

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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3:ACA:kcm
5750
5 Jan 1970

UNCLASSIFIED



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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 December 1969

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

Encl: (1) HMM-262 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter becomes UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. A. Bancroft
R. A. BANCROFT

170111-262



FMFPACO 5750.8 (2)

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 December 1969

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- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262

COMMANDERMAJOR D. J. MESKAN
1-20 December 1969LTCOL R. A. BANGROFT
21-31 December 19692. LOCATION

1-31 December 1969, Phu Bai Air Base, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	MAJOR Howard M. WHITFIELD	1-20 Dec 1969
	MAJOR Wiley J. SELLERS	21-31 Dec 1969
Operations Officer	CAPT Simon F. STOVER	1-13 Dec 1969
	1STLT Steven D. BRAVARD	14-31 Dec 1969
Logistics Officer	CAPT Lester R. GROSE	1-31 Dec 1969
Administrative Officer	1STLT Dean R. DAVIS	1-6 Dec 1969
	CAPT Walter W. GUSTIN	7-31 Dec 1969
Aviation Safety Officer	1STLT Donald V. ESMOND	1-31 Dec 1969
Intelligence Officer	1STLT Hugo T. BECK	1-31 Dec 1969
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	CAPT David L. WHITE	1-31 Dec 1969
Sergeant Major	SGTMAJ Thomas E. DUKE	1-31 Dec 1969

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
52	158	1	0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During December 1969, HMM-262 flew a total of 953.7 flight hours and 2741 sorties. The majority of the hours flown were in support of the 1st Marine Division and III Marine Amphibious Force. The squadron accomplished a total of 278 Med-Evacs as follows: 91 Emergency, 114 Priority, and 73 Routine. There were 62.4 hours flown in Recon support with 31 Inserts, 18 Extracts, and 1 Flip-Flop.
2. HMM-262 administratively joined the Marine Aircraft Group 16 Support Unit which consisted of 163 Enlisted and 8 Officers.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Transferred to HMM-262 - 16 Officers 34 Enlisted
- b. Transferred from HMM-262 - 7 Officers 18 Enlisted
- c. Promoted to present rank - 0 Officers 0 Enlisted

2. Administration. On 20 December 1969, Major D. J. MESKAN relinquished command of HMM-262 to Lieutenant Colonel R. A. BANCROFT.

3. Awards. The Strike/Flight Air Medal Award was presented to 14 personnel of the squadron.

4. Casualties. On 6 December 1969, 1stLt H. R. WEBER O103878, copilot, was wounded in the left elbow on a night Med-Evac Mission when a claymore-type mine was exploded in the landing zone. 1stLt WEBER was treated at the Naval Support Activity Hospital in Da Nang and subsequently evacuated to the Naval Hospital in Guam.

5. Civic Action. HMM-262 has adopted, through its Civic Action Program, the Protestant Tin Dang Orphanage, located in Phu Luong. This month the Squadron has acquired and given the Orphanage cement to aid its building program and several hundred pounds of food and clothing. The Orphanage houses 40 children and conducts classes for 250 area children.

6. Morale/Welfare. Various athletic equipment and recreational facilities have been provided in sufficient quantity. During the month of December the Squadron had two parties. The Bob Hope Show brightened Christmas Day for 15,000 servicemen in Northern I Corps.

7. Informational Services. Twenty-two Home Town News Releases were published on awards and promotions during the month of December.

8. Important Visitors to the Squadron. MajGen THRASH, CG 1ST MAW, visited the Squadron on 21 December 1969.

9. Intelligence. The month of December showed an increase in the level of enemy antiaircraft fire incidents. Chatterbox aircraft experienced 21 fire incidents resulting in damage to six aircraft. The areas receiving the largest volume of fire were east of An Hoa, southeast of Liberty Bridge by Alligator Lake and Spider Lake, and also along Barrier Island.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGIES OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are no supporting documents attached.

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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5 Jan 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 December 1969
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1
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).

W. J. Sellers
R. A. BANCROFT
for

01-70
C10F7

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. ORGANIZATION DATA

a. Commanding Officer	MAJOR	Donald J. MESKAN	1-20 Dec 69
	LTCOL	Richard A. BANCROFT	21-31 Dec 69
b. Executive Officer	MAJOR	Howard M. WHITFIELD	1-20 Dec 69
	MAJOR	Wiley J. SELLERS	21-31 Dec 69
c. Operations Officer	CAPT	Simon F. STOVER	1-13 Dec 69
	LSTLT	Steven D. BRAVARD	14-31 Dec 69
d. Logistics Officer	CAPT	Lester R. GROSE	1-31 Dec 69
e. Personnel Officer	LSTLT	Dean R. DAVIS	1-6 Dec 69
	CAPT	Walter W. GUSTIN	7-31 Dec 69
f. Aviation Safety Officer	LSTLT	Donald V. ESMOND	1-31 Dec 69
g. Intelligence Officer	LSTLT	Hugo T. BECK	1-31 Dec 69
h. Maintenance Officer	CAPT	David L. WHITE	1-31 Dec 69
i. Sergeant Major	SGTMAJ	Thomas E. DUKE	1-31 Dec 69

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
 Marine Aircraft Group 16, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing,
 FMF Pacific, FPO, San Francisco, California 96602
 Phu Bai Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 December 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength of SquadronNAVAL AVIATORS

52

AIR/GROUND OFFICERS

4

ENLISTED

158

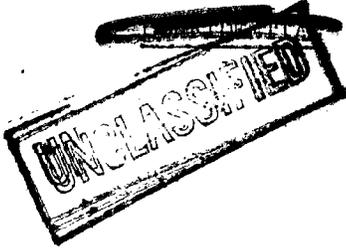
NAVAL OFFICERS

1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron. MajGen THRASH, CG 1ST MAW, visited the Squadron on 21 December 1969.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IIOPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

2 December

Chatterbox Morning Med-Evac took six hits while extracting an emergency med-evac. There were no casualties and the aircraft was able to successfully complete the mission and return to base.

5 December

Six officers and 206 enlisted Marines of the MAG-16 Support Unit were transferred to HMM-262 from HML-367. Average strength of the Support Unit during the month: 6 Officers and 184 Enlisted.

7 December

Chatterbox Night Med-Evac tripped a booby trap as it descended into the zone to extract an emergency med-evac. The resulting detonation injured the co-pilot, who was himself evacuated. The aircraft completed the mission and returned to Marble Mountain.

19 December

Four separate fire incidents were reported on this date. Chatterbox Night Med-Evac experienced three separate incidents of small arms fire resulting in one hit and minor damage. Chatterbox 5 received small arms fire at coordinates AT893504 resulting in one hit with minor damage and negative injuries.

PART IIISIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| a. Transferred to HMM-262 | - 16 Officers | 34 Enlisted |
| b. Transferred from HMM-262 | - 7 Officers | 18 Enlisted |
| c. Promotion to present rank | - None | None |

2. Administration. On 20 December 1969, Major D. J. MESKAN relinquished command of HMM-262 to Lieutenant Colonel R. A. BANCROFT.

3. Awards. The Strike/Flight Air Medal Award was presented to 14 personnel of the Squadron.

4. Casualties. On 6 December 1969, 1stLt H. R. WEBER O103870, copilot, was wounded in the left elbow on a night Med-Evac Mission when a claymore-type mine was exploded in the landing zone. 1stLt WEBER was treated at the Naval Support Activity Hospital in Da Nang and subsequently evacuated to the Naval Hospital in Guam.

5. Civic Action. HMM-262 has adopted, through its Civic Action Program, the Protestant Tin Dank Orphanage, located in Phu Luong. This month the Squadron has acquired and given the Orphanage 15 bags of cement and over 200 pounds of food and clothing. The Orphanage houses 40 children and conducts classes for 250 area children.

6. Morale/Welfare. Various athletic equipment and recreational facilities have been provided in sufficient quantity. During the month of December, the Squadron had two parties. The Bob Hope Show brightened Christmas Day for 15,000 servicemen in Northern I Corps.

7. Informational Services. Eight new officers joined the Squadron which resulted in eight Home Town News Releases. Fourteen enlisted Home Town News Releases were published on awards and promotions.

8. Intelligence. The month of December 1969 showed an increase in the level of enemy antiaircraft fire incidents.

The reporting period (1-31 December 1969) consisted of an increase in sorties and an increase in fire incidents.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>FIRE INCIDENTS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT RECEIVING RATTLE DAMAGE</u>	<u>% OF FIRE PER SORTIE</u>
1-31 December	2741	21	6	0.766
1-30 November	2646	14	6	0.568
16-31 October	1813	5	0	0.276

The areas receiving the largest volume of fire were the same as in the month of November:

East of An Hoa, southeast of Liberty Bridge by Alligator Lake and Spider Lake, and also along Barrier Island.

There was a total of 21 fire incidents. Six of our aircraft were hit. The Squadron had one WIA evacuated. The fire incidents consisted of the following types of fire:

1-31 December 1969

8 Automatic Weapons	1 RPG
14 .30 Cal.	2 Airbursts
3 .50 Cal.	1 Booby Trap
2 Mortars	

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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9. Air Operations. HMM-262 flew a total of 953.7 hours, the majority of which were in support of 1st Marine Division and III MAF. The Squadron accomplished a total of 278 med-evacs as follows: 91 emergency, 114 priority and 73 routine. A total of 127 sorties for 60.9 hours were flown in support of recon with 17 inserts, 12 extracts and 1 flip-flop.

The following is a breakdown of the work completed by the Squadron during 1-31 December 1969, including significant operational highlights:

	<u>NO. OF SORTIES</u>	<u>NO. OF TASKS</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>
FIRST MARDIV, ROKMC & III MAF	2741	1359	3456	206.1

The period 1-31 December 1969 marked the first full month that HMM-262 worked in support of the 1st Marine Division. Heavy monsoon rains and low ceilings continued to hamper flight operations and resulted in a reduced number of flight hours.

10. Ground Defense. HMM-262 Reactionary Platoon is mustered twice a week, Monday and Thursday. They receive an intelligence brief and work in coordination with the Army Rifle Company in charge of Base Defense. One practice alert was conducted during the month of December 1969.

11. Safety. Listed below are the aircraft accident/incidents for the month of 1-31 December 1969:

Ground Accidents.....0
 Ground Accidents - Due to Enemy Action.....0
 Air Accidents - Operational.....0

 Air incidents - Operational.....6
 Air Accidents - Due to Enemy Action.....0
 Air Incidents - Due to Enemy Action.....9
 Injuries to Personnel.....1

12. Training. December training included classes for pilots and crew members in use of aerial gas masks and the role of riot control agents against the enemy. Eighteen new aerial gunners were trained during this period. NBC Defense, Intelligence, and Indoctrination of new personnel were emphasized.

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