

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

3:LMK:jd
5750
Ser: 03A12267
2 May 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-30 April 1967

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1

Encl: ~~1~~(1) Command Chronology, 1-30 April 1967

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

Walter C. Kelly
WALTER C. KELLY

Copy to:
File

MAG-16	
SAC #	0625-67
COPY #	1091

CONFIDENTIAL

14M-103

END CITRON

APR 1967

APPENDIX 5

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

1-30 April 1967

MCAF, HUE PHU BAI, Republic of Viet-Nam

i

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Rocco D. BIANCHI, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 1-25 April 1967
- b. Walter C. KELLY, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 26-30 April 1967
- c. Glenn A. STEPHENS, Major, Executive Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- d. Frederick A. RUECKEL, Major, Operations Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- e. Lonnis S. UNDERHILL, Captain, Logistics Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- f. Daniel V. McDONALD, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- g. John E. CARROLL, Major, Aviation Safety Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- h. Charles M. HAVICAN, Captain, NATOPS Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- i. Robert L. THIEN, Captain, Administration Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- j. James R. FOWLER, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- k. Floyd W. HURLBUT, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 1-30 April 1967
- l. Robert F. O'NEIL, 1/Lt., Custodian, S&C, 1-30 April 1967

2. Task Organization

- a. Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet-Nam, 1-30 April 1967

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
47	196	1	3

4. Important Visitors

- a. None, during this period

B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew a total of fourteen (14) medevac missions today, three (3) of them being night medevacs. Capt. HEIN, while flying an admin mission to Quang Tri, went into an uncontrollable rotation while attempting to land at Quang Tri Stadium. The pilot made an immediate landing. The aircraft leaned to the right upon impact with the ground and was substantially damaged. Material failure of the tail rotor was determined to be the cause. No injuries occurred.

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

2 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas today. The squadron flew a total of ten (10) medevac missions. Two (2) were night medevacs. LtCol. BIANCHI, while picking up a U.S. priority medevac in the landing zone, received small arms fire. No hits were recorded. Major RUECKEL, while on a recon overflight in the Chinook area, received small arms fire. No hits were taken. Lt. BANCELLS was leading a section of two (2) aircraft from Phu Bai to Hill 230 on an admin/logistics run, when his section took small arms fire. No hits were taken by either aircraft.

3 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions.

4 April 1967 - Poor weather hampered flying in both areas today. A total of four (4) medevac missions were flown today, one (1) being a night medevac.

5 April 1967 - Poor weather remained in both areas today. The squadron completed ten (10) medevac missions, two (2) of them being night medevacs. Major RUECKEL, leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on night emergency medevac mission to PK 17, received fire going into the zone. The section was able to carry out eight (8) U.S. personnel. The wingman, Lt. NELSON, received one (1) hit in the tail pylon section of his aircraft. No injuries occurred.

6 April 1967 - Continued poor weather hampered flight operations in both areas. The squadron flew eleven (11) medevac missions. One (1) being a night medevac. Major STEPHENS, while flying on an emergency medevac received small arms fire enroute to the zone. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred. Major RUECKEL, while leading a flight of two (2) aircraft flew forty (40) sorties in support of I Corps troops. The flight carried out seventy (70) medevacs from PK 17, which had been heavily mortared the night before.

7 April 1967 - Bad weather limited flight operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew a total of fifteen (15) medevac missions, one (1) being a night medevac. Capt. ZOLLER, while flying chase on an emergency medevac, received small arms fire lifting from the zone. One (1) round hit the glass of the co-pilot's side window and bounced off the armor plating. No injuries occurred. Lt. SIFUENTES, also flying a chase on an emergency medevac, received small arms fire while sitting in the zone. Two (2) small holes were recorded in the fuselage. No injuries occurred. Lt. BODE, flying chase on a medevac mission near Dong Ha received small arms fire. One (1) hit was recorded on the aircraft's right strut. No injuries occurred.

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

8 April 1967 - Bad weather hampered flight operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. Eleven (11) medevac missions were flown by the squadron today. One (1) was a night medevac. Capt. BELL, while flying on an emergency medevac near Hue, received small arms automatic weapons fire enroute to the zone. A projectile entered the aircraft and stopped in the pilot's flak vest leaving a hole five-eighths (5/8) inch in diameter. No injuries were sustained. Lt. HUGHES, while returning to Phu Bai with a medevac, experienced an engine failure. The cause was determined to be an internal breakdown of the engine. No injuries occurred. Lt. SIFUENTES, while flying chase on an emergency medevac mission, received small arms fire enroute to the zone. One (1) hit was recorded in the pocket of one (1) main rotor blade.

9 April 1967 - Foul weather curtailed normal flight operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew fifteen (15) medevac missions, one (1) being a night medevac.

10 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew a total of ten (10) medevac missions, two (2) of them being night medevacs. Lt. BANCELIS, was leading a section of two (2) aircraft on a medevac mission, when the section received small arms fire enroute to the zone. No hits were recorded. Capt. THIEN, while flying a medevac mission, had an unusual experience. With a Vietnamese pregnant woman aboard, a delivery of a baby boy occurred at fifteen hundred (1500) feet. Both passengers were taken to Hue Hospital and their condition was termed satisfactory.

11 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew seventeen (17) medevac missions today.

12 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew fourteen (14) medevac missions today, one (1) being a night medevac. LtCol. BIANCHI led a strike mission involving twenty-two (22) aircraft, six (6) of them being from HMM-163. Capt. SNIDER, while flying wingman on an emergency medevac, received small arms automatic weapons fire enroute to the zone. Three (3) hits were recorded to the aircraft in the cabin area. One (1) crewmember, Cpl. Graydon S. UYEDA 2158731, received a shrapnel wound in forearm. Capt. SNIDER on a later medevac mission experienced a loss of power and the engine chip detector light came on. The cause was determined to be an internal breakdown of the engine. No injuries occurred. Lt. BANCELIS leading a section of two (2) aircraft on a medevac mission when the section received small arms fire enroute to the zone. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred.

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

13 April 1967 - Bad weather limited operations in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew eleven (11) medevac missions today, one (1) being a night medevac.

14 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew nineteen (19) medevac missions today, five (5) of them being night medevacs. Capt. THIEN led a flight of three (3) aircraft on a recon team insert in the Chinook area.

15 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai/Dong Ha areas. The squadron flew seven (7) medevac missions today, one (1) of them being night medevac. Lt. HUGHES, while lifting out of the zone on a night medevac, received small arms fire. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred. This date the squadron was released from the ten (10) plane commitment at Dong Ha and the aircraft returned to Phu Bai.

16 April 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew five (5) medevac missions today, three (3) of them being night medevacs. Capt. THIEN, while flying two (2) night emergency medevac missions, received small arms fire on both missions. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred. Major CARROLL, led a flight of four (4) aircraft on an emergency night retraction of recon team, Nightsticker II. While in the zone, the flight received small arms automatic weapons fire. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred.

17 April 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew four (4) medevac missions today. Capt. BRICKELL, while flying in the Phu Bai GCA pattern, received eight (8) airbursts. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred.

18 April 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew six (6) medevac missions today. Capt. ZOLLER, while flying on a medevac mission, received sniper fire in the landing zone. Two (2) hits were recorded to the aircraft in the cabin area. No injuries were sustained.

19 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today, one (1) of them being a night medevac.

20 April 1967 - Bad weather caused the cancellation of routine flight operations in the Phu Bai area.

21 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of thirteen (13) medevac missions today, one (1) being a night medevac. Major RUECKEL, led a flight of four (4) aircraft on an emergency troop lift.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

22 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of ten (10) medevac missions today, one (1) being a night medevac. Capt. ZOLLER, was leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on a routine medevac mission, when the section received small arms fire from a village enroute to the zone. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred.

23 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions today. Lt.Col. BIANCHI led a flight of eleven (11) aircraft on a strike in support of Operation Shawnee. Capt. SNIDER, while flying chase on a medevac mission, recorded one (1) hit to his aircraft from small arms fire. Received fire while enroute to the zone. No injuries occurred.

24 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today, five (5) of them being night medevacs. Capt. HEIN, was leading a flight of two (2) aircraft, when the section received small arms fire returning from a routine medevac mission. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred.

25 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of two (2) medevac missions today. Capt. ZOLLER, while returning from a medevac mission, received automatic weapons fire. Two (2) hits were recorded to the aircraft, one (1) of the rounds remained in the air cooler. The transmission oil temperature was lost and a forced landing was made. The crewchief, LCpl STONE received minor shrapnel wounds in the thigh and arm. The aircraft was later externalized back to Phu Bai by CH-53.

26 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. Due to a large number of commitments, only a brief change of command ceremony was held in Phu Bai this morning. Lt.Col. KELLY received the squadron colors from Lt.Col. BIANCHI. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today. Lt. O'CONNELL, while flying on a medevac mission, received small arms fire, when he lifted out of the zone. No hits were recorded to the aircraft. No injuries occurred.

27 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of three (3) medevac missions today. Major McDONALD led a flight of four (4) aircraft on four (4) recon inserts and two (2) extracts in support of Operation Shawnee. The flight received fire on two (2) occasions, but no hits were recorded to any aircraft. No injuries occurred.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

28 April 1967 - Limited flight operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. A mortar attack during the night resulted in twenty (20) aircraft recording hits from shrapnel. Maintenance, working through the remainder of the night was able to provide eight (8) aircraft in an up status by noon. The squadron completed a total of fourteen (14) medevac missions today, one (1) being a night medevac. Major RUECKEL led a flight of four (4) aircraft on four (4) recon team inserts and one (1) extract.

29 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of fourteen (14) medevac missions today. Major STEPHENS, while flying an emergency medevac mission, received small arms fire in the zone. No hits were recorded to the aircraft. No injuries occurred. Major STEPHENS returned to the same zone to pick up more emergency medevacs, requiring immediate medical attention.

30 April 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of thirteen (13) medevac missions today. Major STEPHENS, while flying a medevac mission, received small arms fire in the zone. No hits were recorded. No injuries occurred. Capt. HAVICAN led a flight of four (4) aircraft on four (4) recon team inserts and two (2) recon extracts in support of Operation Shawnee.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced a slight decrease in personnel over the month, with fourteen (14) personnel being joined and seventeen (17) being detached. The total number of personnel on hand as of 30 April 1967 were forty-eight (48) officers and one hundred and ninety-four (194) enlisted.

2. Administration

a. During the month, the squadron experienced two (2) promotions to the rank of Captain and five (5) to the rank of First Lieutenant.

3. Awards

a. The following awards were presented during the month of April 1967:

(1) Purple Hearts

- (a) UYEDA, G. S., CPL., 2158731 USMC
- (b) STONE, M. L., LCPL., 2158705 USMC
- (c) BROWN, J. L., CPL., 2069766 USMC
- (d) HALVORSEN, W. W., SGT., 2059846 USMC
- (e) MARSHALL, J. W., SGT., 1899288 USMC
- (f) OLIVER, C. E., PVT., 2145664 USMC
- (g) RIVERS, J. P., CPL., 2148875 USMC
- (h) DiLELLO, A., CPL., 2106118 USMC

(2) Air Medal

(a) Thirteen (13) enlisted personnel were presented their first Air Medal during this period.

(b) One hundred and forty-two (142) additional Air Medals were also presented during the month of April 1967.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

4. Casualties

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

(1) UYEDA, G. S.	CPL 2158731	Shrapnel wound	12Apr67
(2) STONE, M. L.	LCPL 2158705	Shrapnel wound	25Apr67
(3) BROWN, J. L.	CPL 2069766	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67
(4) HALVORSEN, W. W.	SGT 2059846	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67
(5) MARSHALL, J. W.	SGT 1899288	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67
(6) OLIVER, C. E.	PVT 2145664	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67
(7) RIVERS, J. P.	CPL 2148875	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67
(8) DiLELLO, A.	CPL 2106118	Shrapnel wound	28Apr67

5. Civic Action

a. No significant events

6. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. No significant events

7. Information Services

a. Six (6) general stories and thirteen (13) personnel Hometown News releases were submitted this month.

8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence

a. Intelligence conducted normal procedures during this period.

9. Air Operations

- a. Flight hours - 1363.9
- b. Flights/Sorties - 720/2747
- c. Passengers - 3007
- d. Cargo - 57.4 short tons

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

e. Medevacs - 710

10. Special Operations

a. April 1-15 Prairie III

(1) HMM-163 provided a detachment of ten (10) UH-34D's for general support in the area of operation. The bulk of responsibility concerning the squadron is medevac missions, reconnaissance flights, and limited logistic support in the Dong Ha areas.

b. April 21-30 Shawnee

(1) This squadron participated in Operation Shawnee in troop carrying missions, medevac flights and limited logistic support in the area of operation.

11. Ground Defense

a. Maximum emphasis was placed on building of bunkers and fortified positions around the squadron area.

12. Training

a. On 25 April 1967, eighteen (18) 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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3:LMK:jd
5750
2 May 1967

17. Base Development

a. No significant events

18. Communications/Electronics

a. No significant events

D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None

CONFIDENTIAL