

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3:DSW:rlc  
5750  
03A34068  
5 Dec 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 November 1968 to 31 November 1968  
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1B  
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. This letter becomes UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

  
A. N. ALLEN

HMM-262

CMC CHRON

HMM 262 S&C.....

Nov 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 NOVEMBER 1968 TO 30 NOVEMBER 1968

- PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
1. Organization Data
  2. Task Organization and Unit Location
  3. Average Monthly Strength of Squadron
  4. Important Visitors to the Squadron
- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY AND OPERATION HIGHLIGHTS
1. Narrative Summary of Significant Events
  2. Operational Highlights
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
1. Personnel
  2. Awards
  3. Casualties
  4. Reenlistments
  5. Safety
  6. Intelligence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Organization Data

a. Commanding Officer	Albert N. ALLEN	LtCol	1-30 Nov
b. Executive Officer	Leo J. IHLI	Major	1-30 Nov
c. Operations Officer	Donald S. WAUNCH	Major	1-30 Nov
d. Logistics Officer	Raymond G. PINSON	Major	1-30 Nov
e. Personnel Officer	William R. BRYAN	Capt.	1-30 Nov
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Harvey E. BRITT	Major	1-30 Nov
g. Intelligence Officer	Richard P. EVANS	1stLt	1-30 Nov
h. Maintenance Officer	James A. WELLS, Jr. Marvin R. NELSON	LtCol Major	1-14 Nov 15-30 Nov
i. Sergeant Major	Alexander J. SONCRANT	1stSgt	1-30 Nov

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
 Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 FMF Pacific, FPO, San Francisco, California 96602  
 Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-30 November 1968

3. Average Monthly Strength of SquadronNaval Aviators

48

Air/Ground Officers

4

Enlisted

189

Naval Officers

1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

LtGen Lewis W. WALT (and party) Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps 1 Nov 68

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

HMM-262 flew a total of 1462.4 hours in support of 3rd Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing operations during the month of November 1968. Minor support was conducted for Napoleon/Saline and Kentucky II. Scotland II and Lancaster II accounted for most of the squadron's flight hours. Operations were affected by weather to a lesser degree than in the month of October. Only on two days, the 6th and 29th, were operations curtailed by bad weather. However, ground fog, cloud build-ups, and showers limited support on various missions thirteen days through out the month.

In support of Scotland II HMM-262 flew 4,665 sorties, carried 8,672 troops, transported 716.7 tons of cargo, and extracted numerous med-evacs. The squadron flew for 933.1 hours in support of Scotland II. Lancaster II accounted for 112.8 hours in which 501 sorties were flown. Along with numerous med-evacs HMM-262 transported 38.5 tons of cargo, and carried 2,019 troops in support of the Lancaster II operation.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS4 November 1968

At 1040H, while on a resupply mission for F Co., 2nd Bn., 9th Marines at XD932295, Captain D. O. MCGAHA, the flight leader of Event 6-3, received small arms fire. His aircraft took five hits. Events 6-3 and 6-4 returned to Quang Tri Air Base to inspect the damage. There were no injuries to the crew.

7 November 1968

A flight led by Major R. G. PINSON (Event 6-1), Captain P. G. KNESE (6-2), Captain K. F. VAN WINCKEL (6-3), 1stLt T. W. DRAPER (6-4), Captain W. S. ENGLEHART (6-5) and 1stLt R. N. HARVEY (6-6) was diverted from a routine troop lift by Vandergrift DASC. An emergency troop lift of F Co., 2nd Bn., 4th Marines was begun into a drop zone at XD675572. Approaching the zone, Major PINSON's aircraft was hit by automatic weapon and small arms fire. When flames burst out within the aircraft's forward section, Major PINSON was forced to autorotate down the side of a mountain to a clear zone on the valley floor at XD678563 (2500' elevation) with twelve combat loaded troops aboard. Although the crew chief was seriously wounded, and two Marines received minor wounds from gunfire, a successful evacuation of the burning helicopter was accomplished without further injury to any personnel. Captain KNESE, after disembarking his troops, landed his aircraft nearby and extracted the downed helicopter's crew and troops. Though sporadic fire was taken on each approach, the troop lift was completed by the remaining aircraft in the flight.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~9 November 1968

After a two hour delay because of inclement weather, a flight of six aircraft led by Major M. R. NELSON (Event 6-1) transported 792 combat troops of the 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines in an assault to a drop zone at YD052648 south of the DMZ. The troops were lifted from A-4 (YD116701) and C-2 (YD134637). While disembarking troops in the LZ, a 122mm rocket landed 30 meters from 1stLt J. C. O'CONNOR's aircraft (Event 6-4), but no damage or injury resulted. Major H. E. BRITT (Event 6-5) saw the flash from the rocket launching site in the DMZ south of the Ben Hai River. He promptly directed escorting gunships to the area. Subsequently, fixed wing aircraft flying cover for the assault destroyed the rocket site enabling the lift to continue. The troop loading zones were sites near the DMZ and sporadic small arms and mortars were received throughout the operation. Upon completion of the troop lift, Events 6-1 and 6-2 were diverted for emergency extracts of 3rd Recon Battalion teams Wisdom Jacket and Crimson Song. The two teams were successfully extracted from YD261518 and YD264523 respectively. Though moderate small arms fire was received no aircraft were hit.

11 November 1968

On an attempt to insert 3rd Recon Battalion team Spongy Tackle in an LZ at XD923625, Captain B. B. COLE (Event 6-12) received intense small arms fire on his approach. During wave off partial engine failure was experienced due to rounds which damaged a portion of the electrical system. Another round severed the co-pilot's collective cable rendering it inoperative. Captain COLE limped back to Vandergrift Combat Base where repair of his aircraft was accomplished. No recon team or crew members were injured.

13 November 1968

Major D. S. WAUNCH led a combined force of HMM-262 and HMM-161 helicopters on an assault troop lift from Camp Carroll (YD065545) to an LZ at YD173321. The operation which included elements of the 1st Bn., 9th Marines was an encircling movement in conjunction with ARVN forces to trap Viet Cong and search for caches of enemy weapons. The lift was completed without incident. The combined flight then completed a lift of the 1st Bn., 4th Marines from LZ Argonne (XD675572) to Vandergrift Combat Base. Detaching the HMM-161 helicopters, HMM-262 aircraft commenced a lift of combat troops from LZ Ghurka (XD843483) to LZ Argonne. The lift was completed without incident but hampered by clouds which obscured the zone at LZ Argonne.

24 November 1968

In support of U.S. Army and ARVN operations, HMM-262 made assault transport lifts of 373 Army troops and 481 ARVN troops from LZ's Betty (YD342512) and Sharon (YD335487) to zones at YD190411, YD199378 and YD186401 in the Ba Long Valley. Led by Major M. R. NELSON the lift was completed successfully. Small arms fire was received at YD199378 but quickly quelled by alert helicopter gunners firing .50 caliber machine guns and escorting UH-1E gunships from VMO-6.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~27 November 1968

Captain's M. E. MITCHELL and P. G. KNESE were diverted to extract 3rd Recon Battalion team Dunbar County five minutes after a successful insertion at XD305396. Captain MITCHELL made two attempts to extract the team but was driven off by automatic weapons and mortar fire impacting in the zone. A third attempt was made and the team extracted. However one KIA recon team member was left in the zone. Captain MITCHELL flew the wounded to the 3rd Medical Battalion at Quang Tri and took another aircraft to replace his which had been damaged by mortar fragments and small arms. A reaction force element from the U.S. Army (Duncan Coast) was inserted by Captain MITCHELL in the LZ to recover the recon KIA. The body was quickly located, recovered and the reaction force extracted by Captain's MITCHELL and KNESE.

28 November 1968

While on a troop lift in support of U.S. Army forces, 1stLt R. B. GRUNDY experienced a #1 engine failure while precariously balanced in an LZ at YD190390 disembarking troops. After the troops were safely out of his helicopter, Lt GRUNDY commenced a single engine departure from the zone. The #2 engine experienced a partial power loss almost immediately. Lt GRUNDY managed to autorotate downhill to a flat area at YD190398 without damaging the helicopter. An HMM-262 recovery team was dispatched to prepare the downed helicopter for external transportation. An Army CH-54 was utilized to return the aircraft to Quang Tri.

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Transfers to HMM-262 - officers 4, enlisted 28
- b. Transfers from HMM-262 - officers 3, enlisted 32
- c. Promotions to present ranks:

LtCol James A. WELLS, Jr.		6 November 1968
Major Raymond G. PINSON		6 November 1968
Capt. Peter G. KNESE		16 November 1968
Capt. Patrick W. MADDEN		8 November 1968
Cpl Barry R. FRANKS		6 November 1968

2. Awardsa. Distinguished Flying Cross

BRITT, Harvey E.	Major	4 November 1968
BRATTON, Andrew J. III (1st/2nd)	Capt.	30 November 1968
SNEAR, Samuel C. F. Jr.	Capt.	30 November 1968

b. Purple Heart

WAUNCH, Donald S.	Major	30 November 1968
WARREN, Glenn E.	1stLt	30 November 1968

c. Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

PONDER, Danny L.	Cpl	30 November 1968
------------------	-----	------------------

d. Single Mission Air Medal

COLE, Brascal B. Jr.	Capt.	8 November 1968
HERBERG, Richard Jr.	Capt.	4 November 1968
COUDRIGHT, Ernest	GySgt	4 November 1968
HAFF, Frederick E.	Cpl	4 November 1968

e. Good Conduct Medal

MERRITT, John W.	Cpl	3 November 1968
------------------	-----	-----------------

3. Casualties

HANCHETT, Ben J.	Cpl	WIA (major)	7 November 1968
------------------	-----	-------------	-----------------

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~4. Reenlistments

FLOWERS, James T. Jr.

Cpl

26 November 1968

5. Safety. Listed below are the aircraft incidents and accidents for the month of November 1968:

Ground Accidents-----None  
 Ground Accidents - Due to Enemy Action-----None  
 Air Accidents - Operational-----None  
 Air Incidents - Operational-----4 Echo  
 Air Accidents - Due to Enemy Action-----1 Alpha  
 Air Incidents - Due to Enemy Action-----2 Echo  
 Injury to Personnel-----1 Major

6. Intelligence

The month of November showed a marked increase in anti-aircraft activity by the enemy. The reporting period (1-30 Nov 68) consisted of a higher fire incident rate in comparison to the number of sorties flown and the previous months statistics:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>FIRE INCIDENTS</u>	<u>AVERAGE FIRE INCIDENTS PER 100 SORTIES</u>
October	6568	13	.198
November	6016	19	.316

There were three areas which received the greatest concentration of fire incidents:

<u>AREA (SQUARED)</u>	<u>TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS*</u>
XD6562-6762-6560-6760	9
XD6659-7059-6655-7055	14
YD0368-0768-0363-0763	11

\*Includes 1st MAW Totals

There were a total of 19 fire incidents resulting in one aircraft strike and one USMC WIA(E). Total incidents include the following type fire:

13 Small Arms  
 12 Automatic Weapons  
 17 .30 Caliber  
 2 Mortar  
 2 Rockets

There were two significant sightings by HM-262 pilots, rocket positions at YD036696 and a dirt strip at YD665390. The S-2 section has established

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

separate maps for intelligence and operations in the Readyroom. One map consists of TACAN readings and AO's; the other map is for all fire incidents and hot areas.

Two new files have been started; one of all helicopter zones and the other of all fire incidents. A general area brief map has been set up in the hangar for all enlisted troops. In addition a daily current situation brief is published. SERE equipment has been mounted in the Readyroom and Evac-maps (1-250,000) have been made available to all pilots.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~