

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON-163
Marine Aircraft Group-16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96602

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Ser:
4 June 1967

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-16

Subj: Command Chronology, 1-31 May 1967

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology, 1-31 May 1967

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

Walter C. Kelly
WALTER C. KELLY

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HMM-163
CMD CHRON

MAY 1967

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Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

1-31 May 1967

MCAF, HUE PHU BAI, Republic of Viet-Nam

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A. PART ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanding Officer and Staff

- a. Walter C. KELLY, LtCol., Commanding Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- b. Glenn A STEPHENS, Major, Executive Officer, 1-25 May 1967
- c. Frederick A. RUECKEL, Major, Executive Officer, 25-31 May 1967
- d. Frederick A. RUECKEL, Major, Operations Officer, 1-25 May 1967
- e. Robert L. THIEN, Major, Operations Officer, 25-31 May 1967
- f. Lonnie S. UNDERHILL, Captain, Logistics Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- g. Daniel V. MCDONALD, Major, Maintenance Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- h. John E. CARROLL, Major, Aviation Safety Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- i. Charles M. HAVICAN, Captain, NATOPS Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- j. Robert L. THIEN, Major, Administration Officer, 1-25 May 1967
- k. Joseph R. GRAY, Captain, Administration Officer, 25-31 May 1967
- l. James R. FOWLER, Lieutenant, USN(MC), Medical Officer, 1-27 May 1967
- m. Floyd W. HURLBUT, Captain, Intelligence Officer, 1-31 May 1967
- n. Robert F. O'NEIL, 1/LT., Custodian, S&C, 1-31 May 1967

2. Task Organization

- a. Location - MCAF, Hue Phu Bai, Republic of Viet-Nam, 1-31 May 1967

3. Average Monthly Strength

| Marine | | Navy | |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Officer | Enlisted | Officer | Enlisted |
| 44 | 186 | 1 | 3 |

4. Important Visitors

- a. None, during this period

B. PART TWO - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of five (5) medevac missions today, one of them being a night medevac mission. Major RUECKEL, while leading a flight of three (3) aircraft on recon inserts, was forced to abort the mission when a Huey gunship was shot down. No hits were recorded by HMM-163 aircraft. The flight then assumed SAR mission. Lt HUGHES, while leading a flight of four (4) aircraft on an emergency recon extract, received smallarms fire in the LZ. No hits or injuries occurred.

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2 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eight (8) medevac missions today, two (2) of them being night medevac missions.

3 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today. Capt. GRAY, while on a resupply mission, received intense automatic weapons fire at coordinates YD 428375. No hits were recorded.

4 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of two (2) medevac missions today. Major STEPHENS, and his flight of four aircraft, while flying ARVN medevac, received small arms, automatic weapons, and recoilless rifle fire at coordinates YD 842203. Two (2) aircraft in the flight received one small arms hit each. No injuries were reported. Capt. HALL, a member of the same flight, experienced tail rotor drive failure at Quang Tri. The only damage was a broken tail wheel locking pin. No injuries occurred. Capt. HAVICAN, while leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on recon overflights, received automatic weapons fire. No hits were received.

5 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of five (5) medevac missions today, one of them being a night medevac. Lt. NELSON, enroute to Scat LZ, received automatic weapons fire at coordinates YD 535265. No hits were received.

6 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions today.

7 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of four (4) medevac missions today. Major RUECKEL, flew six (6) VIP missions totaling 60 sorties today.

8 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of five (5) medevac missions today, two (2) of them being night medevacs. Lt. NELSON, flew an emergency resupply of water to YD 283335. Major CARROLL, leading a flight of two (2) aircraft, flew an emergency blood resupply to Dong Ha and returned with five (5) Viet Cong medevacs for "A" Med.

9 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions today, two (2) of them being night medevacs. Capt. HURLBUT and Capt. BRICKELL each flew an emergency blood resupply to Dong Ha.

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10 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions today, one (1) of them being a night medevac. Capt. HALL, while on a emergency medevac, received moderate automatic weapons fire. No hits or injuries were received.

11 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of two (2) medevac missions today.

12 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of four (4) medevac missions today, three (3) of them being night medevacs. The squadron flew an ARVN troop lift today carrying a total of seven hundred and ninety-four (794) ARVN'S. LtCol. KELLY led the strike. Major MCDONALD, Major CARROLL, Capt. THIEN, and Capt. HAVICAN were the flight leaders. Light small arms fire was taken with only one hit recorded. Capt. HAVICAN'S aircraft was hit in the windshield shattering it and lightly wounding the pilot in the neck. No other injuries were reported.

13 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eleven (11) medevac missions today, two (2) of them being night medevac.

14 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of six (6) medevac missions today. Capt. KESTLER flew an emergency blood resupply to Dong Ha. Capt. SNIDER, while flying recon extracts, experienced an engine failure and autorotated to the only zone in the area. There was no damage to the aircraft and no injuries were received.

15 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of twenty (20) medevac missions today. Capt. BELL received small arms fire on two different occasions while on an ARVN medevac. No hits were recorded. Major CARROLL, while leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on an emergency resupply, received fire with no hits recorded. Major THIEN received fire while leading a flight of four aircraft on a recon extract, no hits were taken. Capt. ZOLLER, while leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on an emergency ARVN medevac, received automatic weapons fire with no hits taken.

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16 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of twelve (12) medevac missions today, four (4) of them being night medevacs. Major RUECKEL, while leading a flight of four (4) aircraft on recon inserts and extracts, was forced to extract a team he had just inserted due to automatic weapons fire. Although automatic weapons fire was received, the team was extracted with no hits recorded. Capt. ZOLLER, while flying emergency night resupply, received fire on two different occasions with no hits taken. Capt. KISSLING, while on a resupply mission, had a rough running engine and proceeded to Dong Ha where he made a full autorotation to the airstrip. There was no damage to the aircraft.

17 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today, two being night medevacs.

18 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today. Lt. KAWALEK experienced an engine failure near PK-17 and autorotated to their airstrip. There was no damage. Capt. ZOLLER, while flying medevac, experienced a partial power failure while in the final phase of a landing at Quang Tri. The nose yawed left and the right main mount collapsed. There was Bravo damage to the aircraft and there were no injuries.

19 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of six (6) medevac missions today, one (1) of them being a night medevac. Lt. KAWALEK experienced a tail rotor drive failure upon lift off at Phu Bai. A forced landing was immediately made to the nearest open area. This turned out to be a mine field. No damage or injuries occurred. Capt. HURLBUT had a rough running engine while climbing out from Dong Ha. An autorotation was made to the runway with no damage or injuries.

20 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of twelve (12) medevac missions today, six (6) of them being night medevacs. Capt. ZOLLER, while leading a flight of two (2) aircraft on night medevac missions, received small arms fire. No hits or injuries were recorded.

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21 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eight (8) medevac missions today, four (4) of them being night medevacs. Capt. BELL, while on a night medevac mission, received automatic weapons fire at coordinates YD 845174. No hits or injuries were recorded.

22 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of five (5) medevac missions today. Capt. GRAY, upon lift off from the Hue Hospital Pad, experienced a chip detector light. An immediate return and landing was made without incident. Cause was internal break down of the engine.

23 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eight (8) medevac missions today, three (3) of them being night medevacs.

24 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today, two (2) of them being night medevacs. Lt. BANCELLS while flying medevac received small arms fire, no hits were taken.

25 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions today.

26 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions today, one (1) of them being a night medevac. Capt. FARRELL, while on a resupply mission received one hole in the tail rotor. It was discovered on post flight inspection. No injuries were received.

27 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of seven (7) medevac missions, two (2) of them being night medevacs.

28 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eight (8) medevac missions. Capt. HURLBUT, while on night medevac, had ARVN artillery impact in close proximity to his aircraft while in the LZ. LZ had been reported secure and artillery reported ceased. There were no American advisors present.

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29 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of nine (9) medevac missions, four (4) of them being night medevacs. Major RUECKEL, while flying medevac, received one hit which cut the throttle cables and caused an engine overspeed. A climb was initiated to keep a load on the engine until reaching the airstrip at Phu Bai where the engine was secured and an autorotation was made to the runway. There were no injuries and no further damage.

30 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of four (4) medevac missions, one (1) of them being a night medevac.

31 May 1967 - Normal operations conducted in the Phu Bai area. The squadron flew a total of eleven (11) medevac missions today, six (6) of them being night medevacs.

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C. PART THREE - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Personnel

a. The squadron experienced a slight decrease in personnel over the month, with eight (8) personnel being joined and twenty-two (22) being detached. The total number of personnel on hand as of 31 May 1967 were forty-three (43) officers and one hundred and eighty-four (184) enlisted.

2. Administration

a. During the month, the squadron experienced eight (8) promotions to the rank of Captain, one (1) to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant, one (1) to the rank of Staff Sergeant, one (1) to the rank of Sergeant, fifteen (15) to the rank of Corporal, and seven (7) to the rank of Lance Corporal.

3. Awards

a. The following awards were presented during the month of May 1967:

(1) Purple Hearts

- (a) STREHAN, P. H., LCPL., 2168454 USMC
- (b) HAVICAN, C. M., CAPT., 088259 USMCR
- (c) SEDLICK, W. D., SSGT., 1872780 USMC
- (d) RAYMOND, W. J., SSGT., 1619376 USMC

(2) Distinguished Flying Cross

- (a) ZOLLER, J. C., CAPT., 090462 USMCR

(3) Navy Commendation Medal

- (a) FOWLER, J. R., LT (MC), 631309 USN
- (b) CARTER, A. L., LCPL., 2168641 USMC
- (c) KEMMERER, S. W., CPL., 2148167 USMC

(4) Single Mission Air Medal

- (a) KISSLING, R. G., CAPT., 089988 USMCR

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(5) Air Medal

(a) Thirty-four (34) enlisted personnel were presented their first Air Medal during this period.

(b) Three hundred and seventy-nine (379) additional Air Medals were also presented during the month of May 1967.

4. Casualties

a. The following personnel were casualties during the month of May as a direct result of enemy action:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------|----------------|---------|
| (1) HAVICAN, C. M. | CAPT | 088259 | Plexiglass | 12May67 |
| (2) SEDLICK, W. D. | SSGT | 1872780 | Shrapnel wound | 25May67 |
| (3) RAYMOND, W. J. | SSGT | 1619376 | Shrapnel wound | 25May67 |

5. Civic Action

a. No significant events

6. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. No significant events

7. Information Services

a. There were ninety-eight (98) Hometown News releases written this month.

8. Intelligence/Counter Intelligence

a. Intelligence conducted normal procedures during this period.

9. Air Operations

a. Flight hours - 1341.6
b. Flights/Sorties - 576/3310
c. Passengers - 3789
d. Cargo - 208.8 short tons
e. Medevacs - 907

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10. Special Operations

a. 1-31 May 1967 Shawnee

(1) This squadron participated in Operation Shawnee in troop carrying missions, medevac flights and limited logistic support in the area of operation.

b. 17-31 May 1967 Hickory

(1) This squadron participated in Operation Hickory in troop carrying missions and limited logistic support.

c. 1-31 May 1967 Choctaw

(1) This squadron participated in Operation Choctaw in troop carrying missions, medevac flights and limited logistic support in the area of operation.

d. 1-31 May 1967 Prairie IV

(1) This squadron participated in Operation Prairie IV in troop carrying missions, medevac flights and limited logistic support in the area of operation.

11. Ground Defense

a. Maximum emphasis was placed on building of bunkers and fortified positions around the squadron area.

12. Training

a. All pilots were fam-fired on the grease gun.

b. There were twelve (12) crewmen trained in aerial gunnery.

13. Logistics

a. No significant events

14. Motor Transport

a. No significant events--

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15. Maintenance
 - a. No significant events
 16. Avionics
 - a. A new Officer in Charge took over this month.
 17. Base Development
 - a. No significant events
 18. Communications/Electronics
 - a. No significant events
- D. PART FOUR - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
1. None

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