

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

3:DMsbe
 5750
 03A27870
 7 OCT 1970

HMMA-333, S & C JIB
 Control # 221-08
 Date for 7 OCT 1970
 Copy 2 of 10

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 30 September 1970

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
 (b) FMFPacO 5750.8B
 (c) WGO 5750.1C
 (d) GWO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Command Chronology for period 1-30 September 1970.

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

R. K. Keck
 L. K. KECK

UNCLASSIFIED

HMMA-263

SEP 1970

CONFIDENTIAL

3:DM:be
03A27870

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 SEPTEMBER TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1970

INDEX

PART I.....ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II.....NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III.....SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV.....SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Enclosure (1)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL3:DM:be
03A27870PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

HMM-263

LTCOL L. K. KECK

1-30 September 1970

2. LOCATION

During the period of 1-30 September 1970, the Blue Eagles of HMM-263 were located at Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major D. W. ANDERSON	1 Sep
Executive Officer	Major W. S. HUMBERT	2-30 Sep
Operations Officer	Major T. J. TOBEN Jr.	1-30 Sep
Asst. Operations Officer	Major L. L. PAYTON	1-30 Sep
Logistics Officer	Major R. W. GEIS	1-30 Sep
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Capt. D. D. FROST	1 Sep
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major D. W. ANDERSON	2-30 Sep
Asst. Maintenance Officer	Capt. D. D. FROST	2-30 Sep
Administrative Officer	1st Lt. J. L. FORESMAN	1-30 Sep
NATOPS Officer	Capt. H. P. BREAZEALE	1-30 Sep
Aviation Safety Officer	1st Lt. M. K. MORRISON	1-30 Sep
Intelligence Officer	1st Lt. L. K. WILLIAMS	1-30 Sep
Awards Officer	Major R. W. GEIS	1-30 Sep
Sergeant Major	Sgt/Maj. M. S. LANDY	1 Sep
Sergeant Major	Master Sergeant H. F. RAKOP	2-30 Sep

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
OFFICERS	47	1	0	48
ENLISTED	175	0	0	175

CONFIDENTIAL3:IM:be
03A27870PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

September was a busy month for the Blue Eagles of HMM-263. Peachbush aircraft launched on 997 flights, 116 of these being flown during the hours of darkness. During the month 5063 sorties were flown resulting in 1339.2 flight hours. Helicopters of HMM-263 carried 264.4 tons of cargo while 11024 passengers enjoyed rides in Peachbush aircraft. A total of 161 medevac missions were flown and 571 injured personnel were transported to medical facilities, of these 140 were emergencies, 165 were priority and 266 were routine. Enemy activity reached a new high for recent months as 15 fire incidents were reported and a total of 38 hits were taken by our planes.

HMM-263 was involved in strikes, Recon inserts and extracts during this period. Separate briefs and debriefs were given to pilots and aircrews.

To provide continuous up to date intelligence, the intelligence unit conducted briefs at AQM's and before Recon missions. Current fire incidents, Recon and ~~color of battle~~ maps were kept and made available before all flights.

Five officers and 4 enlisted Marines attended Jungle Escape and Survival Training at NAS Cubi Point R.P.

During the month enlisted personnel earned a total of 241 Strike Flight Awards and officers earned 161. 39 enlisted were promoted to their present ranks. During the month 7 officers and 28 enlisted joined our ranks and 13 officers and 19 enlisted departed for new duty.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL3:DM:be
03A27870PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 Sep 70 The month of September commenced with Peachbush aircraft covering medevac, resupply and command and control missions. A total of 162 sorties, 3 emergency medevacs and 28.7 tons of cargo were handled during the day.
- 2 Sep 70 The Blue Eagles once again covered medevac and added recon to its duties. A total of 50.8 flight hours were accrued by Peachbush today.
- 3 Sep 70 LtCol KECK launched this evening to extract our Silent, Swift and Surrounded friends of 1st Recon Battalion. LtCol KECK pulled a two wheel landing in the foothills just west of An Hoa. Once again Recon said thanks to the "flying trucks."
- 5 Sep 70 "Victor Charlie" wreaked havoc today in the Peachbush ranks. Golf company, 7th Marines, operating in the Que Son mountains, called for an emergency medevac. Lt R. NORTON responded to the call and while hovering in the zone had both of his engines shot up. He managed to get out and finally both engines quit. NORTON then pulled a full autorotation into a rice paddy near Spider Lake. Following Lt NORTON's endeavor was Lt M. DEVASIER who was also shot out of the zone and had to ~~land~~ ^{hit} LZ Baldy. Two more separate attempts were made by Lts. P. MAZURAK and L. WILLIAMS both of whom were shot out of the zone, but managed to fly home. Finally after many attempts Peachbush 6, LtCol KECK made it into the zone and extracted the medevac. The score for the day: VC 4, Peachbush 0.
- 8 Sep 70 Enemy gun slingers do it one more time. Once again Golf company called for an emergency medevac. Lt NORTON answered the call and was summarily shot out of the zone, receiving 10 hits to the aircraft and lost one engine.
- 10 Sep 70 Peachbush aircraft narrowly escaped destruction while flying medevac in the Que Son mountains. Lt D. MacRAE was called to Fox company's position for an emergency medevac. While pulling a one wheel landing and on departure a total of four RPG rounds were taken around the zone, all escaped unscathed.
- 12 Sep 70 Mission 80 - No go.
- 14 Sep 70 The hazards of medevac were made apparent once more as Lt NYSTUL took two hits while completing an emergency medevac for the 7th Marines.
- 16 Sep 70 A very heavy day for the Blue Eagles of HMM-263. Peachbush covered medevac, resupply, command and control and VIP missions. An emergency medevac located in Elephant Valley, required the use of

CONFIDENTIAL3:DM:be
03A27870

- 16 Sep 70 (cont) a Neil Robertson to extract a man with a bad back. Due to jungle canopy and layout of the zone, the aircraft piloted by Lt J.P. SMITH had to be hovered in a small clearing in the trees. With added bad weather, the situation was indeed ticklish. The medevac was extracted and once again the aircraft maneuvered out through the jungle obstacles. The hover time was 37 minutes.
- 20 Sep 70 Today was a fairly quiet day with the Blue Eagles only flying a total of 35 hours. However, even a routine day is full of hazards in the Que Sons. The Baldy medevac section was subjected to enemy fire during a rescue mission for the 5th Marines. No hits, no runs, no errors, Peachbush 1, VC 0.
- 22 Sep 70 46 hours of routine C+C, VIP, medevac and resupply were again interrupted by erratic VC sharpshooters. Night medevac birds performed their chores flawlessly while skillfully avoiding Charlies attempts to ruin the whole day.
- 26 Sep 70 Night Bald Eagle launched into the black Vietnam night to face unknown dangers. LtCol KECK as has become his custom managed to provoke some myopic VC marksman into taking a few potshots with their usual bad aim. Mission complete. The good guys win again.
- 27 Sep 70 Today was a special day for the fighting 263rd. After a full morning of resupply, medevac, C&C and Admin flights, the "Peachbush Boys" paid tribute to an excellent maintenance department in an awesome nineteen plane fly-over. Accolades were numerous as the squadron displayed its material and physical assets. Following the fly-over a good ole fashioned squadron get together was held and rated a "smashing" success, according to 1/Lt Duncan MacRAE.
- 28 Sep 70 The first ominous signs of the approaching monsoon were evident as the weather began to move in. However, even though the elements threatened as much as "Charlie", LtCol KECK and 1/Lt Lee ROPELEWSKI managed to successfully accomplish emergency night medevacs in which the gun birds took fire.
- 30 Sep 70 The monsoons have arrived! Peachbush enjoyed a weather induced stand-down, torrential rains with almost O/O weather conditions heralded the beginnings of months of VC weather.

CONFIDENTIAL

3:DM:be
03A27870

PART IV
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE SUBMITTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED