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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 16  
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMFPAC  
FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

UNCLASSIFIED

3:LBJ:WCW  
#3A03269  
1 FEB 1969

FROM: COMMANDING OFFICER  
TO: COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS (CODE AO3D)  
VIA: (1) COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 16  
(2) COMMANDING GENERAL, 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING  
(3) COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

SUBJ: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR PERIOD 1 - 31 JANUARY 1969

REF: (A) MCO 5750.2  
(B) FMFPAC 5750.8

ENCL: (1) HMM-165 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REFERENCE (A) AND (B), ENCLOSURE (1) IS SUBMITTED.

2. DOWNGRADED AT THREE YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10.

G. L. PATRICK

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FPO, SAN FRANCISCO 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 JANUARY 1969 TO 31 JANUARY 1969

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165

COMMANDER

G. L. PATRICK  
1 JAN - 31 JAN

SUBORINATE UNITS

NONE.

ATTACHED UNITS

NONE.

2. LOCATION

1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1969: MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIR FACILITY, DA NANG, RVN.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

A. COMMANDING OFFICER	G. L. PATRICK, LTCOL.	1-31 JAN 69
B. EXECUTIVE OFFICER	R. D. TAYLOR, MAJ.	1-21 JAN 69
	V. S. REED, MAJ.	22-31 JAN 69
C. OPERATIONS OFFICER	A. D. DAVIS, MAJ.	1-6 JAN 69
	R. G. MITCHELL, MAJ.	7-21 JAN 69
	A. C. MACAULAY, MAJ.	22-31 JAN 69
D. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	T. M. HADDOCK, CAPT.	1-15 JAN 69
	J. H. LEIGHTON, CAPT.	16-31 JAN 69
E. MAINTENANCE OFFICER	V. S. REED, MAJ.	1-21 JAN 69
	R. G. MITCHELL, MAJ.	22-31 JAN 69
F. LOGISTICS/SUPPLY OFFICER	L. R. ADAMS, CAPT.	1-31 JAN 69
G. NATOPS/AVN SAFETY OFFICER	R. G. MITCHELL, MAJ.	1-6 JAN 69
	A. C. MACAULAY, MAJ.	7-31 JAN 69

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>NAVAL AVIATORS</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>FLIGHT SURGEON</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
45	5	1	159
<u>BOEING REP</u>	<u>G.E. REP</u>		
1	1		

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PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 JAN 69. SIX HMM-165 AIRCRAFT SUPPORTED OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON ON NEW YEARS DAY. LIEUTENANT COLONEL G. L. PATRICK LED A TROOP REINFORCEMENT FLIGHT DURING WHICH 308 TROOPS WERE LIFTED IN 92 SORTIES.

2 JAN 69. LIEUTENANT G. L. FORD AND LIEUTENANT T. M. CURTIS FLEW THROUGHOUT THE DA NANG T.A.O.R. U.S. MARINE AND RVN CIVILIAN BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES WERE LIFTED BY WHITE KNIGHT HELICOPTERS FROM FIELD POSITIONS TO REAR HOSPITAL AREAS. TROOP LIFT AND RESUPPLY OPERATIONS BROUGHT TOTALS FOR THE DAY TO 110 TROOPS AND 13.8 TONS OF CARGO LIFTED IN 48 SORTIES.

3 JAN 69. TODAY THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW MED-EVAC MISSIONS FOR THE DA NANG OPERATION AREA AS WELL AS FOR THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. A TOTAL OF 27 MARINE, ARVN, RVN CIVILIAN, AND VIET CONG CASUALTIES WERE AIR LIFTED FROM FIELD AND MOUNTAIN TOP POSITIONS TO REAR HOSPITAL AREAS.

4 JAN 69. WEATHER RESTRICTED FLIGHT OPERATIONS OF HMM-165 TODAY, HOWEVER, THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW 25 SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON DESPITE LOW CEILINGS AND POOR VISIBILITY. ENEMY SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED IN TWO MED-EVAC MISSIONS RESULTING IN 5 HITS. THE MISSIONS WERE COMPLETED, WITH THE MED-EVAC AIRCRAFT RETURNING FIRE IN BOTH OCCASIONS.

5 JAN 69. DESPITE POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS TO MOUNTAIN FLYING, HMM-165 CONDUCTED 46 RESUPPLY SORTIES FOR OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. A TOTAL OF 9 MED-EVAC MISSIONS WERE FLOWN WITH 85 CASUALTIES TRANSPORTED TO REAR AREAS.

6 JAN 69. AGAIN THE MONSOON RAINS HELD WHITE KNIGHT FLIGHT TIME TO A LOW OF 12.2 HOURS. 15 SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON WITH 15 BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES TRANSPORTED DURING MEDICAL EVACUATION OPERATIONS.

7 JAN 69. CAPTAIN S. D. TURNER LED A WHITE KNIGHT FLIGHT OF AIRCRAFT TO THE AN HOA COMBAT BASE IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. CAPTAIN TURNER'S FLIGHT LIFTED 79 TROOPS IN 61 SORTIES DURING 17.8 FLIGHT HOURS.

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8 JAN 69. SEVEN INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS WERE COMPLETED BY HMM-165. MISSION DESCRIPTIONS INCLUDED COMBAT RESUPPLY, COMBAT TROOP LIFT, AND COMMAND AND CONTROL.

9 JAN 69. MAJOR V. S. REED LED A FLIGHT OF WHITE KNIGHT AIRCRAFT DURING 122 COMBAT RESUPPLY SORTIES ON OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. HIS DIVISION OF HELICOPTERS LIFTED 26,000 POUNDS OF CARGO AND 263 TROOPS FROM AN HOA COMBAT BASE TO ROUGH TERRAIN ZONES IN THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SOUTHWEST.

10 JAN 69. CAPTAIN S. D. TURNER RECEIVED INTENSE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHILE RETRIEVING BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES FROM FORWARD MARINE POSITIONS SOUTH OF DA NANG. DESPITE THE ENEMY RESISTANCE, CAPTAIN TURNER WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE ALL MED-EVAC MISSIONS ASSIGNED. THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY HMM-165 FLEW 157 SORTIES IN 47.8 FLIGHT HOURS WHILE LIFTING 300 TROOPS AND 18,000 POUNDS OF COMBAT CARGO.

11 JAN 69. OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON RECEIVED THE BULK OF HMM-165'S FLIGHT SUPPORT TODAY. 34,000 POUNDS OF CARGO AND 138 TROOPS WERE AIR LIFTED IN 131 SORTIES BY WHITE KNIGHT CH-46'S IN 37.1 HOURS FLIGHT TIME.

12 JAN 69. CAPTAIN L. R. ADAMS EXTRACTED RECONAISSANCE TEAM FOREFATHER WHILE UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE. CAPTAIN ADAMS ELECTED TO RETURN TO THE ENEMY INFESTED ZONE THREE DIFFERENT TIMES TO RESCUE THE TEAM, EVEN THOUGH HIS AIRCRAFT HAD SUSTAINED OVER TWENTY SEPARATE HITS FROM THE WITHERING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THE TEAM WAS SUCCESSFULLY EXTRACTED AND FLOWN TO AN HOA WITH THE ACTION RESULTING IN EIGHT ENEMY KILLED IN THE FIGHT.

13 JAN 69. THE WHITE KNIGHTS LIFTED 113 TROOPS AND 6,000 POUNDS OF CARGO TODAY. 15 BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES WERE TRANSPORTED DURING THE 16.1 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME.

14 JAN 69. CAPTAIN S. D. TURNER LED A WHITE KNIGHT FLIGHT OF SIX AIRCRAFT TO AN HOA FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. 56,000 POUNDS OF COMBAT CARGO AND 437 TROOPS WERE HELO-LIFTED DURING THE 50 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME. SIX MED-EVAC MISSIONS WERE ALSO FLOWN IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA WITH 49 MARINES TRANSPORTED TO REAR AREAS.

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15 JAN 69. THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW 60 SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. FOUR MED-EVAC MISSIONS WERE FLOWN WITH A TOTAL OF 16 PERSONNEL LIFTED TO REAR AREAS.

16 JAN 69. FOUR HMM-165 AIRCRAFT FLEW 97 SORTIES IN THE TAYLOR COMMON AREA. 19 TONS OF CARGO AND 69 TROOPS WERE HELO-LIFTED TO THE MOUNTAIN POSITIONS. LIEUTENANT COLONEL G. L. PATRICK FLEW 29 MED-EVAC SORTIES THROUGHOUT THE DA NANG T.A.O.R. DURING 5.2 FLIGHT HOURS.

17 JAN 69. CAPTAIN H. T. FOSS AND FIRST LIEUTENANT W. R. HUNT FLEW EIGHT NIGHT MED-EVAC SORTIES IN THE DA NANG AREA. THE WHITE KNIGHT PILOTS LAUNCHED ON TWO EMERGENCY MISSIONS SOUTH OF DA NANG.

18 JAN 69. TODAY HMM-165 FLEW 125 SORTIES DURING 31.6 FLIGHT HOURS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. 307 TROOPS AND 13 TONS OF CARGO WERE LIFTED TO ZONES SOUTHWEST OF THE AN HOA COMBAT BASE.

19 JAN 69. THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW 88 SORTIES TODAY, 64 OF WHICH WERE IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. A TOTAL 18 MED-EVACS WERE TRANSPORTED FROM FIELD POSITIONS TO DA NANG AREA HOSPITALS.

20 JAN 69. CAPTAIN S. D. TURNER LED WHITE KNIGHT EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON TODAY. THE FLIGHT COMPLETED 100 SORTIES DURING 33.9 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME DESPITE ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE.

21 JAN 69. HMM-165 FLEW 181 SORTIES DURING 53.3 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME. 25,000 POUNDS OF CARGO AND 257 TROOPS WERE HELO-LIFTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH 15 MED-EVAC MISSIONS COMPLETED.

22 JAN 69. CAPTAIN G. A. MC KINNEY AND HIS SECTION FLEW DAY LONG MED-EVAC MISSIONS IN THE DA NANG AREA TODAY. THE WHITE KNIGHT BIRDS FLEW 41 BATTLEFIELD EVACUATION SORTIES IN 13 HOURS OF FLIGHT TIME, WHILE TRANSPORTING MARINE, ARVN, AND RVN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

23 JAN 69. CAPTAIN H. T. FOSS LED THREE WHITE KNIGHT AIRCRAFT SOUTH TO AN HOA FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. THE THREE AIRCRAFT FLEW 75 RESUPPLY SORTIES IN 18 FLIGHT HOURS. 302 TROOPS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE FIRE SUPPORT BASES WITH SIX MED-EVAC MISSIONS ALSO FLOWN.

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24 JAN 69. TEN MISSIONS WERE FRAGGED TO HMM-165 TODAY AND TEN MISSIONS WERE FLOWN AND COMPLETED. MISSION DESCRIPTIONS INCLUDED MED-EVAC, RECONNAISSANCE, INSERT-EXTRACT, RESUPPLY, TROOP LIFT, COMMAND AND CONTROL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE-LIASON. 254 SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN 55.3 FLIGHT HOURS.

25 JAN 69. CAPTAIN G. A. MC KINNEY LED FOUR WHITE KNIGHT AIRCRAFT DURING 143 FLIGHT SORTIES. 72,000 POUNDS OF COMBAT CARGO AND 251 TROOPS WERE AIR LIFTED BY HMM-165 IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON. THROUGHOUT THE OPERATIONAL AREA AUTOMATIC WEAPON AND .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN FIRE WAS RECEIVED. CAPTAIN A. J. ZALESKI'S AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE RESUPPLYING LYNCH LAW HOTEL - A RIDGE LINE ZONE IN THE NORTHWEST OF THE OPERATIONAL AREA.

26 JAN 69. TODAY THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW 45 SORTIES DURING 26.2 FLIGHT HOURS. FIFTEEN MED-EVAC MISSIONS WERE FLOWN WITH 42 CASUALTIES FLOWN TO HOSPITALS IN REAR AREAS.

27 JAN 69. WHITE KNIGHT STANDBY BIRDS WERE SCRAMBLED ON THE EVENING OF THE 27TH TO A POSITION IN ENEMY INFESTED ELEPHANT VALLEY. CAPTAIN G. A. MC KINNEY PERFORMED THE SUCCESSFUL EXTRACT OF A RECON TEAM WHICH CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.

28 JAN 69. HMM-165 AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATED IN A SWEEP AND DESTROY MISSION IN THE VICINITY OF THE INFAMOUS "DODGE CITY" AREA. 254 TROOPS WERE TRANSPORTED INTO THE AREA BY WHITE KNIGHT AIRCRAFT DURING A CONSTANT HAIL OF ENEMY FIRE.

29 JAN 69. MAJOR R. G. MITCHELL AND HIS SECTION FLEW 23 MED-EVAC SORTIES THROUGHOUT THE DA NANG T.A.O.R. TODAY. 25 USMC, ARVN, AND ROKMC BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES WERE AIR LIFTED BY THE WHITE KNIGHTS. LIEUTENANT D.D. HUNDLEY INSERTED ONE RECON TEAM AND EXTRACTED ANOTHER FROM THE TAYLOR COMMON AREA SOUTHWEST OF AN HOA.

30 JAN 69. THE WHITE KNIGHTS FLEW 162 SORTIES DURING 58.2 FLIGHT HOURS, 166 TROOPS AND 47,000 POUNDS OF CARGO WERE LIFTED DURING RESUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENT MISSIONS. 97 CASUALTIES WERE LIFTED TO HOSPITALS IN THE DA NANG AREA DURING 27 MISSIONS.

31 JAN 69. CAPTAIN L. R. ADAMS WITH HIS SECTION OF 165 AIRCRAFT LED THE FIRST MARINE AIRWING MED-EVAC PACKAGE ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 31ST. USMC, ROKMC, AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES WERE AIR LIFTED BY WHITE KNIGHT '46'S' FROM FORWARD FIELD POSITIONS. THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY, HMM-165 FLEW 180 COMBAT SORTIES DURING 48.9 FLIGHT HOURS.

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PART III  
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. OPERATIONS PARTICIPATED IN:

A. TAYLOR COMMON: 1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1969

B. LINN RIVER: 29 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1969

## 2. PERSONNEL:

## A. TRANSFERS TO HMM-165

OFFICERS 13

ENLISTED 10

## B. TRANSFERRED FROM HMM-165

## C. PROMOTIONS

CAPTAIN F. S. BASTIEN WAS PROMOTED FROM 1STLT.  
 CAPTAIN J. A. HOCKADAY WAS PROMOTED FROM 1STLT.  
 CAPTAIN J. H. LEIGHTON WAS PROMOTED FROM 1STLT.  
 CAPTAIN G. S. MC KINNEY WAS PROMOTED FROM 1STLT.  
 CAPTAIN A. J. ZALESKI WAS PROMOTED FROM 1STLT.  
 GYSGT. J. R. WHITEHEAD WAS PROMOTED FROM SSGT.  
 CPL. J. H. KARPEN WAS PROMOTED FROM LCPL.  
 CPL. J. M. PFALZGAFF WAS PROMOTED FROM LCPL.  
 LCPL. R. D. ADDLEMAN WAS PROMOTED FROM PFC.  
 LCPL. D. L. ASPLUND WAS PROMOTED FROM PFC.  
 PFC. H. L. BROOKS WAS PROMOTED FROM PVT.

## D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ARE MISSING IN ACTION: 7JAN69

1STLT. G. J. FORD III, 0101501/7562	PILOT
1STLT. V. L. JACOBS, 0103489/7562	CO-PILOT
CPL. G. E. HOBART III, 2160028/6312	CREW CHIEF
CPL. P. D. FLEMING, 2137006/6242	AERIAL GUNNER

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THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED ON 25 JANUARY 1969 WHEN THEIR AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY ENEMY GROUND FIRE:

CAPTAIN A. J. ZALESKI, 095174/7562	PILOT
1STLT. J. J. HOAGLAND, 0104007/7562	CO-PILOT
SGT. R. G. LEHMAN, 2091752/7041	AERIAL GUNNER
CPL. D. H. YOUNG, 2145314/6320	CREW CHIEF

CPL. T. M. TOINE 2169684/6320 WAS WOUNDED IN ACTION ON 22 JANUARY 1969 WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY ENEMY FIRE.

1STLT. J. M. KELLY 092880/7562 WAS WOUNDED IN ACTION ON 29 JANUARY 1969 WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY ENEMY FIRE.

CPL. S. W. SKWERES 2318296/6320 WAS WOUNDED IN ACTION ON 29 JANUARY 1969 WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY ENEMY FIRE.

### 3. LOGISTICS:

A. DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD HMM-165 FLEW 4,192 SORTIES, CARRYING 307.9 TONS OF CARGO, 5,834 TROOPS/PASSENGERS, 1,067 MED-EVACS FOR A TOTAL OF 1,165.9 FLIGHT HOURS.

### 4. MAINTENANCE:

A. AVERAGE AVAILABILITY FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JANUARY 1969 WAS 48%.

## PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. HMM-165 JAG INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CH-46A BUREAU NUMBER 152552 ON 7 JANUARY 1969. NOT ATTACHED.

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