

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164  
 Marine Aircraft Group 15  
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac  
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:JJS:jmj  
 003A10369  
 13 April 1969

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commander, Task Group 79.5

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 March 1969 to 31 March 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
 (b) FMFPAC 5750.8  
 (c) BrigO 5750.10

Encl: (1) HMM-164 Command Chronology

1. In compliance with references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*R. T. Trundy*  
 R. T. TRUNDY

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Copy	1 of 16

GROUP-4  
 Downgrade at 3 year intervals  
 Declassified after 12 years

APR 16 1969

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1969 to 31 March 1969

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DesignationCommander

HMM-164

LtCol. R. T. TRUNDY 1-31 Mar 69

Subordinate Units

None

Attached Units

None

2. Location

1-7 Mar 69 : Hue/Phu Bai

8-31 Mar 69 : USS VALLEY FORGE, LPH-8

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	MAJ.	A. F. RIEBECK	1-31Mar69
Operations Officer	MAJ.	E. A. BIRZER	1-31Mar69
Administrative Officer	CAPT.	R. J. BLANCHFIELD	1-31Mar69
Maintenance Officer	MAJ.	D. D. WILSON	1-31Mar69
Logistics/Supply Officer	MAJ.	J. M. EICHELBERGER	1-5Mar69
	MAJ.	G. M. LARSON	6-31Mar69
Intelligence Officer	CAPT.	F. L. GAUSE	1-31Mar69
NATOPS Officer	1/LT.	T. U. WALL	1-31Mar69
Safety Officer	CAPT.	R. E. WEINBERG	1-31Mar69

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>BOEING REP</u>	<u>G.E. REP</u>
43	4	1	200	2	1

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting period from 1 March 1969 to 7 March 1969, HMM-164 was assigned OPCON to the First Marine Aircraft Wing. A detachment of four aircraft and crews accompanied the SLF to Cubi Pt aboard the USS TRIPOLI. The shipboard detachment supported the Special Landing Force Bravo Staff and assisted in the transfer of SLF Bravo from the USS TRIPOLI to the USS VALLEY FORGE. The USS VALLEY FORGE relieved the USS TRIPOLI in Amphibious Ready Group Bravo. HMM-164 was based at Hue/Phu Bai, where it augmented the First Marine Aircraft Wing. On 8 March 1969, HMM-164 backloaded aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE upon the ship's arrival from Cubi Point. Throughout the remainder of the reporting period, squadron aircraft continued to augment the First MAW receiving fragmentary orders from MAG-39. Limited support was also provided to SLF Bravo and BLT 3/26 ashore. Wing augmentation flight operations were conducted in support of the 1st MARDIV, 3rd MARDIV and 2nd ROK Brigade.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 Mar 69 On a local aircraft acceptance inspection flight, YT-11 crashed in ~~the~~ bay seven and a half miles southeast of Hue/Phu Bai. 1stLt. T. L. BURTON, the co-pilot, was killed. The aircraft commander, MAJ. J. M. EICHELBERGER and crew chief, LCPL G. J. GENTZLER, were rescued. MAJ. EICHELBERGER was subsequently medevaced to Japan and CONUS. 1stLt. S. E. FETZER, HAC in YT-18, and 1stLt. A. T. SCHRAMM, HAC in YT-9, were flying on a medevac mission out of Vandergrift Combat Base into LZ Mack (XD 967614) when they received incoming NVA mortar and small arms fire. Both aircraft and crews emerged unscathed after two trips into the "Hot" LZ, evacuating nine emergency, two priority, and eleven routine USMC WIA's.
- 5 Mar 69 MAJ. D. D. WILSON, HAC in YT-12, received heavy automatic weapons fire from a bunker while taking-off from a landing zone near the LMZ (XD 963628). The aircraft was not damaged.
- 8 Mar 69 The squadron commenced backloading to the USS VALLEY FORGE from Hue/Phu Bai at 1000H and backloading was completed at 1600H.
- 11 Mar 69 MAJ. G. M. LARSON, flying in YT-7 lost an external load of ammunition and other supplies after waving-off from an unsuitable zone on ROK resupply. The load was recovered later by friendly amtracs.
- 13 Mar 69 CAPT. W. W. DUBOSE, HAC in YT-13, took light automatic weapons fire while flying a spiral approach into the BLT 3/16 forward landing zone near An Hoa (AT 824487). No hits were taken.

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- 14 Mar 69 1stLt. S. E. FEIZLER and 1stLt. K. D. SCHLAGAT, HAC's in YT-1 and YT-8 respectively flew hot chow to L/3/26 in the field near An Hoa (AT 847483).
- 15 Mar 69 CAPT. J. Y. SEAMAN in command of YT-6 and 1stLt. K. R. STUBER, YT-1, both received small arms and automatic weapons fire while flying resupply for the 2nd ROK Brigade. Both aircraft were on final approach to different zones when fired upon. The aircraft were not damaged.
- 16 Mar 69 CAPT. "Buck" HERRON took one hit in an aft rotor blade while making an approach into a landing zone on the 2nd ROK Brigade resupply (AT 985556). There was no other damage.
- 17 Mar 69 CAPT. F. L. GAUSE in YT-9 flew hot chow to BLT 3/26 units in the field near An Hoa.
- 18 Mar 69 USS VALLEY FORGE with HM-164 aboard relocated from the Da Nang area to an operating area off Quang Tri. Squadron aircraft were supporting the SLF in the An Hoa area and the 3rd MAR DIV in the high mountain areas of Northern I Corps.
- 20 Mar 69 CAPT. F. L. GAUSE upon shut down at days end found that his aircraft YT-4 had sustained a .30 caliber hit in one of his aft rotor blades while flying on a mission in support of the 9th Marines for the 3rd MARDIV.
- 23 Mar 69 1stLt. J. C. ASTLE in YT-4 and 1stLt. K. R. STUBER in YT-12 both received light small arms fire approaching different zones while flying in Northern I Corps near Laos on a Command and Control Mission for the Third Marines. Neither aircraft was hit, but both aircraft sustained slight fuselage damage when the pilots landed on tree stumps in a zone located at XD 907236.

Enclosure (1)

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- 24 Mar 69      CAPT. J. Y. SEAMAN, YT-18's HAC, was forced to land at Vandergrift Combat Base with a broken fuel line. There were no injuries and the aircraft was later repaired and recovered.
- 25 Mar 69      CAPT. F. L. GAUSE took small arms fire in YT-11 flying on a visual reconnaissance near LZ Alpine (XD 755530) along the DMZ. No hits or wounds were sustained.
- 27 Mar 69      CAPT. F. L. GAUSE flying as HAC in YT-13 was forced to land on the beach 10 miles Southeast of Hue/Phu Bai due to a leaking oil line which caused the aircraft to lose oil pressure in the number 1 engine. MAJ. G. M. LARSON in YT-6 flew in some oil while CAPT. GAUSE's crew fixed the line and the aircraft continued its mission.
- 29 Mar 69      1stLt. K. D. SCHAGAT in YT-15 and 1stLt. A. R. HOXTON in YT-14 took small arms fire on a Command and Control mission near the DMZ in Northern I Corps. Lt. SCHAGAT's crew chief, CPL. S. H. WHELPLEY returned fire with his .50 caliber machine gun resulting in one probable (but unconfirmed) kill. Neither aircraft nor their crews were hit.
- 30 Mar 69      Weather severely limited flight operations.
- 30 Mar 69      Weather severely limited flight operations.

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## PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY (Taken from after action reports, corrected daily flight schedules, and daily situation reports).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEDEVAC</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>CARGO/TONS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
1	0	56	0.0	52	17.4
2	0	58	0.3	92	35.5
3	18	122	7.1	87	31.3
4	50	43	3.9	60	20.3
5	5	317	9.1	189	45.6
6	106	348	2.3	140	47.9
7	0	406	6.6	123	37.8
8	10	241	4.2	135	45.4
9	1	447	36.5	182	34.0
10	26	208	31.8	162	33.3
11	46	255	30.6	137	31.7
12	29	259	28.2	175	30.3
13	2	302	33.0	149	27.3
14	0	322	30.1	218	40.0
15	1	378	56.3	273	58.6
16	0	208	30.7	130	25.7
17	93	540	30.1	225	53.7
18	0	84	0.6	26	8.3
19	9	290	3.7	126	48.8
20	40	276	1.1	171	52.8
21	4	315	3.3	156	57.0
22	0	107	3.0	50	14.2
23	25	355	6.5	200	63.9
24	0	215	0.2	67	21.6
25	13	225	4.5	118	37.6
26	4	290	5.2	191	62.1
27	2	313	8.0	146	49.1
28	0	441	3.5	129	56.5
29	0	321	1.3	137	44.0
30	0	0	0	0	0.0
31	0	155	4.0	31	10.9
TOTALS	484	7,987	385.7	4,077	1142.6

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