

MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 463  
Marine Aircraft Group 16  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing FMF Pacific  
FPO San Francisco 96602

3: MJW: wlb  
5750  
6 March 1971

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February 1971

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*T. S. Reap*  
T. S. REAP

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Marine Aircraft Group 16  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 February 1971 - 28 February 1971

- PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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Enclosure (1)

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## PART I

## ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGATIONCOMMANDER

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463

LtCol Robert R. LEISY  
1-28 February 19712. LOCATION

1-28 February 1971: Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

3. STAFF OFFICERS

X. O.	Major M. E. EDWARDS	1-28 February 1971
S-1	Major R. F. VALLUZZI	1-28 February 1971
S-2	1stLt W. G. AUTREY	1-28 February 1971
S-3	Major M. J. WASKO	1-28 February 1971
S-4	Capt. R. F. WEMHEUER	1-28 February 1971
Aviation Safety	Capt. H. L. MAY	1-28 February 1971
NATOPS	Capt. H. HALL	1-28 February 1971
Flight Surgeon	Lt. (USN) R. H. BADE	1-28 February 1971

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

USMC
OFF ENL
32 117

USN
OFF ENL
1

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Flight Operations of HMH-463 showed a significant increase during the month of February, primarily because of the Squadron's participation in the Allied operations in Laos. A total of 3761 sorties and 358 tasks were flown in a total of 1183.9 hours. Of the 6613.3 tons of cargo carried, 6306.9 was external, and 306.4 internal. A total of 8890 passengers were carried, (4787 U. S., 3504 ROK Marines, 599 ARVN).

The Squadron completed 6 Tactical Aircraft Recoveries (TARS), 3 of which were administrative and 3 of which were field.

HMH-463 participated in 4 strikes, with a total of 10 aircraft taking part.

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During the entire month, the Squadron was heavily committed to Operation Dewey Canyon II/Lam San 719. Specifically, the Squadron worked in support of the First ARVN Division in their efforts to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos.

During this Operation, the Squadron specialized in heavy lifts, carrying 155mm howitzers, D-4 bulldozers and large amounts of ammunition. The Squadron's aircraft often received heavy fire from .50 caliber machine guns, 23mm and 37mm anti-aircraft guns, and 82mm mortars. One aircraft was lost due to enemy action in this operation.

The biggest day for the Squadron was 8 February 1971, when 8 aircraft carried 1,035,700 pounds of cargo in support of this mission, with 2 aircraft carrying over 200,000 pounds each.

The ~~deepest~~ penetration the Squadron made into Laos during February was about 15 miles.

## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Awards: Five single mission Air Medals.

- 1FEB71: One administrative TAR was flown, a UH-1E.
- 4FEB71: One strike mission was flown with 4 aircraft participating.
- 8FEB71: The Squadron carried more than one million pounds of cargo in support of the Allied drive into Laos.
- 11FEB71: One aircraft took two .30 caliber hits on a resupply mission.
- 12FEB71: One strike mission was flown with two aircraft participating, each aircraft sustaining one .30 caliber hit.
- 14FEB71: One field TAR was flown, a CH-46.
- 14FEB71: One aircraft suffered substantial damage in a taxi accident.
- 15FEB71: One strike mission was flown with two aircraft participating.
- 15FEB71: One aircraft took one .30 caliber hit while on a resupply mission.
- 16FEB71: One aircraft took one .30 caliber hit while on a resupply mission.
- 17FEB71: One aircraft took one .30 caliber hit while on a resupply mission.
- 18FEB71: One aircraft crashed, suffering strike damage with 9 fatalities.
- 18FEB71: One field TAR was flown, an AH-1G.
- 20FEB71: One field TAR was flown, a UH-1H.
- 21FEB71: One field TAR was flown, a UH-1E.

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- 21FEB71: While on a resupply mission, one aircraft took one .30 caliber hit from accidental discharge of a friendly weapon.
- 22FEB71: One strike mission was flown with 2 aircraft participating.
- 23FEB71: One aircraft sustained 2 .30 caliber hits while on an administrative mission and one aircraft sustained 2 hits from mortar fragments.
- 23FEB71: One aircraft was shot down by enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire while on a resupply mission in Laos. The aircraft suffered strike damage, with no fatalities being suffered by the crew.
- 24FEB71: The Squadron was visited by EGen. QUINN.
- 25FEB71: Two aircraft took a total of 3 hits from mortar fragments while on a resupply mission.
- 25FEB71: One administrative TAR was flown, an O-1.

#### PART IV

#### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None.

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Enclosure (1)