

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-161
Marine Aircraft Group-16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3:RCA:crm
5750
03A30069
4 November 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-36

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for period 16 through 31 October 1969

1. In accordance with reference (a), the subject report is hereby submitted.


R. W. CARR

HM 161

CMD CARON

16-31 Oct 1969

Downgraded at 3 year
Intervals; Declassified after
12 years

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY OF
MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-161
PHU BAI, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM
16-31 OCTOBER 1969

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PART I. Organizational Data (U)

a. Command and Staff (U)

Commanding Officer.....	Major R. W. CARR.....	16-31 OCT 69
Executive Officer.....	Major R. J. ADAMS.....	16-25 OCT 69
Executive Officer.....	Major L. G. POOL.....	26-31 OCT 69
S-1 Officer.....	1stLt J. M. CHAPIN.....	16-31 OCT 69
S-2 Officer.....	1stLt J. A. BOULIE.....	16-31 OCT 69
S-3 Officer.....	Major L. G. POOL.....	16-25 OCT 69
S-3 Officer.....	1stLt J. N. BONNER.....	26-31 OCT 69
S-4 Officer.....	1stLt S. H. PHILLIPS..	16-31 OCT 69
A/C Maint. Officer.....	Capt. P. D. ALFORD.....	16-31 OCT 69
Aviation Safety Officer.....	1stLt V. R. GEER.....	16-22 OCT 69
Aviation Safety Officer.....	1stLt B. A. FRALLIC...	23-31 OCT 69
MMOPS Officer.....	1stLt J. N. BONNER.....	16-31 OCT 69
Sgt Maj.....	SgtMaj J. GIBSON.....	16-31 OCT 69

b. Designation/Location (U)

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161, Marine Aircraft Group-16, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPAC
Phu Bai, Republic of South Vietnam 16-31 October 1969.

c. Average Strength (C)

Officers Assigned (Naval Aviators)	37
Officers Assigned (Ground)	3
Officers Assigned (Navy)	1
Enlisted.....	<u>164</u>
Total Strength.....	205

d. Important Visitors (U)

On 31 October the following Generals were on hand for the presentation of the National Transportation Award to MM-161:

Lietenant General	Henry W. BUSE Jr.
Lietenant General	Herman NICKERSON
Major General	William K. JONES
Major General	William G. THRASH
Major General	Edwin B. WHEELER
Brigader General	Louis H. WILSON
Brigader General	Ralph H. SPANJER

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PART II. Narative Summary (C)

The second half of the month found HMM-161 continuing with the relocation of Marine units as well as flying numerous Recon inserts and extracts. On the 23rd of October, HMM-161 began flying all of its missions in the Danang area. We were primarily engaged in resupply, visual recon and administrative missions. Pilots and crews adapted quickly to the new working area and techniques required to fly in the flatlands which dominate the 1st Marine Division TAOR. The end of the month was highlighted by the Squadron's acceptance of the National Defense Transportation Association Award, presented by LtGen H. BUSE Jr.

Statistics: There were 3,762 troops/passengers carried, 273.7 tons of cargo transported and 61 personnel medically evacuated. This support resulted in 592.2 flight hours, 1,591 sorties flown and 809 tasks accomplished.

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PART III. Sequence of Events

- 16 OCT - The Squadron was delegated to fly six missions today. Flying 44.9 hours, HM-161 carried 321 passengers and delivered 24.5 tons of resupply to 3rd Marine Division and US Army units. Squadron pilots flew 111 sorties and completed 60 tasks. CATTLECALL Five and Six piloted by Lt. S. E. PHILLIPS and Lt. J. W. BIJAK respectively, performed six recon team insertions and six extractions. Two of the sites selected for insertions were located within the confines of the Demilitarized Zone.
- 17 OCT - Today HM-161 carried 156 passengers and delivered one ton of cargo while completing 39 tasks in 27.1 hours of flight time.
- 18 OCT - Today the Squadron was fraged for eight missions to support the 3rd Marine Division and US Army units. HM-161 aircraft transported 204 passengers, nine tons of cargo and completed 34 tasks. The Squadron logged a total of 24.7 hours of flight time.
- 19 OCT - HM-161 supported HMH-462 in that Squadrons embarkation operations as they boarded the USS Cleveland. We completed the missions assigned flying 37.3 hours. The Squadron carried 195 passengers and delivered four tons of cargo while completing 40 tasks in 59 sorties. We extracted six med-evacs from the field including five priorities and one emergency.
- 20 OCT - Today the Squadron was fraged for six missions. Our aircraft completed 40 tasks and flew 78 sorties in 31.0 hours of flight time. The Squadron carried 109 passengers and delivered seven tons of cargo.
- 21 OCT - Flying in support of the 3rd Marine Division, the Squadron completed 48 tasks and 90 sorties in 36.8 flight hours. there were 209 passengers transported in addition to one emergency US and four Vietnamese casualties evacuated to medical facilities.
- 22 OCT - HM-161 was delegated to fly ten missions today. The Squadron flew 112 sorties and completed 52 tasks in 44.7 hours of flight time. We carried 349 passengers and 9.5 tons of cargo in support of the 3rd Marine Division, 1st Marine Division and units of the 101st Airborne Division.
- 23 OCT - Today HM-161 began a new phase of operations. Although we had been supporting the 1st Marine Division and attached units sporadically in the past, we began to devote our full potential to their support. CATTLECALL aircraft flew 145 sorties and completed 79 tasks while logging 38.4 hours.

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PART III. Sequence of Events

- 23 OCT - A total of 287 passengers and 27.0 tons of cargo were (cont) delivered to units of the ROK Marines and the 1st Marine Division.
- 24 OCT - Flying in support of the 1st Marine Division, the Squadron flew 44.1 hours. We were fraged for six missions consisting of resupply, visual reconnaissance, and administrative tasks. We completed 67 tasks while flying 128 sorties. Our aircraft delivered 26.8 tons of resupply and carried 316 passengers to zones located in the 1st Marine Division TAOB.
- 25 OCT - HMM-161 was assigned seven missions. We flew 129 sorties, completing 60 tasks in 45.6 flight hours. Three hundred and nine passengers and 19.3 tons of cargo were transported by the Squadron.
- 26 OCT - Today the Squadron was fraged for five missions. In a day of normal resupply, CATTLECALL Aircraft delivered 39.5 tons of cargo and carried 243 passengers. We flew 153 sorties, completed 89 tasks and logged 41.8 hours of flight time.
- 27 OCT - Today HMM-161 successfully completed three missions in support of the 1st Marine Division. Major L. G. POOL evacuated 11 ARVN med-evacs. We flew 28.3 hours, delivered 15.5 tons of cargo and carried 174 passengers.
- 28 OCT - Marginal weather conditions prevailed over the entire operating area but normal resupply was conducted by HMM-161 in support of the 1st Marine Division. We delivered a total of 51.3 tons of cargo and carried 111 passengers. The Squadron flew 117 sorties and completed 73 tasks in 35.3 flight hours.
- 29 OCT - HMM-161 was delegated to fly five missions. The Squadron completed 53 tasks while flying 99 sorties in adverse weather conditions. CATTLECALL Two and Three piloted by Lt. G. V. BLACKBIRD and Lt. J. W. BIJAK evacuated five emergency, ten priority, and seventeen routine med-evac patients while flying the med-evac mission operating out of LZ Baldy. The Squadron flew 47.4 hours, delivered 12.7 tons of cargo and carried 203 passengers.
- 30 OCT - Still operating under the very poor weather conditions that continued to prevail in the flatlands south of DaNang, we flew 133 sorties and completed 92 tasks while logging 42.4 hours. The Squadron carried 26.1 tons of cargo and 416 passengers in support of ground units.

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31 OCT - Today Lt.Gen. H. W. BUSE Jr. presented the Squadron with the 4th Annual National Defense Transportation Association Award. The award recognized the exemplary performance of the Squadron in support of ground units in South Vietnam from 1 December 1968 to 31 May 1969. During this period the Squadron transported 72,367 passengers, 7,185 medevacs and 9,876,000 pounds of cargo.

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