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

3:EDH:ddh  
5750  
4 April 1971

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 March 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 March 1971 - 31 March 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. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463

LtCol Robert R. LEISY  
1-4 March 1971LtCol Thomas S. REAP  
5-31 March 19712. LOCATION

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

3. STAFF OFFICERS

|                 |                      |                 |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| X.O.            | Major M. E. EDWARDS  | 1-31 March 1971 |
| S-1             | Major R. F. VALLUZZI | 1-31 March 1971 |
| S-2             | 1stLt W. G. AUTREY   | 1-31 March 1971 |
| S-3             | Major M. J. WASKO    | 1-31 March 1971 |
| S-4             | Capt. R. F. WEMHEUER | 1-31 March 1971 |
| Aviation Safety | Capt. H. L. MAY      | 1-31 March 1971 |
| NATOPS          | Capt. H. HALL        | 1-31 March 1971 |
| Flight Surgeon  | Lt. (USN) R. H. BADE | 1-31 March 1971 |

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| <u>USMC</u> |            |
| <u>OFF</u>  | <u>ENL</u> |
| 33          | 182        |

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| <u>USN</u> |            |
| <u>OFF</u> | <u>ENL</u> |
| 1          |            |

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

For the month of March as well as the month of February 1971, HMH-463's flight operations went hand in hand with those of Operation Lam Son 719. As the ARVN thrust into Laos wound down, the squadron's flight operations decreased proportionately. On 11 March 1971 and thereafter, the squadron concentrated on performing only heavy lifts, as opposed to full resupply, for the 1st ARVN Division. A total of 6806 sorties and 332 tasks were flown in 872.0 hours. Payload for the month was 167.6 tons internal cargo,

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3392.8 tons of external cargo and 9058 passengers (4380 U. S., 3890 ROK Marines, and 788 ARVNs).

During the early part of March 1971, a day's work for the pilots and crews assigned to Lam Son 719 consisted of braving nearly constant mortar fire, sporadic machine gun fire, and occasional flak. Many individuals from the squadron distinguished themselves as ton after ton of critically needed supplies were delivered to beleaguered ARVN and South Vietnamese Marine forces. For the entire month, the squadron demonstrated the versatility of the CH-53 and the skill of its pilots and crews while carrying heavy loads, such as 155mm howitzers and D-4 bulldozers in support of Lam Son 719. Also carried were strike troops, administrative passengers, downed tactical aircraft, and resupply cargo in Quang Nam Province, RVN.

As Operation Lam Son 719 neared completion, HMH-463 played a major role in the redeployment of the ARVN troops, supplies, and equipment. Again the squadron demonstrated its versatility and flexibility as it carried sundry loads, varying from bulldozers and howitzers, through ammunition and general cargo, to troops. The squadron was also assigned the task of redeploying the Marine ASRT units from Khe Sanh airfield.

During the final week of the month, the squadron participated in night flare drop missions in cooperation with HML-167 and HML-367. HMH-463 provided the illumination, playing a significant role in reducing the enemy's capability of launching a rocket or mortar attack against the Danang complex.

The squadron recovered 10 tactical aircraft during the month, 4 of which were administrative and 6 of which were in the field.

HMH-463 participated in 2 strikes with a total of 3 aircraft taking part, and two troop extracts with a total of 5 aircraft taking part. One of these extracts was from an insecure area, with the USMC infantry taking heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire during the final phases of the extract.

## PART III

## SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Awards: One Distinguished Flying Cross, three Purple Hearts and one Good Conduct Medal

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1MAR71: A Korean Marine sustained major head injuries when he ran into the tail rotor of a CH-53.

2MAR71: The squadron was visited by BGen QUINN who flew co-pilot on an admin/resupply mission.

2MAR71: The squadron participated in a troop extract with two aircraft taking part.

4MAR71: LtCol Thomas S. REAP relieved LtCol Robert R. LEISY as Commanding Officer of HMH-463. MajGen ARMSTRONG was on hand for the ceremonies.

4MAR71: One aircraft took a .30 caliber hit while on a resupply mission.

8MAR71: Three aircraft took hits from enemy mortar fire, wounding one crewman, while on a resupply mission.

8MAR71: One aircraft took two .30 caliber hits.

9MAR71: An administrative TAR was flown, a UH-1.

11MAR71: One aircraft took a .50 caliber hit.

12MAR71: A field TAR was flown, a UH-1.

12MAR71: The squadron participated in a strike mission with one aircraft.

13MAR71: One aircraft took a .30 caliber hit.

14MAR71: The squadron participated in a troop extract with three aircraft taking part. There were five USMC infantry casualties.

16MAR71: One aircraft took five .30 caliber hits.

16MAR71: Two administrative TARs were flown, both UH-1s.

20MAR71: One administrative and two field TARs were flown, all UH-1s.

21MAR71: Two field TARs were flown, both UH-1s.

23MAR71: One field TAR was flown, a UH-1.

30MAR71: One aircraft took three .30 caliber hits, wounding one crewman.

31MAR71: The squadron participated in a strike mission with two aircraft taking part.

## PART IV

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None.

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