

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

3:WRWdjl
 5750
 SerNo: 03A03668
 5 February 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
 Subj: Command Chronology, 1-31 January 1968
 Ref: (a) GruO 5750 Series
 Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology, 1-31 January 1968

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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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 166

1 - 31 January 1968

Marine Quang Tri Airfield, Republic of Vietnam

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Louis W. SCHWINDT, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- b. William T. LUNSFORD, Major, Executive Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- c. Clarence L. SMITH, Major, Operations Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- d. Franklin D. RICHEY, Major, Logistics Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- e. Bernard M. GORDON, 1stLt., Aviation Safety Officer, 1-31 January 1968.
- f. James L. RIGGS, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- g. Robert E. ILZHOEFER, Major, Administration Officer, 1-31 January 1968.
- h. John A. GIDDINGS, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-31 January 1968.
- i. Robert H. BLUMM, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 1-31 January 1968
- j. Jac A. CHRISTIANSEN, 1stLt., Custodian, S&3 Files, 1-31 January 1968.

2. Task Organization

Location - Marine Quang Tri A. F., Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 January 1968

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine		Navy	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
43	175	1	0

4. Important Visitors

None, during this reporting period

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B. PART TWO * NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 January 1968 - 5 January 1968 - HMM-163 conducted normal operations in support of the Third Marine Division. The squadron evacuated 68 medevacs in 23 missions, four (4) of which were flown at night. Four (4) recon extract missions were flown during this period.

6 January 1968 - Normal operations were conducted in the Quang Tri area. Three (3) medevac missions (two at night), accounting for 3 medvacees, were flown. During this period, a section of UH-34D's spotted approximately 30 vietcong at coordinates YD 285505 and came under fire from same. The flight promptly returned fire and shortly after, called in artillery on the enemy position.

7 January 1968 - Squadron aircraft conducted normal flight operations in support of the Third Marine Division. Eight (8) medevac missions, including one at night, evacuated eight (8) troops from the field. In addition, two (2) recon extracts were flown. A flight of two (2) HMM-163 UH-34D's came under heavy automatic weapons fire at coordinates YD 4057. Both aircraft were hit and the co-pilot of the lead aircraft was wounded.

8 January 1968 - 10 January 1968 - Normal operations were conducted in the northern I Corps area with twelve (12) medevac missions (4 at night), carrying 32 troops being flown.

11 January 1968 - 17 January 1968 - In the course of this period operations the squadron flew 17 medevac missions (20 flown at night), carrying 144 medevacs. On 17 January, Highboy 1-2, received minor damage to the tail section as a result of an airburst taken while in the GOA pattern at Marine Quang Tri airfield.

18 January 1968 - Normal operations were conducted in the Quang Tri area with squadron aircraft flying 3 medevac missions for a total of 17 casualties evacuated. Highboy 1-2, buno 145787, took 8 hits from enemy automatic weapons fire, receiving echo damage. A corpsman aboard the aircraft was wounded during the incident.

19 January 1968 - HMM-163 continued in support of the Third Marine Division. Eighteen (18) medevac missions (2 night time), evacuating 61 troops, were flown.

20 January 1968 - Squadron aircraft conducted normal operations in the northern I CORPS area. Twenty six (26) medevac missions were flown evacuating 144 casualties. Highboy 1-2, buno 145804, received echo damage as a result of enemy automatic weapons fire.

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21 January 1968 - 26 January 1968 - Normal operations were flown in support of the Third Marine Division. Sixty-nine (69) medevac missions (27 flown at night) carried 287 casualties. On 24 January 1968, Highboy 3-1, Buno 147168, sustained Echo damage as a result of NVA small arms fire on 25 January. Another Highboy Aircraft, Buno, 145793, experienced loss of power and subsequent engine failure over Dong Ha Airfield. A successful Autorotation was accomplished with no injuries to personnel and no further damage to the Aircraft.

27 January 1968 - HMM-163 continued in support of the Third Marine Division in the Northern I Corps area. Ten Medevac Missions were flown, evacuating 90 casualties. At approximately 0030 hours Quang Tri Airfield came under a heavy Rocket attack. Resulting in 18 of the Squadron's Aircraft suffering damage.

28 January 1968 - 31 January 1968 - Normal Flight Operations were conducted in the Quang Tri area. Thirty- Three Medevac Missions (16 Flown at night) accounted for 196 evacuees. On 30 January 1968, Highboy 3-2, Buno, 148801 received Echo damage from an enemy .30 Cal round.

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C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

As of 31 January 1968, forty-three (43) officers and one hundred and seventy-three (173) enlisted men comprised HMM-163. This shows a increase of officers and a decrease of enlisted personnel over the previous month. Three (3) officers and eighteen (18) enlisted were joined during the month.

2. Administration

No significant events

3. Awards

One hundred and fifteen (115) Air medals were awarded during the month.

4. Casualties

Six WIA's were suffered during the month of January.

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 - 1065.6
- b. Flights/Sorties - 726/3307
- c. Passengers - 3063
- d. Cargo - 147.8
- e. Medevacs - 968

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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 Transports

No significant events

15. Maintenance

No significant events

16. Avionics

No significant events

17. Base Development

No significant events

18. Career Advisery

No significant events

D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

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