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

UNCLASSIFIED

3:RMR:rln
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 5750
 1 January 1972

CONFIDENTIAL - Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1)

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
 Via: Commanding Officer, 31st Marine Amphibious Unit

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 through 31 December 1971

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
 (b) Operation Order 14-71 (Hair), CTG 79.4 (S)
 (c) 050724Z Dec 71, HMM-165 (U)
 (d) 140954Z Dec 71, CTG 76.4 (S)
 (e) 202018Z Dec 71, HMM-165 (C)
 (f) 270956Z Dec 71, HMM-165 (C)

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the period 1 through 31 December 1971

1. In accordance with reference (a), the subject Command Chronology is submitted as Enclosure (1).

2. This is downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of Enclosure (1).


 P. L. MOREAU

HMM-165 S&C Files	
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

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1 through 31 December 1971

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. <u>Staff Officers</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Name</u>
Commanding Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	LTCOL. P. L. MOREAU
Executive Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. D. M. GRIFFAY
Operations Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. T. A. GOLDSBOROUGH
Administrative Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. C. R. UPSHAW
Maintenance Officer	1 - 6 December 1971 6 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. W. A. JULIAN CAPT. R. J. KALATA
Logistics Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. F. W. IANGE
Intelligence Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	1/LT. S. B. HURLEY
NATOPS Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	CAPT. R. W. CORNER
Safety Officer	1 - 31 December 1971	MAJ. T. P. MCBRIEN

2. Subordinate Units
NONE

3. Location
1 through 31 December 1971: USS TRIPOLI

4. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC	USN	OTHER	TOTAL
	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>
1 - 31 December 1971	56/247	1/2	NONE	57/249

5. Important Visitors

31 December, 1971- Isadore Senderoff, Boeing Vertol, Philadelphia
31 December, 1971- Herb Venable, Boeing Vertol, NASEU Atsugi

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

HMM- 165 opened the month of December in the port of Sasebo, Japan aboard the USS TRIPOLI. Flight operations while in port were restricted to test hops and limited frags. On 2 December Major T. A. Goldsborough received Japanese television news coverage as a result of making a precautionary landing to a rice paddy after developing a serious in-flight emergency in the CH-53D he was testing. The following day HMM-165 completed a medevac, flying an appendicitis case from the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON, DD 786, to the Sasebo infirmary.

Departing Sasebo on 4 December, HMM-165 participated in an ASW exercise in conjunction with a convex conducted by Phibron 5 and elements of Desron 15. On 6 December HMM-165 arrived at White Beach, Okinawa and provided a fly-over for the 31st MAU change of command ceremony and a shuttle service for parts and passengers to and from MCAS Futema. The Squadron also provided Col. E. F. Roth, the departing C. O. of the 31st MAU, with transportation to Camp Courtney.

Training during the following at-sea period included night carrier qualifications, live-fire of rockets and machine guns for the UH-1E's, and aerial gunner qualifications for the CH-46's and CH-53's.

On 9 December HMM-165 conducted unsuccessful SAR operations for a Marine from BLT 2/4 who was lost at sea during inclement weather the previous day.

Two CH-53's were launched to NAS Cubi Point on 10 December. They made two round trips transporting personnel, mail, and supplies. The following two days the Squadron assisted in the transfer of personnel and gear between ships in anticipation of the splitting of ARG Alfa, prior to the USS TRIPOLI's joining TF 74 for operations in the Indian Ocean.

HMM-165 launched three CH-53's led by Lt.Col. P. L. Moreau for the purpose of procuring aircraft parts at Seletar, an airfield in Singapore. The flight was held by CINCPAC aboard the USS ENTERPRISE and finally returned to the USS TRIPOLI. The following day, 14 December, the same flight received clearance and made two round trips for parts, mail, and personnel.

With the exception of providing the "holy helo", further flight operations on the 14th and the first half of the 15th were cancelled to expedite passage through the Straits of Malacca.

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On 16 December HMM-165 again conducted night carrier qualifications. The Squadron began providing visual surveillance flights supporting TF 74 in accordance with Operation Hair on 17 December. This mission continued through 31 December, with squadron aircraft making positive identification of the first Russian vessel, the minesweeper MSF 330, on the 18th. Operations were cancelled on the 19th for weather.

On 20 December HMM-165 lost one CH-46 and a crew of four in an accident involving a night CCA training hop. A night search was conducted by whaleboat, two squadron aircraft, and the ship's helo in the vicinity of the debris from the mishap. Systematic SAR operations were continued the following morning at first light, but no survivors were found.

Squadron aircraft were the first to make positive contact with another two Russian vessels on 22 December, identifying a Russian destroyer and a Russian cruiser which appeared in the wake of the arriving USS CALIENTE (OR-1).

Holiday routine cancelled all flight operations on 25 December. On 27 December a CH-46 in the first surveillance launch disappeared. When the wreckage was located the body of the crewchief was recovered. There were no survivors. The Commanding Officer grounded all CH-46's and utilized the UH-1E's and CH-53's for SAR operations. A request was initiated for outside help in determining the cause of the accidents and the safety of the remaining CH-46 inventory.

On 28 December the CH-53's and UH-1E's continued the surveillance mission, and on 29 December the UH-1E's also began providing logistics and administrative support for TF 74.3, replacing the ship's CH-46 which was also grounded.

On 31 December HMM-165 was able to provide one launch of two CH-53's to support the surveillance mission and two launches of two UH-1E's each for administrative/logistics support of TF 74.3. Two representatives from Boeing Vertol arrived aboard the USS TRIPOLI to provide technical assistance for the downed CH-46's.

The Squadron ended the month with 544.1 flight hours and 264 sorties. 253.8 hours and 125 sorties were flown after 17 December in accordance with Operation Hair, supporting TF 74 in the Indian Ocean.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Commitments

- 1 - 3 Dec- HMM-165 was in port at Sasebo, Japan.
- 2 Dec- A CH-53D made a precautionary landing to a rice paddy during an in-flight emergency experienced on a test hop. (REF C)
- 3 Dec- HMM-165 medevaced an appendicitis case from the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON to the Sasebo infirmary.
- 4 Dec- HMM-165 departed Sasebo and participated in an ASW exercise.
- 6 Dec- HMM-165 arrived at White Beach, Okinawa. The Squadron provided a fly-over for the 31st MAU change of command ceremony and a shuttle service to MCAS Futema.
- 7 Dec- HMM-165 conducted night carrier qualifications.
- 8 Dec- HMM-165 conducted live-fire rocket and machine gun training for the UH-1E crews and aerial gunner qualifications for the CH-46 and CH-53 crews.
- 9 Dec- HMM-165 conducted a search for a Marine from BLT 2/4 who was lost at sea the previous day.
- 10 Dec- Two CH-53's made two round trips to NAS Cubi Point transporting personnel, mail, and supplies.
- 11 -12 Dec- HMM-165 assisted in the transfer of personnel and gear between ships of ARG Alfa.
- 13 Dec- Three CH-53's were launched to Seletar, an airfield in Singapore, but were held aboard the USS ENTERPRISE by CINCPAC and eventually returned to the USS TRIPOLI.
- 14 Dec- The same three CH-53's were cleared into Seletar to effect the pick-up of aircraft parts, mail, and personnel. HMM-165 provided a "holy helo". Further flight operations were cancelled to expedite passage through the Straits of Malacca. (REF D)
- 15 - 16 Dec- HMM-165 conducted routine training, including night carrier qualifications on the 16th.
- 17 - 31 Dec- HMM-165 provided day surveillance flights in accordance with Operation Hair. (REF B)
- 18 Dec- HMM-165 aircraft made the first positive identification of a Russian vessel, the minesweeper MSF 330.
- 19 Dec- Flight operations were cancelled due to weather.
- 20 Dec- One CH-46 with a full crew of four was lost in an accident involving a night CCA training hop. (REF E)
- 21 Dec- SAR operations continued for the crew of the lost CH-46.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIEDCommitments Continued

- 22 Dec- Squadron aircraft were the first to make visual contact with a Russian destroyer and a Russian guided missile cruiser.
- 25 Dec- All operations were cancelled for holiday routine.
- 27 Dec- One CH-46 with a full crew of three was lost during a day VFR surveillance mission. (REF F) All CH-46's were grounded. A request was initiated for outside technical assistance in determining the status of the CH-46 inventory.
- 29 - 31 Dec- HMM-165 UH-1E's provided administrative/logistical support for TF 74.3.
- 31 Dec- Representatives from Boeing Vertol arrived aboard the USS TRIPOLI to assist in the investigation of the two CH-46 accidents.

2. Flight Statisticsa. Monthly Totals

	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>
Cargo Tons- 72.4	47.7	23.5	1.2
Passengers- 935	512	340	83
Sorties- 264	67	90	107
Flt. Hrs.- 544.1	276.8	143.6	123.7

b. Surveillance Missions for Operation Hair

	<u>Flt. Hrs.</u>	<u>Sorties</u>
CH-46	146.1	60
CH-53	62.0	26
UH-1E	45.7	39
TOTAL	253.8	125

3. Average Aircraft Availability

CH- 46	-	66.5%**
CH- 53	-	59.6%
UH- 1E	-	78.2%
TOTAL	-	66.8%**

**These figures do not reflect the grounded CH-46's in a down status, but rather in an "up-maintenance hold" status. If the CH-46's which were grounded as of 27 December were considered "down", the CH-46 and TOTAL availability would be 60.9% and 63.5% respectively.

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4. Operations Participated In

Operation Hair (REF B)

5. PersonnelNew Aviators Assigned:

1/Lt. M. S. Fowler

New Ground Officers Assigned:

NONE

New Crewmembers Assigned:

Cpl. G. C. Abbott*

Cpl. J. L. Hamric*

Cpl. R. D. Killman*

* Former squadron personnel
newly qualified as
crewmembers.6. Promotions

a. The following personnel were promoted to their present rank:

Sgt. R. L. Capiaghi

Sgt. J. A. Reed

Sgt. B. K. Thomson

Sgt. H. L. Klepac

Sgt. J. P. Souza, Jr.

Cpl. C. R. Parsons

Sgt. R. A. Newcom

Sgt. S. D. Taylor

L/Cpl. R. G. Sampay

7. Re-enlistments

S/Sgt. M. J. Peterson

Sgt. A. P. Hartwig

8. Awards

NONE

PART IVSUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE

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