

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

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 03A15568
 3 June 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 1-31 May 1968

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

E. E. Hagedorn
 E. E. HAGEDORN

MM-165

CMD CHRON

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ENCLOSURE (4)

MAY 1968

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 May 1968 through 31 May 1968

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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	1May-31May68
b. Executive Officer	J. E. PRATHER, MAJ	1May-31May68
c. Operations Officer	D. SAYES, MAJ	1May-31May68
d. Administrative Officer	R. A. BROWN, 1/LT	1May-31May68
e. Maintenance Officer	J. E. MORGAN, CAPT	1May-31May68
	E. N. MALEY, CAPT	4May-31May68
f. Logistics/Supply Officer	N. H. BOMKAMP, CAPT	1May-15May68
	L. R. ADAMS, CAPT	16May-31May68
g. NATOPS Officer	J. B. GARTMAN, CAPT	1May-31May68
h. Safety Officer	K. W. FLOYD, CAPT	1May-31May68

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 May 1968 - 31 May 1968

3. Average Strength of Squadron

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>BOEING REP</u>
44	4	1	170	2

4. Important Visitors to Squadron

a. NONE

Part II

1 May 1968. Capt E. N. MALEY launched from Phu Bai with a section of SPACE CH-46's on a mission of recon inserts and extracts. The flight completed two inserts and two extracts while transporting 74 Marines. Enemy fire was received on the first extract but the mission was accomplished in spite of the harrassment.

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2 May 1968. Demonstrating the versatility of Marine aviators, Capt J. E. MORGAN led a section of White Knights on a mission augmenting PROV MAG-39. During the course of flight operations the SPACE CH-46's flew med-evac missions, combat resupply and climaxed the day with an emergency resupply of food, water and ammunition. The latter required an IFR hover up the side of a mountain to find the obscured zone.

3 May 1968. A section of SPACE CH-46's launched from Phu Bai on a series of recon inserts and extracts led by LtCol E. E. HAGEDORN. During the 4.8 hours flight, four inserts and two extracts and 7 emergency med-evacs were accomplished. One other scheduled insert was aborted after two attempts because of intense enemy ground fire.

4 May 1968. Capt E. N. MALEY had a busy day as he led his section of SPACE 46's on a resupply mission in the Khe Sanh area. The flight logged 16.2 flight hours while lifting 112 troops, 8 med-evacs, and 35,000 lbs. of cargo.

5 May 1968. The situation was becoming critical for a number of Marine med-evacs who were pinned down by intense enemy fire when Capt E. W. CONNELLY nosed his CH-46 over and charged for their position. The zone was not clearly marked and required that Capt CONNELLY expose himself and his aircraft for some time in order to locate the pick-up point. Finally the med-evacs were spotted and loaded aboard the aircraft, but when a take-off was attempted, intense enemy fire downed the aircraft wounding the co-pilot. Another CH-46 swooped to the rescue but too late to save Capt CONNELLY who was mortally wounded after escaping his burning aircraft. Capt CONNELLY courageously gave his life while attempting to aid his fellow Marines.

6 May 1968. While on a routine recon mission 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO completed two inserts and two extracts. The last extract was opposed by enemy fire, but the White Knights nevertheless completed their assigned task in their traditional professional manner.

7 May 1968. When requested to send a section of SPACE 46's to assist in a company size insert, HMM-165 dispatched two A/C led by Major D. SAYES to do the job. Because darkness was only minutes away it was imperative that the troops be inserted. Braving intense enemy fire the mission was speedily accomplished by the White Knights as they inserted 24 ARVN Special Forces personnel into the contested zone.

8 May 1968. While launching on a variety of missions in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone, the pilots and crews of HMM-165 lifted 111 troops, 2.3 tons of cargo and 11 med-evacs.

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9 May 1968. A four plane flight led by Capt J. E. MORGAN launched on the mission of inserting the Bald Eagle company in an effort to rescue a surrounded recon team. In less than two hours 144 troops were inserted by the fast moving White Knights and the threatening NVA were quickly put to flight.

10 May 1968. Capt G. D. ANDERSEN led a section of SPACE 46's on an emergency troop lift south of Hue Phu Bai as the hard charging White Knights lifted 159 Marines in 6.6 flight hours and 30 sorties.

11 May 1968. Six SPACE aircraft launched from Phu Bai led by Capt A. J. ALLEGA on a troop assault. The lift was accomplished expeditiously and in a highly professional manner as the White Knights inserted 274 Marine and ARVN troops in the strike zone. Fire was received on one occasion but, undaunted, the White Knights continued the mission.

12 May 1968. Two White Knight CH-46's launched from Hue Phu Bai on a recon insert and extract mission accompanied by two UH-1E gunships and two A-4's. In the course of their mission they accomplished two extracts, one insert and one overfly during 4.6 flight hours.

13 May 1968. A section of SPACE aircraft led by 1/Lt J. H. MERRILL in support 1st Marine Division Reconnaissance Units made two insertions, two extractions along with three overflys. Supported by two UH-1E gunships and two Marine F-4's they successfully completed their mission while transporting a total of 54 troops plus 1,600 lbs. of cargo.

14 May 1968. LtCol E. E. HAGEDORN led the way as eight White Knight Aircraft from HMM-165 were launched on mission number 122, a troop lift to the north-west of Dong Ha, encountering mortar and artillery fire on many of the drops into unsecured zones, the SPACE flight continued their mission resulting in a total lift of 340 Marines and 14,000 lbs. of cargo while logging 24.9 hours.

15 May 1968. Today SPACE aircraft, in support of both the 1st Marine Division and 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces, transported 221 Marines and 15,000 lbs. of cargo. Thus the White Knights completed both mission number 23 led by Capt A. J. ALLEGA, and mission number 74 led by Capt E. N. MALEY.

16 May 1968. White Knight aircraft of HMM-165 out of Phu Bai gave support to the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces today on four different missions. A total of 150 Marine combat troops and 22,000 lbs. of combat cargo were carried by these SPACE aircraft. Led by LtCol E. E. HAGEDORN two White Knight aircraft successfully completed their mission despite encountering mortar fire in the landing zone on an emergency med-evac.

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17 May 1968. Ten White Knight aircraft were launched from Hue Phu Bai on five different missions. Results for the day showed 370 troops carried including five emergency med-evacs and 3,000 lbs. of cargo. A section of SPACE 46's led by Major D. SAYES took fire in both drop zones where they were deploying Vietnamese Special Forces troops, but still successfully completed their mission. Another White Knight section led by 1/Lt J. H. MERRILL, while supporting the 1st Marine Division south of DaNang, took .30 caliber automatic weapon fire on approach to a landing zone for a med-evac.

18 May 1968. While flying in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces, a section of SPACE aircraft led by Capt A. J. ALLEGA completed mission number 82 involving the movement of 60 combat troops into two unsecured zones, thus aiding the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces in successfully continuing their mission. The White Knights flew 83 sorties carrying 287 troops/passengers plus five emergency and 76 priority med-evacs.

19 May 1968. SPACE aircraft from HMM-165 lifted a total of 139 troops/passengers and carried 17.2 tons of cargo. Twenty-two med-evacs were also carried as the White Knights flew a total of 142 sorties while logging 52.7 hours of flight time. A section of CH-46's led by Capt D. B. MCDYRE came under fire at both Khe Sanh and Dong Ha.

20 May 1968. Today the White Knights continued their support of both the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces and the 1st Marine Division lifting 86 troops/passengers, 5.7 tons of cargo and ten med-evacs.

21 May 1968. The White Knights launched a section of CH-46's led by Major J. E. PRATHER on a recon insert and extraction mission in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces. They successfully completed two inserts and one extraction thereby adding to HMM-165's proud record of readiness and ability to carry out all assignments in an efficient and professional manner.

22 May 1968. White Knights in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces diligently carried out their missions. The White Knights flew both insertions and extractions and lifted 8.5 tons of cargo and 140 troops.

23 May 1968. Charging out of Phu Bai, the White Knights of HMM-165 flew a variety of missions ranging from insertion of recon teams to moving combat troops into unsecured areas in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces. Exhibiting their usual professionalism, 12 tons of cargo and 192 Marines were strategically advanced by the pilots of HMM-165. Capping off the day's activities, was an emergency extract of a recon team by a section of SPACE aircraft led by Capt J. B. GARTMAN.

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24 May 1968. HMM-165 launched a section of SPACE aircraft in support of the 26th Marines. Led by 1/Lt J. H. MERRILL they exhibited tenaciousness in carrying out their assigned mission while transporting 185 passengers and 7 tons of cargo into contested zones. They finished off a long day with a reconnaissance overflight in support of 1st Force Reconnaissance Bn.

25 May 1968. Four White Knights launched from Phu Bai in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces. The division of SPACE aircraft led by Major D. SAYES lifted 89 troops and 7.5 tons of cargo in 28 sorties.

26 May 1968. Capt E. N. MALEY, leading a trio of White Knights in support of the 3rd Amphibious Force, lifted a total of 97 troops and 3 tons of cargo. A section of White Knights on a recon extract and insert mission led by Capt. D. M. DUNAGAN was encountering resistance at his assigned landing zone. Unable to make his inserts due to heavy enemy fire, he skillfully maneuvered his aircraft out of danger and later completed an emergency extract.

27 May 1968. Enemy forces once again were present at their destination as a trio of White Knights led by Major D. SAYES launched in support of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces loaded with 39 ARVN Special Forces personnel. Upon arrival at the zone they came under both small arms and automatic weapons fire. Skillfully maneuvering his flight, Major SAYES successfully completed his mission. Upon landing they came under mortar attack but the enemy was off his mark and all three aircraft came home safely. Meanwhile another flight of CH-46's led Capt E. N. MALEY completed their mission of two extractions, one insertion and one overfly in support of 1st Marine Division.

28 May 1968. In support of the 1st Marine Division Recon, a section of planes launched from Phu Bai on mission number 79. The SPACE aircraft led by Major D. SAYES were accompanied by two UH-1E's and two A-4's. In 5.8 hours of flight time they made 2 insertions and 4 extractions lifting 87 combat troops and 2,000 lbs. of cargo. Another tribute to the professional skills of the White Knights of HMM-165, was the successful med-evac of 2 Marines from a contested zone south of DaNang. The section, led by Major J. E. PRATHER, once again showed the versatility of helicopters in such emergencies by returning the 2 wounded Marines to the medical facilities at DaNang for immediate medical attention.

29 May 1968. The White Knight's of HMM-165 at Phu Bai were once again called on for support to the 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces for recon insertions and extractions. The first section led by Capt A. J. ALLEGA came under fire during an insertion and was called upon to do an emergency extraction. Upon approaching the zone, the SPACE aircraft came under fire which the 2 UH-1E's subdued temporarily. During the pause Capt ALLEGA made a successful pickup of

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the recon team. Later in the day, another section of aircraft led by Capt E. N. MALEY successfully completed mission number 80, which consisted of two extractions under fire without loss of aircraft or personnel.

30 May 1968. A section of White Knight CH-46's led by Major J. E. PRATHER was launched on a recon insert and resupply mission in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces south of Phu Bai. After making a resupply drop without incident, they attempted an insert. Although unable to complete the insert due to intense enemy fire, they did complete two overflights of future insert sites. While attempting still another insert, they received intense enemy fire and were forced to abandon the mission. Before the day was over three more sections of SPACE aircraft had taken to the air. Braving fire on two different occasions, they completed their missions lifting 156 troops and passengers and 10 tons of cargo. 1/Lt J. H. MERRILL while leading his section of White Knights received automatic weapons fire and despite hits on both aircraft, remained airborne to complete the mission.

31 May 1968. Three sections of SPACE CH-46's were launched today in support of 3rd Marine Amphibious Forces. The first section of White Knights led by LtCol E. E. HAGEDORN, successfully flew 2 emergency resupply lifts of ammunition to Khe Sanh, carrying 13,000 lbs. of cargo and 40 troops. The second section of White Knights led by 1/Lt V. L. GENNARO on the same mission lifted 1,400 lbs. of cargo and 37 troops to the Khe Sanh and Calu airstrips. The third section of White Knights completed the mission to Khe Sanh and Calu lifting 1,800 lbs. of cargo and 43 troops/passengers bringing the cargo and troops/passengers lifted to 24,200 lbs. and 120 respectively.

Part III

1. Listing of Significant Events

a. Personnel.

(1) Transfers to HMM-165

(a) 10 Officers

(b) 20 Enlisted

(2) Transfers from HMM-165

(a) 7 Officers

(b) 24 Enlisted

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(3) Promotions

- (a) 1/Lt A. S. EDGAR was promoted from 2/Lt.
- (b) 1/Lt G. J. FORD III was promoted from 2/Lt.
- (c) 1/Lt E. L. FISCHER was promoted from 2/Lt.

(4) Casualties

(a) CAPTAIN Edward W. CONNELLY 093033/7562 was killed in action on 5 May 1968 as a result of wounds when his aircraft was struck by enemy fire.

(b) FIRST LIEUTENANT F. C. KLAHN 0102687/7562 was wounded in action on 5 May 1968 when struck by enemy fire.

(c) CORPORAL J. W. THOMPSON 2177537/6351 was wounded in action on 5 May 1968.

(d) LANCE CORPORAL W. S. BRANK 2212179/6320 was wounded in action on 5 May 1968.

b. Operations. During this reporting period HMM-165 flew 2539 sorties, carrying 6485 troops/passengers and 217.2 tons of cargo for the total of 976.2 flight hours.

c. Maintenance.

(1) Average availability for the period 1 May through 31 May 1968 was 50%.

Part IV

1. Supporting Documents.

a. NONE

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