

MARINE LIGHT HELICOPTER SQUADRON 167
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:AAN:rgv
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1 April 1970

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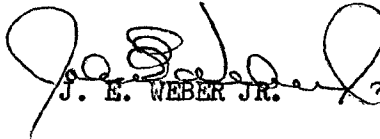
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
(2) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1970 to 31 March 1970

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1_
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8B

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.


J. E. WEBER JR.

Appendix 1

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1 MARINE LIGHT HELICOPTER SQUADRON 167
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March - 31 March 1970

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167

COMMANDER

LtCol J. E. WEBER JR.

2. LOCATION

1-31 March 1970: Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Major A. A. NELBACH(1-23Mar70)
Major J. L. THIESSE(24-31Mar70)

Operations Officer

Major F. OWLETT (1-23Mar70)
Major A. A. NELBACH(24-31Mar70)

Logistics Officer

Capt M. S. BLAIR (1-31Mar70)

Administrative Officer

Capt R. T. ADAMS (1-31Mar70)

A/C Maintenance Officer

Major J. S. MARTIN (1-31Mar70)

Intelligence Officer

1/Lt L. D. PARSONS (1-21Mar70)
1/Lt P. W. HOOPER (22-31Mar70)4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
69	213	0	0	0	0

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of March saw a slight decrease in the total number of flight hours flown by HML-167 from those of the previous two months. Our total effort was just over 2200 hours for this month. Decreased aircraft availability, an average of 22 aircraft per day, was the major factor contributing to the decrease in total flight time. The Aircraft Maintenance Department received two Safety of Flight UR's which affected all assigned aircraft. One UR required a one time inspection of the stabilizer bars located on the main rotor head. The other UR required the disassembly, inspection and Rockwell Hardness testing of all tail rotor hub assemblies. All remedial action fortunately was accomplished prior to the occurrence of any aircraft incidents.

The Maintenance Department still is plagued by the shortage of skilled SNCO helicopter mechanics with a primary MOS of 6114 or 6124. Eight (8) aircraft are down awaiting parts from supply. The above items contributed to the overall decrease in aircraft availability.

Squadron "Gunships" accounted for 936 total hours of which 46.8 hours were in support of the 1st Marine Division's Operation "Pacifier". The "Slick" Command and Control aircraft accounted for the remaining 1264 hours. Although we flew no special VIP's this month the "Slick" aircraft still carried over 200 VIP's and 4,000 passengers. Our Command and Control aircraft, in support of the Republic of Korea Marines, flew over 205 hours.

The squadron lost two (2) aircraft this month. One aircraft loss was due to operational causes and the other aircraft was destroyed due to direct enemy action. On the operational loss one of the pilots received a deep laceration in his scalp and the assigned crew chief suffered a compound fracture of his left leg. Our second loss occurred when the aircraft was shot down while attempting the emergency extraction of a reconnaissance team deep in enemy controlled territory. All 4 crew members aboard the aircraft perished. Although our aircraft were involved in five (5) separate fire incidents, no serious damage was sustained nor were there injuries incurred by personnel.

During the latter half of the month several Department Head changes occurred. The Squadron now has a new Executive Officer, Operations Officer, and Intelligence Officer. Nine new pilots checked into the squadron; five (5) arrived from CONUS, and the other four (4) were reassigned from units within the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. During the month four (4) pilots completed their overseas tour and rotated to CONUS leaving the squadron with 43 qualified right seat pilots. In the enlisted ranks we received nineteen new people but lost twenty-six. During the month, fifteen men were promoted; thirteen to sergeant, one to corporal, and one to corporal for meritorious performance.

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Our Intelligence Department has spent several days putting together a wall map for the ready room that has all major helicopter landing zones in I Corps depicted. This should prove to be an asset to our "Slick" pilots who occasionally are required to travel to an unfamiliar landing zone. It also should assist the newly arrived pilots in orienting themselves within the operating area.

The squadron Material Section recently was re-located from the hangar area to a new building, located next to the ready room. They will now have an increased administrative area and their working conditions should not be adversely affected by maintenance activity. Our Ordnance section has experienced a sharp decrease in ordnance expended, primarily due to the decrease in armed escort missions assigned and the decreased pace of tactical operations.

Again, although the month of March presented some operational and maintenance difficulties, the "Checkmates" of HML-167 continued to meet all operational requirements in an outstanding manner - they truly have the right to be proud of their position as "MAG-16's Finest".

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

5 March 1970	Removed all tail rotor hubs for Rockwell Hardness Inspection. None were found deficient and all aircraft were tested after replacing hubs.
7 March 1970	Found 1 broken stabilizer bar and 3 with hairline cracks, after a one time inspection of all aircraft.
13 March 1970	TV-2 crashed BuNo 151278 BOULTON, S. R. 1/Lt, 0104137, Pilot JOSTEN, N. W. 1/Lt, 0106813, Co-pilot HAYDEN, L. D. Cpl, 2368158, Crew Chief, Bravo Injury
21 March 1970	TV-27 crashed BuNo 152427 CASTLE, R. E. 1/Lt, 0105474, Pilot, Alpha Injury PARSONS, L. D. 1/Lt, 0101271, Co-pilot, Alpha Injury GONZALES, D. Cpl, 2348336, Crew Chief, Alpha Injury UNDERWOOD, W. SSgt, 1892041, Aerial Gunner, Alpha Injury
22 March 1970	1/Lt P. W. HOOPER, 0104834 assumed duties as Intelligence Officer
24 March 1970	Major J. L. THIESSE, 063582 assumed duties as Executive Officer, Major A. A. NELBACH, 068287 assumed duties as Operations Officer.
31 March 1970	Ordnance Expended (March) 7.62 - 142,900 rounds 2.75 Folding Fin Aircraft Rocket - 645 H. E. 462 W. P. HTW - 8

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