

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-361
Marine Aircraft Group-15 (Rein)
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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4 Jan 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group Seven Nine Point Four

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 December 1967, submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2

Encl: ✓(1) HMM-361 Command Chronology, 1 - 31 December 1967

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

D. M. WILSON

Copy 8 of 20

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 361
USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2)

1 DECEMBER to 31 DECEMBER 1967

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1

Enclosure (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Commander and Staff

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Commanding Officer | LtCol. D. M. WILSON |
| Executive Officer | LtCol. G. A. PORTER |
| Operations Officer | Maj. F. W. CRONE |
| Personnel Officer | Capt. W. R. GAGE |
| Administrative Officer | 1stLt. J. DRUCKER |
| Intelligence Officer | Capt. G. L. KERSEY (1-3 Dec) |
| Logistics Officer | Maj. R. J. RANTA (4-31 Dec) |
| Maintenance Officer | Maj. G. L. JOHNSON |
| | Maj. L. DELMORE III |

2. Inclusive Dates and Location

1 - 31 DECEMBER 1967: USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), Republic of Vietnam

3. Average Monthly Strength

| <u>USMC</u> | <u>USN</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>OFF</u> 46 | <u>ENL</u> 147 |
| | <u>OFF</u> 1 |
| | <u>ENL</u> 3 |

4. Important Visitors

Brigader General R. P. KELLER

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

3 Dec: Maj. JOHNSON's section hauled 138 passengers and 7500 pounds of cargo in 7 hours in support of BLT 1/3 at YD 176717 without incident.

4 Dec: A four plane division led by Capt. COUNCIL hauled 80 passengers and 12,000 pounds of resupply in support of the SLF and the 3rd MARDIV taking part in Operation Kentucky.

Maj. DELMORE's section hauled 40 passengers and 8500 pounds of resupply in support of BLT 1/3 in 7 hours of flying.

LtCol. WILSON's section hauled 50 passengers and 18,000 pounds of resupply to BLT 1/3.

5 Dec: Capt. COUNCIL's section hauled 135 passengers and 4,500 pounds of resupply in support of the 3rd MARDIV in 7 hours of flying.

6 Dec: Maj. DELMORE's division hauled 25 passengers and 19,000 pounds of resupply in support of Operation Kentucky.

Capt. HEINLE's section hauled 35 passengers and 5,000 pounds of resupply in support of the 3rd MARDIV.

Capt. GAGE's section hauled 15 passengers and 13,000 pounds of resupply to BLT 1/3.

8 Dec: LtCol. PORTER's division hauled 35 passengers and 15,000 pounds of resupply in support of the 3rd MARDIV.

Capt. CUNNINGHAM's section hauled 55 passengers and 15,000 pounds of resupply in support of Operation Kentucky. The section received recoilless rifle and artillery fire while at YD 178719 but no damage was sustained to the aircraft.

While on a resupply mission to BLT 1/3 position LtCol. WILSON's section took mortar rounds in the zone but there was no damage to the aircraft. LtCol. WILSON returned to the same zone later in the afternoon with a new wingman and received mortar fire again but again the aircraft was not damaged.

9 Dec: Capt. SIGLER's three plane division hauled 60 passengers and 25,000 pounds of resupply for the 3rd MARDIV.

Capt. BROWN's section received 30 caliber fire at YD 178710 while on a night medevac to BLT 1/3 but received no damage to the aircraft.

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10 Dec: Capt. CUNNINGHAM's three plane division hauled 40 passengers and 14,000 pounds of resupply in support of BLT 1/3.

11 Dec: LtCol. PORTOR's section received automatic weapons fire from a ville at YD 344635 while flying at low altitude due to bad weather. Capt. MCSHANE, the co-pilot, Lt. JONES, a doctor and LCpl. SARTWELL were wounded and returned to LPH-2 for treatment. The aircraft received Echo damage.

14 Dec: Maj. JOHNSON's section received artillery fire while resupplying BLT 1/3 at YD 173723. The aircraft received slight damage.

Capt. BROWN's three plane section received automatic weapons fire at YD 358678 while on a resupply mission in support of Operation Kentucky. The aircraft received no damage.

Capt. MCSHANE's three plane section received small arms fire at YD 176722 but received no damage.

15 Dec: LtCol. WILSON's section hauled 23,000 pounds of gear between ships for the SLF.

Capt. HEINLE's division hauled 18,5000 pounds of resupply and 50 passengers to BLT 1/3 position and received small arms fire at YD 165715 but received no damage to the aircraft.

16 Dec: Capt. HEINLE's three plane section hauled 35 passengers and 17,000 pound of resupply to BLT 1/3 in support of Operation Kentucky.

18 Dec: Capt. SCHIPPER's section received mortor fire at YD 160725 while on a resupply mission but the aircraft sustained no damage.

23 Dec: Maj. JOHNSON's section hauled 40 passengers and 15,000 pounds of resupply to BLT 1/3 in support of Operation Kentucky in 5 hours of flying without incident.

24 Dec: Capt. BROWN's division hauled 40 passengers and 14,700 pounds of resupply in support of BLT 1/3.

25 Dec: Christmas Day was a normal working day for the squadron.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

a. Promotion: To Capt. = 3
 To Sgt. = 1
 To Cpl. = 2

b. Joined and Dropped: 1 = Officer - Joined
 5 = Enlisted - Dropped

2. Administration. On 27 December 1967 a Personnel Readiness Condition C-3 was declared. The impact of this declaration officially announced that the existing personnel deficiency had reached such a magnitude as to severely limit the capability of this squadron's ability to execute its assigned mission. Therefore, the automated Personnel Readiness Report and the Operational Status Report submitted for the month of December revealed the following critical shortages:

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>T/O</u> | <u>Manning Level</u> | <u>On-hand</u> | <u>Critical Shortage</u> |
|------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 7561 | 60 | 48 | 43 | 5 |
| 6212 | 21 | 14 | 3 | 5 |
| 6242 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 6 |
| 6331 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 4 |
| 6332 | 91 | 86 | 66 | 20 |
| 6371 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 6375 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Additionally rotations for the forthcoming months of January and February 1968 reported forced attritions of 3 Officers and 13 Enlisted and 2 Officer and 27 Enlisted respectively.

3. Award

First Air Medal Award - 1

4. Casualties

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|
| Capt. W. J. MCSHANE | 089712 | 11 Dec 1967 |
| LCpl. R. D. SARTWELL | 2154034 | 11 Dec 1967 |

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5. Intelligence. During the period 1-31 December 1967 the squadron experienced enemy fire on six occasions. These consisted of fire incidents of small arms and/or automatic weapons fire encountered while enroute between the ship and supported units ashore and one incident of enemy mortar fire encountered while in a landing zone. A total of 3 aircraft received hits wounding two crew members (2 WIA - 1 minor).

Being in total support of the BLT/SLF, frags consisted mainly of administration and logistics type flights. The squadson maintained a continious 15 minute reaction capability for med-evac during the period. During this period the squadron supported 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines while they occupied A-3, northeast of Con Thien, in support of 3rd Marines Division. Operation Kentucky consists of maintaining security for engineering and construction efforts south of the DMZ. In operation Napoleon, A and C Companies of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines provided security for armored search and destroy mission by 1st Am Tracs Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in the coastal area from the DMZ south to the Cua Viet River. Commencing 29 December the squadron started loading 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine aboard SLF shipping. Until this battalion is designated the BLT of the SLF in early January, the squadron continues to support 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines.

6. Special Operation. During the period 1-31 December 1967 the squadron participated in operations Napoleon and Kentucky.

7. Air Operation.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Total Flight Hours | 996.5 |
| Total Sorties Flown | 2904 |
| Total MEDEVAC | 127 |
| Total Cargo Carried | 232 Tons |
| Total Passengers Carried | 3387 |

8. Logistics

a. AOCP Resume:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| (1) Total Submitted: | 182 |
| (2) Total Filled: | 143 |
| (3) Outstanding: | 36 |
| (4) Cancelled: | 3 |

b. ANFE Resume:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| (1) Total Submitted: | 55 |
| (2) Total Filled: | 42 |
| (3) Outstanding: | 13 |
| (4) Cancelled: | 0 |

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c. AV-GAS Resume:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| (1) Total Cost: | \$8,873.83 |
| (2) Gallons Utilized: | 52,199 |

d. AV-OIL Resume:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| (1) Total Cost: | \$491.47 |
| (2) Gallons Utilized: | 1,454 |

9. Maintenance. Throughout December a steadily increasing aircraft availability has been evident. Shop and office spaces remain limited but are adequate for operational needs. Significant maintenance discoveries for December included the finding of loose pylon jaw bolts resulting in four pylon changes and a number of cracked transmission housing resulting in four main gear box changes. One aircraft remains at Marble Mountain Air Facility due to extensive battle damage and a parts shortage; two mechanics remain ashore with the aircraft. A sufficient aircraft availability was maintained to support the Battalion throughout this period.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. After Action Report for Ballistic Arch^{14 Nov}

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