

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:DLC:adr
5 March 1971

[REDACTED]

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February 1971
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) HMM-262 Command Chronology

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


FRANK K. WEST JR.

HMM-262

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[REDACTED]

MAR 1971

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-28 February 1971

INDEX

PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262

COMMANDERLtCol F. K. WEST, Jr.
1-28 February 19712. LOCATION

1-28 February, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Executive Officer | Major John A. ROGERS | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Operations Officer | Major Jac D. WATSON | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Logistics Officer | Captain Wayne T. ADAMS | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Administrative Officer | Captain James H. LAVELLE | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Aviation Safety Officer | Major William H. REVER, Jr. | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Aircraft Maintenance Officer | Major Harris J. FENNELL | 1-28 February 1971 |
| Sergeant Major | Sergeant Major Michael F. DOYLE | 1-28 February 1971 |

4. Average Monthly Strength

| <u>USMC</u> | | <u>USN</u> | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>Off</u> | <u>Enl</u> | <u>Off</u> | <u>Enl</u> |
| 45 | 190 | 0 | 0 |

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of February 1971, there was a decrease in the number of flight hours flown. Chatterbox aircraft flew 1,331.7 hours, falling short 46.4 hours from the total hours flown in January. However, there was an increase in the number of sorties flown, 797 more than last month. In a short period of 28 days, HMM-262 flew 5,246 sorties, completing 2,775 working tasks. The squadron carried 212.5 tons of logistic and combat cargo, carried 149 medevacs to medical facilities, and carried 12,400 passengers. Chatterbox flew 132 medevac missions, 68 of which were "emergencies", 56 were "priorities" and 25 "routines". The squadron logged an average of 47.6 hours per day and flew an average of 187 sorties per day.

2. Chatterbox aircraft supported the 1st Marine Division, the Republic of Korean Marine Corps, ARVN, and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in the provinces of Quang Nam, and Quang Tin as well as the northern I Corps province of Quang Tri, where the squadron sent liaison flights into the Khe Sanh area.

3. HMM-262 was involved in 28 fire incidents in the month of February, more than twice the number reported last month. Five aircraft were hit, but no aircraft crewmen were wounded. Of the 28 incidents, 11 occurred on medevac missions, 9 on recon extracts or inserts, 4 on resupply missions, 3 on briefed strikes, and 1 on VIP missions. It is interesting to note that of the five hits sustained, the majority (3) occurred on resupply missions, while the other two were in support of reconnaissance teams. There were 3 confirmed kills due to direct fire from Chatterbox aircraft. During the month, 6,680 .50 calibre rounds were reported fired either in combat or in training.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| a. Transferred to HMM-262 | 9 Officers | 36 Enlisted |
| b. Transferred from HMM-262 | 6 Officers | 15 Enlisted |
| c. Promoted to present rank | 0 Officers | 6 Enlisted |

2. Awards. HMM-262 awarded 14 first Air Medals, 368 total Air Medals, and 12 air crew wings.

3. Informational Services. HMM-262 published 67 hometown news releases for promotions and awards.

4. Operational Highlights.

2 February 1971

A Chatterbox aircraft was hit twice by small arms fire in the western edge of the Arizona Territory and along the Thoung Duc Corridor, 20 miles west of Danang, on a resupply mission for the 11th Marines. The pilot directed the gunners to return fire. They expended 2,500 .50 Cal rounds, and 1,500 M-16 rounds.

14 February 1971

A Chatterbox aircraft crashed on the LZ of Hill 65, after it went into severe vibrations. The pilots could not control the aircraft. It turned over on its side and threw blades around the area. There were over 100 troops in the zone at the time, but none were hurt. The co-pilot sustained bruises, and was released from observation the next day. The aircraft was Tared back to MMAF by CH-53. The investigation is still pending this date.

15 February 1971

Chatterbox aircraft logged 79.5 hours, flying 276 sorties in support of the 1st Mar Div, ROKs, and ARVN. Squadron aircraft logged 34 hours supporting the 5th Marines on mission 86 at Baldy, carrying 881 troops and 7 tons of cargo. This was the squadron's single biggest day in terms of hours flown and number of passengers carried.

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17 February 1971

HMM-262 flew 73.2 hours while flying 319 sorties, carrying 21.0 tons of cargo, 750 passengers, and evacuating eleven wounded Marines. This was the squadron's most productive day in terms of sorties flown, cargo carried, and medical evacuations.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There were no supporting documents.

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