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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-361

Marine Aircraft Group-16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 966023:JKT:gen
5750
03A07/68
6 April 1968
Copy 2 of 4

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-16 (Attn: S-3)Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March - 31 March 1968;
submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2

Encl: ✓(1) HMM-361 Command Chronology, 1 March - 31 March 1968

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


 F. W. CRONE

HMM-361

CMD CHRON

MARCH 1968

 MAG-16
 SAC # 0291-68
 COPY # 2/2

 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS,
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD LTR 5200.10

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-361
MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIR FACILITY

1 MARCH to 31 MARCH 1968

1

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Enclosure (1)

DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS,
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

DDC-DTR 5200.10

DECLASSIFIED

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Commander and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol. D. M. WILSON	1-25 March
	Major F. W. CRONE	26-31 March
Executive Officer	LtCol G. A. PORTER	1 March
	Major F. W. CRONE	2-25 March
Operations Officer	Major L. DELMORE	26-31 March
	Major L. DELMORE	1-25 March
Personnel Officer	Major R. J. RANTA	26-31 March
Administrative Officer	Capt. W. R. GAGE	1-31 March
Intelligence Officer	1/Lt. J. DRUCKER	1-31 March
Logistics Officer	Capt. T. S. SIGLER	1-31 March
Maintenance Officer	Capt. S. P. SCHULTZ	1-31 March
	Major R. J. RANTA	1-25 March
	Capt. W. E. DANIELL	26-31 March

2. Inclusive Dates and Location

1 March - 31 March 1968: MARBLE MOUNTAIN AIR FACILITY, Republic of Viet Nam

3. Average Monthly Strength

USMC	USN
OFF 40	ENL 152
	OFF 1
	ENL 0

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 Mar: Major DELMORE's section, while on day medevac, took small arms fire at AT 930700 but the aircraft was not hit.

2 MAR: Captain LAROCCA, while on day medevac, took small arms fire at AT 998568 but the aircraft was not hit.

3 MAR: Captain LAROCCA, while on a recon flight was diverted to a medevac and received automatic weapons fire at AT 985610 but the aircraft was not hit.

4 MAR: Captain KERSEY, returning from medevac, launched from the revetments during the rocket barrage that hit Marble Mountain Air Facility the night of the 4th without receiving any damage to the aircraft. No personnel or facilities of HMM-361 were hit during the attack which consisted of an estimated 30-35 122MM rockets.

Captain COUNCIL's section picked up a medevac and received small arms fire at BT 032517 but the aircraft was not hit.

Captain KIRKMAN, while on day medevac, received heavy automatic and small arms fire at AT 919514. The aircraft received hits and Captain KIRKMAN was wounded in the lower right leg smashing the bone and severing both main arteries. Lt. BOONE received a round on the left side of his helmet but sustained no injuries. Lt. BOONE flew to An Hoa BAS for immediate attention to Captain KIRKMAN's wounds. A CH-46 then flew Captain KIRKMAN to Da Nang NSA Hospital for proper care and treatment and eventual evacuation to CONUS.

5 Lieutenant AUCELLA launched to pick up the medevac that Captain KIRKMAN did not reach and came under heavy automatic and small arms fire at AT 919514 but the aircraft was not hit and the mission was completed successfully.

At 2200 ten aircraft were flown to the Valley Forge (LPH-8) as a precaution against the air facility being rocketed again.

Captain ATKINSON's section, while on night medevac, received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire at AT 900680, AT 800500, BT 000550 and BT 060580 but the aircraft was not hit and the four medevac missions were completed successfully.

5 MAR: Captain ATKINSON, while on a VIP Chase, received fire at AT 850682 but the aircraft was not hit.

At 2100 six aircraft were flown to the LPH-8 for a night refuge.

6 MAR: LtCol. WILSON's section, while on a C&C flight for Operation Rock, received fire at AT 928528 but the aircraft was not hit.

7 MAR: LtCol. WILSON's section, flying the same mission, received fire again later in the day at AT 865544 but again, the aircraft was not hit.

7 MAR: Captain GIGE, while on afternoon medevac, received small arms and automatic weapons fire at AT 870549 and AT 922612 but the aircraft was not hit and the men were safely evacuated.

9 MAR: LtCol. WILSON, while on day medevac, received fire at BT 056645 but the aircraft was not hit.

10 MAR: Major CHONE, while on day medevac, took small arms fire at AT 940605. The aircraft was hit by one round in the cockpit area.

11 MAR: Lieutenant TRAINOR, while flying VIP Chase for the ROKMC took small arms fire at BT 073586 but the aircraft was not hit. The HUEIE took one round in the tail section.

12 MAR: LtCol. WILSON's section, while on an emergency night medevac mission to An Hoa, received automatic weapons and small arms fire enroute at six (6) separate places: AT 884517, AT 880575, AT 955593, AT 875603, AT 919499 and AT 910538. The colonel's aircraft was hit but the damage was light.

13 MAR: Captain LAROCCE, while on day medevac, received small arms fire at AT 901700 but the aircraft was not hit.

Lieutenant KELLER, while on day medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 889668 but the aircraft was not hit.

15 MAR: Lieutenant KELLER, while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 959691 but the aircraft was not hit.

17 MAR: Captain SCHIPPER, while on afternoon medevac, crashed attempting to land in a 1200 foot elevation pickup zone at ZC 211508. The mishap was attributed to direct enemy action due to the proximity of enemy units which required the pickup to be attempted from an unsuitable zone. Captain SCHIPPER's crew and the medevac were successfully rescued by Lt. JACKSON minutes later. The aircraft was considered a strike. Upon receiving the clearance from higher authority, a salvage team was flown in and the aircraft was destroyed.

Lieutenant KELLER, while on day medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 998578. The aircraft was hit twice but the damage was light.

Captain COUNCIL, while on day medevac, took small arms and heavy automatic weapons fire at AT 970613. The crew chief

Corporal FOULK sustained a minor shrapnel wound in the right hand and the medevac was not completed due to the heavy ground fire. The aircraft was hit three (3) times but the damage was minor.

Captain KERSEY launched on the incompletely medevac and received fire again at AT 976613. The aircraft was hit once with minor damage and the medevac was completed.

Lieutenant WARNER, while on night medevac, received heavy automatic weapons fire at BT 083673. The aircraft took six (6) hits but the damage was considered light.

18 MAR: Lieutenant WARNER, while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 683952 but the aircraft was not hit.

19 MAR: Captain ATKINSON, while on day medevac, took fire at AT 807551 but the aircraft was not hit.

Captain DANIELL while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 908356 and 874862 but the aircraft was not hit.

20 MAR: Major RAMEA, while flying a C&C flight for Operation "Worth", received small arms fire at AT 859668 but the aircraft sustained no hits.

21 MAR: Lt. TRAINOR was escorting Hostage 9-0 on a C&C mission for operation "Worth". Hostage 9-0 landed at AT 855663 in an apparently unsecure zone while Lt. TRAINOR circled above. After dropping two (2) passengers, Hostage 9-0 was hit with three (3) mortar rounds that came into the zone just as he became airborne. The aircraft nosed up and over onto its back. It fell about 10 yards down from the top of the ridge and bursting into flame and exploded. The pilot and crew chief were killed instantly. Not realizing that the two (2) passengers had disembarked from the aircraft, Lt. TRAINOR contacted all controlling agencies to let them know of the incident. Hostage 4-2 made a low pass over the zone and saw that the two (2) passengers were still alive. The UH-1E landed and picked up the two (2) slightly wounded personnel and returned them to LZ 495 where they received medical attention.

McCol. WILSON, while flying night medevac, came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire going into an unsecure zone at BT 115515. The aircraft was hit six (6) or seven (7) times coming into the zone. McCol. WILSON was critically wounded sustaining an injury to the head. The co-pilot, Lt. BOONE immediately took over the controls but had a difficult time in re-powering the controls due to his grip on the controls. The aircraft hit the ground twice damaging the tail pylon but Lt. BOONE managed to get the aircraft back into the air. Lt. BOONE flew the damaged aircraft to the Hoi An airstrip and landed. The chase bird evacuated Colonel WILSON to NAS Hospital in Da Nang for immediate treatment. Two (2) HU-1E gunships returned to Marble Mountain Air Facility with the rest of the crew. The medevac was not completed.

Captain ATKINSON launched to pick up the medevac at BT 115515. Going into the zone the aircraft came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire but the aircraft was not hit. Captain ATKINSON could not lift out of the zone with the eight (8) casualties due to the high trees surrounding the zone. In a subsequent attempt to remove the casualties the engine sustained an overboost and all the rotor blades were damaged. The aircraft sustained minor damage. Before another rescue attempt could be affected by HMM-361, the casualties were removed from the zone by the Army.

22 MAR: Lieutenant SADIN, while on day medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 923601. The aircraft took three (3) hits but no one was injured.

23 MAR: Lieutenant AUGELLA, while on night medevac at BT 047649 received heavy automatic weapons fire from BT 042641, BT 050638 and BT 055648 but the aircraft was not hit.

25 MAR: Captain DANIELL, while on a liaison flight, received fire at AT 983540 but the aircraft took no hits.

Lieutenant KELLER, while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 940713 but the aircraft took no hits.

26 MAR: A Change of Command ceremony was held at the NSA Hospital, Da Nang, where Major CHONE officially relieved LtCol. WILSON as Commanding Officer of HMM-361. Major General ANDERSON, Colonel REED and pilots and enlisted men from the squadron were present for the informal ceremony.

27 MAR: LtCol. WILSON was evacuated to CONUS.

Lieutenant JACKSON, while on day medevac, received small arms fire at BT 061631 and BT 077656 but the aircraft was not hit.

28 MAR: Lieutenant TRAINOR, while flying chase on a photo recon mission involving the experimental use of napalm dropped from a C-130 received sniper fire at AT 962677 but the aircraft was not hit.

29 MAR: Captain GAGE, while on day medevac, received moderate automatic weapons fire from a sniper at BT 047650 but the aircraft was not hit.

30 MAR: Lieutenant TRAINOR, while on day medevac, received sniper fire at BT 032514 but the aircraft took no hits.

31 MAR: Captain SCHIPPER, while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at AT 953691 but the aircraft took no hits and the mission was completed.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

a. Promotion: To 1stLt.	1
b. Joined and Dropped:	1 - Officer - Joined 5 - Officers - Dropped 24 - Enlisted - Joined 16 - Enlisted - Dropped

2. Awards. Fifty-eight members of this squadron were recommended for Air Medals during this period. Six members of this squadron were recommended for various other awards.

3. <u>Casualties</u> .	Captain KIRKMAN 091937	4 March	AT 919514
	LtCol. WILSON 051807	21 March	BT 115515
	L/Cpl. WILKENS 2240434	4 March	MMAF
	Cpl. FOULK 2207514	17 March	AT 976613

4. Air Operation

Total Flight Hours	1054.5
Total Sorties Flown	367
Total Med-evac	107
Total Cargo Carried	20.8
Total Passengers Carried	147

5. Logistics

a. AOCP Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	155
(2) Total Filled	128
(3) Outstanding	19
(4) Cancelled	8

b. ANFE Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	29
(2) Total Filled	22
(3) Outstanding	3
(4) Cancelled	4

c. 766 Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	2
(2) Total Filled	1
(3) Outstanding	0
(4) Cancelled	1

d. AK3 Resume:

(1) Total Submitted	1
(2) Total Filled	0
(3) Outstanding	1
(4) Cancelled	0

e. AV-GAS Resume:

(1) Total Cost	\$12,285.05
(2) Gallons Utilized	72,995

6. Maintenance. During March the number of aircraft on hand decreased from twenty-three (23) to twenty (20) with no aircraft received as replacements. Two (2) aircraft, BuNo. 148784 and 143977, were transferred for overhaul. BuNo. 148072 crashed and was destroyed. In March twelve (12) aircraft received service changes incorporating the ARC-54 and ARC-102 radios. For this modification each aircraft was not available for an average three (3) to four (4) days. Eight (8) aircraft, received non-scheduled maintenance due to Battle Damage. In spite of the loss of three (3) aircraft, twelve (12) aircraft for service change and eight (8) receiving Battle Damage, the Maintenance Department maintained an average of twelve (12) aircraft available for flight daily. March saw a slight increase in the number of personnel on board from 127 to 135 in the Maintenance Department. This is a net increase of eight (8) men. The Maintenance Chief, MSgt CAMPBELL, completed his tour on the 23rd and the new Maintenance Chief is MSgt TOLNAY, who was received from H&MS-16. Even though there was an overall decrease in operational ready hours of 0.3% from last month, the flight hours increased by almost 200 hours, or about 20%.

7. Intelligence

a. Significant Event. On 4 March at approximately 0225 hours MMAF came under a rocket attack. Approximately 30 rounds of 122mm rockets impacted causing no damages or casualties to this unit.

b. Briefings. The bi-weekly Intelligence briefings for all officers were continued during this reporting period. The enlisted personnel were also given an Intelligence Briefing on the 26th. The enlisted personnel will be briefed on a weekly basis in the future. Air Crew members were informed about sightings that should be reported and also the procedures for reporting.

c. Fire Incidents. A total of 55 anti-aircraft fire incidents were reported by pilots of this unit. Ten (10) of these aircraft receiving fire received a total of 19 hits. Four WIA's were sustained; of these two (2) were hospitalized and the other two were returned to duty.

8. Special Operations. During this period 1 - 31 March the squadron participated in operation Dinosaur, Worth, Marching Dragon and Black Dragon.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

No supporting documents for this period.