

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 265
 Marine Aircraft Group 36
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
 FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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5 December 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
 Subj: Command Chronology; period 1-30 November 1968
 Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1
 Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter becomes UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. L. Yanke
 R. L. YANKE

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ENCLOSURE (4)

Nov 1968

1. PART I Organizational Data

a. Commanding Officer	LTCOL R.L. YANKE	1-30 November 1968
b. Executive Officer	MAJOR R. W. CREIGHTON	1-30 November 1968
c. Operations Officer	MAJOR G. G. EVANS	1-30 November 1968
d. Administrative Officer	MAJOR D. L. DAVIS	1-30 November 1968
e. Logistics Officer	MAJOR J. W. BRIDGES	1-30 November 1968
f. Material Officer	ISTLT J. E. FLEMING	1-30 November 1968
g. Maintenance Officer	CAPTAIN W. L. MITCHELS	1-30 November 1968
h. Intelligence Officer	CAPTAIN W. EMERSON	1-20 November 1968

2. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

3. Average Monthly ~~Strength~~; 50 Officers; 170 Enlisted.

PART II Narrative Summary

1 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 39 sorties for 10.1 hours in support of III MAF and the 3rd MARDIV. Enemy small arms fire resulted in no hits to squadron aircraft.

2 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 292 sorties for 81.7 hours in support of the 3rd MARDIV and III MAF. One hit, resulting in minor damage was sustained by squadron aircraft.

3 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 134 sorties for 39.4 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV, III MAF and ROKMC. No enemy fire was received by squadron aircraft supporting VICTORY DRAGON III and HENDERSON HILL.

4 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 162 sorties for 42.6 hours in support of III MAF, 1st MARDIV and the ROKMC. Squadron aircraft received no hits in three separate fire incidents, one of which was on a successful emergency recon extract despite intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

5 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 146 sorties for 38.0 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. Once again squadron aircraft supported HENDERSON HILL. Two instances of enemy small arms fire resulted in no hits to squadron aircraft.

6 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 43 sorties for 10.9 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. EP-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and EP-15 sustained minor battle damage from intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, returning to Phu Bai the following day after repairs. EP-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ destroyed one small boat.

7 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 281 sorties for 82.5 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV, III MAF and the ROKMC. No enemy fire was reported.

8 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 62 sorties for 15.9 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. Two incidents of moderate enemy small arms fire resulted in no hits to squadron aircraft which supported HENDERSON HILL.

9-15 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 1034 sorties for 251.2 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF on these dates. No enemy fire was reported during this period as squadron aircraft supported HENDERSON HILL every day.

16-17 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 407 sorties for 112.9 hours in support of the 1st, 3rd MARDIV's and III MAF. No enemy fire was reported as squadron aircraft supported SCOTLAND II and HENDERSON HILL.

18-19 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 155 sorties for 39.6 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. No enemy fire was reported as squadron aircraft supported HENDERSON HILL.

20 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 105 sorties for 39.4 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. Squadron aircraft supported MEADE RIVER in which EP-8 was destroyed in flight by enemy fire during the strike with the pilot and co-pilot receiving "Alpha" injuries and the crew chief and gunner, "Bravo" injuries. Despite minor battle damage to four other squadron aircraft as well, from the intense small arms, automatic weapons, .50 cal., mortars and possible RPG's, squadron aircraft completed the mission.

21-23 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 254 sorties for 66.9 hours in support of the 1st MARDIV and III MAF. No enemy fire was received during this period.

24 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 27 sorties for 10.1 hours in support of 3rd MARDIV's SCOTLAND II. No enemy fire was received as poor weather limited flight operations.

25 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 73 sorties for 23.7 hours in support of the 3rd MARDIV's SCOTLAND II. No enemy fire was received. EP-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ crashed while on a resupply mission. The crew members escaped injuries while the damage to the aircraft was classified as "Charlie". In addition to normal operations HMM-265 was visited by MAG-36 Inspectors who conducted a Post Arrival Inspection.

26 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 66 sorties for 16.6 hours in support of Operation HENDERSON HILL. No enemy fire was received. EP-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ was externalled to MSG-17, Danang by a CH-53A.

27-28 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 200 sorties for 62.9 hours in support of Operation MEADE RIVER. No enemy fire was received.

29 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 103 sorties for 31.4 hours in support of Operation HENDERSON HILL. Aircraft received enemy small arms fire. EP-8 was hit and forced to land at Hill 37. The aircraft was repaired and flown to Phu Bai.

30 Nov 1968. HMM-265 flew 98 sorties for 32.8 hours in support of Operation MEADE RIVER. No enemy fire was received. EP-5 made a precautionary landing north of Phu Bai when control difficulties were encountered by the pilot. A US Army Platoon was inserted to provide security for the aircraft during the night. Arrangements were made to retrieve EP-5 by CH-54 on 1 Dec 1968.

PART III Significant Events

1. Personnel

a. HMM-265 joined eleven (11) personnel and transferred twenty-eight (28) personnel during the period covered by this report.

b. Four (4) First Lieutenants were promoted to Captain during the month of November.

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2. Awards:

a. Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. YANKE was awarded the Single Mission Air Medal for his action as pilot during an emergency medical evacuation South of Danang in Quang Nam Province on 17 March 1968.

b. First Lieutenant Paul H. MOODY was awarded the Single Mission Air Medal for his actions as pilot during an emergency troop extraction South of Danang in Quang Nam Province on 12 May 1968.

c. Sergeant Gary S. MARTIN was awarded the Gold Star in lieu of his Second Navy Commadation Medal for his actions as Crew Chief during the Recovery of a downed aircraft South of Danang in Quang Nam Province on 16 February 1968.

d. In addition to the above awards, fifty-seven (57) Air Medals were awarded to HMM-265 personnel during the month of November.

3. Casualties:

a. Captain William EMERSON, 093908/7562, was killed in action on 20 November 1968, when the aircraft he was piloting was shot down and crashed 9 miles South of Danang in Quang Nam Province.

b. First Lieutenant John R. HARRELL, 0100302/7562, was killed in action on 20 November 1968, when the aircraft he was co-pilot was shot down and crashed 9 miles South of Danang in Quang Nam Province.

c. Corporal William HESTER, 2305525/6320, received serious injuries on 20 November 1968, while flying as Crew Chief on an aircraft which was shot down and crashed 9 miles South of Danang in Quang Nam Province. Condition and prognosis are good. He was medevaced to Japan.

d. Lance Corporal Bruce W. JOHNSON, 2274339/6320, received serious injuries on 20 November 1968, while flying as Aerial Gunner on an Aircraft which was shot down and crashed 9 miles South of Danang in Quang Nam Province. He is still in serious condition at NAS Hospital, Danang.

e. Staff Sergeant Richard A. HARGEAVES 1342517/0141 suffered a wrenched knee during a mortar attack on Marble Mountain Air Facility on 20 November 1968. Treated and released to duty.

4. Civic Affairs:

a. None.

5. Information:

a. Fifty-one (51) News Releases were sent out during the period 1-30 November 1968.

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6. Intelligence/Counterintelligence:

a. Briefings were given to each flight and postflight debriefings given after the termination of each flight, as applicable.

7. Air Operations:

- a. Total Hours Flown: 1008.7
- b. Number of Sorties: 3680
- c. Tons of Cargo: 483.0
- d. Number of Passengers: 7059
- e. Number of Medevacs: 228

8. Major Operations Supported:

- a. Operation MEADE RIVER
- b. Operation HENDERSON HILL
- c. Operation SCOTLAND II
- d. Operation VICTORY DRAGON III

9. Ground Defenses:

a. HMM-265 provided one ten (10) man squad for the Phu Bai Air Base Ready Reserve. In addition a ~~squadron reaction platoon~~ was formed.

10. NBC Training:

- a. None.

11. Training:

a. During the reporting period HMM-265 conducted thirty-five (35) hours of technical training classes covering twenty-two subjects.

12. Logistics:

a. The logistics section, as well as all departments in S-4, were inspected by MAG-36.

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b. The squadron inventory of all Navy property was completed. A review of squadron materiel readiness was begun with an emphasis on a comparison of on-hand quantities to authorized allowances.

c. Boxes were obtained from MAG-36 and distributed among squadron shops. These boxes were especially beneficial to the Marine Corps Property Section as they enabled that Section to box gear that had been previously exposed to the elements.

d. Aircraft basic machineguns were obtained from Group to replace guns lost in operations. Build up of the new weapons was begun.

13. Maintenance:

a. A average daily availability of 51.3% was maintained with an average of 17.8 aircraft possessed. Aircraft down due to NORS 16.3% and aircraft down due to NORM 32.4%.