

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
 Marine Aircraft Group 16
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
 FPO San Francisco 96602

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 5 February 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commander, Task Group 79.5

Subj: Command Chronology, Period 10 January 1968 to 31 January 1968

Ref: (a) CTG 79.5 Operation Plan 120A-67

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. This letter becomes unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

[Signature]
 R. E. ROMINE

SLF Task Group 79.5
 S&C Cont. Cl No 010025

HMM-165 S&C Files	
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HMM-165 CMD CHRON

10-31 JAN 1968

PART I

1. Organizational Data

a. Commanding Officer	R. E. ROMINE, LTCOL	10Jan - 31Jan68
b. Executive Officer	J. E. PRATHER, MAJ	10Jan - 31Jan68
c. Operations Officer	D. SAYES, MAJ	10Jan - 31Jan68
d. Administrative Officer	W. B. LONG, CWO-4	10Jan - 31Jan68
e. Maintenance Officer	J. J. THARP, MAJ	10Jan - 31Jan68
f. Logistics/Supply Officer	N. H. BOMKAMP, CAPT	10Jan - 31Jan68
g. NATOPS Officer	R. E. PEARCE, CAPT	10Jan - 31Jan68
h. Safety Officer	D. B. MCDYRE, CAPT	10Jan - 31Jan68

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

a. HMM-165, Marine Aircraft Group 15, (REIN), 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FPO San Francisco, California, 96602.

3. Average Strength of Detachment

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>BOMBING REPRESENTATIVE</u>
42	4	1	188	2

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

a. NONE

PART II Summary of Operations

10 Jan 1968 Utilizing 12 CH-46's, HMM-165 began its embarkation from Hue Phu Bai to the USS VALLEY FORGE. In the course of 26 flight hours, HMM-165 transported 57 passengers and 78,700 lbs of squadron gear while logging 58 sorties.

11 Jan 1968 The pilots and crew members of HMM-165 completed the embarkation of the squadron to the USS VALLEY FORGE lifting 45,200 lbs of cargo, 56 passengers and logging 21.8 flight hours and 40 sorties.

12 Jan 1968 The squadron embark completed, the pilots of HMM-165 turned their attention towards improving their proficiency in shipboard operations. Both day and night carrier qualifications were conducted resulting in the qualification or re-qualification of 33 pilots in 184 day landings and 15 pilots in 89 night landings.

13 Jan 1968 The pilots of HMM-165 continued their qualification flights logging 43 day landings and 4.6 flight hours. In the night qualification, 61 landings were made in 6.9 flight hours.

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- 14 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 17.4 flight hours while transporting 8,300 lbs of cargo and 51 passengers. A total of 42 sorties were logged.
- 15 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 24.1 flight hours, transporting .3 tons of cargo and 96 passengers in 29 sorties. Day and night qualification periods resulted in 11.9 flight hours and 132 landings as the WHITE KNIGHTS of HMM-165 furthered their proficiency in shipboard operations.
- 16 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 21.5 flight hours in 68 sorties. 7,200 lbs of cargo and 103 passengers/troops were transported.
- 17 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 14.6 flight hours in 35 sorties while lifting 72 passengers/troops and 14,800 lbs of cargo. 11 test hops were flown logging 8.5 flight hours.
- 18 Jan 1968 As a practice exercise to improve coordination between the ships' operations department and the squadron, HMM-165 launched a 16 plane flight led by LTCOL R. E. ROMINE. The entire launch was complete in less than 15 minutes, attesting to the preparedness and cooperation of all concerned.
- 19 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 14.1 flight hours in 74 sorties while lifting 4,500 lbs of cargo and 54 troops/passengers.
- 20 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 15.9 flight hours in 60 sorties while lifting 3.2 tons of cargo and 149 troops/passengers.
- 21 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 30.2 flight hours in 52 sorties while lifting 12.2 tons of cargo and 135 troops/passengers.
- 22 Jan 1968 In support of the SLF, HMM-165 flew 10.1 flight hours in 26 sorties while lifting 37 troops/passengers.
- 23 Jan 1968 Responding to a call for an immediate troop lift, HMM-165 launched 13 aircraft, led by LTCOL R. E. ROMINE on Operation Badger Catch at 1807. In spite of the approaching darkness, 444 troops and 3.0 tons of supplies were put ashore in three hours.

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- 24 Jan 1968 The WHITE KNIGHTS' support of Operation Badger Catch continued as the squadron lifted 592 troops and 15.9 tons of cargo in 132 sorties. Light small arms fire was received from YD 308661 resulting in a single hit on one aircraft.
- 25 Jan 1968 The pilots and crew members of HMM-165 continued their enthusiastic support of Operation Badger Catch transporting 111 troops and 27.7 tons of cargo in 58 sorties. The WHITE KNIGHT medevac crews evacuated 26 casualties from the battlefield during the day.
- 26 Jan 1968 With Operation Badger Catch now in its third day, the WHITE KNIGHTS of HMM-165 had a busy day as they transported 160 troops and 15.1 tons of cargo in 26 hours and 61 sorties. Responding to calls for medevac throughout the day, the squadron lifted 47 casualties from the battle zone to the USS VALLEY FORGE.
- 27 Jan 1968 As Operation Badger Catch continued into its fourth full day, the pilots and crew members of HMM-165 continued to carry their share of the load as is reflected in the statistics of the day. The WHITE KNIGHT crews lifted 797 troops and 40.7 tons of cargo while logging 181 sorties and 48.8 hours. Forty-four battle casualties were evacuated.
- 28 Jan 1968 During the fifth day of Operation Badger Catch, HMM-165 crews continued, in their usual manner, to provide outstanding tactical and logistical support to the troops ashore. The squadron lifted 25.1 tons of cargo and carried 74 troops/passengers in 82 sorties, for a total of 28.6 flight hours 42 battlefield casualties were evacuated.
- 29 Jan 1968 With Operation Badger Catch in its sixth day, the embarked squadron flew 29.1 flight hours, logging 136 sorties. The WHITE KNIGHTS lifted 32.6 tons of cargo and 134 troops/passengers. 17 battlefield casualties were evacuated.
- 30 Jan 1968 HMM-165, supporting the SLF, entered the seventh full day of Operation Badger Catch. All in a days work, the squadron logged 98 sorties in 28.4 flight hours. 10.5 tons of cargo were carried, as well as 174 troops/passengers during this reporting period. 42 battlefield casualties were evacuated.
- 31 Jan 1968 On this last day of January, with Operation Badger Catch in its eighth day, HMM-165 flew 293 sorties in 60.4 flight hours. The Squadron carried 58.7 tons of cargo, as well as

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701 troops/passengers, truly a display of the WHITE KNIGHTS ability to successfully execute their role in the air-ground team. Sixty-four battle casualties were evacuated to waiting medical attention.

PART III

1. Listing of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) Transfers to HMM-165

(a) NONE

(2) Transfers from HMM-165

(a) NONE

(3) Promotions

(a) CAPTS' D. M. DUNAGAN and R. W. ROMERO promoted from 1stLt.

b. Operations

During this reporting period HMM-165 flew 2508 sorties carrying 3851 troops/passengers and 401.1 tons of cargo for a total of 601.2 flight hours.

(a) Operation Badger Catch. A total of 863 sorties were flown in support of this operation, carrying 2,155 troops/passengers. 244 med-evacs and 271.1 tons of cargo were lifted in 230.6 flight hours.

(b) Operation Fortress Attack. A total of 34 sorties were flown in support of this operation, carrying 225 troops/passengers, and 1,100 pounds of cargo in 13.2 flight hours.

c. Training

(1) Pilots practiced and completed day and night carrier qualification landings, as well as instrument approaches.

(2) Twenty-one gunners fam fired the M-50.

d. Maintenance

(1) Average availability for the period 10 Jan 1968 through 31 Jan 1968 was 77%.

e. Informational Service.

(1) None