

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

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 4 August 1968

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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 July 1968

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

E. E. Hagedorn
 E. E. HAGEDORN

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HMM-165 Copy No. <u>1</u> of <u>6</u>
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ENCLOSURE (W/D)

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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 July 1968 through 31 July 1968

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
 Marine Aircraft Group 36
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Part I

1. Organizational Data

a. Commanding Officer	E. E. HAGEDORN, LTCOL	1Jul-31Jul68
b. Executive Officer	J. E. PRATHER, MAJ	1Jul-31Jul68
c. Operations Officer	D. SAYES, MAJ	1Jul- 6Jul68
	R. D. TAYLOR, MAJ	7Jul-31Jul68
d. Administrative Officer	R. A. BROWN, 1/LT	1Jul-31Jul68
e. Maintenance Officer	E. N. MALEY, CAPT	1Jul- 6Jul68
	A. D. DAVIS, MAJ	7Jul-31Jul68
f. Logistics/Supply Officer	L. R. ADAMS, CAPT	1Jul- 6Jul68
	R. G. MITCHELL, MAJ	7Jul-31Jul68
g. NATOPS Officer	J. B. GARTMAN, CAPT	1Jul-31Jul68
h. Safety Officer	K. W. FLOYD, CAPT	1Jul- 6Jul68
	V. S. REED, MAJ	7Jul-31Jul68

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 July 1968 - 31 July 1968

3. Average Strength of Squadron

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>BOEING REP</u>
46	3	1	168	2

4. Important Visitors to Squadron

a. Major General Charles J. QUILTER 05695 USMC on 1 July 1968

Part II

1 July 1968. Capt. J. J. SMITH led his section of White Knights to the north on Mission 77. Totals for the mission showed 3,000 pounds of cargo and 51 troops/passengers lifted. Mission Number 81 in support of First Marine Division was successfully completed by 5 CH-46's led by Maj. J. E. PRATHER. One-hundred twenty troops were lifted in 3.9 hours of flight time. Mission 52, an emergency extraction was successfully completed by a section of SPACE aircraft led by Capt. J. T. HEINE. Undaunted by enemy fire, the section completed 2 emergency extractions and 1 emergency med-evac in the hills south of Phu Bai. Major D. SAYES took his section of White Knights into the hills south of Phu Bai on

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Mission 80 while supporting Operation HOUSTON, they successfully completed 3 inserts and 3 extractions of recon teams from First Marine Division in addition to three overflights of future insert landing zones.

2 July 1968. Lt. V. L. GENNARO, section leader on Mission Number 81, launched his section to the hills south of Phu Bai. Supporting Operation HOUSTON, the White Knights section successfully completed 2 inserts and 2 extractions of recon teams, along with 4 overflights of future insert zones and a resupply of a relay outpost. Capt. A. J. ALLEGA led the way as another section of SPACE aircraft was launched on Mission 52 in support of Operation HOUSTON. Showing his competence as an aviator, he successfully hovered his aircraft in a hole in the jungle canopy and hoisted the 8 man recon team to safety. LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN led his section of White Knights north to the Khe Sanh area where the section successfully lifted 1,400 pounds of cargo and 49 troops/passengers in support of Operation SCOTLAND II.

3 July 1968. Capt. E. N. MALEY led the way on Mission 77 as a section of White Knights lifted 2,600 pounds of cargo and 14 troops/passengers in support of Operation SCOTLAND II. Mission 80 in support of the Recon Forces of the First Marine Division was successfully completed by a section of CH-46's, with Major J. E. PRATHER as section leader, the White Knights completed 2 inserts, 2 extractions, and 1 resupply of Recon troops along with 4 overflights of future zones.

4 July 1968. Mission 77 in support of Operation SCOTLAND II, was completed by a section of White Knights led by Maj D. SAYES. Totals for the mission showed 1,050 pounds of cargo and 45 troops/passengers. Mission 80 was carried out by a section of CH-46's from HMM-165, led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA. The section successfully completed 2 inserts and 2 extractions of Recon teams of the First Marine Division along with resupply.

5 July 1968. Major D. SAYES led his section of White Knights on Mission 81 in support of First Marine Division. Totals showed 1,000 pounds of cargo and 105 troops/passengers in 2.6 hours of flight time. Supporting the recon forces on Operation HOUSTON was a section of CH-46's led by Capt. J. J. SMITH. Totals upon completion of the mission showed 3 inserts and 1 extraction of recon teams and one overflight of a future insert zone south of Phu Bai. Major D. SAYES led his division of White Knights north on a troop lift which showed 114 troops/passengers lifted in 3.2 total flight hours when completed.

6 July 1968. Mission 83 in support of Operation HOUSTON was completed by a section of CH-46's led by Capt. J. B. GARTMAN, the section lifted 110 troops/passengers in 3.2 total flight hours. LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN led the way on Mission 80 in support of Operation HOUSTON. Successfully completing the mission, the section of White Knights completed 2 inserts and 3 extractions of recon teams in the hills south of Phu Bai. While supporting Operation LANCASTER II, a section of White Knights led by 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO, successfully lifted 600 pounds of cargo and 78 passengers plus 35 med-evacs while working along the DMZ. Incoming mortar rounds at an landing zone and an airburst enroute failed to

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deter the section from completion of the mission. Mission Number 83 was successfully completed by a section of SPACE aircraft led by Capt. J. J. SMITH. Supporting Operation HOUSTON, the section lifted 115 troops/passengers in 2.0 total flight hours.

7 July 1968. Major D. SAYES led 3 White Knights on mission 78 in support of Operation ALLENEROOK south of DaNang. Totals for the mission showed 14,000 pounds of cargo and 39 troops/passengers lifted upon completion of the mission. LtCOL. E. E. HAGEDORN led a section of CH-46's on mission 83. Totals for this mission showed 110 troops/passengers lifted in 2.2 hours of flight time. Flying support of the Recon Teams of the First Marine Division, Capt. J. T. HEINE led his section on Mission 78. Results showed 3 inserts and 2 extracts of Recon teams south of Phu Bai. Operation ALLENEROOK received support from a section of SPACE aircraft on Mission 82. Led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA, the section successfully lifted 20,500 pound of cargo and 43 troops/passengers along the coastal plains south of DaNang.

8 July 1968. Mission Number 77. a resupply mission, was successfully completed by a section of White Knights led by LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN. Diverted for a med-evac then continuing the mission, they lifted 3,000 pounds of cargo and thirty troops/passengers. Operation MARMELUKE THRUST was given support by 2 CH-46's on a strike south of DaNang. With competent action the section led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA, undaunted by hostile fire at both the pickup and drop zones, they completed the mission lifting 172 troops/passengers. Capt. J. J. SMITH led the way as another section of White Knights also gave support to Operation MARMELUKE THRUST. Totals for this section showed 115 troops lifted. Recon forces on Operation HOUSTON were supported by a section led by Capt. E. N. MALEY completing 3 extracts and carrying 157 troops/passengers and 1,700 pounds of cargo in support of First Marine Division. Major D. SAYES led his section of CH-46's south of Phu Bai on mission 80, quickly completing the mission while lifting 121 troops/passengers in 2.2 total flight hours.

9 July 1968. First Marine Division's Operation SCOTLAND II received competent support from HMM-165 as Capt. A. J. ALLEGA led his section of White Knights on Mission 77/83. Totals for the mission showed 6,800 pound of cargo and 29 troops/passengers lifted. With LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN, leading 2 CH-46's on Mission 81B, First Marine Division Forces advanced 143 troops to positions south of Phu Bai. Operation SCOTLAND II was supported by Mission 77. Capt. J. T. HEINE led the White Knight section who undeterred by enemy fire at the drop zone completed the mission.

10 July 1968. The competent White Knights launched three sections of CH-46's on Mission 79 supporting Operation MARMELUKE THRUST south of DaNang. The sections led by LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN, Major D. SAYES, and Capt. J. T. HEINE fully utilized their CH-46's in completing the following totals: 35,000 pounds of cargo and 162 troops/passengers lifted in 37.3 flight hours. The mission when completed also included 25 med-evacs. HMM-165 again proved able to complete any assigned mission in the traditional manner of the White Knights.

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11 July 1968. HMM-165 again went south of DaNang with their CH-46's on Operation POCAHANTAS. The division of White Knights led by 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO lifted 171 troops in completing Mission 24. Operation HOUSTON gained support from the White Knights as Major D. SAYES led his section of CH-46's on Mission 81/80 in support of the Recon Forces of the First Marine Division. Totals showed 80 troops/passengers lifted and 5 overflights of future recon insert zones.

12 July 1968. Capt. J. B. GARTMAN led 2 CH-46's from HMM-165 on Mission Number 81 supporting Operation MARMELUKE THRUST. Joining the first section was another section of White Knights led by Capt. J. J. SMITH. In successfully completing the mission the White Knights lifted 28,600 pounds of combat cargo and 84 troops/passengers enabling First Marine Division Forces to continue this operation.

13 July 1968. Seven White Knights were launched from Phu Bai on Mission Number 82 supporting Operation HOUSTON. Led by LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN the competent aviators successfully completed the mission while lifting 144 troops/passengers to positions near a suspected NVA stronghold.

14 July 1968. Three sections of CH-46's launched from Phu Bai to give support to five different operations. Major D. SAYES led his section south of DaNang in support of Operation ALLENEROOK. Undaunted by enemy fire the section completed Mission Number 17 while lifting 28,000 pounds of cargo and 164 troops/passengers enabling the 27th Marines to sustain the operation. Major J. E. PRATHER led his section of SPACE aircraft into the hills south of Phu Bai. Successfully completing one insert and one extraction of recon teams of the First Marine Division on Operation HOUSTON. First Lt. V. L. GENNARO led the way as the third White Knight section completed Mission 57D in support of Operation MARMELUKE THRUST, FOREST, and POCAHANTAS.

15 July 1968. Operation MARMELUKE THRUST, POCAHANTAS, and FOREST were given support by the competent White Knights of HMM-165. The 10 SPACE aircraft led by LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN, Capt. J. B. GARTMAN, Capt. J. J. SMITH, and 1/Lt. W. B. RING went south of DaNang and returned home after completion of Mission Number 78 with totals which exemplify the proud tradition of HMM-165 to prove equal to any assigned task. Undeterred by enemy fire the White Knights successfully lifted 50,000 pounds of combat cargo, and 754 combat troops in 59.8 flight hours. Their competent efforts enabled the three forementioned operations to continue their mission against the NVA/VC positions threatening DaNang and nearby Marble Mountain.

16 July 1968. Operation HOUSTON received support as 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO led his section of White Knights on Mission 80. Despite enemy fire on numerous occasions, the mission continued by the totaled 7,000 pounds of combat cargo and 172 combat troops lifted to positions high in the hills southeast of Phu Bai. Completing Mission Number 80 was the section of CH-46's led by Capt. J. J. SMITH. Their totals showed 1,400 pounds of cargo and 83 troops lifted to the hills south of Phu Bai. Five inserts and 2 extractions of the Recon Teams of the First Marine Division engaged in Operation HOUSTON were successfully completed on this mission.

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17 July 1968. Augmenting PROV MAG-39 north and west of Quang Tri was the mission of a section of White Knights led by Major D. SAYES. Completing a variety of missions their totals showed 3,200 pounds of cargo, and 95 troops to and from outposts in the Khe Sanh area along with the med-evac of 12 Marines. Mission 78, completed by a White Knight section led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA, resulted in 18 combat troops lifted to an outpost in the hills south of Phu Bai.

18 July 1968. Led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA, a section of CH-46's launched on Mission 81. Giving support to Operation HOUSTON, the White Knight section successfully completed the mission resulting in 3 inserts and 1 extraction of First Marine Division Recon Teams. Mission Number 83 was carried out by 3 sections of SPACE aircraft from HMM-165. A resupply mission to outposts high in the hills south of Phu Bai, it required the utilization of the competent abilities of the White Knights due to the loads being externalized to small holes in the jungle canopy. The numerous positions, all concerned with Operation HOUSTON, were first supplied by 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO's section. Later in the day Capt. J. T. HEINE led his White Knight section to other positions also concerned with Operation HOUSTON/ Completing the mission after dark by illumination provided by a flare ship was the section led by Major J. E. PRATHER. Thus completed, Mission Number 83 enabled the Marines at the numerous outposts to sustain their operations.

19 July 1968. Giving support to Operations MARMELUKE THRUST, FOREST, and POCAHATAS^N was the chore of 4 sections of White Knights led by Capt. A. J. ALLEGA, 1/Lt. V. L. GENNARO, 1/Lt. J. BUCCERI, and 1/Lt. W. B. RING, launched on Missions 81 and 16 south of DaNang, the competent White Knights utilized their CH-46's to resupply numerous positions, undaunted by enemy fire they lifted 71,000 pounds of combat cargo and 121 combat troops in 40.0 flight hours enabling these Operations to sustain their efforts against the NVA/VC forces.

20 July 1968. Major D. SAYES and his wingman launched in support of Operation HOUSTON carrying a total of 350 pounds of cargo and 16 troops/passengers for a total of 2.7 hours of flighttime. Capt. A. J. ALLEGA led LtCol. H. J. BLAHA, Executive Officer, MAG-36, three times into Northern I Corps area from Phu Bai on a mission supporting the III Marine Amphibious Forces for 13.7 hours of total flight time carrying 73 troops and 2,750 pounds of cargo. Sparrow Hawk led by Major J. E. PRATHER launched on a emergency recon extract. Receiving fire the extract was made without incident due to the competent abilities of the White Knights.

21 July 1968. No significant flight operations.

22 July 1968. LtCol. PATRICK, Commanding Officer, MABS-36, along with 1/Lt. J. BUCCERI completed one insert, Due to poor weather and hostile fire 2 other inserts were delayed. During the afternoon the weather cleared and afternoon Sparrow Hawk made two recon extracts. Capt. J. J. SMITH led a section carrying 33 troops/passengers and 1,050 pounds of cargo for a total of 6.4 hours of flight time.

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23 July 1968. Led by Capt. J. J. SMITH, with Major A. D. DAVIS, his wingman, they made inserts of four nine-man recon teams during 9.0 hours of total flight time. Operation HOUSTON was assisted by Major R. G. MITCHELL'S section carrying 2,450 pounds of cargo and 105 troops/passengers of which 5 were med-evacs during 8.2 hours of flight. Two overflights and 8 priority med-evacs were accomplished by Major R. D. TAYLOR and his wingman, resulting in 4.2 total hours of flight. A call in frag launched Capt. A. J. ALLEGA and 1/Lt. M. F. BAILEY in a two plane section that took fire while med-evacing 5 Marines during 5.1 hours of total flight time.

24 July 1968. First Lt. W. B. RING led his section on a successful recon mission making 3 extracts and 1 insert during a short 2.8 hours of flight time. Lt. J. BUCCERI, and his section while carrying 35 troops in support of Operation HOUSTON received fire while making his landing. Quick response of the aircraft's crew and returning fire made the enemy quell his fire and the White Knights returned home to fight again. Capt. J. J. SMITH led his section on a trip north carrying 2,600 pounds of cargo for a total of 5.5 hours of flight time.

25 July 1968. Lt. W. B. RING launched his section three different times in one evening carrying 1 emergency, 3 priority, and 1 routine med-evac, along with 43 troops and 1,000 pounds of cargo for a total of 4.2 hours flight time. Major J. E. PRATHER led his section on a troop lift carrying 98 troops in a total of 5.8 hours of flight time. Capt. J. J. SMITH'S section was diverted to the DaNang area for a mission while carrying 18 troops in support of Operation HOUSTON.

26 July 1968. Sections led by Major R. D. TAYLOR AND Major A. D. DAVIS in support of Operation ALLENBROOK carried 16,650 pounds of cargo and 27 troops for a total of 13.4 hours of flight time.

27 July 1968. Major R. G. MITCHELL and Capt. L. R. ADAMS, accumulated 21.8 flight hours as they resupplied Operation HOUSTON with 14,000 pounds of cargo. First Lt. W. B. RING led his section on 2 emergency med-evacs while on BALD EAGLE standby and received fire from enemy positions each time. The pickups were completed without taking a hit and the Marines returned to prompt medical attention.

28 July 1968. Three sections of SPACE CH-46's led by LtCol. E. E. HAGEDORN, Capt. J. J. SMITH, and 1/Lt. J. BUCCERI, while supporting Operation HOUSTON carried 3,400 pounds of cargo and 60 troops/passengers during 19.4 Flight hours.

29 July 1968. A division of 4 aircraft led by LtCol. G. E. PATRICK supported the 5th Marines in the An Hoa area as they carried 12,000 pounds of cargo and 67 troops. The afternoon replacement division led by Major J. E. PRATHER with 1/Lt. W. B. RING leading the second section flew 21.1 hours carrying 4,480 pounds of cargo and 226 troops. Three of the aircraft received hits and one gunner was wounded. The division accumulated 7 strikes and 6 mission credits. First Lt. J. BUCCERI along with 1/Lt. G. A. MCKINNEY made two trips to the Dong Ha area carrying 2,000 pounds of cargo and 51 passengers for the section.

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30 July 1968. First Lt. G. A. McKINNEY led his section in support of Operation HOUSTON by carrying 8 med-evacs, 5 troops and a ton of combat cargo in a total of 5.2 flight hours. Major A. D. DAVIS while leading his section in support of First Marine Division Recon Forces made 2 inserts and 3 overflights in 8.7 total hours of flight time. Major. R. D. TAYLOR led his section in support of Operation HOUSTON, while carrying 300 pounds of cargo and 10 troops/passengers for a total of 3.3 flight hours.

31 July 1968. A called in frag launched Major J. E. PRATHER on a mission in support of the 5th Marines in the An Hoa area. First Lt. M. F. BAILEY'S aircraft was shot down during the flight. Before the incident occurred, they had carried 3,750 pounds of cargo and 97 troops. Capt's L. R. ADAMS and S. D. TURNER launched north near the DMZ while in support of Operation KENTUCKY. During their two trips north they carried 1,700 pounds of cargo and 97 troops totaling 9.6 hours of total flight time.

Part III

1. Listing of Significant Events

a. Personnel.

(1) Transfers to HMM-165

(a) Officers 3

(b) Enlisted 17

(2) Transfers from HMM-165

(a) Officers 3

(b) Enlisted 24

(3) Promotions

(a) 1/Lt. W. B. RING was promoted from 2/Lt.

(b) 1/Lt. F. W. TUREK was promoted from 2/Lt.

(4) Casualties

(a) CORPORAL T. W. DAVIS 2180449/6341 was wounded in action on 29 July 1968 when struck by enemy fire.

b. Operations. During this reporting period HMM-165 flew 2,886 sorties, carrying 6,475 troops/passengers and 216.9 tons of cargo for the total of 1035.1 flight hours.

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c. Maintenance.

(1) Average availability for the period 1 July through 31 July 1968 was 43 %.

Part IV

1. Supporting Documents.

a. NONE

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