

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 Mar 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, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February 1970

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-28 February 1970

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262

COMMANDERLTCOL R. A. BANCROFT
1-28 February 19702. LOCATION

1-24 February 1970, Phu Bai Air Base, RVN

15-28 February 1970, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	MAJOR	James M. PERRYMAN, Jr.	1-28 Feb 1970
Operations Officer	MAJOR	Wiley J. SELLERS	"
Logistics Officer	1STLT	William C. KING	"
Administrative Officer	CAPT	Walter W. GUSTIN	"
Aviation Safety Officer	1STLT	Charles W. FLEISCHER, Jr.	"
Intelligence Officer	1STLT	Jackie C. PAGE	"
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	MAJOR	Robert M. FITZGERALD	"
Sergeant Major	SGTMAJ	Thomas E. DUKE	"

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
51	180	1	0

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SUMMARY

1. The month of February 1970 produced a significant decrease in flight hours and aircraft sorties flown. The decrease in flight hours was due to lighter standard fragmentary orders, a shorter working period, and a stand down to effect the squadron relocation. An average of 20 operational CH-46's assigned flew 987.6 flight hours and 3198 sorties during February in support of the 1st Marine Division, Republic of Korea Marine Corps, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and III Marine Amphibious Force. Also during this period, the squadron achieved 10,000 accident free flight hours.
2. The majority of the flight hours were flown within the 1st MARDIV/ROKMC TACR's in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. February's missions consisted primarily of execution of standard fragmentary orders involving routine command and control, troop movement, resupply, VIP support, medical evacuation, and reconnaissance.
3. The squadron relocated from Phu Bai Air Base to Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang. This move alleviated the ineffective situation of flying an extra hour on each mission commuting from Phu Bai to the working area.
4. The month of February showed an increase in the level of enemy anti-aircraft fire incidents. Chatterbox aircraft experienced 20 fire incidents resulting in damage to three aircraft. One aircraft suffered alpha damage in an accident due to direct enemy action. CH-46D, Bureau Number 154007, 12 February 1970.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Transferred to HMM-262 - 1 Officer 11 Enlisted
- b. Transferred from HMM-262 - 5 Officers 21 Enlisted
- c. Promoted to present rank - 0 Officers 1 Enlisted

2. Awards. The Strike/Flight Air Medal was awarded to seventeen personnel. LCPL R. C. DUNTING, Jr. 2431614 was awarded the Purple Heart Medal on 23 February 1970 for wounds sustained on 12 February 1970.

3. Civic Action. During the first thirteen days of February, HMM-262 continued their material support of the Tin Dang Protestant Orphanage. Due to the squadron's move from the Phu Bai area, HMM-262 arranged for the 26th Army Support Group to continue support of the orphanage.

4. Informational Services. During the month of February, HMM-262 published twenty-nine Home Town News Releases for flight medals, combat air crew insignia, and promotions.

5. Operational Highlights

4 February

On this date, HMM-262 accumulated 10,000 accident free flight hours. The squadron ended the month with a total of 10,811.5 accident free flight hours. The last accident occurred on 2 May 1969.

7-8 February

Of the twenty fire incidents and three hits received this month, one fourth of the fire incidents and two of the three hits were taken on these dates, while flying in support of the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company. Chatterbox aircraft took fire five times while inserting three seven man recon teams in the Ashau Valley, Thua Thien Province during 7-8 February. The missions were successfully completed.

12 February

While flying a reconnaissance mission in support of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, a section of Chatterbox aircraft was called upon to insert a Civilian Irregular Defense Group of 16 men to exploit a recent enemy contact. The difficult mountainous zone, located west of

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Thuong Duc, Quang Nam Province, required a one wheel hover to disembark the team. Gusty winds caused the aircraft to move off position, the aircraft settled in a level attitude, resulting in the aft blades contacting the slope of the hill. The aircraft became uncontrollable, rolled inverted, and tumbled some three hundred meters down the slope, resulting in alfa damage to the aircraft. Miraculously, there were no fatalities, and only minor injuries to the five man crew.

14 February

HMM-262 moved from Phu Bai Air Base to Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang. This was the second displacement of the squadron within a six month period and was executed smoothly and with precision. Three hundred twenty-five tons of squadron material and equipment and two hundred twenty-two men and their personal equipment were transported via squadron aircraft and motor convoy. The squadron was fully operational the following day.