

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

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1 Jan 1974

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Semi-Annual Command Chronology; 1 July 1973 to 31 December 1973
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.3C
Encl: (1) HMM-165 Semi-Annual Command Chronology
1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

J.L. James
J.L. JAMES
Acting

CLASSIFIED BY HMM-165 S-3
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT
TWO-YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1975

HMM-165 SRC Files	
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Annex 165

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1973 to 31 December 1973

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Designation

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165

CommanderLTCOL A.B. COLBERT
1 Jul 73 - 31 Dec 73Staff OfficersExecutive OfficerMAJOR R.P. ROGERS
1 Jul 73 - 12 Aug 73
MAJOR J.L. JAMES
12 Aug 73 - 31 Dec 73S-1 OfficerCAPT W.H. HOFF
1 Jul 73 - 26 Jul 73
1/LT J.W. ANDERSON
26 Jul 73 - 31 Dec 73S-2 OfficerMAJOR W.H. BIRT
1 Jul 73 - 18 Oct 73
MAJOR B.L. DANIELS
18 Oct 73 - 31 Dec 73S-3 OfficerMAJOR W.H. BIRT
1 Jul 73 - 18 Oct 73
MAJOR B.L. DANIELS
18 Oct 73 - 31 Dec 73S-4 OfficerCAPT L.E. PALMER
1 Jul 73 - 31 Dec 73Aircraft Maintenance OfficerCAPT J.B. GARTMAN
1 Jul 73 - 30 Sep 73
MAJOR R.K. ERVI
30 Sep 73 - 31 Dec 73NATOPS OfficerCAPT D.D. SHOCKLEY
1 Jul 73 - 31 Jul 73
CAPT T.M. CURTIS
31 Jul 73 - 30 Nov 73
CAPT D.D. SHOCKLEY
30 Nov 73 - 31 Dec 73Safety OfficerCAPT D.D. SHOCKLEY
1 Jul 73 - 31 Jul 73
CAPT T.M. CURTIS
31 Jul 73 - 30 Nov 73
CAPT D.D. SHOCKLEY
30 Nov 73 - 31 Dec 73

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2. Location

1 July 1973 - 11 October 1973	USS TRIPOLI (LPH-10)
11 October 1973 - 30 November 1973	USS OKINAWA (LPH-3)
30 November 1973 - 31 December 1973	MCAS (H) Futema, Okinawa, Japan

3. Average Monthly Strength

	USMC		USN		OTHER	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
Jul 73	24	130	1	2	0	6 *
Aug 73	62	281	1	2	0	0
Sep 73	70	310	1	2	0	0
Oct 73	68	306	1	2	0	0
Nov 73	60	280	1	2	0	0
Dec 73	20	146	0	0	0	0

* Three (3) USN SAR Swimmers and three (3) USN SAR Corpsmen.

4. Important Visitors/VIP's

12 Jul 73 COL THAI, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

31 Jul 73 ADM CLAREY, CINCPACFLT

31 Jul 73 ADM SHELTON, COMUSNAVPHIL

28 Sep 73 VADM STEELE, COMSEVENTHFLT

28 Sep 73 MGEN RYAN, CG, III MAF

28 Sep 73 BGEN JANNELL, CG, 9TH MAB

1 Oct 73 MGEN LANG, CG, 1st MAW

29 Oct 73 MGEN RYAN, CG, III MAF

30 Oct 73 MGEN RYAN, CG, III MAF

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During this reporting period, HMM-165 aircraft flew 2,177 sorties, carried 13,946 passengers, carried 1,395,200 pounds of cargo, and flew 2,353.0 hours. The following is a narrative summary, amplifying the above accomplishments of HMM-165.

HMM-165 attached to Task Force 78 began July, participating in OPERATION END SWEEP. The squadron was on board the USS TRIPOLI, off the coast of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, in the Gulf of Tonkin.

During the period from 1 through 18 July, the squadron provided passenger and logistics flights in support of Task Force 78.

On 2 July, members of Task Group 78.1 were flown into the negotiation site in Quang Khe. The SAR standby was launched in response to a downed HMH-463 CH-53. The crash site was located approximately sixty miles to the northeast of the USS TRIPOLI. Recovery of the survivors was in progress, via safety boat, when the SAR aircraft arrived. No further assistance was required.

On 12 July, COL THAI, head of the negotiation team from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, was provided transportation from Hai Yen.

On 14 July, the squadron launched the five minute SAR aircraft for the MEDEVAC of one ambulatory patient, from the USS BLUERIDGE, to the USS TRIPOLI.

With the ending of OPERATION END SWEEP on 18 July, the squadron departed the Gulf of Tonkin on board the USS TRIPOLI and sailed for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

On 20 July, the squadron arrived in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. All squadron aircraft were flown ashore to facilitate required maintenance.

Task Force 78 was officially deactivated on 21 July, marking the end of OPERATION END SWEEP. HMM-165 demodified and transferred three squadron CH-53's to HMH-463. HMH-463 at this time was making a retrograde to Hawaii. Plans and preparations were made for HMM-165's off-loading, to take place at MCAS (H) Futema, Okinawa, Japan.

On 24 July, HMM-165 was chopped from Task Group 78.1 to Task Group 79.3, (1st Marine Aircraft Wing). The squadron remained on board the USS TRIPOLI.

On 26 July, the squadron provided Task Group 78.3 with a helo lift for retrograde of personnel to Clark Air Force Base. HMM-165 was alerted for OPERATION EAGLE PULL, an operation designed to extract embassy personnel from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The 31st Marine Amphibious Unit was ordered on board the USS TRIPOLI. The squadron was to obtain thirteen (13) CH-53's and four (4) AH-1J's from MAG-36 in Okinawa. The first seven (7) flight ferried CH-53's arrived on board the USS TRIPOLI on 26 July.

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On 28 July, HMM-165 designated a Detachment "Alpha". The detachment moved ashore, with eight (8) CH-46's and two (2) UH-1E's, to facilities located at the HC-7 ramp, NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines. The last six (6) of the thirteen (13) CH-53's arrived on board the USS TRIPOLI.

On 31 July, the squadron provided a backup helicopter for a VIP mission involving ADM CLAREY, (CINCPACFLT), and RADM SHELTON, (COMUSNAVPHIL). Four (4) AH-1J's arrived at NAS Cubi Point, for participation in OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

On 1 August, sixteen (16) sorties were scheduled and flown as carrier qualifications were conducted for the CH-53 and AH-1J flight crews who joined HMM-165 from Okinawa. The AH-1J's flew live ordnance sorties which included 20mm and 2.75" rockets at Los Frailes Island Range.

On 3 August, LTCOL COLBERT, (CO, HMM-165), departed Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines on a liaison visit to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

On 6 August, LTCOL COLBERT returned from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. HMM-165, on board the USS TRIPOLI, departed for the Gulf of Siam.

On 8 August, carrier qualifications, instrument, and training flights were conducted. FAM firing of M-16's was conducted for all flight crewmembers off the fantail of the USS TRIPOLI.

On 9 August, HMM-165 scheduled 18 sorties and 30.0 flight hours as a simulation of the evacuation was conducted. The simulated evacuation was successful as the squadron flew 39 sorties and 31.2 flight hours.

On 10 August, the squadron arrived in the Gulf of Siam and assumed a twelve (12) hour ready posture for OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

On 11 August, four (4) CH-53's were spotted on the flight deck for BLT embark/debark drill and passenger briefings.

On 25 August, all CH-46's were grounded until further notice and the squadron commenced X-raying rotor blades as directed in NAVAIRSYSCOMHQ message 242345Z August 1973.

On 31 August, the USS TRIPOLI departed the Gulf of Siam for Okinawa, Japan to conduct BLT turnover.

On 7 September, the squadron arrived at Okinawa for a one day visit while the USS TRIPOLI conducted a BLT turnover.

On 8 September, HMM-165 departed Okinawa for Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

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On 10 September, an early morning explosion in the boiler room damaged the USS TRIPOLI leaving her "Dead in the Water" nearly ninety miles from Subic Bay. HMM-165 launched a CH-53 to the Subic Bay Hospital with one emergency MEDEVAC on board. The USS TRIPOLI was towed to Subic Bay arriving late in the evening of 10 September.

On 11 September, HMM-165 Detachment "Alpha" was terminated.

On 14 September, LTCOL COLBERT, (CO, HMM-165), made a liaison visit to the USS CORAL SEA to discuss OPERATION EAGLE PULL requirements.

On 21 September, HMM-165 Detachment "Bravo" (CH-53/UH-1E Aircraft) was established ashore at NAS Cubi Point in preparation for EXERCISE PAGASA II as constructive LPH "USS MAMBURAO". The squadron also completed the initial X-raying of CH-46 rotor blades.

On 27 September, the squadron provided VIP aircraft for BGEN JANNELL, (CG, 9th MAB).

On 28 September, the squadron departed Subic Bay on board the USS TRIPOLI for EXERCISE PAGASA II operating area. The squadron launched three (3) CH-46's and one (1) CH-53 for Search and Rescue being conducted for a man overboard from the USS ELUERIDGE.

During the entire month of October, HMM-165 remained in a standby posture for OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

On 1 October, MGEN LANG, (CG, 1st MAW), was flown in a squadron CH-46 as he visited operating sites of EXERCISE PAGASA II.

On 5 October, the squadron returned to Subic Bay on board the USS TRIPOLI and transferred eight (8) CH-46's and two (2) UH-1E's to MCAS (H) Futema, Okinawa, Japan via the USS DENVER.

From 6 to 8 October, HMM-165 was on board the USS TRIPOLI as she put to sea to avoid Typhoon NORA. On 9 October, the USS TRIPOLI returned to Subic Bay. A detachment of two (2) CH-53's were dispatched to the USS DULUTH to help with salvage operations of the U.S. Naval Ship SGT JACK PENDLETON. The USNS PENDLETON had run aground on Triton Island some two weeks earlier.

On 10 October, ADM JOHNSON saw a need to have a CH-46 on board the USS DULUTH with hoisting capability. One squadron CH-46 joined the two CH-53's on board the USS DULUTH and sailed for Triton Island.

On 11 October, HMM-165 cross-decked from the USS TRIPOLI to the USS OKINAWA.

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On 18 October, the squadron transported 111 passengers and 16,000 pounds of food for typhoon relief for the villages of Poonbato and Villar in Zambales Province, Republic of the Philippines.

On 19 October, the detachment on board the USS DULUTH cross-decked to the USS MOUNT VERNON.

On 26 October, one CH-53 was launched on a civic action mission to Negrito Valley with passengers and 1000 pounds of cargo on board from Marine Barracks, Subic Bay.

On 30 October, the detachment on board the USS MOUNT VERNON was returned to the squadron. From 12 through 27 October the detachment on the USS DULUTH/USS MOUNT VERNON carried 7,130 passengers, 849,600 pounds of cargo, and flew 97.6 hours in support of 583 sorties.

During the entire month of November, HMM-165 remained in a standby posture for OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

On 5 November, two AH-1J's conducted a live FIREX at the Wildhorse Creek Range.

On 8 November, HMM-165 celebrated the 198th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

On 10 November, two AH-1J's conducted a live FIREX at the Tabones Islet Range. Four CH-53's, two AH-1J's and one CH-46 conducted day and night carrier qualifications. Fourteen pilots were qualified.

On 11 November, twelve CH-53's, two AH-1J's and one CH-46 flew 90 sorties for 36.3 hours while conducting a HELIOX in the Zambales Training Area in preparation for OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

On 15 November, a AH-1J made a successful emergency landing at Clark Air Force Base after a hydraulic system failure.

On 23 November, LTCOL COLBERT, departed for FMFPac Headquarters to attend a Cross-Tell Conference.

On 24 November, HMM-165 embarked on board the USS OKINAWA, departed Subic Bay for Keelung, Taiwan.

On 26 November, the USS OKINAWA arrived in Keelung.

On 26, 27, and 28 November, HMM-165 commenced staging equipment in preparation for off-loading at MCAS (H) Futema, Okinawa, Japan.

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On 29 November, the USS OKINAWA departed Keelung, Taiwan for Okinawa, Japan. Two (2) CH-53's were involved in an Aircraft Ground Accident during ground handling operations.

On 30 November 1973, the USS OKINAWA arrived in Okinawa and HMM-165 commenced off-loading to MCAS (H) Futema completing SEVEN HUNDRED and SEVENTY-FOUR consecutive days afloat.

HMM-165 opened the month of December unpacking and moving into spaces at MCAS (H) Futema.

On 1 December, COL KAPITAN, (CO, MAG-36), welcomed squadron personnel "Home", and complimented them on a job "Well Done" while afloat.

On 2 December, LTCOL COLBERT returned from the Cross-Tell Confernece at FMFPac Headquarters.

The squadron scheduled, SAR Standby, Area FAM's, Functional Check, and Training Flights for the month of December.

On 5 December, the squadron launched the SAR aircraft when alerted that a HMM-164, CH-46, aircraft had crashed. The SAR aircraft assisted in transporting casualties to Kue Hospital.

On 14, 18, and 21 December, squadron personnel attended a Communications Security presentation in the station theater.

On 20 and 21 December, the squadron held the Quarterly Safety Stand-down which included a brief by 1/LT DURLEY (USMC) on Courtney DASC and by TSGT BOWMAN (USAF) on Okinawa Approach Control Procedures.

On the afternoon of 28 December, the squadron gathered at the Station Picnic Area for a party.

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- 2 Jul - A SAR aircraft was launched in response to a downed CH-53. Recovery of the crew was already in progress, via safety boats, in the vicinity.
- 3 Jul - HMM-165 picked up RADM MCCAULEY and his negotiation team and transported them to the USS TRIPOLI.
- 12 Jul - COL THAI, DRV, was provided with transportation from Hai Yen to the USS TRIPOLI and back to Hai Yen.
- 14 Jul - The squadron MEDEVACED one ambulatory patient from the USS BLUERIDGE, to the USS TRIPOLI.
- 19 Jul - With the conclusion of OPERATION END SWEEP, HMM-165 embarked on board the USS TRIPOLI, departed the Gulf of Tonkin and sailed for Subic Bay.
- 20 Jul - HMM-165 arrived in Subic Bay.
- 21 Jul - The deactivation of Task Force 78 commenced. HMM-165 began de-modification and transfer of CH-53 assets to HMH-463.
- 24 Jul - HMM-165 chopped from Task Group 78.1 to Task Group 79.3.
- 26 Jul - OPERATION EAGLE PULL was introduced, and HMM-165 began to prepare for additional aircraft coming on board for the operation. Seven CH-53's arrived from Okinawa.
- 28 Jul - HMM-165 Detachment "Alpha" was designated and moved to facilities located at HC-7 ramp, NAS Cubi Point. The last six CH-53's arrived on board the USS TRIPOLI.
- 31 Jul - HMM-165 provided a backup helicopter for a VIP mission for ADM CLAREY and RADM SHELTON. Four AH-1J's arrived at NAS Cubi Point to support OPERATION EAGLE PULL.
- 1-2 Aug - HMM-165 conducted carrier qualifications for CH-53 and AH-1J flight crews who joined from Okinawa.
- 3 Aug - LTCOL COLBERT, departed for Phnom Penh, Cambodia on a liaison visit.
- 6 Aug - LTCOL COLBERT, returned from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. HMM-165 departed for the Gulf of Siam on board the USS TRIPOLI.
- 9 Aug - 39 sorties and 31.2 hours were flown as the squadron conducted simulated evacuation flights.
- 10 Aug - The USS TRIPOLI arrived in the Gulf of Siam and the squadron assumed a 12 hour reaction posture.
- 11 Aug - Four CH-53's were spotted on the flight deck for BLT embark/debark drill and passenger briefings.
- 25 Aug - All CH-46's were grounded until further notice and the squadron commenced X-raying rotor blades.

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- 31 Aug - The USS TRIPOLI departed the Gulf of Siam for Okinawa to conduct BLT turnover.
- 1-6 Sep - Enroute to Okinawa.
- 7 Sep - Arrived in Okinawa.
- 8 Sep - Departed Okinawa.
- 10 Sep - Launched a CH-53 to the Philippines with one emergency MEDEVAC on board after explosion on USS TRIPOLI left ship "Dead in the Water."
- 10 Sep - USS TRIPOLI arrived Subic Bay under tow.
- 14 Sep - LTCOL COLBERT made a liaison visit to the USS CORAL SEA to discuss OPERATION EAGLE PULL requirements.
- 21 Sep - Detachment "Bravo" was established ashore at NAS Cubi Point in preparation for EXERCISE PAGASA II.
- 28 Sep - Departed Subic Bay for the EXERCISE PAGASA II training area. Launched three CH-46's and one CH-53 for SAR being conducted for man overboard from USS BLUERIDGE.
- 1 Oct - MGEN LANG was flown in a CH-46 as he visited operating sites of EXERCISE PAGASA II.
- 9 Oct - HMM-165 dispatched two CH-53's to the USS DULUTH to assist in salvage operations on the U.S. NAVAL SHIP SGT JACK PENDLETON.
- 10 Oct - One CH-46 was sent aboard the USS DULUTH to join the two CH-53's for the salvage operation.
- 11 Oct - HMM-165 cross-decked from the USS TRIPOLI to the USS OKINAWA.
- 18 Oct - HMM-165 transported 111 passengers and 16,000 pounds of food to typhoon victims.
- 29 Oct - MGEN RYAN was flown from NAS Cubi Point to Green Beach.
- 30 Oct - MGEN RYAN was flown from Subic Bay to the American Embassy in Manila and back to Subic Bay.
- 5 Nov - Two AH-1J's conducted a live FIREX at the Wildhorse Creek Range.
- 7 Nov - HMM-165 flew 10 U.S. Marines to Manila to attend the Philippine Marine Corps birthday celebration.
- 8 Nov - HMM-165 celebrated the 198th U.S. Marine Corps birthday.
- 11 Nov - Twelve CH-53's, two AH-1J's and three CH-46's conducted HELIOEX in the Zambales Training Area in preparation for OPERATION EAGLE PULL.
- 20 Nov - An AH-1J made a successful emergency landing at Clark Air Force Base after a hydraulic system failure.

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- 24 Nov - HMM-165, on board the USS OKINAWA, departed Subic Bay, for Keelung, Taiwan.
 - 26 Nov - Arrived in Keelung. HMM-165 commenced staging equipment in preparation for off-loading at Okinawa, Japan.
 - 29 Nov - Departed for Okinawa, Japan.
 - 30 Nov - The USS OKINAWA arrived in Okinawa, Japan, and HMM-165 commenced off-loading at MCAS (H) Futema ending SEVEN HUNDRED and SEVENTY-FOUR consecutive days afloat.
 - 1 Dec - COL KAPITAN, (CO, MAG-36), welcomed HMM-165 "Home".
 - 2 Dec - LTCOL COLBERT returned from Cross-Tell Conference at FMFPac Headquarters.
 - 5 Dec - HMM-165 launched SAR aircraft when alerted that a HMM-164, CH-46, had crashed.
 - 14,18,21 Dec - Squadron personnel attended a Communications Security presentation in the station theater.
 - 20,21 Dec - The squadron held the Quarterly Safety Stand-down.
 - 25 Dec - HMM-165 celebrated Christmas on Okinawa for the first time since 1968.
 - 28 Dec - The squadron gathered at the station picnic area for a party.

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PART IV
SUPPORTING STATISTICS

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>CARGO (Pounds)</u>	<u>FLIGHT HOURS</u>
Jul 73	213	487	52,800	175.5
Aug 73	367	504	18,400	420.5
Sep 73	611	2,026	411,200	743.9
Oct 73	551	9,512	906,200	599.5
Nov 73	373	1,324	5,000	368.9
Dec 73	62	93	1,600	44.7
TOTAL	<u>2,177</u>	<u>13,946</u>	<u>1,395,200</u>	<u>2,353.0</u>

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AIRCRAFT FLIGHT HOURS

	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>AH-1J</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jul 73	137.9	13.5	24.1	0	175.5
Aug 73	177.5	115.5	59.1	68.4	420.5
Sep 73	181.7	440.0	69.9	52.3	743.9
Oct 73	106.7	356.3	70.9	65.6	599.5
Nov 73	148.2	124.4	38.6	57.7	368.9
Dec 73	37.1	7.6	0	0	44.7
TOTAL	789.1	1,057.3	262.6	244.0	2,353.0

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~CARGO (Pounds)

	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jul 73	49,800	3,000	0	52,800
Aug 73	7,800	10,600	0	18,400
Sep 73	23,800	387,200	200	411,200
Oct 73	54,000	852,200	0	906,200
Nov 73	2,000	3,000	0	5,000
Dec 73	1,600	0	0	1,600
TOTAL	<u>139,000</u>	<u>1,256,000</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>1,395,200</u>

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PASSENGERS

	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jul 73	479	0	8	487
Aug 73	284	220	0	504
Sep 73	664	1,300	62	2,026
Oct 73	1,529	7,915	68	9,512
Nov 73	217	1,097	10	1,324
Dec 73	93	0	0	93
TOTAL	<u>3,266</u>	<u>10,532</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>13,946</u>

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SORTIES

	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>AH-1J</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jul 73	176	16	21	0	213
Aug 73	167	103	41	56	367
Sep 73	163	342	64	42	611
Oct 73	101	331	59	60	551
Nov 73	104	186	24	59	373
Dec 73	55	7	0	0	62
TOTAL	<u>766</u>	<u>985</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>2,177</u>

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	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-53</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>AH-1J</u>
Jul 73	82%	60%	78%	
Aug 73	58%	71%	89%	59%
Sep 73	48%	68%	94%	63%
Oct 73	68%	72%	84%	80%
Nov 73	74%	63%	81%	63%
Dec 73	41%	66%		
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AVERAGE %	62%	67%	85%	66%

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