

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

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03A33770
6 DEC 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 30 November 1970

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

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

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

L. K. Keck
L. K. KECK

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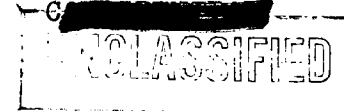
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 NOVEMBER to 30 NOVEMBER 1970

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HMM-263

LTCOL L. K. KECK 1-30 NOVEMBER 1970

2. LOCATION

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

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major W. S. HUMBERT	1-30 Nov
Operations Officer	Major T. J. TOBEN Jr.	1-30 Nov
Asst. Operations Officer	Capt. L. R. BANCELLS	1-7 Nov
Asst. Operations Officer	Capt. T. R. EDMUNDS	8-24 Nov
Asst. Operations Officer	1/Lt L. K. WILLIAMS	25-30 Nov
Logistics Officer	Major L. L. PAYTON Jr.	1-30 Nov
Aircraft Maintenance Off.	Major D. N. ANDERSON	1-30 Nov
Asst. Maintenance Officer	Capt. D. D. FROST	1-30 Nov
Administrative Officer	1/Lt J. L. FORESMAN	1-7 Nov
Administrative Officer	Capt. L. R. BANCELLS	8-30 Nov
NATOPS Officer	Capt. H. P. BREAZEALE	1-30 Nov
Aviation Safety Officer	1/Lt J. C. MCGARIGLE	1-24 Nov
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt. T. R. EDMUNDS	25-30 Nov
Intelligence Officer	1/Lt L. K. WILLIAMS	1-21 Nov
Intelligence Officer	1/Lt L. M. STEWART	22-30 Nov
Awards Officer	Major L. L. PAYTON Jr.	1-30 Nov
Sergeant Major	Master Sergeant H.F. RAKOP	1-22 Nov
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj W. J. BILLEB	23-30 Nov

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
OFFICERS	42	1	0	43
ENLISTED	227	0	0	227

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November was a busy month for the Blue Eagles of HMM-263. Peachbush aircraft launched on 860 flights, 63 of these being flown during the hours of darkness. During the month 3931 sorties were flown resulting in 1088.8 flight hours. Helicopters of HMM-263 carried 209.5 tons of cargo while 10822 passengers enjoyed rides in Peachbush aircraft. A total of 101 medevac missions were flown and 260 injured personnel were transported to medical facilities, of these 56 were emergencies, 77 were priority and 127 were routine. Enemy activity reached a new high for recent months as 4 fire incidents were reported and a total of 18 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 AOM's and before recon missions. Current fire incidents, Recon and order of battle maps were kept and made available before all flights.

Three officers and no enlisted Marines attended Jungle Escape and Survival Training at NAS Cubi Point R.P.

During the month enlisted personnel earned a total of 232 Strike Flight Awards and officers earned 156.

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 2Nov70 Following the disastrous typhoons and subsequent flooding of the last few days of October, the men of the Blue Eagles turned their many talents toward the clean up and resupply of the many areas that had been neglected during the floods. HMM-263 accumulated a total of 153.7 flight hours during the first two days of November while running an assortment of resupply (31.7 tons), admin, combat strikes and medevacs, totaling 1973 PAX.
- 4Nov70 The respite from the typical monsoon weather of the 1st and 2nd proved to be brief, for the 3rd and 4th were greeted by questions such as "what is a cubit?" Though less severe in intensity than the typhoon induced torments, the weather slowed operations allowing only 75.4 hours to be flown on the 3rd and 4th.
- 5Nov70 The sun shown through today and the fighting 263rd responded with zeal now that "we can see where we are going." Recon teams were inserted, resupply was performed; admin and C&C were run flawlessly. Though the weather was no longer a hazard Charlie still managed to harass as Lt McGARIGLE and Capt EDMUNDS can attest, judging from the four hits their aircraft took over Goi Noi Island. Four hits but no casualties and Peachbush 38 and 9 will be back to fight again.
- 6Nov70 Mission 80 stood-by today. The remainder of the squadron enjoyed a relatively peaceful day of admin, C&C and VIP missions.
- 8Nov70 A weather induced stand-down gave the Peachbush crews a change to catch a few Z's today and catch up on paper work and duties on the ground. Only the Medevac package for Baldy was launched which resulted in three unscheduled airframe changes for Capt BREAZEALE and Lt J. P. MARTIN. No casualties, and like "old man river" Peachbush just keeps rolling along.
- 9Nov70 A fairly quiet day, today was one which Lt Ron "Hawk" CORNETTA is not likely to forget. While on an admin mission to Hill 55, Lt CORNETTA and his copilot Lt FUGATE were sitting in the zone quietly minding their own business when "Charlie" decided to put a few mortars into the zone. Thanks to quick reflexes, the VC were left twisting their moustaches and muttering "curses, foiled again."

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- 10Nov70 The Marine Corps Birthday produced few events of tactical importance in RVN. However, Peachbush 6 lead his stalwart followers into the Marble Mountain Officer's Club to do battle with the "spirits" lurking there. Serious casualties were thankfully avoided but the number of "walking wounded" at the 0545 brief the next morning would have touched a stone man's heart.
- 15Nov70 Msn 80 was able to log a few hours on local training while Msn 73 flew six hours of inserts and extracts for the 1st Recon Battalion.
- 17Nov70 The sun god was temporarily dealt another setback as rain again assaulted the stalwart hearts at MMAF. A total of 6.2 hours were flown.
- 18Nov70 Today was one of the blackest in recent Peachbush history. A Peachbush aircraft, while performing an emergency recon extract in the Que Sons in very poor weather, crashed killing all aboard including the recon team. HMM-263 mourns the loss of these brave and loyal comrades. Friends, we will not forget you.
- 23Nov70 Today the Blue Eagles narrowly averted another tragedy in the Que Sons. Lt "Easy" WILLIAMS and his copilot Jim PORTO were leading a division strike into poor terrain and in poor weather. Only exemplary skill on the part of Lt WILLIAMS kept his aircraft, laden with troops, from falling down the side of a steep gorge. The aircraft was damaged, but all escaped with only minor cuts and bruises.
- 26Nov70 Peachbush 5 (Maj HUMBERT) lead the mission 86 package to Baldy and accomplished two strikes in the Que Sons. 52.4 hours were flown as four emergency medevacs were rescued, 387 passengers lifted and 18.2 tons of cargo carried.
- 29Nov70 Major PITMAN and Barry (George of the jungle) TELLER had their news jangled by unusually accurate small arms fire at Baldy. Only eight hits were taken but the hardy 263 aviators managed to limp back to Baldy and safely land.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE SUBMITTED

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