

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 162
 Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Rear)
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Aircraft, FMF, Pacific
 Fleet Post Office, San Francisco 96601

S-1/ASH/fra
 1650
 29 May 1965

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO3D)
 Subj: History

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162 - June 1963 to June 1965

17 June 1963	HMM-162 commissioned at MCAF New River Jacksonville N. C. under command of LtCol Oliver W. CURTIS. The squadron commenced a year's training cycle prior to its overseas deployment.
24 June - 30 August 1963	Majority of the squadron was involved in a helicopter troop indoctrination program in the Norfolk, Virginia area for reservists and NROTC midshipmen.
1 - 11 July 1963	The reserve squadron from Minneapolis HMM-776 operated using the facilities and aircraft of HMM-162 for its annual training period.
12-23 August 1963	The reserve squadron from Willow Grove HMM772 carried out its annual training period in conjunction with HMM-162.
1-13 September 1963	HMM-162 in two separate detachments for approximately five (5) days apiece to NAS Atlanta for mountain flying training.
30 September - 4 October 1963	The entire squadron was deployed to Bogue Field, N. C. for SWAMPEX 1-63, the largest counter-guerilla operation ever to be held up to that time by Marines on the East Coast.
17 October 1963	HMM-162 embarked aboard USS THETIS BAY (LPH-6) at Onslow Beach, N. C.
20 October 1963	Arrived at destination, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti to aid in the relief of that Hurricane Flora stricken area.
21 October 1963	Full scale operations begun. Detachment of 2 aircraft sent to Barahona, Dominican Republic
25 October 1963	At sunset operations were completed. A total of 481 hours and 263 sorties were flown during the operation
29 October 1963	The squadron was off-loaded from USS THETIS BAY at Onslow Beach.
16 January 1964	Squadron carrier qualifications, both night and day, aboard the USS OKINAWA (LPH-3).

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10-11 February 1964 Squadron wide involvement in escape and evasion course held in "H" area of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

19 May HMM-162 command post departed MCAF New River and arrived at MCAS El Toro the following day where it awaited transportation to Okinawa.

29 May Lt Col Curtis departed CONUS and arrived at MCAF Futema Okinawa on 31 May 1964

1 June Normal operations commenced at Futema

4 June Advance party to DaNang, Republic of Vietnam (RVN)

14 June Squadron embarked aboard USS Valley Forge (LPH-8) at Buckner Bay, Okinawa with destination as DaNang

17 June Squadron off-loaded at DaNang. Commenced flying combat support missions for Army of Republic of Vietnam. At that time HMM-162 was only Marine medium helicopter squadron in RVN

8 October Last squadron personnel returned to MCAF Futema from RVN

14 October Squadron embarked aboard USS Princeton (LPH-5) at Buckner Bay for duty with the Special Landing Force (SLF)

16 October Arrived at Subic Bay, P.I.

26 October Departed Subic Bay for alert duty in South China Sea

28 October On station off of Nha Trang, RVN

2 November On station off of DaNang, RVN

10 November Ship arrived in Hong Kong

14 November Ship loaded with relief supplies for RVN which was inundated due to three consecutive typhoons

15 November Ship underway for Quang Ngai, RVN

17 November Commenced helicopter delivery of relief to Quang Ngai Province under extremely poor weather conditions

18-19 November Majority of supplies to Tam Ky

29 November Enroute to Qui Nhon

21 November Commenced off-load of supplies to Qui Nhon

23 November Relief operation completed

24 November On station at DaNang

11 December Arrived in Subic Bay

14 December Underway to avoid Typhoon Opal

16 December Arrived at Subic Bay

25 December Emergency backload and underway for patrol off of Saigon.

2 February 1965 Arrived at Subic Bay

7 February Emergency backload and underway for patrol off of Saigon.

2 March Arrived in Subic Bay for completion of tour with SLF

5 March Squadron flown to MCAF Futema

9 March Emergency return of squadron to DaNang for duty with 9th MEB

15 May Squadron returned to MCAF Futema

31 May HMM-162 returned to CONUS

O. W. Curtis
O. W. CURTIS