

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

3:EJM:fe
5750
4 July 1967
Ser: 03A18567

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 June - 30 June 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

| | |
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| MAG-16 | |
| SAC # | 0840-27 |
| COPY # | 10/1 |

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HM-363

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JUNE 1967

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HMM-363

DONG HA, RVN

1 JUNE 1967 - 30 JUNE 1967

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Commanding Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Major M. E. DAY |
| Executive Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Major R. P. ECKMANN |
| Operations Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Major E. J. MURPHY |
| Administrative Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Capt. H. HALL |
| Logistics Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Capt. F. T. GRASSI |
| Maintenance Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | Major H. H. GAST |
| Safety Officer | 1 June - 29 June 1967 | Capt. R. M. NEBEL |
| | 30 June 1967 | Capt. J. B. BARR |
| Intelligence Officer | 1 June - 30 June 1967 | 1stLt. J. E. STROUPE |

2. Task organization and unit location with inclusive dates:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| HMM-363, MAG-16 (Fwd), 1stMAW, FMFPac | 1 June - 30 June 1967 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Dong Ha, RVN | 1 June - 30 June 1967 |
|--------------|-----------------------|

3. Average strength of squadron during period:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Officers: 47 (1 Navy) | Enlisted: 183 (2 Navy) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|

4. Important visitors to the squadron: Lieutenant General V. H. KRULAK visited the squadron at Dong Ha on 26 June 1967.

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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 June 1967

At 1715H, YZ-72, while on a resupply mission to a company in the foothills southwest of Con Thien, encountered enemy fire while sitting in the zone at YD 053650. The suspected origin of the enemy fire was at YD 050658. No hits were reported.

2 June 1967

At 1645H, YZ-78 encountered small arms fire originating from YD 150705 while conducting a resupply mission to YD 148717. No damage was reported to the helicopter.

3 - 5 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

6 June 1967

At 0800H, YZ-64, while on a resupply mission to a company position near the firebreak at YD 183703, lost all engine power while attempting to lift from the zone. The crew was picked up uninjured by the lead aircraft YZ-78. YZ-64 was later recovered by CH-53 and returned to Dong Ha without damage.

At 1730H, YZ-63 received enemy automatic weapons fire while resupplying Hill 881S near Khe Sanh. YZ-63 was sitting on the hilltop when enemy fire from XD 778441 raked the zone. No injuries or damage to the helicopter were reported.

7 June 1967

At approximately 1045H, YZ-63 encountered enemy .30 caliber automatic weapons fire in the zone while on a resupply mission to Hill 881. No hits or injuries were reported.

At 1610H, YZ-69, while engaged in a med-evac mission to a ridge west of Hill 881S (XD 771457), encountered automatic .50 caliber fire while sitting in the zone. No hits or injuries were reported.

At 1715H, YZ-63 was called to evacuate a Marine wounded after the NVA

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had ambushed a Marine patrol moving down a ridge line west of Hill 881S at XD 779442. While waiting in the zone for the loading of the wounded, a mortar round exploded beside the helicopter, killing eight Marines instantly. YZ-63 lifted immediately from the zone and flew to 881S to assess the aircraft damage. Finding only minor shrapnel damage, YZ-63 continued the mission. The crew expended 100 rounds of 7.62 during the course of the mission.

8 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

9 June 1967

At 1515H, YZ-63 encountered enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire while entering and sitting in a zone two miles southeast of Dong Ha. The crew returned 50 rounds of 7.62 and the mission was completed. No damage to the helicopter was reported.

10 June 1967

At approximately 0900H, YZ-67 encountered enemy sniper fire while re-supplying Hill 881S. No hits were reported and the mission was delayed for two hours. The source of the enemy fire was unknown.

At 1030H, YZ-79 encountered enemy fire from XD 775466 while resupplying Hill 881S. No damage was reported and the mission was continued.

At 1855H, YZ-76 encountered enemy small arms fire from YD 185740 while enroute to YD 186732 for a passenger pick-up. No damage was reported and the mission was completed.

11 June 1967

At 0930H, YZ-76 encountered enemy fire from YD 205383 and YD 190367 while over-flying an area west of Balong during an aerial reconnaissance flight. The crew returned 100 rounds of 7.62 fire. No damage was reported to the helicopter and the mission was completed.

12 - 14 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

15 June 1967

At 1345H, YZ-75 encountered enemy fire (small arms and automatic) originating from YD 170664 while enroute to a med-evac pick-up zone at YD 173721. No damage was reported and no fire returned.

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At 1500H, YZ-75 again encountered enemy small arms fire from YD 170664 while enroute to a med-evac zone at YD 173664. No damage was reported and the mission was completed.

16 - 23 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

24 June 1967

At approximately 1200H, YZ-62, on a resupply mission from Khe Sanh, encountered engine difficulties and was forced to shutdown on 881S. Later in the afternoon a CH-53 lifted the helicopter back to Dong Ha. No injuries or additional damage were reported.

25 June 1967

At 0001H, YZ-66 while approaching the fuel pits at Dong Ha after completing a night med-evac mission, lost control due to mechanical difficulties, struck the ground in a nose down attitude and over-turned. The helicopter immediately burst into flames. The pilot and co-pilot escaped quickly with minor scratches and bruises. The pilot returned to the flaming wreckage to help rescue the disabled gunner. The crew chief apparently was unconscious and died in the inaccessible interior of the burning aircraft.

26 June 1967

At 1200H, YZ-65, while on an emergency med-evac mission, encountered enemy mortar fire while departing YD 214743 resulting in two large shrapnel holes in the fuselage. The crew returned 100 rounds of 7.62. No injuries were reported.

27 June 1967

At 0130H, YZ-76 and YZ-75 lifted from Khe Sanh on a night med-evac mission to XD 813412 two miles from Khe Sanh. YZ-76 pulled 3 U. S. Marine wounded from the zone and returned them to Khe Sanh. YZ-75 struck a tree and settled into a small clearing 300 yards west of the med-evac zone after lifting out with five med-evacs. The helicopter remained upright although the blades and transmission were severely damaged. All occupants of the helicopter escaped uninjured. The downed pilot quickly established radio contact with his emergency radio. YZ-76, orbiting in the proximity of the downed helicopter, picked up the downed pilots radio transmission and was informed that the downed crew and med-evacs were uninjured. YZ-76 vectored a Marine patrol to the crash site and a defensive perimeter was

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established around the downed helicopter. An element of the patrol led the crew and med-evacs back to the original med-evac zone where YZ-76 landed and in a number of shuttles evacuated all pertinent personnel.

From 1200H to 1500H YZ-76 directed recovery efforts of YZ-75. A CH-53 ultimately externally lifted YZ-75 from the crash site to Dong Ha. Eighty pounds of explosives were required to clear the zone of trees and obstacles before the recovery. No enemy fire hampered the recovery operations.

At 1430H, YZ-81 encountered heavy small arms fire while entering a med-evac zone at XD 802409. The helicopter received three hits causing limited damage. The crew chief was hit in the foot and the gunner was hit in the shoulder. Both were evacuated to Alfa Medical Battalion at Phu Bai.

28 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

29 June 1967

At 0830H, YZ-65 encountered enemy small arms fire when departing a zone near the Firebreak (YD 161718) during a resupply mission. The origin of the hostile fire was YD 127716. The crew expended 100 rounds of 7.62. No damage to the helicopter or injuries were reported.

30 June 1967

Routine flight operations were conducted with no incidents reported.

Enclosure (1)

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PART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Promotions

- a. Officers: Three (3) to Captain
- b. Enlisted: Three (3) to Sergeant
Nine (9) to Corporal
Seven (7) to Lance Corporal

2. Casualties

| <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SERIAL</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>PLACE</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| Capt | Ronald E. FIX | 089993 | 27Jun67 | Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province; laceration left lower leg. |
| Cpl | Charlie L. BURNEY | 2172092 | 25Jun67 | Died as a result of aircraft accident at Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province. |
| PFC | Larry T. BRANHAM | 2191427 | 25Jun67 | Injured in aircraft accident at Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province. |
| LCpl | Richard E. FAUST, Jr. | 2121699 | 27Jun67 | 2½ miles west of Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province. GSW left lower leg. |
| LCpl | James J. PESSY, Jr. | 2168877 | 27Jun67 | 2½ miles west of Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province. GSW right shoulder. |

3. Air Operations

- a. Total flight hours: 1289.6
- b. Total sorties: 4849
- c. Total cargo tons: 783
- d. Total med-evacs: 726
- e. Total Pax: 3239