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MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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03A06469
5 March 1969

[REDACTED] (Unclassified when enclosure (1) is removed)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 February 1969 to 28 February 1969

Ref: (a) FMFPacO 5750.8
(b) WgO 5750.10
(c) GruO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) HMH-462 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. E. Nelson
R. E. NELSON

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ENCLOSURE (2)

HMH-462

CMD CHRON

FEB 1969

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MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 462
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1969 to 28 February 1969

INDEX:

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

COMMANDER

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 LtCol Ronald E. NELSON (1-28Feb69)

Executive Officer

Maj David H. ANDERSON (1-28Feb69)

Operations Officer

Maj Chester L. WHIPPLE (1-4Feb69)

Maj Jack L. MAXWELL (5-28Feb69)

Maintenance Officer

Maj Billy J. KAHLER (1-4Feb69)

Maj John J. MCMENAMIN (5-28Feb69)

2. LOCATION

HMH-462 1-28Feb69 HUE/PHU BAI RVN

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC		USN	
OFF	ENL	OFF	ENL
44	168	1	0

4. IMPORTANT VISITORS

None

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

[REDACTED]

During February, HMH-462 felt the brunt of the seasonal monsoons in the Republic of Vietnam as inclement weather severely hampered air operations throughout the month. The squadron logged 833.3 flight hours flown, 5,504,000 pounds of cargo lifted, and 5225 troops transported. Squadron pilots flew 209.1 flight hours under actual instrument conditions, the majority of which were logged during tactical sorties between combat bases and outlying fire support bases.

HMH-462 lent its support almost entirely to the First Marine Division in the An Hoa area during the first half of February. Although full workdays were few, and the cargo was rigged in lighter-than-normal loads, the squadron flew over 300 hours and lifted more than 1100 tons while supporting operation Taylor/Comman.

The Third Marine Division received the majority of the squadrons support during the last half of the month as HMH-462 participated in operations Dawson River West, Dewey Canyon, and Scotland II. The squadron transported five aircraft in as many tactical aircraft recovery (TAR) missions, and evacuated 188 U.S. casualties in twenty-two medevac missions.

Requirements to keep two CH-53A's at Vandergrift Combat Base overnight enabled HMH-462 to bypass the poorer weather conditions found enroute from Hue/Phu Bai to Vandergrift during the early morning hours. This advantage was more than offset, however, as the lack of proper maintenance facilities at Vandergrift Combat Base reduced aircraft availability.

Despite reported terrorist activity, HMH-462 continued its Civic Action program, donating food, clothing, and school supplies to the school and orphanages of Hue and Phu Leung, along with spare time and money.

On 14 February, six squadron pilots and crewmen received their first-award Air Medals in a presentation by LtCol R. E. Nelson, HMH-462 Commanding Officer.

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL: No significant events

2. ADMINISTRATION: No significant events.

3. CIVIC ACTION: Reports of terrorist activity along Highway One during the Tet holidays caused a slight curtailment of HMM-462's Civic Action activities. However, the squadron still managed two trips to Phu Luong and three to Hue, donating one box each of clothing and educational materials to Phu Luong, and fifteen cases of corned beef, thirty cases of fruit, and twelve cases of vegetables to Hue. HMM-462 contributed \$40.00 to the school and orphanages while expending forty man-days in spare time.

4. AWARDS: On 14 February, LtCol R. E. NELSON, HMM-462 Commanding Officer, presented six squadron pilots and crewmen with first-award strike/flight Air Medals for meritorious aerial achievement while serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

5. INTELLIGENCE: No significant events.

6. AIR OPERATIONS: During the month of February, HMM-462 flew 833.3 flight hours comprising 2402 sorties to complete 1577 tasks. Tons of cargo lifted totaled 2752.0 and troops carried totaled 5225. Squadron pilots logged 209.1 hours actual instrument time. A breakdown of air operations for the month consists of:

<u>UNITS SUPPORTED</u>	<u>FLIGHT HOURS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TASKS</u>	<u>TONS LIFTED</u>	<u>TROOPS CARRIED</u>
1stMAF DIV	302.0	997	655	1161.1	2496
3rdMAF DIV	386.4	1151	735	1416.2	2167
III MAF	141.5	245	180	168.4	557
OTHER	3.4	9	7	6.3	5

7. SPECIAL OPERATIONS BREAKDOWN:

<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>TONS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
TAYLOR/COMMON	919	2342	1058.3	281.8
SCOTLAND II	47	58	61.8	10.2
DAWSON RIVER WEST	20	11	19.6	5.3
DEWEY CANYON	891	1655	1143.3	307.0

b. During the month of February, HMM-462 flew nine tactical aircraft recovery (TAR) missions, transporting two UH34D's, two CH46D's, and five UH1E's.

c. HMM-462 evacuated 188 U.S. soldiers in twenty-two routine, priority, and emergency medevac missions during February.

ENCLOSURE (1)

[REDACTED]

8. LOGISTICS: No significant events.

9. MAINTENANCE: HH-462 continued operating with sixteen aircraft assigned during February. Partially due to the reduced maintenance the aircraft remaining overnight at Vandergrift Combat Base were able to receive, availability for the month was reduced from more than sixty percent in previous months to slightly less than fifty percent. The number of hours for operational ready time totaled 5025.9, while NORS hours exceeded 3000.