

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

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5 JUN 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 May 1970

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8B
(c) WgO 5750.1C
(d) GruO 5750.1C
(e) SqdnO 5750.1

MM-263, S & C Files
Control #. 119-0
Date rec'd. 5 JUN 1970
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MM-263

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 May 1970

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

E. G. Young
E. G. YOUNG

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MAY 1970

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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 MAY TO 31 MAY 1970

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Enclosure (1)
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HMM-263

LTCOL E. G. YOUNG 1 - 31 MAY 70

2. LOCATION

During the period 1 - 31 May, 1970, the Blue Eagles of HMM-263 were located at Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major P. E. BENET	1-31MAY70
Operations Officer	Major R. F. MACHADO	1-31MAY70
Logistics Officer	Major B. L. SHAPIRO	1-31MAY70
A/C Maintenance Officer	Captain D. E. FROST	1-31MAY70
Administrative Officer	1stLt D. L. BAKER	1-31MAY70
NATOPS Officer	Captain L. R. MEDLIN	1-31MAY70
Aviation Safety Officer	1stLt P. D. PARKER	1-31MAY70
Intelligence Officer	1stLt W. M. KEMPFER	1-31MAY70
Awards Officer	1stLt D.A. VERNIER	1-31MAY70
Flight Surgeon	Lt L.N. NOLD	1-31MAY70
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj M. S. LANDY	1-31MAY70

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Officers	47	1	0	48
Enlisted	154	0	0	154

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May was a big month for the Blue Eagles of HMM-263. Peachbush aircraft launched 837 flights, 90 of those being flown at night. During the month 5,157 sorties were flown resulting in 1,289.4 hours of flight time. CH-46D's of HMM-263 carried 173.2 tons of cargo and 9,314 passengers during the month. A total of 215 medevac missions were flown by the Blue Eagles and 444 injured personnel were transported to medical facilities. Of these, 114 were emergency cases, 140 were priorities and 190 were classified as routine. Enemy activity remained at a low level during the month and only four fire incidents were reported. In these incidents, two Peachbush aircraft suffered a total of three hits; no casualties were inflicted on the squadron. Squadron gunners expended 4,500 rounds of .50 cal. fire on Viet Cong and NVA positions.

During the month the squadron flew an eight aircraft strike into the heart of the enemy infested Que Son Mountains and several Pacifier missions. A total of 15 kills and 30 detainees were credited to the Pacifier missions, as well as the destruction of several enemy rocket launcher sites.

The squadron continued to receive, report and intercept intelligence from XXIV Corps, III MAF, 1stMAW, 1stMarDiv, MAG-16, and 1st Recon. Through spot reports, fire incident reports and other pilot debriefing forms, intelligence information was passed on to MAG-16 for dissemination to higher, lower and adjacent units. The intelligence section gave separate briefs and debriefs to pilots and aircrews before and after all reconnaissance missions and strikes. Current fire incident, reconnaissance, and COB maps were kept and made available to all pilots. MIAF came under rocket attack once during the month but no hits were received in the squadron area.

In two separate ceremonies conducted in the squadron area during the month a total of 2 Single Mission Air Medals, 13 Strike Flight Air Medals, a Joint Services Commendation Medal, a Navy Commendation Medal, 24 Air Crewman's Wings, and a Meritorious Mast were awarded to squadron personnel. In addition 18 squadron members were promoted to their present ranks. During the month, 5 officers and 5 enlisted men joined the ranks of the Blue Eagles while 1 officer and 9 enlisted men left the Eagle's Nest for new duty stations.

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03A11470PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 May 1970 The month started off with a bang for the Blue Eagles with one fire incident reported. The aircraft involved escaped with no hits. Other squadron aircraft flew 148 sorties for 41.8 hours and carried 164 pax.
- 5 May 1970 Squadron aircraft flew 41.0 hours and carried 304 pax. In ceremonies conducted in the HMM-263 line area 2 Single Mission Air Medals, 13 Strike Flight Air Medals, a Joint Services Commendation Medal and 24 sets of Air Crewman's Wings were awarded to squadron personnel. In addition, 2 squadron enlisted men were promoted to their present ranks.
- 6 May 1970 On a relatively slack day for the squadron only 122 sorties and 26.8 flight hours, but 660 pax were carried, the most for any single day during the month. The enemy kept things popping for the squadron today as one more fire incident was reported but again, no hits occurred.
- 10 May 1970 Another light flying day with only 78 sorties and 28.8 hours, but a Pacifier mission flown by the squadron resulted in 15 kills and one detainee. A very successful day for the Blue Eagles.
- 12 May 1970 Another very successful Pacifier mission was flown by the squadron today. This one resulted in 29 detainees. Squadron aircraft flew 228 sorties, resulting in 48.2 flight hours. A total of 621 pax were carried.
- 15 May 1970 One fire incident was reported on Division Reconnaissance. The aircraft involved suffered two hits but no serious damage. A total of 39.1 hours were flown in 167 sorties.
- 16 May 1970 Enemy gunners zeroed in on the Blue Eagles for the second straight day. One squadron aircraft received 1 hit in a single reported fire incident. Only 27.5 hours were flown today.
- 19 May 1970 On a scheduled stand down day, 12.1 hours were flown in 58 sorties. In ceremonies held in the squadron line area one Navy Commendation Medal and a Meritorious Mast were awarded to squadron personnel. A total of 16 enlisted men were promoted to their present rank.

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- 26 May 1970 Day of the big strike. Eight aircraft launched into the heart of the enemy infested Que Son Mountains 15 miles SSE of Danang. Although all 8 aircraft returned safely to Marble Mountain, only three were in condition to continue with other missions. A total of 212 sorties were flown for 46.4 flight hours. Over 23 tons of cargo and 485 pax were carried today.
- 28 May 1970 The Bald Eagle stand by crews launched to land troops on enemy rocket launcher sites discovered west of Danang. Several launches were destroyed by the troops and supporting fixed wing aircraft. A total of 338 pax were carried and 45.1 hours flown by the squadron today.
- 29 May 1970 The high day for the squadron came late in the month, 73.7 hours were flown in 223 sorties. A total of 480 pax and 17.5 tons of cargo were carried on the best day of the month for the Blue Eagles so far this year.

PART IVSUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE SUBMITTED.

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