

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

3:RMO:med
5750
03A00571
5 January 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 December 1970 to 31 December 1970
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1D

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

1. In accordance with the provisions set forth in reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.


R. J. BLANC

HML-167

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MARINE LIGHT HELICOPTER SQUADRON 167
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 December - 31 December 1970

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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1. DESIGNATION COMMANDER
 Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167 LtCol D. A. MCCAUGHEY JR. (1-4Dec70)
 LtCol R. J. BLANC (5-31Dec70)
2. LOCATION
 1-31 December 1970: Marble Mountain Air Facility; Republic of Vietnam
3. STAFF OFFICERS
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Executive Officer | Major C. W. DEPIETRO (1-31Dec70) |
| Operations Officer | Major R. M. ONDRICK (1-31Dec70) |
| Logistics Officer | Major J. D. HAYNES (1-9Dec70)
1stLt T. O. MILLER (10-31Dec70) |
| Administrative Officer | Major J. D. HAYNES (1-14Dec70)
1stLt G. J. COOPER (15-31Dec70) |
| A/C Maintenance Officer | Major J. E. HAYES (1-31Dec70) |
| Intelligence Officer | 1stLt P. A. LAHLUM (1-18Dec70)
1stLt D. F. TRUMPE (19-31Dec70) |
4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHS

<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>
50	190	0	0	0	0

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A new page was opened in the history of HML-167 at 1530 on 4 December 1970 when LtCol D. A. MCCAUGHEY passed the colors to LtCol R. J. BLANC signifying the transfer of command of "Comprise". The event was marked by an impressive change of command ceremony climaxed by a four plane diamond fly-by of "Comprise" aircraft.

Santa Claus visited I Corps this Christmas, compliments of HML-167. The climate was somewhat unsuitable for his traditional mode of transportation, so in substitution, a Huey "slick" became transfigured into a reindeer and sleigh. The "Comprise" bird was painted red and white including appropriate Christmas slogans. 1stLt Bob RARICK played the role of Santa, beard and all, with 1stLt Joe YANNESSA driving the "sleigh". "Santa One" visited virtually every Marine position in the I Corps area, also stopping at several Vietnamese villages where gifts, donated by the Red Cross and members of HML-167, were distributed to many very appreciative children. The spirit and success of the venture is best exemplified by the typical radio transmission from an outlying Marine position, "Santa, please come down and see us, we have something we want to give you".

December was a month of "first's" for MAG-16's Huey squadron. "Comprise" became the first combat helicopter squadron to drop the CBU-55/D FAE Weapon. The Huey is capable of carrying two such weapons, with each having the explosive effect of three 500 pound bombs. Colonel L. C. STREET, MAG-16 Commanding Officer, made the first helicopter CBU drop in country on 15 December. One more practice drop followed on 16 December and the weapon was used tactically for the first time on 20 December. The extremely effective LZ clearance device was dropped eight times this month by HML-167.

Once again on the lighter side of the war, "Comprise" pilots became the first in the Group to sport the "party suit". The tailor-made, light blue flight suits, purchased in Ubon, Thailand, first made their appearance on the night of 30 December when all squadron pilots entered the MMAF "O" Club, en masse, wearing the new uniform. The sight of fifty Huey pilots dressed in blue prompted the composition of a song by the less fortunate squadrons of MAG-16. However, rumor has it that others will soon follow "suit".

Although 167's Nighthawk mission is not a new one, the three aircraft package enjoyed particular success this month. The search aircraft with

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its Night Observation Device and 50,000,000 candlepower Xenon Searchlight, escorted by two UH-1E gunships, worked with particularly close coordination with ground forces, at times right through to dawn. The mission, aside from greatly restricting the enemy's night movement capabilities, accounted for 12 confirmed KBA's and two probable during the month.

A decrease in assigned missions and poor weather were factors in the squadron's monthly flight hours dropping to 1721.6, a decrease of 78 hours from the previous month. Huey slicks flew 1052.4 hours, while the guns compiled a 669.2 total. 676 tasks resulted in 5,051 sorties and 3,285 passengers, including 47 VIP's.

While total flight hours declined, enemy killed and damage inflicted showed a sharp increase for the month. Squadron S-2 records show a total of 27 fire incidents involving "Comprise" aircraft. The most impressive figure shows 21 confirmed KBA's and eight probable. Huey guns also destroyed seven hootches, one .30 caliber machine gun and two enemy rockets.

The Squadron was fortunate in making an even swap of pilots this month as four Huey drivers rotated to CONUS and the same number reported to fill their shoes. Among those reporting was a second tour Captain and one lieutenant with six months experience in Okinawa.

Having established new precedents during the month of December, HML-167 faces the new year, under new leadership, in ready anticipation of further securing its reputation as "MAG-16's Finest".

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4 December 1970 Change of Command, LtCol R. J. BLANC relieved LtCol
D. A. MCCAUGHEY as Commanding Officer.

Pilots Joining HML-167

Capt. T. C. MCDONALD
1stLt W. D. BRYANT
1stLt M. B. HENDERSON
1stLt K. R. SLUIS

Pilots Leaving HML-167

1stLt A. J. HINTON
1stLt J. W. HOLLAND
1stLt E. S. NELSON
1stLt A. C. WORLEY

Ordnance Expended (December)

7.62 - 134,000
2.75 FFAR - 1,506
CBU-55/D - 8

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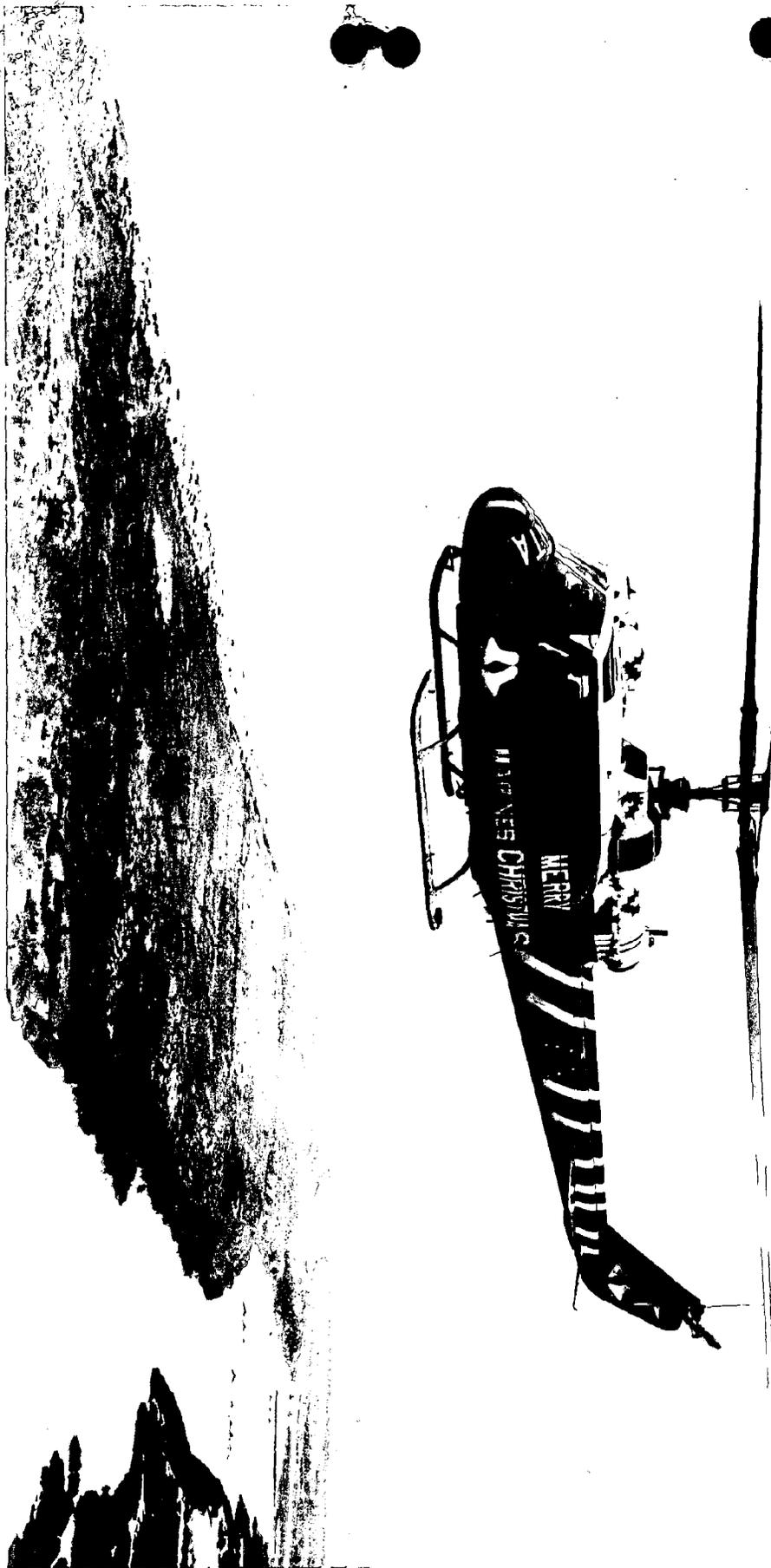
PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ 1. Photo of TV-33 as "Santa's Sleigh"

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MAG-16 PHOTO LAB

25UEC1970 1W16-173-12-70 (B)

Xmas Bird

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