

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

3:HPG:tcw
03A12169
1 May 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 30 April 1969

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) MCO 5750.1

Encl: (1) HMM-165 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. Downgraded at three year intervals; declassified after 12 years DOD directive 5200.10.

T. E. Raines
T. E. RAINES

HMM-165 Copy No. 1 of 8
S&C # 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Copy 1 of 8 Copies

MAG-16
SAC # 0368-69
COPY # 125

03AL2189
1 May 1969

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 165
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 April 1969 to 30 April 1969

INDEX

- PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



PART 1

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATION

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165

COMMANDER

T. E. RAINES
1 Apr - 30 Apr

SUBORDINATE UNITS

None.

ATTACHED UNITS

None.

2. LOCATION

1 April through 30 April 1969: Marble Mountain Air Facility,
Da Nang, RVN.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

A. Commanding Officer	T. E. RAINES, LtCol.	1-30 Apr69
B. Executive Officer	V. S. REED, Maj.	1-6 Apr69
	A. M. BISHOP III, Maj.	7-30 Apr69
C. Operations Officer	A. C. MACAULAY, Maj.	1-6 Apr69
	V. S. REED, Maj.	7-30 Apr69
D. Administrative Officer	J. H. HODGE JR. 1stLt	1-6 Apr69
	A. C. MACAULAY, Maj.	7-30 Apr69
E. Maintenance Officer	R. G. MITCHELL, Maj.	1-30 Apr69
F. Logistics/Supply Officer	F. F. STANSFIELD, Capt.	1-30 Apr69
G. NATOPS Officer	T. M. CURTIS, 1stLt.	1-30 Apr69
H. Aviation Safety Officer	P. R. QUAM, Capt.	1-30 Apr69

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>Naval Aviators</u>	<u>AGO</u>	<u>Flight Surgeon</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
48	4	1	159
<u>Boeing Rep</u>	<u>G. E. Rep</u>		
1	1		

UNCLASSIFIED



PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

1 Apr 69. The month's first day found the White Knights flying 3 VIP missions for assistance with the visit of LtGen. WALT, Assistant CMC, to the III MAF area. In support of the 26th Marines on operation "Oklahoma Hills", 34 Medevac sorties were flown to assist 29 sick and wounded on Charlie Ridge.

2 Apr 69. During recon extracts and inserts in the "Oklahoma Hills" area, Lt. SCHWEND's A/C suffered loss of one engine followed by chip detector light and high temps on the other one. Lt. SCHWEND successfully maneuvered the aircraft into LZ Robin. Although the helicopter had to be externaled out, none of the crew nor recon team aboard were injured.

3 Apr 69. Today 48 sorties in support of the 1stMarDiv yielded 233 troops lifted and five fire incidents. Major REED's and Captain QUAM's sections both experienced small arms fire twice, while Major MITCHELL's section also took fire. No aircraft hits were scored. Also, 33 Medevac sorties were flown into Charlie Ridge to the assistance of 28 heat and combat casualties.

4 Apr 69. In support of Operation Oklahoma Hills alone, the White Knights accumulated more than 30 hours of flight time during which 161 sorties yielded more than 31 tons of resupply cargo and 443 troops carried.

5 Apr 69. Today, during a resupply mission into Charlie Ridge, Lt. WOLFE's Lady Ace aircraft became the target of light small arms and automatic weapons fire. No aircraft hits were received and no fire returned.

6 Apr 69. During local area medevac missions today, two White Knight aircraft took fire. During an evening sortie, Lt. CURTIS' aircraft experienced light small arms fire while Captain QUAM took moderate small arms fire at night. Both incidents occurred during take off from zones. The day's medevac results showed that 45 casualties were lifted in 60 sorties.

7 Apr 69. In completion of numerous missions today, the White Knights accumulated less than 40 hours flight time but more than 75,000 pounds of cargo and 300 troops were moved.

3:00 PM
 03 APR 1969
 1 May 1969

8 Apr 69. Once again resupply of Operation Oklahoma Hills dominated the statistics. Lt. GROULX led two sections of Lady Ace aircraft through 107 sorties. Despite deteriorating weather and delays, nearly 28 tons of supplies and 190 troops were ferried as aircraft and crews averaged about seven hours of flight time each. During one of the sorties, Lt. GROULX's aircraft attracted sniper fire but a marine patrol in the area quickly quieted the tree climbing shooter.

9 Apr 69. During an Admin mission into the "Oklahoma Hills" area, Lt. BROWN's aircraft twice came under mortar and automatic weapons fire during landing and take off. One hit was scored on the aircraft but no injuries resulted, and the mission was completed. Other White Knight missions resulted in 11 Recon, 65 Resupply, and 56 Medevac sorties flown.

10 Apr 69. Today HHM-165 hosted a group of Marine Ground Unit Commanders touring the Air Facility. The Company & Platoon Commanders were flown to Marble Mountain and Lt. CURTIS led the group throughout the base briefing them on the functions & missions of a CH-46 squadron. Meanwhile resupply of "Oklahoma Hills" continued as 193 White Knight sorties yielded more than 50 tons of cargo and 300 troops transported.

11 Apr 69. During resupply of Oklahoma Hills, Lt. PETERS' "Lady Ace" aircraft was exposed to heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Four aircraft hits were scored but 300 rounds of .50 cal ammunition were expended as White Knight gunners promptly returned fire. Meanwhile, Lt. WOLTER's Command & Control aircraft became the target of moderate small arms fire and three aircraft hits were taken.

12 Apr 69. Today the White Knights were fragged for four separate VIP missions as the "Lady Ace Admin Airlines" logged more than forty admin sorties. Meanwhile two aircraft on a recon mission attracted heavy small arms fire. Lt. HUNDLEY's aircraft took 22 hits while Lt. PETERS' suffered three during approaches to an emergency recon extract. Gunners LCpl UDELL and GySgt WESTENDORF received minor shrapnel injuries.

13 Apr 69. Medevac missions today resulted in all three portions reporting fire incidents. Major MAHAUDAY and Major ECHOLS twice reported light to moderate small arms fire during the morning missions. In the afternoon, Lt. HUNDLEY's section was exposed to light small arms fire while the night portion found Major MITCHELL's section the target of light .50 cal. fire. The end results showed no hits scored on White Knights aircraft and more than 60 sorties flown to the assistance of nearly 50 U.S. and ARVN casualties.

UNCLASSIFIED

3:HRG:vav
03A12169
1. May 1969

14 Apr 69. Today, again, the fraggers laid all the VIP and Admin flights on the "White Knights" schedule board as five different missions were assigned and 54 sorties flown. At night however, the seldom launched Bald Eagle was called into action as Lt. SCHWIND's section first effected an "emergency" extract of seven hungry Recon Marines and was then called on for delivery of blood to Camp Evans.

15 Apr 69. The hills were alive with the sounds of automatic weapons fire as medevac and recon missions today claimed the loss of 5 White Knights aircraft from the availability list. LtCol. RAIBES, while leading a medevac section was completing a hoist extract of 3 casualties when he was subjected to heavy automatic weapons fire. Loss of one engine and the utility hydraulic system resulted but the White Knight skipper expertly maneuvered his aircraft back to Marble Mountain. Inspection revealed more than 70 entry & exit holes in the aircraft. A replacement aircraft was assigned and the section launched again with Lt. SHAW in the lead. The same area on Charlie Ridge again yielded automatic weapons fire and again a bullet filled aircraft returned to Marble. Meanwhile Major MITCHELL's A/C returned with a bullet hole in a rotor blade received on a recon mission. The same mission found Lt. BROWN's aircraft as the target with 3 hits received. He elected to land at An Hoa in critical need of repair. Also, Captain QUAN's ROK resupply bird attracted heavy automatic weapons fire and 3 aircraft hits forced him to return his aircraft. Other fire incidents were reported by Major REED's medevac section who twice took light to medium small arms fire and by Lt. HUNDLEY who also twice took fire. All in all, seven out of the 11 aircraft launched today took fire. Despite the large number of incidents and aircraft hits received, miraculously, no injuries whatsoever were suffered. Also the day's tally showed more than 300 sorties flown in over 73 flight hours as 47,000 lbs. of cargo, 500 troops, and 66 combat casualties were lifted.

16 Apr 69. Today relatively quiet flying returned to the White Knights as Admin missions reappeared with 61 sorties flown in 12.2 flight hours as VIP's were ferried here and there. In the Recon mission assigned, Major REED's section successfully inserted 4 teams and extracted 4 others without incident.

17 Apr 69. The return of resupply missions to the White Knights frag sheets revealed that "Lady Ace" aircraft would support two operations today. The ROKMC's Operation "Victory Dragon X" and our own "Oklahoma Hills" were slated and the end results showed 88,500 lbs. of cargo and 255 troops carried in 148 sorties. Meanwhile, during an emergency recon extract, Lt. HUNDLEY's A/C came under light small arms fire. No hits were taken and the extract was completed.

UNCLASSIFIED

3:HPG:vav

02112169

18 Apr 69. Resupply missions today accounted for 153 of the day's total sorties and 30.7 flight hours. Over 94,000 lbs. of cargo were lifted and more than 500 troops. During ROK resupply, Major MITCHELL's section came under fire in five different zones but suffered no hits.

19 Apr 69. Today Admin flights prevailed, as revealed by 7 out of the 12 missions assigned. Nearly 100 admin sorties were flown as 8 White Knight aircraft ferried 214 important personnel. The other 5 missions assigned showed seven other aircraft flying 71 sorties to move 17,500 pounds of cargo, 95 troops and evacuating 23 casualties. During his resupply of Charlie Ridge, Lt. SCHMIDT observed the crash of another squadron's medevac aircraft. He promptly relayed radio messages and directed aircraft to the scene. He then hovered over the wreckage and lowered his aerial gunner into the site to check for survivors. There were none and the aerial gunner was retrieved.

20 Apr 69. Today's 185 sorties resulted in nearly 22 tons of cargo and 400 troops transported. 57 Recon sorties showed 9 inserts, 6 extracts and 1 emergency extract. Major REED's aircraft took fire on one such ladder extract but no hits were scored and no injuries as Lady Ace gunners expended 800 rounds in fire suppression.

21 Apr 69. Today, medevac aircraft logged several fire incidents. Lt. HUNDLEY's section twice came under heavy .50 cal and small arms fire with one hit but no injuries taken. During an evening emergency hoist medevac, Lt. GOULX's aircraft was exposed to heavy small arms fire and suffered 9 hits in the belly of the aircraft. SSgt J. C. MARRIS, the gunner was hit 3 times in the legs. Although the wounds were serious, complete recovery is forecast.

22 Apr 69. Today White Knight aircraft devoted more than 36 flight hours to the Oklahoma Mills area. 183 sorties resulted in more than 109,000 lbs. of cargo and 230 troops lifted. Meanwhile, while on An Hoa medevac, one of Major MACAULAY's 37 sorties found him exposed to sniper fire. No hits were scored while a total of 35 casualties were assisted.

UNCLASSIFIED

3:HPG:svv

23 Apr 69. Today, the Recon missions proved hazardous as Captain STANFIELD's attempt at an emergency extract resulted in the ventilation of his aircraft by heavy small arms fire. 10 hits were taken and the aircraft had to be set down. Major REED on a divert from resupply effected a ladder extract of the team. In appreciation, aviators drank free of charge at the club, courtesy of 5th Marines Recon. Noteworthy also was the fact that for the first time since the start of "Oklahoma Hills", the resupply was completed before nightfall. Major REED's section assisted in this accomplishment.

24 Apr 69. Once again the Hill 55 LSA was swept clean and "Oklahoma Hills" resupplied before sunset. The growing experience of ground units at organization and aircraft utilization, coupled with the presence of White Knight aircraft seems to be the key to mission completion. Led by LtCol. RAINES, Lady Ace Transports moved nearly 20 tons of cargo and 232 troops before day's end.

25 Apr 69. Today the HM-165 "Dial-a-chopper" service devoted nearly 25 of the day's 55 flight hours to Admin and VIP hops. The totals also showed 137 sorties flown with 280 passengers and 7400 lbs of cargo carried. One fire incident occurred during Lt. CURTIS' divert from recon to a medevac mission. The aircraft was exposed to heavy small arms fire. No injuries occurred and 200 rounds of .50 Cal. fire was returned, although 6 hits were scored on the aircraft, there was no serious damage and the mission was completed.

26 Apr 69. Today's missions showed that 62,870 lbs. of resupply cargo, and 456 passengers rode White Knights aircraft during 52.7 flight hours logged today. In addition, the seldom launched Bald Eagle section went to work tonight to assist in casualty evacuation. During this launch, Capt. STANFIELD's aircraft twice came under small arms fire but no damage or injuries were incurred.

27 Apr 69. Today found the White Knights with only 5 different missions assigned. Yet nearly 50 hours of flight time were accumulated. Two operations were supported as "Muskie Meadows" received more than 47,000 lbs. of cargo and 120 troops via Lt. Col. RAINES' section with Major MITCHELL's section delivering in excess of 19,000 lbs. to "Oklahoma Hills". On the medevac scene, 82 sorties were flown to the assistance of 57 U.S., ARVN, and civilian casualties.

28 Apr 69. Today's 52 flight hours found the White Knights involved in various missions. 53 sorties were flown for Admin and VIP usage while the remaining 87 sorties were accumulated moving some 310 troops and 32,000 lbs. of cargo during Resupply and Recon activities. Also 3 Recon inserts, 1 extract and 5 flip flops were successfully accomplished. It was a relatively quiet day with no fire incidents being reported. UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
3:HPG:tw
03A12169
1 May 1969

29 Apr 69. An Admin Med-Evac mission today found the White Knights transferring 83 Litter Patients from the USS Sanctuary. Once again the Resupply and Recon missions boosted the days totals with the cargo and passengers lifted. Various other missions contributed to the days tally of 131 sorties flown for 34.2 flight hours.

30 Apr 69. The quiet spell ended abruptly today as 1stLt. CURTIS' morning Med-Evac section three times came under heavy .50 cal., small arms and mortar fire while assisting units of 1/7 who had encountered a large enemy force. Fortunately, no aircraft hits were taken and 25 casualties were evacuated in the morning session alone. In the afternoon, the same area found Maj. REED'S section exposed four times to light Small Arms fire with no aircraft hits scored. At night, 1stLt. HUNDLEY'S aircraft took two hits as a result of intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. The days total showed 83 casualties lifted in 27 Med-Evac Flight Hours.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECLASSIFIED

3: HFG: var

00A12069

May 1969

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Operations Participated In:

- a. OKLAHOMA HILLS
- b. VICTORY DRAGON X
- c. MUSKIE MEADOWS

2. Personnel:

a. Transfers To HMM-165

Officers 1

Enlisted 5

b. Transfers From HMM-165

Officers 2

Enlisted 13

c. Promotions

Cpl. T. J. HAMBLEM was promoted from ICpl.

Cpl. G. A. HUTCHINSON III was promoted from ICpl.

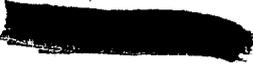
d. Casualties Sustained

GySgt. W. C. WESTENDORF 161 26 59/7041, and ICpl. F. L. UDELL were wounded in action on 12 April 1969 when they were struck by enemy fire.

Sgt. C. H. VESEY 215 89 64/6212 was killed in action on 20 April 1969 when he was struck by enemy rocket fire.

SSgt. J. C. HARRIS 142 29 23/7113 was wounded in action on 21 April 1969 when he was struck by enemy fire.

DECLASSIFIED



3:HPG/stew
03A12169
1 May 1969

3. Logistics:

a. During this reporting period HMM-165 flew 5,198 sorties, carrying 809.7 tons of cargo, 9997 troops/passengers, 1057 med-evacs for a total of 1579.3 flight hours.

4. Average availability for the period 1 April through 30 April 1969 was 79%.

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. None.