


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

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5750  
03A14568  
24 May 1968  
Copy 1 of 3

## CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-16 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 18 May 1968; submission of  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) WgO 5750.1  
(c) GruO 5750.1C  
Encl: ✓(1) HMM-361 Command Chronology, 1 - 18 May 1968

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

  
F. W. CRONE

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HMM-361

CMD CHRON

1-18 MAY 1968

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-361

1 - 18 MAY 1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Commander and Staff

Commanding Officer	MAJ. F. W. CRONE
Executive Officer	MAJ. L. DELMORE III
Operations Officer	MAJ. R. M. BALCH
Personnel Officer	CAPT. W. R. GAGE
Administrative Officer	CAPT. W. R. GAGE
Intelligence Officer	CAPT. L. M. BARKSDALE
Logistics Officer	CAPT. R. D. EATON
Maintenance Officer	MAJ. R. J. RANTA

2. Inclusive Dates and Location

1 - 18 May 1968: Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Vietnam

3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
43	146	1	0

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## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- May 1: Lt AUCELLA, while flying day medevac had an engine failure at LZ 413 (BT 072663) at approximately 100 feet. Lt. AUCELLA made an immediate autorotation but could not prevent a crash at such a low altitude. The aircraft was a strike.
- May 3: Capt. DANIELL, while on the rocket belt recon, took fire from six different positions south of the Hoi An River. The aircraft was not hit.
- May 4: Lt. KELLER, while on a liaison flight took small arms fire at BT 015542 but the aircraft was not hit.
- Capt. LAROCCA, while on night medevac, received fire at BT 145625, BT 078718, BT 028662 and BT 063687 but the aircraft was not hit.
- May 5: Lt. DAY, while on day medevac received small arms and automatic weapons fire at BT 075585 but the aircraft was not hit.
- Maj. DELMORE took a flight of three aircraft to the Valley Forge (LPH-8) for the night.
- Capt. DANIELL, while flying night medevac received small arms fire at BT 004641 and BT 001619 but the aircraft was not hit.
- May 6: Maj. BALCH, while flying a liaison flight received fire at AT 699991 but the aircraft was not hit.
- Maj. CRONE, while on night medevac received automatic weapons fire at AT 997548 and BT 030610 but the aircraft was not hit.
- Capt. BARKSDALE led a division of four aircraft to the Iwo Jima (LPH-2) for the night.
- May 7: Lt. WARNER, while on morning medevac took fire at AT 962578 but the aircraft was not hit.
- Capt. LAROCCA, while on morning medevac received fire at BT 034610 and then came under heavy automatic weapons fire at AT 968555. At AT 968555 the aircraft took many hits and was shot down. Capt LAROCCA landed without crashing. The troops were in heavy contact with the

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enemy at the time. The crew was on the ground for six hours during which time Capt. LAROCCA called in numerous air strikes. During that time Capt. LAROCCA and Sgt. OUBRE both received slight shrapnel wounds. Lt. DAY finally got into the zone and picked up the crew. Cpl. SETTER, the crew chief was ordered by higher authority to remain in the zone to hook up the downed aircraft to a CH-53.

Lt. DAY's section while on a liaison flight was diverted to pick up the downed crew. He was shot out of the zone on his first approach and was advised to wait till the area had been prepped by fixed wing. Later Lt. DAY and Capt. ZIPSIR went into the zone under heavy fire and picked up the crew and medevacs.

During the night the same position came under another heavy attack and Cpl. SETTER was wounded by shrapnel. He was evacuated that night to the NAS hospital for treatment. The heavy fire prevented a CH-53 from picking up the downed aircraft.

Lt. DAY came under fire at AT 975553, AT 9564, 9755 and AT 9753. The aircraft was hit but the mission was completed successfully and returned to MMAF.

Lt. WARNER while on night medevac received automatic weapons fire at BT 990580 but the aircraft was not hit.

- May 8: It was decided by higher authority to destroy Capt. LAROCCA down aircraft. A flight of fixed wing was called in and the aircraft was completely destroyed.

Lt. JACKSON while on a C & C flight, was diverted to Thung Duc to help out on an emergency medevac. While Lt. JACKSON was in the zone they received incoming mortars. The aircraft was not hit.

Capt. DANIELL while on morning medevac received fire at ZC 138530, ZC 138555, BT 074514 and then again at ZC 138530. The aircraft was not hit.

Capt. BARKSDALE while on night medevac received fire at BT 064582 but the aircraft was not hit.

- May 9: Lt. SABIN while on morning medevac received fire at ZC 216552 but the aircraft was not hit.

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Lt. SABIN while chasing a Hostage aircraft on a rocket belt recon received fire but was not hit. The Hostage aircraft was shot down near LZ 413 but no one was hurt.

Capt. BARKSDALE while on afternoon medevac received mortar and automatic weapons fire at ZC 213553 (Hill 52). The aircraft was hit and Capt. BARKSDALE was slightly wounded in the right arm with a 30 cal round. They had previously received fire at AT 925581 and AT 976545 but the aircraft took no hits.

Lt. JACKSON's section while on night medevac received heavy automatic fire and 50 cal fire from seven different positions around AT 985553 on two different occasions. The first time one of the three gunships was hit and the flight returned to Marble Mountain to check the aircraft for damage. The second time Lt. JACKSON got into the zone, dropped off 700 pounds of badly needed ammo and departed with the medevacs while under fire. The aircraft received no hits.

May 10: Maj. CRONE while on morning medevac received fire at AT 998536 but the aircraft was not hit.

Maj. BALCH while on afternoon medevac received 2 mortar rounds at ZC 143533 but the aircraft was not hit.

Lt. AUCELLA's section while on night medevac received fire at BT 130590 but the aircraft was not hit.

May 11: Lt. KELLER while on day medevac received fire at ZC 141530 but the aircraft was not hit.

Capt. ATKINSON while on night medevac, received automatic weapons fire at ZC 215553 but the aircraft was not hit.

Capt. ATKINSON launched again at 0335 and came under heavy automatic weapons fire at BT 065643. The aircraft was hit and Cpl. ENGLISH was hit in the should and was evacuated to Conus the next morning.

May 12: Marble Mountain Air Facility received 18-20 rounds of 122 MM rockets. Four personnel from HMM-361 were wounded from flying shrapnel but none seriously. No aircraft were hit.

Capt. EATON while on night medevac received automatic weapons fire at AT 935568, BT 035568 and AT 958538 but the aircraft was not hit.

May 13: Lt. HURME while on a rocket belt recon, received fire at AT 8950 but the aircraft was not hit.

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Lt. TRAINOR while on morning medevac, received heavy automatic weapons and 50 cal fire at Hill 52 (ZC 216553). Fire was received from AT 790556, AT 796559 and ZC 217542. Lt. TRAINOR waved off the first approach when the aircraft took three hits. With supporting fire from the Huey escort a second approach was made under fire again. The medevac was picked up and the aircraft departed still under fire. The aircraft was downed from battle damage upon return to MMAF.

Lt. AUCELLA while on afternoon medevac received automatic weapons fire at AT 982530. The aircraft took one hit in the tail pylon.

Lt. JACKSON while on a liaison flight received fire at AT 9050 and 9055 but the aircraft was not hit.

Maj. BALCH while on a visual recon received fire at AT 993541 but the aircraft was not hit.

May 14: Capt. LARocca while on morning medevac received fire at BT 074515 but the aircraft was not hit.

Capt. BARKSDALE while on night medevac received automatic weapons fire at BT 090635 and AT 985655 but the aircraft was not hit.

May 15: Lt. JACKSON on morning medevac received heavy automatic weapons fire at AT 916578. The aircraft took three hits but nothing substantial was damaged.

Maj. BALCH while on visual recon received fire at BT 048646. The aircraft was hit but the damage was light.

Maj. RANTA while on afternoon medevac received fire at BT 050645 but the aircraft was not hit.

May 16: Capt. GAGE while on night medevac received automatic weapons fire at BT 102601, BT 050603, BT 084567 and AT 964525. At AT 964525 the aircraft was hit coming out of the zone. The medevac was hit plus the forward fuel cell. On final at NAS the engine quit due to fuel starvation and the aircraft crashed at the G-4 pad. No one was hurt but the aircraft was a strike.

May 17: HMM-163 arrived at Marble Mountain Air Facility from Quang Tri.

Capt. BROWN led a four plane division to the Iwo Jima (LPH-2) for the night.

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## PART III

UNCLASSIFIEDSIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

a. Promotions: To MSgt. - 1

b. Joined and Dropped: 1 Officer - Joined  
 0 Officer - Dropped  
 9 Enlisted - Joined  
 5 Enlisted - Dropped

2. Awards. During this period of time 23 Air Medals were awarded.3. Casualties

LARocca, Albert	Capt.	7 May	AT 968555
OUBRE, John A.	Sgt.	7 May	AT 968555
SETTER, Joseph R.	Cpl.	7 May	AT 968555
BARKSDALE, Larry M.	Capt.	9 May	ZC 213553
ENGLISH, Terrence L.	Cpl.	11 May	BT 065643
OUBRE, John A.	Sgt.	12 May	MMAF
FREEMAN, Ronnie L.	Cpl.	12 May	MMAF
HERNANDEZ, Albert S.	LCpl.	12 MAY	MMAF
PIERCE, Charles W.	LCpl.	12 May	MMAF
WALTON, Vernon W.	Cpl.	18 May	BT 020610


4. Intelligence. At 121900H MMAF received 18-20 122 MM rockets. One KIA, three WIA evacuated, 12 WIA minor. Four CH-53 damaged and the group supply lot was hit and one hootch was destroyed. The HMM-265 hanger took one direct hit.

During this period we had 54 fire incidents reported with 11 aircraft hit.

5. Air Operations

Total Flight Hours:	763.5
Total Sorties Flown:	2461
Total Medevac:	785
Total Cargo Carried:	880
Total Passengers Carried:	19.8 Tons

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6. Special Operations. During this period the squadron participated in UNCLASSIFIED Operations Brilliant Dragon III and Allen Brooke.

7. Logistics

## a. AOCF Resume:

(1) Total Submitted:	124
(2) Total Filled:	103
(3) Outstanding:	8
(4) Cancelled:	13

## b. ANFE Resume:

(1) Total Submitted:	14
(2) Total Filled:	13
(3) Outstanding:	0
(4) Cancelled:	1

8. At 180200Z HMM-361 chopped OPCON and ADCON to CG, FMFLANT. This ending a continuous fifteen month tour of combat operations in RVN.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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No supporting documents for this period

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