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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/DFR/ccd
5750
4 Nov 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AAZ)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
(2) Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
Subj: COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) MCO 5750.1
(c) FMFPACO 5750.8

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the information contained herein is submitted.

Paul W. Niesen
PAUL W. NIESEN

HMM-161

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 161

QUANG TRI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1 OCTOBER THROUGH 31 OCTOBER 1968

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PART I (U) Organizational Data

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer	LtCol. PAUL W. NIESEN	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
Executive Officer	Major JOSEPH L. FELTER	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
S-2 Officer	Capt. TIMOTHY H. SMITH	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
S-3 Officer	Major MARVIN L. CROWDIS	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
Safety Officer	Capt. MILTON T. WARRING	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
NATOPS Officer	Capt. RUDOLPH H. FAHRNER	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68
SgtMajor	SgtMaj. JOHN H. GOODFELLOW	1 Oct to 31 Oct 68

b. Designation/Location (U)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMEFPAC, Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam.

c. Average Strength (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	47
Officers Assigned (Ground)	4
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted Strength	<u>203</u>
Total Strength	255

d. Important Visitors (U)

There were no important visitors to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 during the period 1 October to 31 October 1968.

PART II Narrative Summary (C)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 provided the following helicopter services for the 3rd Marine Division, the majority of which supported Operations Lancaster II and Scotland II.

Statistics: 25,244 troops/passengers carried, 989.4 tons of cargo transported, 1268 personnel medically evacuated, 57 reconnaissance teams inserted and 30 teams extracted. The aforementioned support resulted in 1829.8 flight hours, 7820 sorties flown and 4036 tasks accomplished. The squadron was fragged for 159 missions of which 151 were completed for a mission completion rate of 94% per cent.

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PART III Significant Events (C)

- 1 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 35.4 hours, 106 sorties in support of mission 401, carrying 865 troops from XD8559, XD8659, XD9058 to Vandergrift Combat Base.
- 2 Oct 68: 10 recon inserts and 8 extractions were accomplished during the day. 1 aircraft encountered sniper fire when inserting "Badmitton" at XD949395 but no casualties occurred. 2 Huey gunships provided air cover.
- 3 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 200 sorties, 126 tasks, carrying 1044 troops for 45.9 flight hours.
- 4 Oct 68: HMM-161 supported the army by lifting 281 troops from YD018683 to YD129680. Huey gunships provided cover with no incidents.
- 5 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 138 sorties, carrying 722 passengers for 33.8 hours and, augmented by 12 aircraft from HMM-262 flew the troops from Vandergrift Combat Base to XD792378 and XD845439. There wasn't any indication of enemy contact throughout the lift.
- 6 Oct 68: Mission 401, which consisted of putting 1200 ARVN's on Hill 881, tallied 134 sorties, 64 tasks, 1200 troops in 45.5 flight hours. No enemy contact was experienced.
- 7 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 114 sorties, 72 tasks, 923 troops for 34.0 flight hours. Mission 401 was in support of the 3rd MarDiv. 4 Huey gunships provided cover.
- 8-10 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 11 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 226 sorties, 130 tasks, carrying 272 troops and 54.7 tons of cargo for 59.6 hours. Supporting the 3rd MarDiv in Scotland II. 1 aircraft performed a recon extract under fire and took several hits. The aircraft suppressed the fire adequately enough so that no injuries occurred.
- 12-14 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for 3rd MarDiv.
- 15 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 376 sorties, 175 tasks, carrying 1471 troops, 40.5 tons of cargo for 73.4 flight hours. 2 aircraft of 6 aircraft on mission 401 took mortar fire in the zone at XD989667 but nothing was damaged and no one hurt. 2 Huey gunships provided gun support.
- 17 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv. 1 aircraft missing in marginal weather at last known position was YD0437, time 1855H.

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- 18 Oct 68: The missing aircraft since 161855H was located at 1130H position YD042374. The aircraft was believed to have hit a ridge line in clouds and rain showers with 6 persons on board receiving fatal injuries.
- 19-21 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 22 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 420 sorties, 229 tasks, carrying 1571 troops 51.3 tons of cargo for 79.0 flight hours. One troop involved taking a unit out of the DMZ, consisting of 597 troops from XD9868.
- 23-25 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 26 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 252 sorties, carrying 1645 troops for 46.3 hours in support of Scotland II. Pickup was made at Vandergrift Combat Base and the drop points were XD9027 XD9133, XD9748, XD9646, XD9545, and XD9328. Huey gunships and fixed wing provided air support and no enemy contact was encountered.
- 27-29 Oct 68: Provided helicopter support for the 3rd MarDiv.
- 30 Oct 1968: HMM-161 flew 436 sorties, 202 tasks carrying 1562 troops, 32.6 tons of cargo for 82.9 flight hours, in support of the 3rd MarDiv.
- 31 Oct 68: HMM-161 flew 435 sorties, 122 tasks carrying 1279 troops 33.7 tons of cargo for 68.5 hours. On mission 401,402, 403 for the 3rd MarDiv.

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