

CHRONOLOGY - 1972

01 JAN A SEALORD UH-1L, Bureau Number 157853, during a climb, developed severe vibrations and control loss. Regaining control, the pilot completed a successful autorotation to a rice paddy. There were no personal injuries and no damage to the aircraft which was later lifted out. The cause was determined to be a broken stabilizer bar.

08 JAN A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 622038, on a rocket run, took 3-50 caliber machine gun hits in the cockpit and one in the tail. Upon impact the wind-screen shattered causing minor injuries to the pilot and co-pilot. The aircraft was flown home with minor damage.

09 JAN A SEALORD UH-1L, Bureau Number 157854, while on a low level transit over a canal, took two hits from enemy automatic weapons fire. The door gunner was severely wounded in the head and medevaced. The aircraft suffered limited damage.

25 JAN A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 614399, on an attack, had the retaining bolt to the flash suppressor shear, causing flying shrapnel when shot by the mini gun. The pilot, co-pilot, and door gunner suffered minor injuries. No aircraft damage was noted.

26 JAN Detachment FIVE on YB6M 16 moved from Chan Doc to Tan Chan.

31 JAN LCDR Clyde V. CHRISTENSEN, USN, relieved LCDR Richard S. GORDON, USN, as OINC of Detachment SEVEN at Dong Tam.

31 JAN Detachment SIX was relocated from the USS GARRETT COUNTY, AGP786, to the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY, AGP838.

31 JAN LCDR James H. LONG, USN, relieved LCDR Duane R. STEINER, USN, as OINC of Detachment ONE at Solid Anchor.

17 FEB A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 638715, during a climbout after takeoff from the USS Hunterdon County (AGP838), experienced an engine failure and ditched in the Gulf of Thailand, and sank in approximately forty feet of water. It was deemed impractical to recover the aircraft. Two Detachment SIX personnel were slightly injured.

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21 FEB A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 638589, while rolling off a target on an attack took a hit in the mini-guns flash suppressor causing light damage to the weapons systems and minor injuries to three Detachment ONE personnel by shrapnel.

22 FEB Detachment FIVE began staging from the Chau Doc operating base, moving from the YRBM 16.

26 FEB Detachment Four began staging from Phu Loi, about 20 miles north of Saigon. This marks another SEAWOLF first by providing close air support for the Riverine Forces in this area.

03 MAR LCDR Ronald A. Rucks, USN, relieved CDR Stanley Briggs, USN, as OINC of Detachment TWO at Nha Be.

08 MAR A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 6600590, experienced an engine failure and autorotated into four feet of salt water at coordinates YSO172. Resultant corrosion and structural damage to the aircraft made repair impracticable. No Detachment TWO personnel were injured.

13 MAR C LCDR Guy A. Ishiguro, USN, relieved Lcdr James A. Caldwell, USN, as OINC of Detachment Four at Ben Luc.

25 MAR A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 8414081, while carrying out an attack had a 7.62mm round detonate outside the firing chamber after being cycled through the mini-guns due possibly to a defective primer. One Detachment FOUR gunner was slightly injured by shrapnel. No damage to the aircraft was noted.

27 MAR A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 622034, while breaking from a rocker run, received intensive fire and had a round hit the right skid toe. One Detachment FIVE gunner was injured by shrapnel.

02 APR At Detachment ONE, Nam Can, a crewman was slightly injured by shrapnel from a .50 cal. misfire.

07 APR During a practice autorotation, a SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 6413990, lost RPM, and crashed on the runway at Ca Mau. The aircraft was destroyed, and both pilots sustained major injuries. No crewmen were aboard. Further investigation is pending.

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14 APR CAPTAIN C. O. BORGSTROM, JR., USN, RELIEVED CAPTAIN M. J. TWITE, USN, JR, AS COMMANDING OFFICER of HA(L)-3.

14 APR A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 6621970, WAS STRUCK by enemy fire. The pilot and one crewman received minor wounds. The aircraft sustained minor damage.

19 APR A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 014083, received enemy fire on the completion of a rocket run. A round struck the washout of a 17 lb. rocket and initiated a low order detonation. A03 J. A. WALL, 874 69 62, the left door gunner was struck in the head by shrapnel and killed. The aircraft sustained minor shrapnel damage.

29 APR DURING A SEAL EXTRACTION, A SEALORD HH-1K, BUREAU NUMBER 157200 AND A SEAWOLF UH-1B, BUREAU NUMBER 014030, THE COVER AIRCRAFT, CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE. THE SEALORD CO-PILOT AND ONE SEAWOLF CREWMAN RECEIVED minor wounds. Both aircraft sustained minor damage.

03 MAY LCDR CHARLES R. HALL, USN, RELIEVED LCDR RICHARD C. STRAND, USN, AS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF DETACHMENT NINE ABOARD THE YRB-21.

05 MAY A SEALORD HH-1K, BUREAU NUMBER 157202, RECEIVED MAIN ROTOR BLADE DAMAGE CAUSED BY STRIKING A WHIP ANTENNA WHILE PERFORMING A MEDEVAC ABOARD A TANGO BOAT. NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED.

09 MAY A SEAWOLF UH-1B, BUREAU NUMBER 638540, RECEIVED SIX HITS, INCLUDING ONE THROUGH A FUEL CELL, WHICH PRECLUDED THE AIRCRAFT FROM BEING FLOWN OUT OF ADVANCED TACTICAL SUPPORT BASE SOLID ANCHOR. ONE DETACHMENT ONE PILOT RECEIVED MINOR FACIAL SCRATCHES FROM SHRAPNEL.

15 MAY DETACHMENT SIX BEGAN STAGING FROM PHU LOI ABOUT TWENTY MILES NORTH OF SAIGON, moving from the LST IN THE GULF OF THAILAND NEAR SONG ON DOC.

15 MAY LCDR RUSSELL J. HENRY, USN, RELIEVED LCDR JAMES E. JOPLIN, USN, AS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF DETACHMENT EIGHT AT RACH GIA.

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22 MAY A SEAWOLF door-mounted M-60 machine gun overheated during an attack causing a round in the feed tray to cook off. One Detachment ONE gunner received slight facial wounds, but serious injury was prevented due to his visor being down.

28 MAY A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 013939, was destroyed when it took a direct 75mm recoilless hit while on the flight deck of the YRBM-21. No Detachment NINE personnel were injured. UH-1B, Bureau Number 012923 also sustained shrapnel holes while parked on the flight deck.

30 MAY A SEAWOLF UH-1B received an AK-47 round through the left doorpost, and one Detachment SEVEN personnel was injured slightly in the back.

02 JUN LCDR A. K. PELLERIN, USN, relieved LCDR J. H. LONG, USN, as Officer in Charge of Detachment ONE, ATSB Solid Anchor.

05 JUN LCDR R. K. STONER, USN, relieved LCDR P. HOFFMAN, USN, as Officer in Charge of Detachment SIX, Located at Phu Loi.

05 JUN A SEAWOLF UH-1B, Bureau Number 621970, was hit in the tail boom while in a circle left at 1000 feet. No other damage was noted, and there were no injuries.

15 JUN HU(L) 3 began use of the UH-1M, a UH-1C with a larger more powerful engine. The eventual conversion of two more of these aircraft will result in Detachment NINE, the Squadron's only ship based Detachment, being better able to fulfill its' assigned mission.

15 JUN LCDR D. G. WINTER, USN, relieved LCDR C. V. CHRISTENSEN, USN, as Officer in Charge of Detachment SEVEN, LSB Dong Tam.

05 JUL DETACHMENT NINE moved from YRBM-21 located ATTAN SAM to the USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167), normally located at XR9682, near the mouth of the Mekong River. DETACHMENT FIVE, Chau Doc assumed the additional operational responsibilities from Detachment NINE's previous area of operation (AO).

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29 JUL DETACHMENT NINE moved from the USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST 1167) to the USS H. M. COOK (LST 1170) located off Thanh Phu.

HA(L) 3 has operated for almost four months without an accident. In view of the high number of hours (3000 - 3500) the squadron logs each month, this is a vast improvement when it is compared to the twelve accidents experienced by HA(L)-3 in fiscal year 1971 and eleven in fiscal year 1970 with twelve fatalities and nineteen serious injuries involved.

01 AUG LCDR Ronald A. RUCKS, USN, was relieved as Officer in Charge of Detachment Two, Nha Be, by LCDR Lawrence L. O'NEIL, USN.

01 AUG Detachment NINE engaged a large junk off the coast at coordinates X5955200. The junk was damaged and captured by PCF's who also took three prisoners of war.

11 AUG SEAWOLF 326, Bureau Number 008589, received approximately eleven hits while engaging enemy troops in Kien Phong Province in support of RF/PF ground forces. The aircraft was flown to Chau Doc Operating base where, after examining the damaged main rotor blades, it was decided to airlift the helicopter to Binh Thuy via U.S. Army CH-47 for repairs. There were no personnel casualties resulting from the incident.

15 AUG SEAWOLF 330, Bureau Number 014083, received one hit from a large caliber automatic weapon while placing a strike. There were no personnel casualties resulting from the incident.

24 AUG SEAWOLF 321, Bureau Number 622034, while parked in revetment at Chau Doc Operating Base, was struck by the aft rotor blades of a U.S. Navy CH-46 that was landing at the P.O.L. A large section of the main rotor blade was ripped off and the aircraft was airlifted out by a U.S. Army CH-47 the next day, repaired and returned to service as was the CH-46. Though shrapnel was thrown extensively around the pad, there were no personnel casualties.

28 AUG SEAWOLF 330, Bureau Number 014083, Pilot: LCDR WOODRUFF, USN, Detachment FIVE, received severe damage while practicing autorotations during VNAF Exchange Program Training. Cause was an engine failure at an altitude and airspeed that precluded a normal safe autorotation landing.

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Enclosure (1)