

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

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5750  
5 Apr 1970



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 March 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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Appendix 4

HMM-262

MAR 1970

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 March 1970

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262

COMMANDER

LTCOL R. A. BANCROFT  
1-31 March 1970

2. LOCATION

1-31 March 1970, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	MAJOR	James M. PERRYMAN, Jr.	1-31 March 1970
Operations Officer	MAJOR	Wiley J. SELLERS	"
Logistics Officer	CAPT	Kenneth H. JOHNSON	"
Administrative Officer	CAPT	Walter W. GUSTIN	"
Aviation Safety Officer	1STLT	Charles W. FLEISCHER, Jr.	1-13 March 1970
	1STLT	Dean R. DAVIS	14-31 March 1970
Intelligence Officer	1STLT	Jackie C. PAGE	1-31 March 1970
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>
50	165	1	0

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. March reflected an increase in the tempo of HMM-262's flight operations over those of the previous month. Assigned an average of 19 operational SEA KNIGHTS's (14 of which were available daily), the squadron flew 1027.9 hours and 3484 sorties working in support of the 1st Marine Division, Republic of Korea Marine Corps, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and III Marine Amphibious Force. The squadron aircraft carried 4975 troops and 144.7 tons of cargo during the month and effected 299 Med-Evacs (99 Emergencies, 117 Priorities and 83 Routines).
2. The majority of the flight hours were flown in the 1st MarDiv/ROKMC TAOR's in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces. The missions consisted primarily of execution of standard fragmentary orders involving routine command and control, troop movement, resupply, VIP support, medical evacuation and reconnaissance. The squadron also provided 24-hour SAR coverage for MAG-13, Chu Lai Air Base, RVN, during March.
3. Major General W. G. THRASH, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flew three days this month with HMM-262 as copilot on missions involving resupply and medical evacuation.
4. March also brought a substantial increase in the level of enemy anti-aircraft fire incidents. Aircraft from HMM-262 experienced 28 fire incidents resulting in damage to 7 aircraft. One aircraft was substantially damaged when it detonated a surprise firing device upon entering a landing zone. Another suffered Alpha damage after being shot down and crashing into the landing zone.

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## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- |    |                          |              |             |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| a. | Transferred to HMM-262   | - 3 Officers | 15 Enlisted |
| b. | Transferred from HMM-262 | - 3 Officers | 28 Enlisted |
| c. | Promoted to present rank | - 1 Officer  | 34 Enlisted |

2. Awards. The Strike/Flight Air Medal was awarded to 20 squadron personnel during March. Six men received the purple Heart Medal. One Bronze Star was awarded.

3. Informational Services. During the month of March, HMM-262 published 24 Home Town News Releases for Combat Air Crew Insignias, Air Medals, promotions and awards.

4. Important Vistors. Lieutenant General K. B. MCCUTCHEON, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, and Major General W. G. THRASH, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the squadron on 12 March 1970.

5. Casualties. There were five squadron personnel wounded in action while participating in combat flights. On 6 March 1970, Lance Corporal J. F. WILSON 2434220 received fatal injuries from enemy gunfire as the aircraft on which he was Crew Chief attempted to extract the crew of another squadron aircraft shot down while inserting Civilian Irregular Defense Troops in Quang Nam Province west of Thuong Duc.

6. Operational Highlights

6 March

Four squadron CH-46's launched to insert a strike force at ZC034446, approximately eight miles southwest of Thuong Duc in the Quang Nam Province. While attempting to insert the strike force, they came under intense automatic and small arms fire. One aircraft was shot out of the air and crashed into the zone resulting in the total loss of the aircraft and two WIAs. On a subsequent attempt to extract the downed crew, another Chatterbox aircraft came under an intense volume of fire resulting in substantial aircraft damage, two WIAs and one fatality. Three of the four aircraft involved suffered battle damage. The downed crew was later extracted and the mission successfully completed. Later that afternoon, Chatterbox pilots led a flight of ten CH-46's to insert two hundred additional troops into the landing zone.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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11 March

After touching down in a zone at AT935599 to remove an emergency Med-Evac, a surprise firing device was detonated just a few meters from the starboard side of the aircraft, resulting in substantial skin damage to the aircraft. The mission was completed and the aircraft was flown back to MMAF.

25, 26, 27 March

Major General THRASH, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was afforded a first hand look at the daily operational value of the CH-46 as he flew as copilot with HMM-262 on these dates. Working resupply missions for the 7th Marine Regiment out of LZ Baldy, General THRASH flew a total of 9.8 hours over a two day period. The following day, the General again flew with the squadron in the lead Med-Evac aircraft. HMM-262 effected the evacuation of 25 casualties on that day.

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PART IV

CHRONOLOGIES OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDS  
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There are no supporting documents attached.

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