

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163  
 Marine Aircraft Group 36  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 FPO San Francisco 96602

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 Serno: 03A33867  
 4 December 1967

**From:** Commanding Officer  
**To:** Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36  
**Subj:** Command Chronology, 1-30 November 1967  
**Ref:** GruO 5750 Series

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

*L. W. Schwindt*  
 L. W. SCHWINDT

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Copy 1 of 5

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Enclosure (6)

HMM-163

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163

1 - 30 November 1967

Marine Quang Tri Airfield, Republic of Vietnam

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## A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## 1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Frederick A. RUECKEL, Major, Commanding Officer, 1-19 November 1967
- b. Louis W. SCHWINDT, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 20-30 November 1967
- c. William T. LUNSFORD, Major, Executive Officer, 1-30 November 1967
- d. Robert S. CHARLES, Major, Operations Officer, 1-10 November 1967
- e. Robert E. ILZHOEFER, Major, Operations Officer, 11-24 November 1967
- f. Clarence L. SMITH, Major, Operations Officer, 25-30 November 1967
- g. Lonnie S. UNDERHILL, Captain, Logistics Officer, 1-30 November 1967
- h. Bernard M. GORDON, 1st Lt., Aviation Safety Officer, 1-30 November 1967
- i. James L. RIGGS, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-30 November 1967
- j. Robert E. ILZHOEFER, Major, NATOPS Officer, 1-10 November 1967
- k. Henry L. EISENSEN, Major, NATOPS Officer, 11-30 November 1967
- l. Joseph R. GRAY, Captain, Administration Officer, 1-24 November 1967
- m. Robert E. ILZHOEFER, Major, Administration Officer, 25-30 November 1967
- n. John E. COCHRAN, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-19 November 1967
- o. John A. GIDDINGS, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 20-30 November 1967
- p. Henry L. EISENSEN, Major, Intelligence Officer, 1-10 November 1967
- q. Robert G. CZAUS, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 11-30 November 1967
- r. William K. WESTLING, Captain, Custodian, G&C File, 1-30 November 1967

## 2. Task Organization

Location - Marine Quang Tri Airfield, Republic of Vietnam, 1-30 November 1967

## 3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
46	20	1	0

## 4. Important Visitors

MGen. Norman J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, 1st Marine Air Wing.

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## B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 November 1967 - Operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas in support of the 3rd MARDIV. Eighteen (18) medevac missions were flown in the Dong Ha area lifting a total of fifty-five (55) medevacs. One (1) aircraft, YP-10, BuNo. 148786 flown by 1/Lt. MURRAY, went down in a medevac zone as a result of damaged rotor blades. No injuries to crew members were reported. There were no fire incidents on this day.

2 December 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas in support of the 3rd MarDiv. Thirteen (13) medevac missions were flown in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area carrying a total of fifty-five (55) evacuees, twelve (12) of which were ARVN. Capt AINSLEY, flying YP-2, received mortar fire while at Con Thien on a medevac mission. There was no damage to the aircraft and no injuries were incurred.

3 November 1967 - The squadron conducted flight operations in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Flying ten (10) medevac missions during which twenty-five (25) troops were evacuated. Three (3) of these missions were night medevacs. Major ILZHOEFER, in YP-19, was taken under small arms fire while engaged in a medevac mission during extremely poor weather conditions in mountainous terrain. Suppressing fire was afforded by two (2) UH-1E's supplied by VMO-6. No hits were recorded. Missions flown on this day were in support of the Third Marine Division.

4 November 1967 - HMM 163 flew missions in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas while in support of the Third Marine Division. Despite inclement weather, six (6) medevac missions, evacuating eight (8) troops, were flown. YP-20, flown by Capt ROSS, received small arms fire but no hits and no injuries were reported.

5 November 1967 - Normal flight operations were conducted in support of the Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Twelve (12) medevac missions evacuated fourteen (14) troops. Two (2) of these missions were flown at night. Four (4) recon insert/extract missions were also flown by squadron aircraft. No incidents of enemy fire were reported.

6 November 1967 - Squadron operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas in support of Third MarDiv. Fourteen (14) medevac missions were flown lifting twenty-two (22) evacuees. One (1) night medevac mission was flown during this period. In addition, one (1) recon insert/extract mission was flown utilizing four (4) squadron aircraft. All the helicopters involved reported enemy fire, but no hits were taken.

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7 November 1967 - HMM 163 conducted flight operations in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas while in support of the Third MarDiv. Seventeen (17) medevac missions evacuating forty-seven (47) troops, were flown. Among these were four (4) night missions. One (1) recon insert/extract was also flown. YP-21, flown by Major RICHEY, received a hit as a result of enemy small arms fire. There were no injuries involved in the incident.

8 November 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in support of the Third MarDiv. Squadron aircraft flew eight (8) medevac missions, including two (2) at night, lifting thirty-nine (39) evacuees. Major RIGGS and Capt GZAUS, flying YP-9, and YP-13, reported enemy automatic weapons fire but no hits were taken.

9 November 1967 - Flight operations were conducted in support of Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Fifteen (15) medevac missions evacuated thirty-eight (38) troops. Of these missions, Two (2) were undertaken at night. Capt UNDERWOOD, flying YP-17, reported automatic weapons fire while engaged in a night medevac mission. No hits were recorded.

10 November 1967 - Squadron flight operations were conducted in support of Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Fourteen (14) medevac missions were flown, lifting thirty-two (32) casualties. Automatic weapons fire was reported but no hits were taken.

11 November 1967 - HMM 163 conducted flight operations in support of the Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Twenty-four (24) medevac missions lifted eighty-eight (88) evacuees during this period. One (1) aircraft, flown by Capt GZAUS, was shot down by an anti-tank rocket during an attempt to extract three (3) USMC emergency medevacs. Another aircraft, flown by Capt GRAY and involved the same mission, took automatic weapons fire but received no hits. The medevac mission was completed successfully by the escort aircraft and no injuries to any of the crew members were reported. The downed aircraft was subsequently destroyed when picked by a CH-53 from approximately 200 feet after the CH-53 was taken under heavy fire which wounded two (2) of its crew members.

12 November 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in support of the Third MarDiv. Squadron aircraft flew in support of the Third MarDiv while operating in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Three (3) medevac missions, including one (1) at night, evacuated sixteen (16) troops. Capt. AINSLEY, while engaged in medevac missions, came under fire two (2) separate times, one of the incidents involving mortar fire in a medevac zone. No hits or injuries were reported. Flight operations were limited throughout the day by low ceilings and intermittent heavy rains. Fifteen (15) medevac missions evacuated thirty-eight (38) troops. Of these missions, Two (2) were undertaken at night.

13 November 1967 - HMM 163 conducted flight operations in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area while in support of the Third MarDiv. One (1) medevac mission was flown, evacuating seven (7) casualties. No fire incidents were reported. Flight operations were again limited by inclement weather. In support of the Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Fourteen (14) medevac missions were flown, lifting thirty-two (32) casualties. [REDACTED] reported but no hits were taken. 3

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14 November 1967 - HMM 163 conducted flight operations in support of the Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Twenty-four (24) medevac missions lifted eighty-eight (88) evacuees during this period. One (1) aircraft, flown by Capt GZAUS, was shot down by an anti-tank rocket during an attempt to extract three (3) USMC emergency medevacs. Another aircraft, flown by Capt GRAY and involved the same mission, took automatic weapons fire but received no hits. The medevac mission was completed successfully by the escort aircraft and no injuries to any of the crew members were reported. The downed aircraft was subsequently destroyed when picked by a CH-53 from approximately 200 feet after the CH-53 was taken under heavy fire which wounded two (2) of its crew members.

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14 November 1967 - Flight operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas in support of the Third MarDiv and the SLF. Nine (9) medevac missions including two (2) at night, evacuated fifty (50) troops. No fire incidents were recorded.

15 November 1967 - The squadron flew missions in support of the Third MarDiv while operating in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Sixteen (16) medevac missions were flown, evacuating forty-four (44) casualties. One (1) recon insert was flown. No fire incidents were reported throughout the day although an HMM 163 aircraft made a forced landing as a result of an engine chip light. No injuries occurred during the incident.

16 November 1967 - HMM 163 flight operations were conducted in support of the Third MarDiv in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Seven (7) medevac missions, including three (3) at night, lifted sixteen (16) evacuees. Capt AINSLEY, while on a night medevac mission, took sniper fire while picking up medevacs in a landing zone. No hits were taken during the incident.

17 November 1967 - Missions were flown in support of the Third MarDiv while conducting flight operations in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas. Eight (8) medevac missions evacuated twenty-two (22) troops. In addition, one (1) emergency recon extract was flown. No fire incidents were reported throughout the day.

18 November 1967 - Operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area while in support of the Third MarDiv. Squadron aircraft flew seven (7) medevac missions evacuating twenty-five (25) troops. Of these missions, one (1) was flown at night. One recon insert was flown during this period. No fire incidents were reported.

19 November 1967 - HMM 163 flew missions in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area while in support of the Third MarDiv. Seven (7) medevac missions, including one at night, evacuated seventeen (17) casualties. No fire incidents were reported.

20 November 1967 - Squadron operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area in support of the Third MarDiv. Nine (9) medevac missions, evacuating twenty-three (23) casualties, were flown. No fire incidents were recorded.

21 November 1967 - The squadron flew in support of the Third MarDiv while operating in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Four (4) medevac missions, including one at night, evacuated five (5) casualties. No fire incidents were recorded.

22 November 1967 - HMM 163, operating in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area, flew in support of the Third MarDiv. One (1) medevac mission, lifting one (1) emergency casualty was flown. No fire incidents were recorded.

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Weather, in the form of low ceilings and heavy rain, severely limited flight operations.

23 November 1967 - Squadron aircraft were utilized in support of the Third MarDiv. Ten (10) medevac missions were flown lifting sixteen (16) evacuees. Small arms fire was taken by Capt UNDERWOOD while on a medevac mission but no hits were received. Three (3) recon inserts were flown on this day.

24 November 1967 - Flight operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area in support of the Third MarDiv. Seven (7) medevac missions, including two (2) at night, evacuated thirty-four (34) casualties. Lt. RASK received automatic weapons fire while providing escort for a night medevac mission. No hits were taken.

25 November 1967 - Normal operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha areas while in support of the Third MarDiv. Eight (8) medevac missions evacuated twenty-three (23) casualties. Capt ELOIETT received small arms fire while on a medevac mission but took no hits.

26 November 1967 - Flight operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area in support of the Third MarDiv. Squadron aircraft flew eight (8) medevac missions, including three (3) night medevacs, lifting twenty-three (23) casualties. There were no reports of enemy fire.

27 November 1967 - HMM 163 conducted normal operations in support of the Third MarDiv while working the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Thirteen (13) medevac missions, including two (2) at night, accounted for sixty-nine (69) evacuees. No fire was reported during this period.

28 November 1967 - Normal flight operations in support of the Third MarDiv were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Six (6) medevac mission evacuated twenty-one (21) casualties. No enemy fire was reported.

29 November 1967 - HMM 163 flew missions in support of the Third MarDiv while operating in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area. Seven (7) medevac missions were flown, evacuating twelve (12) casualties. No incidents of hostile fire were reported.

30 November 1967 - Flight operations were conducted in the Quang Tri/Dong Ha area while in support of the Third MarDiv. Twelve (12) medevac missions accounted for forty-three (43) evacuees. Major RIGGS received small arms fire while offloading supplies and Capt UNDERWOOD came under mortar fire several minutes later in the same LZ. Both incidents occurred while conducting an emergency resupply/medevac mission. Two (2) hits were taken on Capt UNDERWOOD's aircraft but no injuries resulted from the incident.

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## C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. Personnel

As of 30 November 1967, forty-six (46) officers and two hundred (200) enlisted men comprised HMM 163. This shows an increase of personnel being joined since the 1st of the month. Sixteen (16) enlisted men and seven (7) officers were joined after the beginning of the month.

## 2. Administration

No significant events

## 3. Awards

No awards presented during this period

## 4. Casualties

No casualties reported during the month

## 5. Civic Action

No significant events

## 6. Morale/Welfare Programs

No significant events

## 7. Information Services

No significant events

## 8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence

No significant events

## 9. Air Operations

- a. Flight hours - 899.2
- b. Flights/Sorties - 392/2589
- c. Passengers - 1494
- d. Cargo - 103.2
- e. Medevacs - 282 flights

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## 10. Special Operations

None during this reporting period

## 11. Training

No significant events

## 12. Ground Defense

No significant events

## 13. Logistics

No significant events

## 14. Motor Transport

No significant events

## 15. Maintenance

No significant events

## 16. Avionics

No significant events

## 17. Base Development

No significant events

## 18. Communications/Electronics

No significant events

## 19. Career Advisory

No significant events

## D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None