Medals were presented during the month of February 1967.

## 4. Casualties

a. The following personnel were casualties during the month of February as a direct result of enemy action:

(1)	TUCK, W. R.	HM 1	9017507	Shrapnel wound	18Feb67
(2)	AYRES, A. B.	Major	070001	Multiple injuries	24Feb67
(3)	MASON, C. G.	1stLt	089828	Multiple injuries	24Feb67

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(4)	CASTLE, R. A.	CPL	2034358	Multiple injuries	24Feb67
(5)	VERNON, P. L.	SSGT	1663365	Multiple injuries	24Feb67
(6)	COOPER, E. E.	HN	6999721	Multiple injuries	24Feb67
(7)	SWETE, R. E.	2ndLt	092766	Shrapnel wound	28Feb67
(8)	DERRICK, W. D.	SGT	2056155	Shrapnel wound	28Feb67

## 5. Civic Action

a. No significant events

## 6. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. No significant events

## 7. Information services

a. No significant events

## 8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence

a. No significant events

## 9. Air Operations

a. Flight hours - 893.3

b. Flights/Sorties - 553/1668

c. Passengers - 2009

d. Cargo - 23.7 short tons

e. Medevacs - 205

## 10. Special Operations

a. None

## 11. Ground Defense

a. No significant events

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12. Training

a. One (1) enlisted man was ordered to attend the Escape and Evasion School, at Cubi Pt., R.P.

b. On 25 February 1967, thirty-one (31) Aerial Gunner candidates attended instructions on the .45 cal. pistol, .38 cal. pistol, and M-60 machinegun. Classes were conducted by the NATOPS NCO, SGT. ANDREWS.

13. Logistics

a. No significant events

14. Motor Transport

a. No significant events

15. Maintenance

a. No significant events

16. Avionics

a. No significant events

17. Base Development

a. No significant events

18. Communications/Electronics

a. No significant events

D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None