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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 JAN 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
Subj: Command Chronology; period 1-31 December 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. Thuesen
R. THUSEN

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HMM-265

CMD CHRON

DEC 1968

1. PART I Organizational Data

a. Commanding Officer	LtCol	R. L. YANKE	1-8 December 1968
	LtCol	R. THURSEN	9-31 December 1968
b. Executive Officer	Major	R. W. CREIGHTON	1-31 December 1968
c. Operations Officer	Major	G. G. EVANS	1-31 December 1968
d. Administrative Officer	Major	D. L. DAVIS	1-31 December 1968
e. Logistics Officer	Major	J. W. BRIDGES	1-31 December 1968
f. Material Officer	1stLt	J. E. FLEMING	1-31 December 1968
g. Maintenance Officer	Capt	W. L. MITCHELS	1-31 December 1968
h. Intelligence Officer	1stLt	W. T. HITCHCOCK	1-31 December 1968
i. Aviation Safety Officer	Capt	R. J. CARLSON	1-31 December 1968
j. Squadron Flight Surgeon	LCDR	J. WALTERMIRE	1-31 December 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 Personnel Strength; 47 Officers, 152 Enlisted.

PART II Narrative Summary

1 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation MEADE RIVER and two aircraft supported the 1st Recon on troop inserts and extracts. A total of 59 sorties were flown in completion of 11 tasks; 97 passengers and 3900 pounds of combat cargo were transported on these sorties. No medevacs were extracted. No fire was received on the above missions. Total flight time for the day was 21.7 hours.

2 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched seven aircraft in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation MEADE RIVER. A total of 23.4 hours were flown during the day. HMM-265 flew 66 sorties in completion of 9 tasks. 221 passengers and 3100 pounds of combat cargo and 2 medevacs were transported. No aircraft received fire in completion of their missions.

3 Dec 1968. Ten aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation MEADE RIVER and flew a total of 34.4 hours. 263 passengers and 12,000 pounds of combat cargo were transported on 138 sorties in completion of 17 tasks. No medevacs were transported. No aircraft took fire in completion of their missions.

4 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched fifteen aircraft for a total of 50.4 hours in support of the 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Operation MEADE RIVER. A total of 202 troops and 87,700 pounds of combat cargo, and 6 medevacs were transported on 177 sorties in completion of 21 tasks. No fire was received.

5 Dec 1968. Sixteen aircraft were launched for a total of 61.9 hours in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON and MEADE RIVER. 211 sorties were flown and 27 tasks were completed. A total of 313 troops, 86,400 pounds of combat cargo, and 9 medevacs were transported. There was a single incident of light .30 cal. fire. The aircraft received negative damage.

6 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched twelve aircraft in support of the 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Operation MEADE RIVER. A total of 56.8 hours were flown. 341 passengers, 94,500 pounds of combat cargo and 7 medevacs were transported on 213 sorties in completion of 30 tasks. Two fire incidents were reported. One of the incidents was light .50 cal. fire but the aircraft received no hits. The other was intense .30 cal. automatic fire; the aircraft took three hits, but suffered no substantial damage.

7 Dec 1968. Eight aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation MEADE RIVER. Two other aircraft supported III MAF on logistical troop and cargo lifts. A total of 315 troops, 38,400 pounds of combat cargo, and 3 medevacs were transported. 145 sorties were flown in completion of 15 tasks. Four aircraft reported enemy fire. Two of the fire incidents were light .30 cal. automatic fire. One of the aircraft was hit in the cabin section, with no substantial damage, the other

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received negative hits. The other two fire incidents were heavy .30 cal. automatic fire. One pilot received minor injuries when his aircraft crashed as a result of enemy action. The other aircraft received no hits. A total of 41.3 hours were flown.

8 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched twelve aircraft in support of the 26th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and four aircraft in support of III MAF for a total of 65.6 hours. 215 combat troops, 23,800 pounds of combat cargo, and 17 medevacs were transported on 185 sorties in completion of 26 tasks. Twelve aircraft received light to moderate .30 cal. automatic fire. Three of the twelve aircraft were hit and only light damage was sustained.

9 Dec 1968. Nine aircraft were launched in support of the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Operation MEADE RIVER. Two other aircraft supported the 1st Recon Battalion on troop inserts and extracts. A total of 472 combat troops, 37,800 pounds of combat cargo, and 10 medevacs were transported on 175 sorties, 22 tasks were completed. None of the aircraft received fire in the completion of the missions. A total of 31.6 hours were flown. LTCOL RALPH THUESSEN relieved LTCOL RICHARD L. YANKE as Commanding Officer of HMM-265 this date. Major-General QUILTER, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, attended the ceremony and presented combat awards.


10 Dec 1968. Eight aircraft launched in support of the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Operation MEADE RIVER. 142 sorties were flown and 12 tasks were completed for a total of 43.3 hours. 196 passengers and 61,800 pounds of cargo was transported. No enemy fire was reported.

11 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched eleven aircraft in support of the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division on Operation MEADE RIVER and HENDERSON HILL. Two other aircraft flew in support of the 1st Recon Battalion on troop inserts and extracts. A total of 47.6 hours were flown on 189 sorties in completion of 26 tasks. 437 combat troops and 41,400 pounds of combat cargo were transported. Four aircraft reported light to moderate .30 cal. automatic fire. One aircraft was hit, but sustained only light damage.

12 Dec 1968. Four aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division for a total of 20.4 hours. 154 troops and 1600 pounds of cargo, and 3 medevacs were transported on 57 sorties in completion of 9 tasks. No enemy fire was reported.

13 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division. One other aircraft flew in support of III MAF. A total of 30.7 hours were flown. 147 passengers and 1900 pounds of cargo were carried on 83 sorties. Nine tasks were completed. No enemy fire was reported.

14-16 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched sixteen aircraft in support of the

 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Three other aircraft flew in support of III MAF. A total of 80.8 hours were flown on 249 sorties in completion of 48 tasks. 497 troops, 72,500 pounds of combat cargo, and 48 medevacs were transported. No enemy fire was reported during the period.

17 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched in support of the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, two other aircraft supported the 1st Recon Battalion on troop inserts and extracts. One other aircraft flew in support of Task Force YANKEE. 187 combat troops, 15,300 pounds of combat cargo, and 20 medevacs were transported on a total of 77 sorties in completion of 15 tasks. 36.6 total hours were flown during the day. There was one report of intense .30 cal. automatic fire, however, the aircraft sustained negative hits.

18 Dec 1968. HMM-265 launched eight aircraft in support of the 1st Marine Division. Two other aircraft supported III MAF on logistical troop and cargo sorties. A total of 34.2 hours were flown for the day. 212 troops, 41,100 pounds of cargo, and 1 medevac were transported on a total of 143 sorties. Eleven tasks were completed. A single fire incident was reported, but the aircraft received no hits or damage.

19-20 Dec 1968. Twenty-two aircraft flew in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. One other aircraft flew a logistical mission for the U. S. ARMY. A total of 459 troops, 135,800 pounds of cargo, and 21 medevacs were carried on 253 sorties in completion of 35 tasks. No enemy fire was reported during the period. A total of 98.8 hours were flown.

21 Dec 1968. Four aircraft flew in support of 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. One aircraft flew in support of 1st Marine Air Wing and two in support of 1st Recon Battalion. A total of 291 troops, 5 medevacs and 9,100 pounds of cargo were carried on 94 sorties in completion of 17 tasks. No fire incidents were reported and 28.6 total hours were flown.

22 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division and two others in support of 1st Recon Battalion. A total of 207 troops and 23,925 pounds of cargo was carried on 91 sorties in completion of 10 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and 35.3 total hours were flown.

23 Dec 1968. Flight operations on this date were extremely limited due to severe weather. Two aircraft were launched in support of Marine Air Group 36. 2.9 total hours were logged in completion of 2 tasks.

24 Dec 1968. Eight aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division. A total of 651 troops, 16 medevacs, and 83,600 pounds of cargo were carried on 233 sorties in completion of 21 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and a total of 69.0 hours were flown.

25 Dec 1968. Five aircraft were launched in support of the 26th Marines, 1st Marine Division. A total of 319 troops, and 27,700 pounds of cargo were carried on 194 sorties in completion of 16 tasks. Enemy small arms fire was received by two aircraft. One was hit but damage was minor. 35.7 total hours were flown.

26 Dec 1968. Four aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON and one aircraft in support of Marine Aircraft Group 36. A total of 197 troops, 41 medevacs, and 27,200 pounds of cargo were carried on 109 sorties in completion of 12 tasks. No enemy fire was received and 22.7 total hours were flown.

27 Dec 1968. Eight aircraft were launched in support of the 1st Marine Air Wing and 1st Marine Division. A total of 536 troops, 40 medevacs, and 22,600 pounds of cargo were carried on 162 sorties in completion of 21 tasks. Enemy small arms fire was reported by one aircraft working on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. No hits were taken and a total of 30.0 hours were flown.

28 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched. One in support of 3rd Marine Division and five in support of 1st Marine Division. A total of 138 troops, 3 medevacs, and 31,100 pounds of cargo were carried on 111 sorties in completion of 14 tasks. No enemy fire was taken and 27.1 hours were flown.

29 Dec 1968. Seven aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. A total of 136 troops and 35,065 pounds of cargo were carried on 122 sorties in completion of 18 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and 45.1 total hours were flown.

30 Dec 1968. Six aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division on Operation TAYLOR COMMON. Two other aircraft supported III MAF on logistic cargo and troop lifts. A total of 133 troops, 5 medevacs, and 31,000 pounds of cargo were carried on 126 sorties in completion of 15 tasks. No enemy fire was received and 37.3 hours were flown.

31 Dec 1968. Seven aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division. A total of 79 troops, 29 medevacs, and 21,100 pounds of cargo were carried on 77 sorties in completion of 9 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and a total of 33.8 hours were safely flown.

1 Jan 1969. Seven aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division. A total of 436 troops, 40 medevacs, and 22,600 pounds of cargo were carried on 162 sorties in completion of 21 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and 30.0 hours were flown.

HMM-265 flew a total of 1188.9 hours during December 1968. The weather was generally good with the exception of a few days during which flight operations were limited. The squadron has not been committed as heavily as during recent months due to reduced tempo of enemy action.

2 Jan 1969. Seven aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division. A total of 197 troops, 41 medevacs, and 27,200 pounds of cargo were carried on 109 sorties in completion of 12 tasks. No enemy fire was taken and 22.7 hours were flown.

3 Jan 1969. Seven aircraft were launched in support of 1st Marine Division. A total of 436 troops, 40 medevacs, and 22,600 pounds of cargo were carried on 162 sorties in completion of 21 tasks. No enemy fire was reported and 30.0 hours were flown.

PART III Significant Events

1. Personnel:

a. HMM-265 joined five Officers and thirty-seven Enlisted while transferring eight Officers and thirty Enlisted during the period covered by this report.

b. One Corporal was promoted to Sergeant during the month of December. One Staff Sergeant was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant and one Lance Corporal was promoted to Corporal.

2. Awards:

a. HMM-265's pilots and crewmen earned one-hundred-fifty-five Strike/Flight Air Medals during the month.

b. Staff Sergeant R. A. HARGREAVES was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received during a mortar attack at Marble Mountain Air Facility.

3. Casualties:

a. Captain W. T. TYNAN was injured when his aircraft crashed due to direct enemy action on 7 December 1968, receiving lacerations and contusions on right leg and lower back. Treated at NSA Danang, he was released on 14 December 1968 but due to complications from injuries received on 7 December 1968, Captain TYNAN was ordered aboard the hospital ship USS Repose where he remains a patient.

b. Lance Corporal A. DIAZ received lacerations on his left knee when the aircraft in which he was crewing crashed due to direct enemy action on 7 December 1968. Treated at NSA Danang he was released to duty on 8 December 1968.

4. Civic Action:

a. On 25 December 1968, seventeen men went to Hue City Hospital and distributed gifts to the patients of the pediatric ward.

5. Information:

a. Seventy-one News Releases were dispatched during the period 1-31 December 1968.

6. Intelligence/Counterintelligence:

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

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7. Air Operations:

- a. Total Hours Flown: 1,188.9
- b. Number of Sorties: 4,073
- c. Tons of Cargo: ^{537.9}
~~5,037.9~~
- d. Number of Passengers: 6,495
- e. Number of Medevacs: 306

8. Major Operations Supported:

- a. Operation MEADE RIVER
- b. Operation HENDERSON HILL
- c. Operation TAYLOR COMMON

9. Ground Defense:

- a. HMM-265 provided one ten 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 fifty hours of technical training classes, covering twenty-five subjects.

12. Logistics:

- a. Logistics - A SEA hut in the eastern portion of the squadron line area was dismantled and reassembled to form a building joining the Squadron Ready Room and S-3 office. The pilot's ready room is under renovation. Taxi guidelines were painted in the squadron revetments.

- b. Material - Eighty single wall lockers were obtained for use in squadron living spaces.

- c. Fire Prevention - Additional fire bottles were placed in squadron work areas.

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13. Maintenance:

a. An average daily availability of 57.8% was maintained with an average of 19.5 aircraft possessed. Aircraft down due to NORS 14.8% and aircraft down due to NORM 28.9%.

b. Bunkers for maintenance personnel protection were installed in aircraft parking revetments.

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