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CTG 79.4

0238-68

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-361
Marine Aircraft Group-16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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20 Feb 1968
Copy 1 of 25

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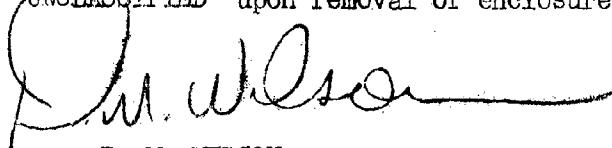
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Task Group Seven Nine Point Four

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 January - 9 February 1968,
submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2

Encl: (1) HMM-361 Command Chronology, 1 January - 9 February 1968

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

HMM-361

CMD CHRON

1 JAN - 9 FEB 1968

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

1 JANUARY to 9 FEBRUARY 1968

1

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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	Maj. R. J. RANTA
Logistics Officer	Maj. G. L. JOHNSON
Maintenance Officer	Maj. L. DELMORE III

2. Inclusive Dates and Location

1 January - 9 February 1968: USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2), Republic of Vietnam

3. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>
<u>OFF</u>	45	<u>ENL</u>	1
	142		3

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1-3 Jan: The first three days of the month were spent in flying support missions for both SLF Alpha and Bravo.

In the late afternoon of the third, LPH-2 departed Vietnam for Subic Bay with 2nd Battalion 4th Marines and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361 on board.

5-14 Jan: USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) arrived at Subic Bay on the morning of the fifth. 20 aircraft were flown to Cubic Point to be shore based during our stay along with their supporting personnel and equipment.

January 6 through January 13 was spent as a training period for both the squadron and the BLT. The final exercise was cancell due to our immediate recall to Vietnam.

17 Jan: USS IWO JIMA (LPH-2) with HMC-361 and 2nd Battalion 4th Marines arrived back in Vietnam.

22 Jan: Three companies of 2/4 were dropped into Camp Evans (YD 545322) This was the start of Operation Ballistic Armor/Neosho.

Capt. SCHIRMER's three plane division received small arms fire at YD 5939. Capt. SCHIPPER's aircraft received one round through the tail pylon.

LtCol. WILSON's three plane division received small arms fire at YD 5939 but no hits were recorded. The division flew for seven hours.

Maj. DELMORE's three plane division received automatic weapons fire at YD 5939 but no hits were recorded. The division flew for seven hours.

Maj. CRONE's section received 50 cal fire at YD 5940 but no hits were recorded. The section flew a total of seven hours.

Lt. CRUTCHER's aircraft took 30 and 50 cal fire on 3 different occasion at YD 590405 without receiving a hit.

This lift did not start until 1500 and it was not completed until 2300.

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24 Jan: Lt. CRUTCHER's section hauled 12,500 pounds of cargo to 2/4 in support of Ballistic Armor in 7.2 hours of flying.

Lt. MURRAY's section received 50 cal fire at YD 578402 twice but received no hits. Naval gunfire was called in on this position later.

26 Jan: The three companies were backloaded from Camp Evans to LPH-2 and LPH-7.

Lt. CRUTCHER's three plane division received small arms fire at YD 565405 but no hits were recorded.

The lift was completed well after dark.

27 Jan: The battalion was offloaded at YD 135655 to start off Operation Fortress Attack/Kentucky.

Lt. CRUTCHER received an air burst at YD 175722 but the aircraft was not damaged.

Lt. SABIN's section received mortar fire at YD 135655 but the aircraft received no damage.

Lt. KELLY's aircraft received mortar fire at YD 176720 but sustained no damage.

28 Jan: This was the second time in five days that the squadron had flown over 100 hours in one day. 12,500 pounds of cargo to 2/4 in support of Ballistic Armor in 7.2 hours of flying.

28 Jan: Capt. SIGLER's section hauled 12,800 pounds of cargo to 2/4 in support of the operation in 7 hours of flying but received no hits. Naval gunfire was called in on this position.

Lt. SABIN's section hauled 16,000 pounds of resupply to 2/4 in 6 hours flying.

29 Jan: Lt. SABIN's section was backloaded from Camp Evans to Capt. GAGE's section hauled 17,500 pounds of ammo and water to 2/4 in 4.4 hours of flying.

Lt. SABIN's three plane division received 50 cal fire at YD 176720.

Capt. BROWN's section hauled 12,500 pounds of ammo and water to 2/4 in 2.5 hours of flying without incident.

30 Jan: Maj. JOHNSON's section hauled 10,500 pounds of resupply and 25 passengers to 2/4's position. This is the start of Operation Fortress Attack/Kentucky.

5 Feb: LtCol. WILSON's section hauled 10,000 pounds of resupply into Camp Carroll in inclement weather in 4 hours of flying.

Capt. YULE's section hauled 10,500 pounds of resupply into Camp Carroll in inclement weather in 2.5 hours of flying.

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PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Promotion: To Capt. 1
To Cpl. 1
To Epl. 1
- b. Joined and Dropped: 2 - Officer - Joined
4 - Officer - Dropped
28 - Enlisted - Joined
35 - Enlisted - Dropped
- 2. Administration. On 7 February, as reported during the preceding month, an Enlisted Personnel Readiness condition of C-3 was reaffirmed. The impact of this declaration officially announced that existing enlisted personnel deficiencies had attained such a degree as to 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 subject period innumeralized the succeeding critical shortages:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>As</u>	<u>Min. Readiness Level</u>	<u>On-hand</u>	<u>Critical Shortages</u>
7561	60	48	40	8
6212	21	14	7	7
6242	15	12	8	4
6331	14	13	6	7
6332	91	86	47	19
6371	4	3	1	2
6375	2	2	1	1
0141	5	5	3	2

Forced attritions, as a result of monthly rotations were reported as 2 officers and 30 enlisted for the month.

- 3. Awards. Sixty-six members of this Squadron were recommended for Air Medals during this period.
- 4. Casualties. None
- 5. Special Operation. During the period 1 Jan - 9 Feb 1968 the squadron participated in operations Ballistic Armor and Fortress Attack/Kentucky, Lancaster II.

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6. Air Operation

Total Flight Hours	1201.3
Total Sorties Flown	3110
Total Med-evac	36
Total Cargo Carried	185.8
Total Passengers Carried	5528

7. Logistics

a. AOPC Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	160
(2) Total Filled	112
(3) Outstanding	40
(4) Cancelled	8

b. ANFE Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	36
(2) Total Filled	28
(3) Outstanding	11
(4) Cancelled	1

c. AV-GAS Resume:

(1) Total Cost	\$12,116.31
(2) Gallons Utilized	71,377

d. AV-OIL Resume:

(1) Total Cost	\$389.50
(2) Gallons Utilized	1,025

8. Maintenance. Throughout January enough aircraft were available to successfully support the SLF. Two aircraft were shipped to PAR during January, 150263 and 150210. One replacement aircraft was delivered aboard ship, ferried from H&MS-16 to LPB-2 by Capt. D. J. SCHIPPER. The squadron debarked from the USS Iwo Jima on the morning of 10 February 1968. Shuttle runs by UH-34's and CH-53A aircraft moved maintenance ashore at Marble Mountain with all aircraft except three flying ashore. The remaining three aircraft, YN-4, YN-8 and YN-9, were externalized ashore. Availability of parts was a key factor throughout this time period in maintaining an acceptable aircraft availability and continues to be a problem.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

648 ✓1. After Action Report for Fortress Attack/Kentucky/Lancaster II, 27 Jan - 8 Feb 68
749 ✓2. " " " Ballistic Armor/Neosho II, 22-26 Jan 68

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