

ML-367 71-057
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MARINE LIGHT HELICOPTER SQUADRON 367
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco 96602

3:REH:rej
5750
03A09371
3 April 1971

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1971 to 31 March 1971

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1D

Encl: ✓(1) HML-367 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), this letter is downgraded to unclassified.

for *John*
C. E. REESE

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Marine Aircraft Group 16
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March 1971 to 31 March 1971

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PART IORGANIZATION DATA1. DESIGNATION

Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367

COMMANDER

LtCol C. E. REESE
 1-31 March 1971

2. LOCATION

1-31 March 1971: Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

XO	Maj F. W. CRONE	1-31 March 1971
S-1	Capt C. T. CREWS	1-31 March 1971
S-2	1stLt C. W. SMITH	1-31 March 1971
S-3	Maj W. B. JOHNSON	1-31 March 1971
S-4	Maj B. P. KRAGES	1-31 March 1971
Maintenance Officer	Maj M. T. BIRD	1-31 March 1971
Material Control Officer	CWO-2 R. A. KEITH	1-15 March 1971
	2ndLt R. S. ETHINGTON	16-31 March 1971
ASO	Maj N. E. BURKE	1-31 March 1971
NATOPS	Capt J. A. BELL	1-31 March 1971
Flight Surgeon	Lt (MC) R. R. OBER	1-31 March 1971
Sergeant Major	Sgt Maj E. E. BUTENAS	1-31 March 1971

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>		<u>Other</u>	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
60	175	0	0	0	0

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367 continued throughout March to demonstrate the highest level of professionalism by successfully accomplishing all assigned missions. The squadron logged a total of 1392.1 flight hours with squadron pilots flying 2,329 sorties and 570 tasks. These statistics compare with 1,661.4 flight hours 4,635 sorties and 468 tasks in February; the only increase being in tasks.

During March, Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367 continued to fly gun cover for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 during Operation Lam Son 719 in which ARVN forces required heavy transport support in effecting resupply of their fire support bases in Laos and the subsequent withdrawal of their forces from Laos to Khe Sanh. Intense fire was continually taken from around all fire support bases during the resupply operations and the eventual withdrawal operations. Separate rocket and mortar attacks on Khe Sanh and LZ Kilo twice forced the gunships to evacuate their LZ's. During March the squadron continued its participation in Operation Imperial Lake which was initiated in August 1970. The squadron also assumed the gun portion of mission Black Hammer. The gunships engaged in Black Hammer on the morning of the 29th played a major role in preventing the compound at An Hoa and surrounding hamlets from being overrun by a large Viet Cong force. The BDA during this attack included four (4) confirmed KBMA, ten (10) probable KBMA, six (6) boats and twelve (12) hootches destroyed, with 2,800 rounds of 20MM and 64 2.75in. rockets being expended. The area continued to take hostile fire for the following three (3) days and nights. During this time the squadron aircraft provided gun cover for the emergency medical evacuation of over one hundred (100) personnel and delivered suppressive fire in close air support of the ARVN forces, expending 407 2.75in. FFAR's, 14,158 rounds of 7.62 and 1,386 rounds of 40MM ammunition. The BDA for the night of 30 March during Black Hammer operations increased the KBMA by 20.

Total ammunition expended during March by Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367 was 4,068 2.75 FFAR's, 14,300 rounds of 40MM and 77,000 rounds of 7.62MM ammunition, in suppression of fifty one (51) targets and in fifty eight (58) zone preps. Squadron pilots accounted for thirty one (31) confirmed enemy KBMA and thirty (30) probable enemy KBMA, with two (2) enemy WBMA. Six (6) bunkers and forty six (46) hootches were destroyed with three (3) bunkers damaged. There were thirty three (33) fire incidents in March compared to thirty (30) in February, resulting in thirteen (13) aircraft hits. Spot reports decreased from three (3) in February to two (2) in March.

Awards submitted in the month of March included: five (5) Silver Stars, twenty (20) Distinguished Flying Crosses, ten (10) Single Mission Air Medals, nine (9) Strike Flight Air Medals, and thirty four (34)

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Navy Commendation Medals. There were six (6) promotions in March. Two (2) 1st Lieutenants were promoted to Captain, one (1) Master Sergeant was promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant, and three Privates First Class were promoted to Lance Corporal.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSMARCH 1971

- 11 - Aircraft VT-9 received 1 round through forward fuel cell.
Aircraft VT-29 received 1 round through tail boom - Substantial damage sustained.
- 12 - Aircraft VT-25 received 1 round through fuselage, 1 round through main rotor blade, 1 round through leading edge of left elevator and 1 round through aft fuel cell - Substantial damage sustained.
- 13 - Aircraft VT-5 had engine failure and fire on alpha taxiway.
Aircraft VT-13 received 1 round through main rotor blade and 1 round through 40MM ammunition drum.
- 27 - Aircraft VT-17 received 1 round through right skid tube.
- 29 - Aircraft VT-15 received 1 round in main rotor blade.
Aircraft VT-12 received 1 round in rocket pod.
Aircraft VT-17 received 1 round in left stub wing and 1 round in transmission cowling.
Aircraft VT-28 received shrapnel in tail rotor.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. In accordance with reference (a), no supporting documents are submitted.

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