

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 363  
Marine Aircraft Group 16  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3:EJM:fe  
5750  
3 June 1967  
Ser: 03A15467

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 May - 31 May 1967; submission of  
Ref: (a) 1stMAWO 5750.1B  
(b) GruO 5750.1B  
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology Report

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter may be downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*M E Day*  
M. E. DAY

MAG-16	
SAC #	0778-67
COPY #	1081

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DECLASSIFIED

HMM-363

DONG HA

1 MAY 1967 - 31 MAY 1967

DECLASSIFIED

**PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA**

**1. Squadron Commander and Staff, with inclusive dates of duration in assigned billets:**

Commanding Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Major M. E. DAY
Executive Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Major R. P. ECKMANN
Operations Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Major E. J. MURPHY
Administrative Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Capt. H. HALL
Logistics Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Capt. F. T. GRASSI
Maintenance Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Major H. H. GAST
Safety Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	Capt. R. M. NEBEL
Intelligence Officer	1 May - 31 May 1967	1stLt. J. E. STROUPE

**2. Task organization and unit location with inclusive dates:**

HMM-363, MAG-16 (Fwd), 1stMAW, FMFPac	1 May - 31 May 1967
Dong Ha, RVN	1 May - 31 May 1967

**3. Average strength of squadron during period:**

Officers: 50 (1 Navy)	Enlisted: 182 (3 Navy)
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**4. Important visitors to the squadron: Major General L. B. ROBERTSHAW visited the squadron at Dong Ha on 11 and 14 May 1967 and presented awards and decorations to squadron officers and enlisted personnel.**

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Normal daily flight operations during this reporting period consisted of Med-Evac, Resupply, Aerial Recon and Admin/Liaison missions. The events listed took place during the course of these operations.

1 May 1967

At 0730H, two UH-34's received enemy small arms fire from XD 823444 while inserting a FAC team into XD 778454. No hits were reported.

At 0930H, two UH-34's received sniper fire from XD 782445 while on a resupply mission at Khe Sanh. No hits were reported.

At 1840H, two UH-34's received fire from YD 167660, YD 112600, YD 066572 and XD 980555 while on a priority med-evac mission to YD 980555. YZ-79 took four hits and YZ-63 took one hit. Damage to aircraft was limited and no injuries were reported.

At 1950H, two UH-34's received automatic weapons fire 1½ miles off the approach end of Runway 25 at Dong Ha (YD 273602). The aircraft were returning from a med-evac mission to MMAF. No hits were reported.

At 2000H, two UH-34's received sniper fire from YD 331431 and YD 329470 while on a priority med-evac mission to YD 333470. No hits were reported.

2 May 1967

At 1820H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 378452 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 356447. YZ-63 took one .30 caliber hit in the aft fuel cell. No injuries were reported.

3 May 1967

At 0900H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from XD 798438 while en-route from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh. No hits were reported.

At 0940H, two UH-34's received light sniper fire from YD 315540. No hits were reported.

At 1000H, two UH-34's received fire from XD 775445 while on a troop lift to XD 778451. No hits were reported.

At 1025H, two UH-34's received fire at XD 775430 while on a resupply to XD 777437. No hits were reported.

At 1640H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from XD 779448 while on a resupply mission to XD 778449. No hits were reported.

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At 1840H, two UH-34's received fire from XD 965425 while enroute from Khe Sanh to Dong Ha. YZ-74 took one .30 caliber hit through a tail rotor blade. No injuries were reported.

4 May 1967

At 0930H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from XD 833372 while on a logistic transport mission. No hits were reported.

At 1040H, two UH-34's launched from Dong Ha on an emergency recon retraction to YD 164663. The recon platoon was under small arms and mortar attack when the retraction was made. Two armed UH-1E's provided suppressing fire. No hits were reported.

At 1355H, two UH-34's received enemy fire while on a resupply to Ruggles "C" (YD 348470). No hits were reported.

At 1400H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 307458 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 324456. No hits were reported.

5 May 1967

At 1040H, two UH-34's observed an air burst at YD 145722 while on a troop lift. The air burst was reported at 2000 feet and came within 500 meters of the aircraft. No hits were reported.

At 1710H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 357443 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 360450. No hits were reported.

6 May 1967

At 0711H, two UH-34's flew a total of 49 ARVN med-evacs from YD 452580 to Quang Tri. No fire was reported.

7 May 1967

Throughout the day med-evac, resupply and aerial recon missions were flown with no fire reported.

8 May 1967

During the night and early morning Dong Ha, Gio Linh, Con Thien and Camp Carroll came under enemy rocket and mortar attack. During the day and night a total of 377 med-evac hours were flown by HMM-363 aircraft.

At 0645H, two UH-34's launched from Dong Ha on an emergency med-evac mission to Con Thien. The aircraft received heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire on the first three trips into the zone. During this time, the enemy had penetrated the outpost and were taking up positions in the friendly bunkers.

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Fixed wing and armed UH-1E's provided suppressing fire and no hits were reported.

At 1005H, four aircraft received fire from YD 155713 while on a troop lift to YD 136708. YZ-69 received two hits causing minor damage. No injuries were reported.

At 1045H, two UH-34's were fired upon while on an aerial recon of YD 2033 and YD 2644. No hits were reported.

At 1145H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 129695 while on a resupply mission to YD 11702. No hits were reported.

At 1300H, two UH-34's received mortar fire in the zone while on a resupply mission to YD 114701. No hits were reported.

At 1354H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 146695 while on a priority med-evac mission to YD 135712. YZ-63 took one .30 caliber round through a main rotor blade. No injuries were reported.

At 1805H, four UH-34's received fire from YD 117691 while enroute to Con Thien on an emergency ammo resupply. No hits were reported.

#### 9 May 1967

At 1030H, YZ-78 was hit by small arms fire in the left cockpit window by enemy fire originating from YD 118698. This occurred during the approach to Con Thien. The mission was completed and no injuries were reported.

During a med-evac mission to Con Thien (YD 116700) at 1320H, YZ-82 encountered enemy 82 mm mortar fire within 30 meters of the helicopter while waiting for the wounded. No damage was reported and the mission was successfully completed.

At 1505H, YZ-82 was again mortared while sitting in the zone at Con Thien awaiting med-evacs. No damage was reported and the mission was completed.

At 1545H, YZ-82 encountered enemy small arms fire during both approach and departure from a med-evac pick-up zone at YD 275550. The fire originated from YD 265550. YZ-66 provided 100 rounds of suppressing fire for YZ-82. No hits were reported and the mission was completed.

#### 10 May 1967

Normal flight operations proceeded without fire incidents.

#### 11 May 1967

At 1000H, YZ-77 was narrowly missed by two enemy mortar rounds while

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departing a zone near Con Thien. No damage was reported.

At 1540H, while carrying out a med-evac mission, YZ-68 encountered enemy small arms fire originating from YD 280582 and YD 284578. The crew returned 100 rounds of 7.62 (M-60) fire. The mission was completed without damage to the helicopter.

At 1600H, while engaged in a med-evac mission at Gia Linh (YD 213739) YZ-72 encountered enemy mortar fire from an unknown origin while sitting in the landing zone. No damage or injuries were reported.

While on a resupply mission to a zone near Con Thien (YD 116692), YZ-63 encountered enemy small arms fire originating from YD 127664. The incident occurred at 1625H. No damage was reported and the mission was completed.

At 1700H, YZ-78 encountered enemy mortar fire at Con Thien while conducting a resupply mission. No damage was reported and the supplies were delivered.

At 1700H, while lifting out of a restricted 3000 ft. zone at Hill 881 North near Khe Sanh, YZ-80 lost rotor RPM and settled onto the hill side. The helicopter rolled on its side resulting in strike damage. The crew escaped uninjured and was evacuated by YZ-66.

#### 12 May 1967

At 1700H, YZ-68 on a med-evac mission to Gia Linh (YD 212739) encountered enemy mortar fire in the landing zone. The med-evac mission was completed and no damage was reported.

At approximately 1700H, YZ-78 suffered a direct hit by enemy mortar fire shortly after lifting from a landing zone at YD 117692. The aircraft crashed and burned killing the pilot and crew chief and injuring the co-pilot and aerial gunner.

During normal flight operations, YZ-82 and YZ-83 were both hit in the main rotor blades by small arms fire; times and places of the incidents are unknown.

#### 13 May 1967

At 1000H, YZ-75 encountered enemy small arms fire while departing a landing zone at YD 870619 during a recon team retraction. YZ-75 was the last helicopter to leave the zone. The crew returned 100 rounds of 7.62 suppressive fire and the mission was completed. No damage or injuries were received.

At 1305H, YZ-77, while approaching a landing zone near Con Thien (YD 117692), encountered small arms fire originating from YD 108683. The crew returned 25

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rounds of 7.62 fire and no damage to the helicopter was reported.

At 1500H, during a med-evac mission to YD 132677, YZ-77 encountered enemy small arms fire in close proximity to the landing zone. The mission was completed and no hits were reported.

At 1900H, YZ-77 encountered automatic weapons fire originating from YD 122682 while enroute to a landing zone near Con Thien (YD 116693). The crew returned 200 rounds of 7.62 (M-60) suppressing fire. No damage was reported.

#### 14 May 1967

At 0715H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 125685 while on a resupply mission to Ruggles "A" (YD 133683). No hits were reported.

At 0800H, three UH-34's received mortar fire in the zone while on a troop lift at YD 132698. The mortars were fired from an unknown position. No hits were reported.

At 1100H, two UH-34's received mortar fire while in the zone (YD 128695) on a med-evac mission. No hits were reported.

At 1915H, two UH-34's received heavy enemy fire from YD 136668 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 131695. YZ-83 received two rounds through the engine compartment causing limited damage. No injuries were reported.

At 1920H, two UH-34's received heavy fire while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 112675. YZ-77 was shot down attempting to lift from the zone, but no injuries were reported. The aircraft received strike damage and, due to the heavy enemy concentration, no attempt has been made to retrieve it.

At 2000H, two UH-34's received mortar and small arms fire while on an emergency med-evac and resupply mission to Ruggles "D" (YD 124688). No hits were reported.

#### 15 May 1967

At 0530H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 168604 while on an emergency med-evac mission. No hits were reported.

At 1240H, two UH-34's attempted a med-evac pick-up at YD 113674 but were unable to land because of mortar fire in the zone. Small arms fire was also received, but no hits were reported.

At 1320H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 8136 while on a recon insertion at YD 9237. At 1400H, two UH-34's were called on an emergency recon retraction of the same platoon. Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire was received during approach, landing and take-off but no hits were reported. Fixed wing and armed UH-1E's provided suppressive fire.



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At 1500H, two UH-34's received mortar fire in the zone at YD 116674 while on an emergency med-evac mission. YZ-63 received minor damage after being hit by mortar fragments. No injuries were reported.

At 1635H, two UH-34's received small arms fire while on approach to YD 116674 for an emergency med-evac pick-up. No hits were reported.

16 May 1967

At 1400H, two UH-34's took heavy automatic weapons fire while on approach to YD 143696. YZ-73 took several rounds in the engine and cargo compartment and waved off. A forced landing was made at Con Thien after smoke was observed coming from the engine. The two aircraft were on an emergency med-evac mission. The crew chief and corpsman received minor wounds.

17 May 1967

During the night enemy positions to the north fired rockets, artillery and mortars into Dong Ha. Five HMM-363 aircraft received minor shrapnel damage.

At 0800H, a UH-34D and a UH-1E received enemy small arms fire from YD 138723 while on an over-fly of the Con Thien area. Fire was returned and no hits were reported.

18 May 1967

At 0745H, a UH-34D and an armed UH-1E received automatic weapons fire from YD 130680 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 143691. No hits were reported.

At 0750H, two UH-34's received automatic weapons fire from XD 139709 while on an emergency med-evac mission to XD 135704. No hits were reported.

At 1115H, two UH-34's received mortar fire in the zone while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 135704. No hits were reported.

At 1200H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 135703 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 145690. No hits were reported.

At 1330H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 045665 while on a med-evac mission to YD 045656. No hits were reported.

19 May 1967

At 1430H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 145724 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 142732. Because of the heavy fire in the zone, the aircraft waved off and the med-evacs were moved to a more suitable zone nearby. YZ-66 picked up the med-evacs but was hit by small arms and mortar

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fire while on climb-out. One fragment severed the throttle cables. The aircraft proceeded to Dong Ha where the engine was secured and a successful autorotative landing was made. No injuries were reported.

20 May 1967

At 1315H, two UH-34's received mortar fire in the zone while flying news reporters to Grey Rebel's position (YD 134771). No hits were reported.

At 1400H, two UH-34's received heavy enemy fire while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 142778. No hits were reported.

At 1630H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 125673 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 125773. No hits were reported.

21 May 1967

At 1830H, two UH-34's received small arms and automatic weapons fire from YD 760450 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 754446. No hits were reported.

22 May 1967

During the early morning hours Dong Ha received enemy artillery rounds from above the DMZ. Two UH-34's were exposed to the enemy fire while landing on the runway after returning from an emergency med-evac mission. No hits were reported.

At 1015H, two UH-34's received enemy small arms fire from YD 152650 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 147655. YZ-71 received one round through a tail rotor blade. No injuries were reported.

At 1615H, two UH-34's aborted a recon insertion due to enemy fire at XD 8149. No hits were reported.

23 May 1967

At 2115H, two UH-34's launched from Dong Ha on an emergency resupply to Old Field 14 (YD 104640). Two armed UH-1E's provided escort and no fire was reported.

24 May 1967

At 1630H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 155650 while on a med-evac mission to YD 154656. YZ-75 received one hit near the tail rotor gear box. No injuries were reported.

25 May 1967

At 0800H, two UH-34's received enemy fire from YD 068689 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 072692. No hits were reported.

At 1600H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 096650 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 094659. YZ-65 received one round through a main rotor blade.

26 May 1967

At 0800H, a UH-34D and a UH-1E received enemy fire at YD 053709 while on an aerial recon northwest of Con Thien. The UH-1E was shot down and its six passengers rescued by the UH-34D. All six received minor shrapnel wounds. The UH-34D was not hit.

At 1320H, two UH-34's received heavy small arms fire from YD 150704 while on a med-evac mission to YD 150706. YZ-79 received two hits through the radio compartment while waiting for the med-evacs to be loaded. No injuries were reported.

At 1740H, two UH-34's received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from YD 160700 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 155695. Upon approach to the zone, YZ-68 received twenty-three hits, most of them passing through the tail section and rotor blades. After waving off, YZ-68 entered the zone from a different direction completing the mission. The crew chief and gunner were treated for minor shrapnel wounds.

At 2230H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 452025 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 453027. No hits were reported.

27 May 1967

HMM-363 aircraft flew med-evac and resupply missions throughout the day. No fire was reported.

28 May 1967

At 1630H, two UH-34's received enemy mortars in the zone at XD 086696. The origin of the firing was unknown and no hits were reported.

At 1700H, two UH-34's received small arms fire while lifting out of a zone at YD 086685. The aircraft were on a routine med-evac mission. No hits were reported.

At 1800H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 130719 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 133719. No hits were reported.

At 1900H, two UH-34's received rocket fire while on resupply missions to YD 153711 and YD 075685. No hits were reported.

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29 May 1967

At 0900H, two UH-34's received small arms fire from YD 203753 while on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 214743. No hits were reported.

At 2045H, two UH-34's launched on an emergency med-evac mission to YD 116696. YZ-74 crashed while landing in the zone as the port strut rolled into a deep pit and the aircraft partially turned on its side. The med-evacs and the crew of YZ-74 were returned to Dong Ha by the second aircraft. No injuries were reported from the incident and no fire was received. The aircraft was lifted back to Dong Ha the following morning by a CH-53. YZ-74 received "C" damage.

30 May 1967

At 1300H, YZ-84 encountered mortar fire while sitting in a zone (YD 054683) in the foothills southwest of Con Thien; nevertheless, the med-evac mission was completed with no damage reported to the helicopter.

31 May 1967

Normal squadron operations proceeded without incident.

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## PART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Promotions

- a. Officers: Eleven (11) to First Lieutenant
- b. Enlisted: Two (2) to E-6  
One (1) to E-5  
Seven (7) to E-4  
Four (4) to E-3

2. Awards

- a. Purple Hearts were awarded to three officers and three enlisted.
- b. Silver Star: Captain Paul H. COURTNEY 088591  
Captain Anthony C. HUEBNER 074791
- c. Distinguished Flying Cross: Major Edmond J. MURPHY 066064  
Captain Paul D. HAVENS 089415  
Captain Rudolf M. NEBEL 077134  
1stLt. Ronald A. MORIN 092211
- d. Navy Commendation Medal: Captain Anthony C. HUEBNER 074791
- e. Air Medal (1st Award): 1stLt. Paul A. SHEEHAN 092805  
1stLt. Brian A. WISE 092767  
GySgt. Herbie W. RULEAU 1195320

3. Casualties

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Capt	Richard L. BASINGER	090501	12May67	KIA South of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province.
2ndLt	James E. CASTI	096357	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Abrasion left upper arm.
1stLt	William P. COLLIER	092587	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Avulsion right great toe.
1stLt	Robert C. FRANCIS	091692	18May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Shrapnel wound left hand.
1stLt	George HADZEWYCZ	090891	12May67	South of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province; crushing chest wound, multiple abrasion of the face, 2nd & 3rd degree burns of the legs.
Capt	David L. HOLLAND	090898	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Abrasion left ankle.

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<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
2ndLt	Paul A. SHEEHAN	092805	18May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Avulsion sole right foot.
1stLt	Francis D. SMITHSON	092477	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, abrasion both legs.
Cpl	Lawrence D. ABRAO	2181257	18May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Shrapnel wound right upper back.
SSgt	Constantine G. AMBROSE	1490006	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Severe contusion right heel, both knees.
GySgt	Ambrose F. BOWSER	1430517	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Multiple abrasions both arms right knee.
LCpl	Johnathan A. CRAIG	2176964	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Avulsion left 3rd toe.
HM3	Russell J. GUILIANO	686801	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Avulsion palm right hand, abrasion of right knee.
Cpl	Mariano G. GUIDO	2030826	26May67	SE of Con Thien, laceration of right upper arm.
GySgt	John S. GUSTIN	1416009	21May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Contusion left flank.
Cpl	Gary L. HANSON	2059070	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Multiple abrasions of both legs.
LCpl	Ronald R. HARTLINE	2149761	12May67	South of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, multiple abrasions of face, 1st and 2nd degree burns both arms.
Cpl	John W. JACKSON	1811700	12May67	KIA South of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province.
LCpl	Samuel W. LACORTE	2145778	18May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Shrapnel wound left thumb.
LCpl	Larry C. MULLEN	2218019	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Multiple abrasions both knees.
SgtMaj	Ernie L. O'NEAL	397770	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Contusion, abrasion sole right foot.
MSgt	John J. ORR	620107	16May67	East of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, Gun shot wound right thigh.

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<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
GySgt	David A. PHILLIPS	413726	8May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Avulsion ball of right foot.
Cpl	Thomas L. REID	2148593	26May67	SE of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, Shrapnel wound right side of neck.
HMC	Roy D. STEGALL	4319908	8May67 & 16May67	Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, Abrasions and contusions and minor lacerations of right knee. East of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, multiple abrasions.

4. Air Operations

a. Total flight hours:	1640.8
b. Total sorties:	5349
c. Total cargo tons:	567
d. Total med-evacs:	1583
e. Total Pax:	3345.

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light small arms and 30 Caliber fire was received from AT 995542. No injuries were reported on mission 22. Four aircraft flew 7 Med-Evac missions moving 2 VN Civilian passengers, 16 U.S. Med-Evacs, and 2 VN Civilian Med-Evacs.

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Enclosure (1)