

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

HUE/PHU BAI, RVN

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

for period

1 April 1968 through 30 April 1968

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HMM-165 S&C Files

Control # 0412568

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

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 3 May 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36

Subj: Command Chronology, submission of (U)

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

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for period 1-30 April 1968

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

E. E. Hagedorn
 E. E. HAGEDORN

HMM-165

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Enclosure (6)

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

Part I

1. Organizational Data

a. Commanding Officer	E. E. HAGEDORN, LTCOL	1Apr-30Apr68
b. Executive Officer	J. E. PRATHER, MAJ	1Apr-30Apr68
c. Operations Officer	D. SAYES, MAJ	1Apr-30Apr68
d. Administrative Officer	W. B. LONG, CWO-4	1Apr-8Apr68
	G. D. ANDERSEN, CAPT	9Apr-28Apr68
	R. A. BROWN, 1/LT	29Apr-30Apr68
e. Maintenance Officer	J. E. MORGAN, CAPT	1Apr-30Apr68
f. Logistics/Supply Officer	N. H. BOMKAMP, CAPT	1Apr-30Apr68
g. NATOPS Officer	R. E. PEARCE, CAPT	1Apr-30Apr68
h. Safety Officer	D. B. MCDYRE, CAPT	1Apr-30Apr68

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

a. HMM-165, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco, California, 96602.

b. 1 April 1968 - 30 April 1968

3. Average Strength of Squadron

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>BOEING REP</u>
42	4	1	175	2

4. Important Visitors to Squadron

a. NONE

Part II

1 April 1968. No significant flight operations.

2 April 1968. Major Davis SAYES launched from Phu Bai as leader of a section of SPACE CH-46's on a support mission for the 1st Marines. The majority of the day's work involved a troop lift which, because of the confined zones, required the utmost in flying skill. The White Knights completed their arduous task, lifting 94 troops, 6000 lbs of cargo and evacuating 5 Med-evacs.

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3 April 1968. Late in the evening Major J. E. PRATHER was called upon to lead his section of SPACE CH-46's in an emergency extract of an endangered recon team south of Phu Bai. By the time the team was located it was dark and the only means of identifying the zone was a single strobe light held by the recon team. The team was successfully extracted under a volley of enemy as the White Knights of HMM-165 snatched the enemy's prey from their grasp.

4 April 1968. Demonstrating their skill at recon inserts and extracts, Capt. R. E. PEARCE led a section of SPACE CH-46's through their paces as they completed six inserts and two extracts. 104 troops were lifted and 8.4 flight hours were flown to complete the mission.

5 April 1968. While flying as wingman in a section of SPACE CH-46's led by Capt. D. B. MCDYRE, Capt. R. E. PEARCE was twice called upon to demonstrate his airmanship and courage as he rescued two recon teams under enemy fire. The calm and professional attitude with which Capt. PEARCE handled this difficult situation reflects favorably upon himself and his illustrious squadron.

6 April 1968. Launching 5 SPACE A/C on a variety of missions throughout the northern I Corps area, the White Knights logged 19.6 flight hours while lifting 107 troops, 5 Med-evacs, and 7.7 tons of cargo.

7 April 1968. An eight plane strike flight launched from Phu Bai led by Major Davis SAYES with the assigned mission of executing a vertical assault at YD 955226. The lift was completed in the White Knight's usual professional manner in little more than one hour, as 155 Marines were deposited in the zone.

8 April 1968. Recon inserts and extractions were the order of the day as Major Davis SAYES led his section of CH-46's through 2 inserts and 4 extracts. The hard flying White Knights lifted 62 troops as they logged 4.7 flight hours to complete the mission.

9 April 1968. Leading a flight of three SPACE H-46's, Capt. D. B. MCDYRE launched on a mission supporting the 1st Marines near Ca Lu. The White Knights gave a good account of themselves as they lifted 147 troops and 5800 lbs. of cargo in 33 sorties.

10 April 1968. Recon inserts and extractions again proved to be the main attraction as Major J. E. PRATHER's flight of two SPACE A/C completed one insert and four extracts, lifting a total of 71 troops and 2200lbs. of gear, in 20 sorties.

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11 April 1968. No significant flight operations.

12 April 1968. Responding quickly to a request for the insertion of a reaction force around a downed UH-34, the White Knight Sparrow Hawk team swung into action. Within the hour the troops were in position and the situation "well in hand".

13 April 1968. The White Knights of HMM-165 were back at their speciality as four SPACE A/C were launched during the day on recon inserts and extracts. 10 inserts and 4 extracts were flown as 138 troops were lifted and 57 sorties flown.

14 April 1968. Responding to the plea for Med-evac, Lt. J. H. MERRILL led his Med-evac crew on five missions of mercy as 13 Marine and civilian casualties were evacuated from battle zones during the afternoon.

15 April 1968. No significant flight operations.

16 April 1968. Assigned the task of transporting three companies from scattered positions south of Camp Carroll to the camp itself and then to positions further west, 4 SPACE CH-46's launched on a mission #83 under the leadership of Capt. A. J. ALLEGA. During the 29 hours which the flight logged, 948 troops were lifted and 159 sorties were flown despite enemy mortar fire encountered at the Camp Carroll LZ.

17 April 1968. Nine SPACE A/C were launched throughout the day in support of Operation Pegasus, transferring troops and cargo from Khe Sanh to YD 490560. During the course of the day, the White Knights accumulated 69 flight hours and lifted 584 troops and 21.7 tons of cargo. As well, 19 Med-evacs were evacuated from the battle zone.

18 April 1968. A section of SPACE A/C led by Capt. G. D. ANDERSEN demonstrated their prowess at recon inserts and extractions as they completed 2 inserts and 2 extractions in minimum time. 44 troops were lifted on the mission and 12 sorties logged.

19 April 1968. Supporting Operation Pegasus, HMM-165 launched two A/C to serve as working birds in the Camp Carroll - Ca Lu area. The SPACE crews tallied up 5.6 flight hours while lifting 57 troops in 11 sorties.

20 April 1968. Six SPACE A/C were launched during the day on missions supporting the U. S. Army, Operation Baxter Garden, and Operation Pegasus. Their combined results showed 140 troops and 11.3 tons of cargo lifted. Responding to Med-evac requests, the White Knights evacuated 6 wounded Marines and logged 29.5 flight hours for the day.

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21 April 1968. Leading a section of SPACE CH-46's assigned as working birds at Quang Tri, Capt. G. D. ANDERSEN ranged the area from Quang Tri to the DMZ on various missions. The flight's enthusiastic efforts showed 105 troops and 10.5 tons of cargo lifted as 13 flight hours were logged.

22 April 1968. Responding to a call for an emergency troop lift, Major D. SAYES launched with a flight of four SPACE A/C. The hard charging White Knights logged 15.6 flight hours as they lifted 300 ARVN troops to a hotly contested zone on Route 547. The mission was successfully completed although one A/C was damaged by incoming mortar fire.

23 April 1968. Lt. Col. E. E. HAGEDORN launched from Phu Bai with a section of SPACE CH-46's on a mission supporting Operation Pegasus. The industrious White Knights tallied up 15 flight hours while lifting 86 troops, 7 Med-evacs, and 20 tons of cargo.

24 April 1968. Leading a section of SPACE CH-46's Capt. R. E. PEARCE launched on a 3 fold mission of recon extracts, resupply, and a troop lift. In 7.8 flight hours the flight completed three recon extracts and lifted 138 troops and 5000 lbs. of cargo. All in a day's work for the versatile White Knights.

25 April 1968. When called upon to transfer 33 Med-evacs from the Sanctuary to DaNang, HMM-165 responded by sending two CH-46's to quickly complete the task. All of the Med-evacs were lifted by the two A/C and swiftly deposited in DaNang.

26 April 1968. Working in support of Operation Baxter Garden, Lt. Col. E. E. HAGEDORN led a division of his CH-46's on a combination troop lift and resupply mission. The mission was completed with demonstrated efficiency as 343 troops and 14,000 lbs. of gear were lifted.

27 April 1968. A Section of SPACE CH-46's led by Capt. E. N. MALEY launched from Phu Bai on an augmentation mission with PROV MAG-39. The hard charging White Knights compiled 20.2 flight hours lifting 340 passengers, 10 Med-evacs, and 39,000 lbs. of cargo.

28 April 1968. Major J. E. PRATHER launched from Phu Bai with Capt. R. W. ROMERO as his wingman, assigned the mission of conducting a troop lift in the CaLu area. Five sorties were made into the drop zone lifting 155 troops and 4 Med-evacs. However, on the last sortie Capt. ROMERO's A/C received fire, one round of which struck and killed Capt. ROMERO. He had received two other wounds earlier in his tour but continued to serve with distinction until his death. Capt. ROMERO's courage and devotion to duty will be forever an inspiration to all who knew him.

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29 April 1968. Leading a flight of three SPACE CH-46's on a troop extraction, Capt. E. N. MALEY was not to be deterred as he and his flight made four sorties each into a fire laced zone. 148 troops were extracted under enemy fire as the White Knights completed their mission.

30 April 1968. Capt. E. N. MALEY launched on a mission of recon inserts and extractions with a section of SPACE CH-46's and two UH-1E gunships. The first assignment was the insertion of a ten man team south of Phu Bai. After landing in the zone, the team had begun to disembark from the A/C when a concealed enemy opened fire. Advised that all the troops were aboard the A/C, Capt. MALEY lifted out of the zone, but a more thorough count showed three men still on the ground. Without hesitation the pilot returned to the LZ and extracted the remainder of the team. Another job "well done" by the White Knights of HMM-165.

Part III

1. Listing of Significant Events

a. Personnel.

(1) Transfers to HMM-165

(a) 60 Officers

(b) 19 Enlisted

(2) Transfers from HMM-165

(a) 8 Officers

(b) 26 Enlisted

(3) Promotions

(a) 1/Lt F. C. KLAHN was promoted from 2/Lt.

(b) 1/Lt G. D. MCPHERSON was promoted from 2/Lt.

(4) Casualties

(a) CAPTAIN Robert W. ROMERO 093402/7562 was killed in action on 28 April 1968 as a result of wounds when he was struck by enemy fire.

(b) SECOND LIEUTENANT Stephen P. FICKEL 0103111/7562 was wounded in action on 17 April 1968 when stepped on a anti-personnel mine.

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b. Operations. During this reporting period HMM-165 flew 2458 sorties, carrying 6775 troops/passengers and 295.8 tons of cargo for the total of 808.8 flight hours.

c. Maintenance.

(1) Average availability for the period 1 April through 30 April 1968 was 75%.

Part IV

1. Supporting Documents.

a. NONE

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