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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 April 1971

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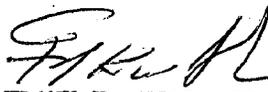
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 March 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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Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1-31 March 1971

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262

LtCol F. K. WEST, Jr.
1-31 March 19712. LOCATION

1-31 March, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major John A. ROGERS	1-31 March 1971
Operations Officer	Major Jac D. WATSON	1-18 March 1971
	Major William H. REVER, Jr.	18-31 March 1971
Logistics Officer	Captain Wayne T. ADAMS	1-31 March 1971
Administrative Officer	Captain James H. LAVELLE	1-31 March 1971
Aviation Safety Officer	Major William H. REVER, Jr.	1-18 March 1971
	1stLt James V. STIGER	18-31 March 1971
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major Harris J. FENNELL	1-31 March 1971
Sergeant Major	Sergeant Major Michail F. DOYLE	1-31 March 1971

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Off</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>Off</u>	<u>USN</u>	
	<u>Enl</u>			<u>Enl</u>	
44	180		1	0	

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of March 1971 there was an increase in the number of flight hours flown over February. HMM-262's aircraft flew 1516.8 hours. A daily average of 16 CH-46D helicopters flew a total of 5641 sorties. Chatterbox moved 11,341 passengers and 247.0 tons of cargo. Squadron medevac helicopters flew 165 missions, of which 92 were "emergencies", 58 "priorities" and 25 "routines".
2. HMM-262's Chatterbox aircraft flew support for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the 1st Marine Division, The Republic of Korea Marine Corps, the ARVN, and the III Marine Amphibious Force 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 Sahn area.
3. HMM-262 was involved in 22 fire incidents, 8 aircraft were hit, and 11 aircraft crewmen were wounded and one KIA. Two aircraft were totally destroyed by enemy fire on emergency medevac missions. During March, 12,740 .50 calibre rounds were reported fired either in combat or for training.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

a. Transferred to HMM-262	0 Officers	4 Enlisted
b. Transferred From HMM-262	3 Officers	22 Enlisted
c. Promoted to present rank	0 Officers	0 Enlisted

2. Awards. HMM-262 awarded 31 first Air Medals, 408 total Air Medals, and 11 air crew wings.

3. Informational Services. HMM-262 published 73 hometown news releases for promotions and awards.

4. Operational Highlights.

8 March 1971

While on very short final into a medevac zone, Chatterbox 13's aircraft set off a booby trap that resulted in seven holes to the ramp and hatch area. By then moving forward, the pilot landed to pick up the medevac and returned to Marble Mountain.

12 March 1971

Chatterbox 40 was flying a visual reconnaissance west of the French Fort when enemy elements opened fire. The pilot received hits to his upper body and the aircraft took 11 hits and lost an engine. The co-pilot landed the aircraft at the French Fort and the crew members treated the ROK Marines aboard who received wounds, and the pilot.

23 March 1971

LtCol West's Chatterbox personnel celebrated the second time of 100% aircraft availability for March with a flyover of the 22 squadron CH-46D's. Major General A. J. ARMSTRONG, CG 1st MAW, and LtCol F. K. WEST, JR., CO HMM-262, led the formation over Marble Mountain Air Facility, III MAF headquarters, and Wing headquarters.

30 March 1971

On the morning of 30 March, Chatterbox 15 answered a call for six emergency medevacs near the Hai Van Pass. Just prior to touchdown a command detonated mine was exploded, tearing the Sea Knight in half. One crewman was killed and the rest injured. After close air support from UH-1 gunships, Cobras, OV-10's, and A-4's, the crew was extracted and returned to medical facilities.

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30 March 1971

On the night of 30 March, a corpsman and a crew chief received minor wounds from enemy fire on an emergency medevac near Hoi An. The medevac was completed as the Chatterbox gunners laid down a heavy volume of suppressive fire until the two emergencies were boarded and the Chatterbox medevac lifted from the zone. An hour later Chatterbox 16 answered another emergency medevac north of Hill 55. While hovering in the zone, the aircraft received fire and burst into flames. The crew escaped from the aircraft and joined the ground unit. After a brief fire fight the crew and medevacs were picked up and returned to medical aid.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. There were no supporting documents.

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