

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
 Marine Aircraft Group 36
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
 FPO San Francisco 96602

M40-165 S&G Files	
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 4 January 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology, submission of (U)

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
 (b) WgO 5750.1C
 (c) GruO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the period 1-31 December 1967

1. In compliance with references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. E. Romine
 R. E. ROMINE

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 1165
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco 96602

Hue/Phu Bai RVN 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

for period

1 December 1967 through 31 December 1967

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMEPac
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

Part I

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer | LtCol R. E. ROMINE | Total Period |
| Executive Officer | Major J. J. THARP | Total Period |
| Operations Officer | Major W. H. SEWARD | Total Period |
| Administrative Officer | CWO-4 W. B. LONG, JR. | Total Period |
| Maintenance Officer | Captain J. E. MORGAN | Total Period |
| Logistics/Supply Officer | Captain N. H. BOMKAMP | Total Period |
| NATOPS Officer | Captain R. E. PEARCE | Total Period |
| Safety Officer | Captain D. B. MCDYRE | Total Period |
| 2. HUE/PHU BAI, RVN 96602 | | |
| 1-31 December 1967 | | |
| 3. Average Strength: OFF 37 ENL 184 | | |
| 4. Important Visitors: NONE | | |

Part II

a. During the month of December, HMM-165 supported 2 operations against the insurgent Viet Cong forces. Supplied with newly modified CH-46A's, the pilots and crew members of HMM-165 soon made it known to all that the WHITE KNIGHTS were back on the job. Displaying the professional competence which has always characterized HMM-165, the squadron provided not only the aircraft, but also the "know-how" to successfully support all of its operational commitments.

b. Throughout the month of December, the maintenance department continued to provide the squadron with the professional support necessary to meet our commitments. Their self-sacrifice and devotion to duty has been an example to all. As a result of their many long hours, and though operating without a full complement of aircraft, the squadron showed an average availability of 9.7 aircraft per day and logged 712.8 hours for the month of December. Since arriving in RVN in September of 1966, HMM-165 has accumulated 15,177.1 flight hours.

c. In support of Operation NEDSHO, SPACE transported 200 troops and passengers. A total of 19.7 flight hours and 51 sorties were logged.

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d. In support of Operation SCOTLAND, SPACE lifted 569 troops and passengers and 8.5 tons of cargo. A total of 103 sorties were logged in 35 flight hours.

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1-3 December 1967. No flight operations.

4 December 1967. A flight of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Captain J. C. JONES, departed HUE/PHU BAI for a resupply mission out of DONG HA. After picking up 2 CADAVER gunships for escort, the section proceeded to lift 17,300 pounds of cargo and 44 passengers in a little under 4 hours, further testament of SPACE's ability to "hack the load."

5 December 1967. No flight operations.

6 December 1967. A flight of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Major W. H. SEWARD, departed HUE/PHU BAI on an emergency MED EVAC of 13 ARVN troops. The aircraft were inbound to the zone 20 minutes after receiving the frag, an amazing display of reaction time. Arriving at the zone, it was discovered that a hoist extraction of the MED EVACS would be necessary. In a display of superior airmanship Major SEWARD hovered above the trees in the zone for a full 40 minutes as the MED EVACS were hoisted aboard. The section then departed to the hospital pad at HUE, where the ARVN's received timely medical attention. The section returned to HUE/PHU BAI without incident, and was congratulated for their fantastic response time and successful completion of a task calling for the utmost in aeronautical skill.

7 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Captain D. B. MCDYRE, departed HUE/PHU BAI on a series of recon inserts and extractions. With 2 SCARFACE HU-1E gunships and 2 HILLSBORNE A-4's for escort and air cover, the section proceeded to insert ALBATROSS, extract PARASOL, and insert JAWBREAKER. The mission was completed without incident, as VC heads were kept down by the presence of the all-seeing eyes of the UH-1E's and attack pilots, and the SPACE transports returned to PHU BAI.

8 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Major W. H. SEWARD, departed HUE/PHU BAI on a resupply mission out of DONG HA. In "true SPACE form," the section lifted over 20,000 pounds of cargo and over 30 Marines in under 4 hours before returning to PHU BAI. SPACE again saved the day for the embattled Marines north of DONG HA by rushing priority food and ammunition "air mail special delivery."

9 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Captain A. C. DICKERSON, departed HUE/PHU BAI on a priority resupply of troops along the embattled DMZ, with 2 CADAVER UH-1E gunships for escort. The section lifted over 25,000 pounds of cargo and 100 passengers, again demonstrating SPACE's "can do" spirit.

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10 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Captain D. B. MCDYRE, departed HUE/PHU BAI on a series of recon inserts. With SCARFACE gunships as escort, and 2 A-4's for cover, the section proceeded to insert teams DELMAR and HUNGARIAN, and drew no fire. After orbiting the area for a short time, and ensuring that the teams were safe, the section returned to PHU BAI.

11 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft, led by Captain A. C. DICKERSON, departed HUE/PHU BAI on a resupply of embattled Marines near the DMZ. Upon landing in the zone at SOUTHERN 14's position, the lead aircraft received mortar fire in the zone, but the presence of CADAVER UH-1E gunships brought the fire to a screeching halt, and Captain DICKERSON was able to have his aircraft off-loaded. Returning to QUANG TRI for fuel, the section picked up one civilian MED EVAC, dropped him at the USS Sanctuary, and completed the resupply without further incident before returning to PHU BAI.

12 December 1967. Captain R. E. PEARCE, leading a section of 2 SPACE aircraft, launched from HUE/PHU BAI on an EMERGENCY troop extract. Cognizant of the danger imposed by the ceiling which varied from 200 to 600', the WHITE KNIGHTS pressed on with their mission. The team was quickly extracted, but the work was only beginning for the SPACE aircraft. Another recon team was in trouble and had incurred an EMERGENCY MED EVAC. Reacting with the speed and efficiency which typifies HMM-165, the second team was soon safely aboard and bound for home.

13 December 1967. No flight operations.

14 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft on deployment to QUANG TRI joined 2 SWIFT aircraft in a resupply of Marine positions along the DMZ. Despite the fact that the three positions being resupplied all came under mortar attack and that all the aircraft encountered small arms fire, the 2 SPACE aircraft carried a total of 36,000 pounds of cargo and 71 troops.

15 December 1967. Led by Captain J. C. JONES, a section of SPACE aircraft on deployment to QUANG TRI launched on a resupply to the beleaguered Marine positions along the DMZ. With dedicated efficiency the SPACE crews quickly completed their mission transporting 14,900 pounds of cargo, 54 troops and 5 EMERGENCY MED EVACS.

16 December 1967. No flight operations.

17 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE 46's led by Captain R. E. PEARCE, departed QUANG TRI with the assigned mission of resupplying forward Marine positions near the DMZ. In less than 2 1/2 hours, the SPACE aircraft completed their task tallying up 16,600 pounds of cargo and 103 troops. The

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same two crews demonstrated the flexibility of the WHITE KNIGHTS when they launched out of QUANG TRI that afternoon on an emergency MED EVAC mission. Within 35 minutes after takeoff the SPACE aircraft were back, having snatched 9 emergency MED EVACS from in front of enemy guns, and deposited them safely at Delta Med. The legend of the WHITE KNIGHTS of HMM-165 marches on.

18 December 1967. Assigned to a series of combat cargo resupply missions, a section of SPACE aircraft, led by Captain J. C. JONES, departed PHU BAI en-route to the DMZ positions of the 3rd Marine Division. At the completion of the mission, 31,000 pounds of cargo and 90 troops had been lifted, just another "ROUTINE" lift for the WHITE KNIGHTS.

19 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE aircraft led by Captain N. H. BOMKAMP, departed PHU BAI on a combat cargo resupply mission. Supplies totaling 18,400 pounds were delivered to five insecure zones. When called upon to evacuate 3 emergency MED EVACS, the WHITE KNIGHTS charged to the rescue. One step ahead of the NVA Mortar Teams, the SPACE aircraft cleared the zone with their MED EVACS as the shells began to fall.

20 December 1967. Called upon to undertake a logistic cargo resupply to Marine positions along the DMZ, Major J. J. THARP sallied forth with his section of SPACE aircraft. In short order the mission was completed, with 17,500 pounds of cargo and 79 troops lifted.

21 December 1967. Captain D. B. MCDYRE, leading a section of SPACE aircraft out of QUANG TRI, launched on a resupply mission to the embattled DMZ. Despite enemy airbursts the WHITE KNIGHTS pressed on transporting 135 troops and 25,000 pounds of cargo.

22 December 1967. A section of SPACE 46's led by Captain A. J. ALLEGA, departed QUANG TRI after being assigned the mission of combat cargo resupply. While resupplying five different positions and in spite of enemy mortar fire in one zone, the section lifted a total of 58 troops and 28,500 pounds of cargo.

23 December 1967. Leading a section of 2 SPACE 46's, Captain N. H. BOMKAMP, launched from PHU BAI on Mission 77. A logistics resupply mission displaying typical WHITE KNIGHT tenacity, the 2 SPACE aircraft, in 6.0 flight hours, lifted 133 troops and 40,000 pounds of cargo.

24 December 1967. A single SPACE 46 launched from QUANG TRI in support of a HIGHBOY flight of 2 H-34's. With WHITE KNIGHT support, the resupply mission was quickly completed, the SPACE aircraft having transported 14 troops and 11,000 pounds of cargo in 1.5 hours.

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25 December 1967. Christmas Day found the WHITE KNIGHTS engaged in several flights supporting Marines in isolated outposts. A "TURKEY EXPRESS" flight was launched carrying hot meals to troops at various positions, as well as mail and ammunition.

26 December 1967. A flight of 12 SPACE aircraft, led by Lieutenant Colonel R. E. ROMINE, launched from PHU BAI on Mission 68, a combat assault. Displaying the skill and professionalism which characterizes HMM-165, the strike force was efficiently inserted in the finest traditions of the Marine Corps Air/Ground Team.

27 December 1967. Captain J. C. JONES, leading a section of 2 SPACE 46's, launched 3 times on Tactical MED EVAC Missions. The SPACE "MERCY MISSIONS" resulted in the speedy evacuation of 40 individuals.

28 December 1967. Responding to the second assault operation in 3 days, Lieutenant Colonel R. E. ROMINE led his WHITE KNIGHTS in a 9 plane strike northwest of KHE SANH. The SPACE crews, reacting with their usual professional competence, lifted a total of 569 troops to the battle zone, demonstrating again the prowess of the "PRIDE OF THE 1st WING" --HMM-165.

29 December 1967. No flight operations.

30 December 1967. A section of 2 SPACE 46's launched IFR from PHU BAI bound for QUANG TRI. Soon after arrival the WHITE KNIGHTS launched on a resupply of combat cargo. Despite the restrictions imposed by reduced visibility and ceilings, the SPACE aircraft lifted 21,500 pounds of cargo and 17 troops.

31 December 1967. Again HMM-165 was called upon to brave the rigors of monsoon flying and, answering the call, Captain R. E. PEARCE led forth his section of SPACE 46's. At the completion of the mission, 45,000 pounds of cargo and 105 troops had been transported. Half of the time logged was actual IFR, demonstrating well the ability of the WHITE KNIGHTS to "HACK THE LOAD."

Part III

1. Personnel. During this reporting, SPACE joined 9 new officers, for a total of 46 officers. 45 enlisted joined and 48 were detached, for a total enlisted strength of 184.
2. Casualties. During this period, HMM-165 incurred no casualties.

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3. Awards. During this reporting period, SEACE pilots and crew-members were awarded 8 Air Medals. Lieutenant Colonel R. E. ROMINE and Captain S. G. BULKLEY were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Captain J. C. JONES received the Bronze Star.

4. Civic Action. NONE

5. <u>Squadron Totals.</u>	Flight Hours:	712.8
	Sorties:	1716
	Cargo (tons):	369.4
	Troops.passengers:	4,709

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