

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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03A06370

8 MAR 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-28 February 1970
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8B
(c) WgO 5750.1C
(d) GruO 5750.1C
(e) SqdnO 5750.1

HMM-263

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263,
Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a) through (e), enclosure
(1) is hereby submitted.

E. G. Young
E. G. YOUNG

HMM-263, S & C Files
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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602
Marble Mountain, Republic of Vietnam

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 FEBRUARY 1970 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1970

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Enclosure (1)

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HMM-263

LTCOL W. R. LEDBETTER 1-19Feb70
LTCOL E. G. YOUNG 20-28Feb702. LOCATION

During the period, 1-28 February 1970, HMM-263 was located at Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major P. E. BENET	1-28Feb70
Operations Officer	Major J. A. CREECH	1-28Feb70
A/C Maintenance Officer	Major R. F. MACHADO	1-28Feb70
Logistics Officer	Major B. L. SHAPIRO	1-28Feb70
Administration Officer	Captain A. H. GATES	1-28Feb70
NATOPS Officer	1stLt W. C. NYSTUL	1-28Feb70
Aviation Safety Officer	1stLt D. W. NUTTER	1-28Feb70
Intelligence Officer	1stLt W. M. KEMPFER	1-28Feb70
Awards Officer	1stLt D. A. VERNIER	1-28Feb70
Flight Surgeon	Lt T. S. DAVIS	1-18Feb70
	Lt L. N. NOLD	19-28Feb70
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj M. S. LANDY	1-28Feb70

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Officers	52	1	0	53
Enlisted	174	0	10	184

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February was a comparatively quiet month for the CH-46D's of HMM-263. Enemy activity remained at a low level as the Phase III redeployment of U. S. forces was taking place. Nevertheless HMM-263 launched on 581 flights, 58 of these being flown at night. During the month 3,162 sorties were flown resulting in 888 hours of flight time, 83 hours coming at night. Helicopters of HMM-263 carried 230 tons of cargo while 6,660 passengers enjoyed rides on HMM-263 birds during February. The enemy was not entirely inactive, however, and 5 aircraft received 16 hits in 13 separate fire incidents during the month, but the squadron suffered no combat casualties. HMM-263 gunners returned 5000 rounds of .50 cal. and 200 rounds of 7.62 mm. fire on Viet Cong and N.V.A. positions.

The squadron continued to fly operation King Fisher, the heliborne combat patrol that it helped to develop. A total of six King Fisher missions were flown and the landing force of 54 Marines was landed 11 times resulting in 5 enemy KIA's and 2 POW's. In addition numerous enemy bunker and cave complexes were located and destroyed. For additional excitement the squadron flew nine deep recon. missions transporting teams of the 1st Force Recon. to areas near the Laotian border.

During the month of February the squadron reluctantly bid farewell to Head Gopher LTCOL W. R. LEDBETTER when he relinquished command of HMM-263 to LTCOL E. G. YOUNG in ceremonies conducted in the squadron line area. First MAW Deputy Commander BRIGEN SPANGLER was in attendance and presented with great pride two Distinguished Flying Crosses to squadron personnel. During separate ceremonies conducted later in the month 3 Air Medals were awarded to squadron personnel and 23 enlisted men were promoted to their present ranks. Two officers and 8 enlisted men joined the ranks of the squadron during February while 3 officers and 13 enlisted men departed HMM-263 for other assignments.

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The squadron continued to receive, report and interpret intelligence information from 1st MAF, 1st MAW, 1st MAR DIV, MAG-16, and 1st Recon. Through spot reports, fire incident reports and other pilot debriefing forms, intelligence information was passed to MAG-16 for dissemination to higher, lower, and adjacent units. To provide continued up-to-date intelligence, the intelligence section conducted briefs at AOM's and before both recon and King Fisher missions. Current fire incident, recon, and OOB maps were kept and made available to the pilots. Four enlisted men attended Jungle Escape and Survival Training at NAS Cubi Point, R. P..

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- 1 Feb 1970 A busy day for HMM-263, 42 tons of cargo were carried and 25 emergency and 38 priority med-evacs were transported to medical facilities.
- 2 Feb 1970 On ground hog's day the squadron flew a King Fisher mission and launched a section of Bald Eagle on an emergency extract. One fire incident was reported with no hits taken.
- 3 Feb 1970 This was the high day for the squadron this month, 250 sorties were flown for a total of 71 flight hours.
- 7 Feb 1970 The squadron flew both a King Fisher mission and a deep recon mission today. One fire incident occurred with one aircraft receiving 5 hits.
- 9 Feb 1970 One fire incident was reported today with one aircraft receiving 6 hits.
- 13 Feb 1970 One fire incident occurred with one aircraft receiving 4 hits.
- 14 Feb 1970 One fire incident reported but the nimble F4U263 aircraft involved escaped with no hits.
- 16 Feb 1970 A deep recon. mission to the Ashau Valley highlighted the day. The birds involved dodged airbursts on the way back and reported a total of 3 fire incidents with no hits occurring.
- 19 Feb 1970 LtCol. E. G. YOUNG took over command of HMM-263 from LtCol. W. R. LEDBETTER in ceremonies conducted at MMAF. BrigGen. SPANGLER was in attendance and presented two Distinguished Flying Crosses to squadron personnel.
- 20 Feb 1970 A deep recon. mission was flown today and one fire incident was reported with no hits being taken.

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- 23 Feb 1970 It was an exciting day for the squadron as field grade officers led both deep recon and division recon. missions as well as a King Fisher mission and carried 20 tons of resupply. One fire incident was reported with no hits being taken.
- 24 Feb 1970 Two fire incidents were reported with one bird receiving one hit.
- 27 Feb 1970 Squadron personnel received 3 air medals and 23 enlisted men were promoted in ceremonies conducted in the HMM-263 line area at MAAF.
- 28 Feb 1970 The logistics summary for the month was as follows: of 607 NORS "G" requests submitted 529 were completed and 78 were outstanding at the end of the month. Thirty-six NORS "N" requests were submitted with 28 of these being completed and 8 outstanding at the end of the month.

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