

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

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15 Feb 1968

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 January 1968, submission of
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1B
Encl: (1) MAG-16 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

E. O. REED

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
Marine Aircraft Group 16
Marble Mountain Air Facility
Republic of Vietnam
Period covered: 1 through 31 January 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I
Organizational Data

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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1. Command Composition

<u>BILLET</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>
CO, MAG-16	E. O. REED	Colonel	1-31 January 1968
XO, MAG-16	S. G. BEAL	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
Adjutant	A. L. MADSEN	1stLt	1-31 January 1968
S-1 Officer	T. A. GOLDSBOROUGH	Major	1-31 January 1968
S-2 Officer	D. V. HOLLES	Major	1-31 January 1968
S-3 Officer	F. M. KLEPPSATTEL, Jr.	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
S-4 Officer	R. LEWIS	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
CO, H&MS-16	L. J. FIANAGAN	LtCol	1-6 January 1968
CO, H&MS-16	H. A. BRUCE	LtCol	7-31 January 1968
CO, MABS-16	S. J. FULTON	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
CO, HMM-265	W. R. BEELEER	LtCol	1-12 January 1968
CO, HMM-265	W. L. WHELAN	Major	13-31 January 1968
CO, HMM-363	F. E. AILGOOD	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
CO, VMO-2	M. G. ROBBINS	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
CO, HMM-463	J. L. SADOWSKI	LtCol	1-31 January 1968
CO, 245th SAC	L. W. CARTEN	Major, AUS	1-31 January 1968

2. Task Organization

H&MS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN
MABS-16 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN
HMM-265 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN
HMM-363 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN
VMO-2 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN
HMM-463 - Marble Mountain Air Facility, RVN

3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
H&MS-16	67	484	0	0
MABS-16	22	594	3	28
HMM-265	37	169	1	3
HMM-363	48	181	1	0
VMO-2	38	150	1	0
HMM-463	50	244	1	0

4. Important Visitors to the Command

a. Brigadier General R. P. KELLER, Assistant Wing Commander First Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the Command on 6 January 1968.

b. General L. F. CHAPMAN, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General R. E. CUSHMAN, Commanding General III MAF, Major General K. B. McCUTCHEON, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Major General N. J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the Command on 8 January 1968.

c. Major General N. J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, visited the command on 28 January 1968.

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PART II
Narrative Summary

ENCLOSURE (1)

1. Special Operations

a. Operation Badger Tooth	1-2 January
b. Operation Auburn	1-4 January
c. Operation Lancaster/Lancaster II	1-31 January
d. Operation Osceola/Osceola II	1-31 January
e. Operation Neosho/Neosho II	1-31 January
f. Operation Scotland	1-31 January
g. Operation Kentucky	1-31 January
h. Operation Napoleon	1-31 January
i. Operation Wheeler/Wallowa	1-31 January
j. Operation Muscatine	1-31 January
k. Operation Flying Dragon	1-31 January
l. Operation Lam Son 179	17-31 January
m. Operation Badger Catch	25-28 January
n. Operation Fortress Sentry	28-29 January
o. Operation Fortress Attack	29-31 January
p. Operation Jeb Stuart	29-31 January

2. General Summary

a. The main enemy effort against MAG-16 came on 30 January when MMAF received incoming enemy mortar rounds and on 31 January when MMAF received incoming enemy rockets. The main enemy effort against An Hoa Airfield came on 3 January when 11 satchel charges were catapulted inside the perimeter towards the northeast side end of the runway. A more detailed break down of these attacks is contained in the Chronological Summary.

b. MAG-16 supported operations in all TAOR's. The Group also supported U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, ROK Marine Corps and ARVN units throughout I Corps.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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3. Chronological Summary

1 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal.

2 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR two aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one VMO-2 UH-1E, coord ZC 208591, no injuries; one HMM-363 UH-34D, coord AT 979601, one minor injury. In the Phu Bai TAOR two HMM-463 CH-53A aircraft were hit by enemy fire; one at coord. YD 650340, no injuries; one at coord. YD 465376, no injuries.

3 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: three HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft, coord. BT 013642 resulting in one fatal injury and one minor injury to passengers; one HMM-363 UH-34D, coord. AT 972528, no injuries. At 0200H An Hoa Airfield received 11 incoming enemy satchel charges which were catapulted inside the perimeter towards the northeast end of the runway. No injuries or damage were incurred.

4 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one HMM-265 CH-46A, coord. ZC 179801, no injuries; one HMM-16 O-1C, coord. AT 873512, no injuries.

5 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: three HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft; one at coord. AT 904548, no injuries; one at coord. AT 840480, no injuries; one at coord. BT 048605, no injuries.

6 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR two HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one at coord. unknown, no injuries; one at coord. BT 036616, no injuries. MAG-16 units conducted an emergency extraction of recon team "War Cloud" at coord. AT 827617.

7 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR two HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft were hit by enemy fire at coord. BT 135593, no injuries.

8 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft was hit by enemy fire at coord. PT 120600, one minor injury. At 1915H one HMM-463 CH-53A (YH-37 Bureau Number 153710) was declared overdue and missing after disappearing during an IFR flight. Search and rescue operations commenced.

9 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one VMO-2 UH-1E was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 987612, one minor injury. The search for the missing CH-53A aircraft continued with negative sightings and search operations hampered by inclement weather.

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10 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal. The search for the missing CH-53A aircraft continued with negative sightings and search operations hampered by inclement weather.

11 January - In the Chu Lai area one HMM-363 UH-34D was hit by enemy fire at unknown coord., no injuries. In the Danang TAOR two HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one at coord. AT 960515, no injuries; one at coord. AT 925515, no injuries. The wreckage of the missing CH-53A aircraft was sighted by search aircraft at coord. YD 234260, no apparent survivors. Adverse weather conditions precluded a search of the crash site until 19 January when a recon team was inserted. The aircraft suffered severe burn damage and there was no possibility of survivors.

12 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-463 CH-53A was hit by enemy fire at coord. BT 104584, no injuries.

13 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal.

14 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-363 UH-34D was hit by enemy fire at coord. BT 018567, no injuries.

15 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-363 UH-34D was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 914504, no injuries.

16 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one VMO-2 UH-1E was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 8833, no injuries.

17 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-265 CH-46A was hit by enemy fire at coord. BT 082625, no injuries. In the Dong Ha area one H&MS-16 O-1G was hit by enemy fire at coord. YD 168773, no injuries.

18 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal.

19 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one HMM-265 CH-46A, coord. BT 075615, no injuries; one HMM-463 CH-53A, coord. unknown, no injuries.

20 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one HMM-363 UH-34D, coord. AT 911502, no injuries; one HMM-363 UH-34D, coord. AT 9352, no injuries; one HMM-463 CH-53A, coord. BT 091600, no injuries.

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21 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one HMM-265 CH-46A was damaged when the aircraft detonated a mine while landing during a recon team insertion at coord. AT 999463 resulting in four minor injuries to passengers.

22 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one VMO-2 UH-1E was hit by enemy fire at coord. ZC 137962, no injuries.

23 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal.

24 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one VMO-2 UH-1E was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 107572, no injuries. One HMM-265 CH-46A crashed on Ba Na Mountain resulting in strike damage to the aircraft and minor injuries to the crew and passengers.

25 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one H&MS-16 O-1C made a forced landing at coord. BT 048803 due to engine failure, no injuries.

26 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: one HMM-265 CH-46A, coord. BT 1757, no injuries; one HMM-363 UH-34D, coord. unknown, no injuries. In the Khe Sanh area one HMM-463 CH-53A was hit by enemy fire at coord. XD 777438, no injuries.

27 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR one VMO-2 UH-1E was hit by enemy fire at coord. AT 860504, one minor injury. At Khe Sanh Airfield one H&MS-16 O-1G crashed during take-off while under enemy artillery attack resulting in major injury to the pilot.

28 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal. In the Khe Sanh area one HMM-463 CH-53A was hit by enemy fire at coord. XD 863415, no injuries.

29 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area and Danang TAOR were normal.

30 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: four HMM-265 CH-46A; one at coord. AT 959659, no injuries; three at coord. BT 032719, no injuries; six HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft; one at coord. BT 045519, no injuries; one at coord. unknown, no injuries; one at coord. BT 030579, no injuries; one at coord. BT 030722, no injuries; one at coord. AT 963674, no injuries; one at coord. BT 045519, no injuries. At 0300H MAF received incoming enemy mortar rounds resulting in no injuries to MAG-16 personnel and no damage to MAG-16 units. Four VMO-2 UH-1E armed helicopters were launched in defense of MAF and engaged enemy units throughout the reporting period.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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31 January - Operations in the Chu Lai area were normal. In the Danang TAOR the following aircraft were hit by enemy fire: two HMM-265 CH-46A aircraft; one at coord. BT 050512, no injuries; one at coord. BT 164588, one minor injury; three VMO-2 UH-1E aircraft; one at coord. BT 056643, no injuries; one at coord. BT 035582, one minor injury; one at coord. unknown, no injuries; six HMM-363 UH-34D aircraft; one at coord. BT 032509, one minor injury; one at MMAF, no injuries; one at coord. BT 161604, no injuries; one at coord. BT 951622, no injuries; one at coord. BT 160585, no injuries; one at coord. BT 075515, no injuries. MAG-16 units conducted an emergency extraction of recon team "Sailfish" at coord. AT 8665. At 0338H MMAF received 29 incoming enemy 122mm rockets resulting in one minor injury to MAG-16 personnel and the following damage: 1 CH-53A, substantial damage; 4 CH-53A, limited damage; 10 CH-46A, limited damage; 8 UH-34D, limited damage. Four VMO-2 UH-1E armed helicopters were launched in defense of MMAF and engaged enemy units throughout the reporting period.

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PART III
Significant Events

ENCLOSURE (1.)

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1. Personnel

a. Number Joined	179
b. Number Dropped	310
c. Promotions	
(1) 1stLt to Capt	6
(2) 2ndLt to 1stLt	1
(3) SSgt to GySgt	2
(4) Sgt to SSgt	6
(5) Cpl to Sgt	8
(6) LCpl to Cpl	2
(7) PFC to LCpl	3
(8) Pvt to PFC	2

2. Awards

a. Bronze Star Medal

Cpl M. REYES	HMM-265
Cpl M. S. RUTHERFORD	HMM-363

b. Distinguished Flying Cross

Capt H. L. TRIMBLE III	H&MS-16
Capt N. J. CHILEWSKI	HMM-463

c. Air Medal

H&MS-16	91
MABS-16	98
HMM-265	61
HMM-363	350
VMO-2	243
HMH-463	191

d. Navy Commendation Medal

HMM-265	1
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e. Purple Heart Medal

H&MS-16	1
MABS-16	1
HMM-265	7
HMM-363	3
VMO-2	1
HMH-463	3

3. Casualties (Hostile)

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Cpl	H. W. HOUSER, Jr.	2Jan68	8 miles SSW Danang, RVN
K Capt	J. T. CHAPMAN	8Jan68	18 miles S Dong Ha, RVN
K Capt	F. L. SCHRAM	8Jan68	18 miles S Dong Ha, RVN
K SSgt	B. W. OLSON	8Jan68	18 miles S Dong Ha, RVN
K Cpl	P. S. STRAND, Jr.	8Jan68	18 miles S Dong Ha, RVN
K Cpl	V. B. VENEGAS	8Jan68	18 miles S Dong Ha, RVN
K Cpl	L. E. SMITH	9Jan68	7½ miles S Danang, RVN
1stLt	F. G. WICKERSHAM III	15Jan68	16 miles SW Danang, RVN
Major	K. R. BUSKE	27Jan68	Quang Tri AF, RVN
Capt	P. F. MEE	27Jan68	Quang Tri AF, RVN
Capt	D. E. LOVE	27Jan68	Quang Tri AF, RVN
Capt	J. A. GUTHRIE	27Jan68	12 miles SW Danang, RVN
1stLt	A. F. PANNELL	27Jan68	Khe Sanh AF, RVN
1stLt	H. H. FLEMING III	30Jan68	2 miles SE Danang, RVN
LCpl	R. C. CREMER	31Jan68	MMAF, Danang, RVN
Major	J. W. SHOAF	31Jan68	9 miles S Danang, RVN
HM3	F. M. NEWCOMB	31Jan68	12½ miles S Danang, RVN
GySgt	J. H. DURAL	31Jan68	2 miles NE Hoi An, RVN

4. Civic Action

a. Medical. MAG-16 doctors and corpsmen held 12 sick calls treating a total of 1,000 patients. Classes in first aid and sanitation were held for 9 Vietnamese nationals. MAG-16 dental personnel treated a total of 385 patients.

b. Education. MAG-16 held 1½ hours of English instruction for 294 students.

c. Projects. Under the supervision of MAG-16, a pre-Tet festival was held on 21 January for the village of Hoa-Long. Approximately 3750 presents were distributed on behalf of MAG-16, MCB-128, MCB-53, 3rd. Amtrac Bn. and 5th Comm Bn.

d. Giveaway. MAG-16 donated 3 rolls of barbed wire and 9 cots to the Hoa-Long dispensary. 240 gifts and candy were presented to the workers for their children. 2 cases of C-rations were given to the

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Youth Force in the refugee village of Nui Kim-Son. 1 hand pump was given to 1st Logistic Command for Son-Thuy II.

e. Summary. Due to Tet and the military situation, Civic Action projects have been curtailed during this period. MAG-16 continued as area coordinator for Civic Action programs and projects. Within this area the following units are represented:

MCB-53	3rd Amtrac Bn.
MCB-128	1st Log.
5th Comm Bn.	

5. Moral/Welfare

a. Schedule of Weekly Religious Services

<u>Sunday</u>	Catholic Confession	0730
	Catholic	0800
	Protestant Sunday School	0900
	Protestant Divine Services	1000
	Latter Day Saints Service	1300
	Catholic Confession	1730
	Catholic Mass	1800
	Protestant Evening Services	1900
	Protestant Communion	2000
<u>Monday through Saturday</u>	Catholic Mass	1800
	Protestant Prayer Services	1900
<u>Thursday</u>	World Religious Classes (Interdenominational)	1830
<u>Saturday</u>	Protestant Choir Practice	

6. Intelligence/Counterintelligence

- a. 121 no-hit fire incidents were reported during the month.
- b. 58 hit fire incidents were reported during the month.

c. 111 spot reports of Intelligence value were received from air crews and other sources, evaluated and disseminated to subordinate, higher and adjacent headquarters. This is a decrease of 20 from the previous month, attributable to the displacement of the H&S-16 O-1C/G aircraft north during the latter part of the month.

d. Statistical Data

Flight hours per fire incident	20.8
Flight hours per aircraft hit	123.9
Flight hours per spot report	64.7

e. The enemy conducted two attacks by fire against Marble Mountain Air Facility; fifty-one 82mm mortar rounds were received on 30 January and twenty-nine 122mm rockets on 31 January. In both attacks, the majority of rounds impacted in the U.S. Army tenant activity areas.

7. Air Operations

<u>HMM-265</u>	<u>CH-46A</u>		<u>HMM-363</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>		
Hours	1274.5		Hours	1452.8		
Sorties	3867		Sorties	3024		
Pax	8422		Pax	2104		
Evacs	514		Evacs	1133		
Cargo	602.1T		Cargo	31.8T		
<u>VMO-2</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>	<u>Armed /Slick</u>	<u>HMM-463</u>	<u>CH-53A</u>	<u>TAR</u>	
Hours	1688.3	1256.1/432.2	Hours	1179.8	29 H-34	
Sorties	4286		Sorties	3706	14 H-1	
Pax	1576		Pax	11,318	9 H-46	
Evacs	9		Evacs	0	3 A-4	
Cargo	0		Cargo	4,081.2T	1 O-1	
<u>H&MS-16</u>	<u>O-1C/G</u>	<u>C-117D</u>	<u>UH-34D</u>	<u>CH-46A</u>	<u>CH-53A</u>	<u>UH-1E</u>
Hours	1435.5	127.1	14.4	0	12.3	0
Sorties	753	92	12	0	17	0
Pax	0	1271	0	0	0	0
Evacs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cargo	0	19.0T	0	0	0	0
<u>245th SAC</u>	<u>OV-1B/C</u>		<u>MAG-16</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		
Hours	955.0		Hours	8139.7		
Sorties	558		Sorties	16,315		
Pax	0		Pax	24,691		
Evacs	0		Evacs	1656		
Cargo	0		Cargo	4734.1T		

8. Ground Defense. During the month of January at Marble Mountain Air Facility, additional bunkers were built and the installation of perimeter observation towers was completed. Defensive wire is constantly being worked on and improved. MAF came under enemy mortar attack on 30 January and enemy rocket attack on 31 January.

9. Motor Transport. During the month, the MAG-16 Motor Transport section traveled 63,721 miles, hauled 1,271,000 gallons of water, 32,400 gallons of MOCAS, 35,678 gallons of diesel fuel, 2,170 gallons of A/C oil, 5,973 short tons of cargo and transported 31,781 passengers.

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10. TAFDS. During the month, the TAFDS section issued the following amounts of fuel:

<u>Station</u>	<u>115/145</u>	<u>JP-4</u>
MMAF	137,929 gal.	620,172 gal.
An Hoa	3,417 gal.	35,981 gal.
Total	<u>141,346 gal.</u>	<u>656,153 gal.</u>

11. Crash Crew. The Crash Crew responded as follows:

<u>Field</u>	<u>A/C Standbys</u>	<u>A/C Fires</u>	<u>Structural</u>	<u>A/C Crash</u>
MMAF	46	2	2	0
An Hoa	5	1	1	0

12. Base Operations. During the month, the reconstruction of runway shoulders and overrun neared completion. The completion of airfield reconstruction is estimated to be 15 February 1968. The GCA pad was completed and unit installed by MATCU-68 personnel. To complete the installation, a GCA reflector remains to be installed and GCA personnel are required. The GCA flight pattern must be checked and RAPCON landlines installed to Danang Air Base before the unit is operational.

13. Weather Service. The weather section supported all MAG-16 flight operations in the An Hoa and MMAF areas.

14. Food Services. There were approximately 187,000 meals served at the Marble Mountain Air Facility messhall during the month.

15. Base Development/Utilities

a. Water Point. The water point personnel processed 1,562,725 gallons of water during the month, 81,400 gallons of which were non-potable.

b. Paint Shop. The paint shop personnel completed eighteen work orders.

c. Electric Shop. Electric shop personnel completed one hundred seven work orders.

d. Plumbing Shop. Plumbing shop personnel completed nineteen work orders.

e. Refrigeration Shop. Refrigeration shop personnel completed thirteen work orders.

f. Carpenter Shop. Carpenter shop personnel completed sixty-five work orders.

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g. Generator Shop. Generator shop personnel performed all first and second echelon maintenance with a minimum of breakdown.

h. Laundry. The Base Laundry processed 39,899 pounds of clothing and collected organizational gear to turn over to the civilian laundry service. The Base Laundry continued its individual bundle service to all ranks.

16. Exchange. During the month, exchange sales were \$49,124.00. Sales for James S. LEE Tailor were \$2,082.05. Sales for Saehan Photo Service were \$2,884.95. Sales for Huynh Phung Gift Shop were \$6,321.00. Sales for SAI Tailor were \$10,129.50. Sales for LOC SVF LTD. Barber Shop were \$1,037.30.

17. Ordnance. During the month, the Ordnance section issued 592,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 6,391 rounds of 2.75 white phosphorus and high explosive rockets, 1 3/4 tons of assorted smoke and chemical agents and 987 rounds of other assorted high explosives.

18. Logistics. Air Freight and Passenger Section processed the following:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Pounds Cargo</u>
MMAF	431	193,829
An Hoa	1,698	1,152,015

19. Communications

a. During the mortar and rocket attacks of 30 and 31 January the following damage was sustained:

(1) One 12 pair cable and TOM-20 cable in the HMM-363 area were damaged and repaired 30 January.

(2) Four 12 pair cables and a TA-125 terminal box in the O-1 Detachment area were damaged on 31 January. The cables were repaired and the terminal box replaced.

b. Message traffic from 1st MAW increased by 1,031. Total volume of messages processed was 8,045. 145 hours of down time was experienced due to faulty equipment.



c. The following transactions were effected by the repair section:

(1) 121 items of equipment processed.

(2) 103 items of equipment returned to users.

(3) 10 items of equipment evacuated to higher echelons of maintenance.

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(4) 7 items of equipment returned from higher echelons of maintenance.

(5) 39 requisitions processed by supply section.

(6) 3 items of test equipment sent to calibration.