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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263  
Marine Aircraft Group 16  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific  
c/o FPO San Francisco 96602

INTEL/PJB/dwg  
4 September 1966  
002A24766

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

*HMM 263 343-66-1 of 3*

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) GruO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for the period 1 August 1966 to 31 August 1966

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*J. L. Goebel*  
J. L. GOEBEL

*HMM-263*

*Cmd Chron*

*001218-66  
1 OF 2*

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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*Aug 1966*

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263

1 - 31 August 1966

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

(C) 1. Organizational Data:

- (a) Reporting Unit -HMM-263
- (b) Location -Marble Mountain, RVN
- (c) Reporting Period -1 Aug 1966 to 31 Aug 1966
- (d) Commanding Officer -Jerome L. GOEBEL, LtCol, USMC
- (e) Executive Officer -David A. SPURLOCK, Major, USMC  
 1 Aug 1966 to 4 Aug 1966  
 Bertram W. McCAULEY, Major, USMC  
 5 Aug 1966 to 31 Aug 1966
- (f) Operations Officer -Raymond A. JASICA, Major, USMC
- (g) Administrative Officer -William G. PRICE, Capt, USMC
- (h) Intelligence Officer -Phillip J. BELL, 1stLt, USMC  
 1 Aug 1966 to 7 Aug 1966  
 Carlton C. VIELHAUER, Capt, USMC  
 8 Aug 1966 to 31 Aug 1966
- (i) Logistics Officer -Herbert E. NELSON, Major, USMC
- (j) A/C Maintenance Officer -Alva J. KETTERING, Major, USMC
- (k) Aviation Safety Officer -Gerald C. ODGERS, Capt, USMC
- (l) Flight Surgeon -"T" "J" RUNDLE, Lt, (MC)  
 1 Aug 1966 to 20 Aug 1966  
 21 Aug 1966 to 31 Aug 1966 none

(U) 2. Task Organization and Unit locations:

None; MAG-16, 1stMAW, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Vietnam, 1 Aug 1966 to 31 Aug 1966.

(C) 3. Average Monthly Strength:

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
OFFICERS	56	1	57
ENLISTED	163	3	166

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~UNCLASSIFIED~~PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OCCURRING DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD

## SUMMARY -

(U) For the month of August the squadron flew a total of 1626.6 hours. The heaviest concentration of flying was in support of Operation Prairie in and around the Cam Lo River Valley. In addition the squadron supported III MAF with numerous resupply, troop lift, and administrative missions. HMM-263 also provided Med-Evac A/C for the TAOR area throughout the month. 82.3 hours were flown in direct support of I Corps. All significant events and experiences will be included in the following narrative.

- 1 August 1966 - (U) The main body arrived from Okinawa today. Three crews from the advance party flew in support of Operation Hastings.
- 2 August 1966 - (U) Nine A/C led by LtCol. GOEBEL supported Operation Hastings. Five A/C lifted 11 tons of cargo and 56 passengers in support of I Corps.
- 3 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew missions supporting the 1st and 9th Marines. Three Med-Evacs were flown with one A/C receiving 2 hits at coord AT 999622, there were no injuries. Two A/C standing by at An Hoa took fire at coord AT 891481 but received no hits. The squadron continued support of Operation Hastings with two A/C on station.
- 4 August 1966 - (U) Resupply missions for 1st, 3rd, and 9th Marines were flown today. 60,330 pounds of cargo were lifted. A/C on Sandpiper resupply received fire at coord AT 983557 and AT 969558 with no hits. A total of 19 Med-Evacs were picked up, with one A/C taking one hit from small arms at coord AT 911620.
- 5 August 1966 - (U) Routine courier hops for III MAF were flown today. One emergency retraction of a recon patrol at coord AT 971497 was made. One A/C was hit, but no injuries resulted. A/C on an admin run for III MAF received fire at coord AT 985533 but no hits resulted.

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- 6 August 1966 - (U) Operation Colorado began today. LtCol Goebel led a 16 plane strike lifting 164 Arvns into the zone at coord AT 984337. 5 A/C received numerous small arms and automatic weapons hits at the zone. Support of the operation continued with 291 additional Arvn troops being lifted from Tam Ky to Que Son and 60 US Marine troops lifted from Tan Ky to coord AT 920754. On the Marine lift fire was received from coord AT922254 but no hits received. Totals for the day were 88.9 hours flight time and 559 troops and 12 tons of cargo carried. Squadron A/C took 19 hits.
- 7 August 1966 - (U) Routine courier and resupply missions for III MAF, 1st, 3rd, and 9th Marines were flown. 13 Med-Evacs were picked up and 5.5 hours were flown in support of VIP's.
- 8 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 47.7 hours today. Time included missions in support of 1st, 3rd, 9th Marines, and III MAF. 5 US Marines and 10 VN Civilians Med-Evacs were lifted and 8.4 hours were flown supporting VIP's.
- 9 August 1966 - (U) HMM-263 sent 8 A/C to Dong Ha today for support in Operation Prairie. The 8 A/C led by LtCol Goebel flew 46.2 hours and lifted 320 Troops. Courier hops in support of III MAF were also flown.
- 10 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 4.0 hours in support of III MAF, 3.8 hours in support of the 3rd Marines, and 1.5 hours of test hops. 18.9 hours were flown in continued support of Operation Prairie.
- 11 August 1966 - (U) 2 A/C stood by at Dong Ha for Operation Prairie. The remainder of the squadron flew missions in support of III MAF.
- 12 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 81.9 hours today of which 21.4 were in support of Operation Prairie. The 4 A/C on stand-by at Dong Ha lifted 65 troops. 22 Med-Evacs were also lifted. In addition local resupply missions, III MAF courier runs, and one convoy escort to Phu Bai were flown.
- 13 August 1966 - (U) The squadron continued support of Operation Prairie flying 9.8 hours, carrying 43 passengers and 2 tons of cargo. In the local TAOR squadron Med-Evac A/C flew 9.4 hours lifting 24 Med-Evacs. 7.1 hours were flown escorting convoys to and from Phu Bai. Two A/C carried out a spraying operation to combat mosquitoes in the Phu Bai area.

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- 14 August 1966 - (U) Limited flying today, 4 A/C stood by at Dong Ha, routine courier hops were flown, and 21 Med-Evacs were lifted. Total time for the day was 35.5 hours.
- 15 August 1966 - (U) The squadron continued support of Operation Prairie flying 17.1 hours and carrying 4 passengers. 3 A/C made a night troop lift from Phu Bai to coord YD 875248 and YD 860245. The A/C received small arms fire from small crafts at coord YD 920230. Two A/C flew 3.7 hours in support of I Corps. The A/C carried newsmen for Premier Ky's tour of An Hoa and Hue Phu Bai. Three A/C returning from Dong Ha received small arms fire at a position 15 nautical miles out on the 310° radial of the Phu Bai tacan. The same A/C also received small arms fire 1000 meters East of Phu Bai field boundary at YD 907150 and at a position on the beach 150° from the Phu Bai tacan. In addition automatic weapons fire was received from a junk fleet at ZD 1211. The squadron flew 8.3 hours while lifting 22 Med Evacs. One Med-Evac A/C received light small arms fire from coord BT 112634 but had no hits. Routine Chu Lai and Phu Bai courier hops were also flown.
- 16 August 1966 - (U) 32.8 hours were flown, 149 passengers and 5 tons of cargo were lifted in continued support of Operation Prairie. 8 Med-Evacs were picked up accounting for 2.8 hours, 1.4 hours were flown on a courier run, and the Hydol spray operation accounted for 3.8 hours and 3 tons of cargo. One A/C was left at Que Son and one at Hoi An with engine chip lights both required engine changes.
- 17 August 1966 - (U) 2 A/C flew 4.1 hours and lifted 5100 lbs. of cargo in support of III MAF. 10.5 hours were flown lifting 29 Med-Evacs and 6 A/C flew 16 hours, carrying 41 passengers, 13 Med-Evacs and 8000 pounds in support of Operation Prairie.
- 18 August 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew 5.6 hours of Med-Evacs lifting 28 troops. 6 A/C stood by at Dong Ha for Operation Prairie flying 13.4 hours and lifting 2350 pounds of cargo and 32 US troops. Routine admin hops in support of

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III MAF accounted for the remainder of the time.

- 19 August 1966 - (U) In support of Operation Prairie, HMM-263 flew 28.2 hours, lifting 17,450 pounds of cargo and carried 44 passengers. In the local TAOR Med-Evac A/C flew 5.5 hours and lifted 20 people. 7.5 hours in support of I Corps, 1.2 hours as escort for a Code 5, and routine missions for III MAF accounted for the remainder of the flying.
- 20 August 1966 - (U) The squadron continued support of Operation Prairie today flying 22.1 hours and carrying 39 passengers and 5,600 pounds of cargo. In the Da Nang TAOR squadron A/C lifted 33 passengers and 700 pounds of cargo for a total of 8.5 hours. Also 6.4 hours were flown lifting 44 Med-Evac. One Med-Evac A/C received small arms fire from coord AT 990545. .7 hours in support of I Corps and 3.8 hours on III MAF courier runs completed the flight time for the day.
- 21 August 1966 - (U) Local resupply, courier hops, and one photography hop accounted for 17.9 hours, 6,700 pounds of cargo and 45 passengers were lifted. 20 hours were flown lifting 3 Med-Evac in the TAOR area. Flying out of Dong Ha in support of Operation Prairie, squadron A/C flew 14.0 hours, carried 2800 pounds of cargo and 22 passengers. Three A/C while working at coord YD 979558, a strategic hill in the Cam Lo River Valley, received sniper fire from enemy positions that were concealed on the same hill. One A/C received one hit, another received three hits, and the third received six hits. All A/C continued to fly.
- 22 August 1966 - (U) Operation Prairie again accounted for most of the squadron's flight time. 31.3 hours were flown, 6700 pounds of cargo, and 107 passengers were lifted in support of the operation. One A/C received small arms and automatic weapons fire from coord XD 978558 and one A/C received automatic weapons fire from coord XD 971551. Neither A/C was hit. In the Danang TAOR the squadron flew 10.8 hours and carried 10,980 pounds of cargo and 24 passengers on routine resupply missions. In addition 89 Med-Evac were lifted, the majority of these being from "C" Med to the hospital ship USS Repose.

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25 August 1966 -

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(U) The squadron flew routine missions in support of III MAF and lifted 44 Med-Evacs in the TAOR today. Med-Evac A/C received fire at coord BT 052643 and BT 058644. The latter A/C received one small arms hit. In support of Operation Prairie, HMM-263 flew 39.5 hours, carried 206 passengers, and 13,000 pounds of cargo. One A/C received small arms fire from coord XD 966566. No hits resulted.

24 August 1966 - (U) In support of III MAF the squadron flew 15.1 hours carried 30 passengers, one ton of cargo, and 21 Med-Evacs. One Med-Evac was flown in support of I Corps. One A/C received fire from coord BT 104647 and BT 102650 but received no hits. For Operation Prairie the squadron's A/C lifted 239 passengers and 25 tons of cargo. All operations were normal.

25 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 37.8 hours and carried 60,050 pounds of cargo and 111 passengers in continued support of Operation Prairie. In the local TAOR HMM-263 A/C lifted 2100 pounds of cargo, 17 passengers, and 32 Med-Evacs. Med-Evac A/C received small arms fire at coord AT 885717, BT 028594, AT 998623, AT 993643, and AT 915483. Two hits resulted but with only minor damage.

26 August 1966 - (U) Continuing in support of Operation Prairie squadron A/C flew 11.4 hours and carried 65 passengers and 400 pounds of cargo. 27.9 hours were flown on routine III MAF missions with one A/C taking fire at coord AT 805595, there were no hits. 19 Med-Evacs were lifted today also.

27 August 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew 46.4 hours today flying routine III MAF hops, resupply missions, Med-Evacs, and missions in support of Operation Prairie. For Operation Prairie, A/C flew 11.5 hours and carried 19 passengers and one ton of cargo. 30 Med-Evacs were picked up in the TAOR.

28 August 1966 - (U) Continued support of Operation Prairie today flying 13.6 hours and carrying 8,000 pounds of cargo, and 43 passengers. One mission in support of I Corps was flown and the remainder of the day's flying were routine missions in the TAOR in support of III MAF. Med-Evac stand-by A/C carried 18 Med-Evacs.

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- 29 August 1966 - (U) In support of III MAF the squadron lifted 11,625 pounds of cargo, 43 passengers, and 18 Med-Evacs. One Med-Evac A/C received fire from coord BT 003616 but suffered no hits. Med-Evac A/C received automatic weapons fire at coord AT 981614. There were three hits. The co-pilot of the escort A/C, 1stLt. Hugh A. Wilson was wounded in the leg. For Operation Prairie A/C flew 10.3 hours and 37 passengers.
- 30 August 1966 - (U) Routine missions for III MAF and one mission for I Corps were flown. One A/C on a aerial recon hop received small arms fire from coord BT 005524. No hits. Med-Evac A/C lifted 9 people. Med-Evac A/C received automatic weapons and small arms fire from coord AT 884709, AT 895915, and BT 045658. There were no hits. For Operation Prairie HMM-263 A/C flew 17.2 hours and carried 13,700 pounds of cargo and 49 passengers.
- 31 August 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 27.5 hours in support of III MAF and carried 6800 pounds of cargo and 74 passengers. One hydol spray mission was flown in the Chu Lai area and one leaflet drop in the TAOR. 4.3 hours were flown lifting 17 Med-Evacs. All operations were normal.

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PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. (U) Personnel:

## a. Gains during the period:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERNO/MOS</u>	<u>FROM</u>
5Aug66	MATHIS, James L.	Cpl	1934748/6413	HMM-161, MAG-16
2Aug66	GIBBONS, Jerry P.	1stLT	089588/7335	HMM-162, MAG-26
3Aug66	MILLER, Philip L.	1stLT	090710/7335	HMMT-301, MCAS El Toro
11Aug66	CLUTTS, Richard G.	SSgt	1467800/6442	VMT2, MCAS El Toro
14Aug66	FLAHERTY, John J.	Sgt	1672154/7141	H&SCo, ForLogCmd
27Aug66	LIDDY, Edward A.	GySgt	1035685/6615	HMM-261, MAG-26
29Aug66	DAWSON, Charles L.	2ndLT	096514/3060	HMM-164, MAG-16

## b. Losses during the period:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERNO/MOS</u>	<u>TO</u>
1Aug66	JACKSON, Vernon L.	Cpl	2049354/6422	MCAS CherPt
1Aug66	BARBER, Reginald R.	LCpl	2091652/6441	MCAS <sup>S</sup> CherPt
1Aug66	THOMAS, Ferdinand R. Jr.	Cpl	2027541/6611	MCA <sup>F</sup> New River
1Aug66	SPENCE, Arthur J.	Cpl	2027800/7113	MCAS El Toro
1Aug66	SCHILLING, Leonard L.	Cpl	2057956/6615	Camp Hansen FFT CONUS
1Aug66	HAMMOCK, Lloyd	Cpl	2032273/6442	MCAS Beaufort
1Aug66	SHENANDOAH, Albert J.	LCpl	2091690/6422	MCAF New River
1Aug66	KELM, Awalt Jr.	Cpl	2011864/6615	MCAF New River
1Aug66	GORHAM, David M.	Cpl	2022292/6418	MCAF New River
1Aug66	SHERRILL, James E.	Sgt	2058085/6422	MCAS El Toro
1Aug66	BLANKENSHIP, Charles H.	Sgt	1518225/6491	MCAS CherPt
1Aug66	DUPONT, Herman P.	SSgt	1182658/6422	MCAF New River
1Aug66	DAVIS, William L.	Cpl	2006575/6611	Camp Hansen FFT CONUS
1Aug66	ADAMS, John W.	SSgt	1390924/6422	MCAS CherPt
1Aug66	MOREHART, Charles J.	SSgt	513396/3516	MCB CLNC
1Aug66	BEEVERS, Walter H.	SSgt	1416126/7113	MCAS Yuma
1Aug66	CAMPBELL, Roy P.	SSgt	1193021/6441	MAD Memphis
1Aug66	AUST, Richard D.	SSgt	1059181/0141	MCRD PISC
1Aug66	ARTHUR, Purle L.	SSgt	1461134/6422	MCRD SDIEGO
1Aug66	ANDERSON, Charles J.	SSgt	1116803/6422	MCRD SDIEGO
1Aug66	AMSPACHER, Richard L.	SSgt	1375415/6422	MCAF New River
1Aug66	DURYEA, Donald D.	GySgt	663283/6413	HMM-163, MAG-13
1Aug66	WILLIAMS, Eddy R.	GySgt	1082872/3071	HMM-163, MAG-13
1Aug66	KEMPTON, Bennie	MSgt	587591/3071	MCAS CherPt
1Aug66	CHOATE, Thomas E.	Capt	084965/7335	HMM-163, MAG-13
1Aug66	KELLER, William F.	1stLT	088885/7335	H&MS-13, MAG-13
1Aug66	LLOYD, Calvin A. II	Capt	084969/7335	H&MS-13, MAG-13
1Aug66	LEA, Charles D.	1stLT	091220/7335	H&MS-13, MAG-13
1Aug66	MORRIS, David A.	1stLT	087344/7335	HMM-163, MAG-13

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERNO/MCS</u>	<u>TO</u>
31Aug66	CORYN, Robert C.	GySgt	1139201/6422	MCAF New River
4Aug66	PLUMMER, James R.	Major	056747/7335	H&MS-16, MAG-16
4Aug66	SPURLOCK, David A.	Major	062614/7335	H&MS-16, MAG-16
12Aug66	FLANARY, Charles E.	Sgt	1803564/6442	HMM-265, MAG-16
15Aug66	DAVIDSON, Jerry R.	Capt	081156/7335	H&MS-16, MAG-16
15Aug66	ROCK, Ronald C.	Capt	082035/7335	H&MS-16, MAG-16
20Aug66	RUNDLE, "T" "J"	LT MC	673902/2105	MCAS El Toro
21Aug66	HIGGINS, James E.	Sgt	1595108/6442	H&MS-16, MAG-16
29Aug66	GAFFORD, George W.	MSgt	555570/7113	H&MS-16, MAG-16

## 2. (U) Administration:

## a. Promotions during the period:

1Aug66 18 Promotions to Cpl rank from 1Aug66

1Aug66 7 Promotions to LCpl rank from 1Aug66

16Aug66 4 Promotions to LCpl rank from 1Aug66

16Aug66 1 Promotion to 2ndLt rank from 16Aug66

31Aug66 1 Promotion to Capt rank from 21Jun66

## b. Awards Given:

2 Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry, one w/ gold star, one w/ silver star.

10 Air Medals Awarded

1 Distinguished Flying Cross Awarded

3 Navy Commendations Medals w/ "V" awarded

13 Combat Air Crew Insignia Awarded

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses Recommended

160 Air Medals Recommended

3 Navy Commendation Medals w/ "V" recommended

4 Purple Hearts Recommended

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1. (U) The squadron resumption of operations against hostile forces in August consisted of three major efforts:
  - a. (U) Support of Operation Hastings and Prairie
  - b. (U) Support of Operation Colorado
  - c. (U) Routine TAOR support missions
2. (C) On Operation Hastings and Prairie 4 A/C sustained 13 hits, including 2 incidents of 12.7mm fire. Support on the first day of Operation Colorado resulted in 6 squadron A/C sustaining 23 hits.
3. (C) As has normally been the case routine missions in the vicinity of the TAOR accounted for the largest number of fire incidents. Of significance is the fact that on med-evac missions in the TAOR the squadron had 28 fire incidents with 8 A/C sustaining 19 hits; representing almost half of the month's total for all categories.
4. (C) Total statistics for the month's operations are 50 fire incidents with 17 A/C sustaining 42 hits.
5. (C) During August intelligence training was conducted on the following subjects:
  - a. Officers
    - (1) (U) Use of survival radio, new survival kits, and survival maps
    - (2) (U) Use of personal authenticators
    - (3) (U) Security of classified information
  - b. Enlisted
    - (1) (U) Use of personal authenticators
    - (2) (U) Map reading
    - (3) (U) Viet Cong tactics and defenses

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## OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1966

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN:	1626.6
TOTAL PASSENGERS CARRIED:	3,687
TOTAL SORTIES:	4,830
TOTAL MED EVACS:	660
TOTAL CARGO LIFTED (TONS):	275

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1. AACP Resume 1 thru 31 August 1966  
Total Submitted 59  
Total Filled 40  
Outstanding 19
  
2. ANFE Resume 1 thru 31 August 1966  
Total Submitted 5  
Total Filled 2  
Outstanding 3
  
3. AV/GAS Resume 1 thru 31 August 1966  
Total AV/GAS Cost \$13,100.40  
Gallons Utilized 88,753
  
4. AV/OIL Resume 1 thru 31 August 1966  
Total AV/OIL Cost \$522.50  
Gallons Utilized 1,044

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1. (C) During the month of August, the Squadron flew a total of 1626.6 flight hours. This is the second highest month since deployment. This was accomplished despite the very low average availability of 11 aircraft, and an average of three aircraft AOCF during the month.
2. (C) Average aircraft utilization was 148 hours/average up aircraft for a utilization figure of 370%, the highest ever reached by this Squadron.
3. The Squadron had 24 aircraft in an A1 status for most of the month. Three aircraft were damaged badly enough to be placed in an HC (awaiting repair) status, and were sent to H&MS-16 for repair. One aircraft was damaged in a hard landing and shipped to FAWPRA for repair.
4. (C) August was a very difficult month for the Maintenance Department. Aircraft were received on 1 August, after having been virtually exhausted in Operation Hastings, and badly in need of parts and preventive maintenance. The first week was spent primarily in this function. An unusual number of hubs, trunnions, dampers, tail rotor, and main rotor blades, required replacement.
5. (C) After five days in country, the Squadron participated in the assault of Operation Colorado with 16 aircraft. After the first wave, the number was reduced to 10, the remainder being shot up too badly to continue. Three of these were down at Tam Ky, and three at Que Son with battle damage. All were returned to Marble Mountain by noon of the next day.
6. (C) Battle damage continued to plague the Squadron as a short time later, six aircraft had fuel cells punctured by small arms fire over a period of four days. At the end of the month, two aircraft still remain AOCF for fuel cells.
7. (C) 15 engines were changed during the month, three of these in the field. Some were due to battle damage, but the majority were changed for reasons of underpower, metal contamination, and oil in the impeller.
8. (C) The continued committment at Dong Ha has increased the support problems of the Maintenance Department. Due to the distance involved, it has been difficult to lend desired support and repair. The result has been a disproportionate number of aircraft returning from Dong Ha, late at night, in a down status; causing both unusual night maintenance and decreased availability the following day.

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PART IV DOCUMENTATION

NONE

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;  
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.  
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