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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/CCV/dwg
2 November 1966
002A31166

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

Subj: Command Chronology; submission of

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

HMM 263 410-66 copy 1 of 3

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

L. L. Darbyshire
L. L. DARBYSHIRE

HMM-263 Cmd Chron

MAG-16 S&C
LOG # 001488-66
COPY 1 OF 1

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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Oct 1966

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263

1 - 31 OCTOBER 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 Oct 1966 to 31 Oct 1966
(d) Commanding Officer	-Manning T. JANNELL, LtCol, USMC 1 Oct 1966 to 14 Oct 1966 Leslie L. DARBYSHIRE, LtCol, USMC 15 Oct 1966 to 31 Oct 1966
(e) Executive Officer	-Bertram W. McCAULEY, Major, USMC
(f) Operations Officer	-Raymond A. JASICA, Major, USMC
(g) Administrative Officer	-William G. PRICE, Major, USMC 1 Oct 1966 to 25 Oct 1966 William G. BARNES, Capt, USMC 26 Oct 1966 to 31 Oct 1966
(h) Intelligence Officer	-Carlton C. Vielhauer, Capt, USMC
(i) Logistics Officer	-Robert L. BOYER, Major, USMC
(j) A/C Maintenance Officer	-Robert L. LEVAN, Major, USMC
(k) Aviation Safety Officer	-Neil R. VANLEEUWEN, Major, USMC
(l) Flight Surgeon	-Howard H. HENSON, Lt (MC)

(U) 2. Task Organization and Unit Location:

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

(C) 3. Average Monthly Strength:

	USMC	USN	TOTAL
OFFICERS	38	1	39
ENLISTED	135	4	139

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OCCURRING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

SUMMARY

(U) For the month of October 1966, HMM-263 flew 1527 hours. The majority of this time consisted of troop lift, resupply, and administrative missions for III MAF. In addition, the squadron also provided the Med-Evac aircraft for the Danang TAOR. Throughout the month detachments of HMM-263 aircraft assisted in the support of the Phu Bai TAOR and Operation Prairie. All important incidents and events will be included in the following daily narrative.

1 October 1966 - (U) LtCol M. T. JANNELL relieved LtCol J. L. GEOBEL as Commanding Officer of HMM-263. All flight operations were routine support missions for III MAF. One aircraft on a Med-Evac mission received 4 hits from automatic weapons fire at coord BT 015538. No one was hurt. Aircraft on a VIP hop received small arms fire from coord AT 897505 and 884526, and 12.7mm fire from coord AT 890520. None of the aircraft were hit.

2 October 1966 - (U) Normal operations were conducted today. Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord AT 977596, 993635, and BT 176557. The aircraft at AT 977596 was hit by small arms fire. The aircraft at coord AT 993635 received small arms and automatic weapons fire and was hit by two pieces of shrapnel from a mortor that exploded in the landing zone. No one was hurt.

3 October 1966 - (U) Five squadron aircraft flew in support of Operation Prairie today. The remainder of the flying was routine missions in the TAOR. One Med-Evac aircraft took fire from coord AT 978-604 but was not hit.

4 October 1966 - (U) Five squadron aircraft continued support of Operation Prairie. In the local area aircraft on recon hops received fire from coord YD 680-157, AT 985690 and 985691. None of the aircraft were hit. All other operations were normal.

5 October 1966 - (U) Two aircraft on a resupply mission received small arms fire from coord AT 879470 and 8852

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but were not hit. All other operations were normal.

6 October 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew a total of 49.8 hours today. Aircraft took fire from coord AT 879470, 8852, 977594, 984592, 970592, YD 737081, BT 182502, 016628, and 000610. Only one aircraft was hit. The aircraft at coord AT 977594, while on a Med-Evac mission was hit by two small arms rounds. Damage was minor and there were no injuries.

7 October 1966 - (U) Normal operations were conducted today. Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord AT 981600, 967586, 860590, and YD 103694. Two aircraft on a resupply mission to coord BT 103694 also received fire. No aircraft were hit.

8 October 1966 - (U) All operations were routine today, only two aircraft received fire. One aircraft on a Med-Evac mission received fire from coord YD 625745 and one aircraft at coord AT 820465 on a resupply mission took fire. Neither aircraft was hit.

9 October 1966 - (U) Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord AT 990621. There were no hits. All other missions were routine.

10 October 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew 50.3 hours and lifted 28 Med-Evacs today. There were no reported fire incidents and all operations were normal.

11 October 1966 - (U) The squadron flew normal missions in support of III MAF today. Aircraft received fire from coord YD 095502, AT 954367, and BT 068675. The aircraft at coord AT 954367 received two hits, but damage was minor and there were no injuries.

12 October 1966 - (U) Normal operations were conducted today. One Med-Evac aircraft took fire from coord BT 183573 but was not hit.

13 October 1966 - (U) All missions flown today were routine. Aircraft on a recon retraction received fire from coord AT 870650 but were not hit.

14 October 1966 - (U) Routine missions for III MAF were flown today. One aircraft was fired at from coord AT 979572 but was not hit.

15 October 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 57.1 hours today. Two Med-Evac aircraft were hit with small arms

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rounds in the vicinity of coord BT 075675. Damage was minor and there were no injuries. Other Med-Evac aircraft were fired at from coord ZC 144534 and AT 966689 but were not hit. LtCol L. L. DARBYSHIRE relieved LtCol M. T. JANNELL as Commanding Officer of HMM-263.

16 October 1966 - (U) All operations were normal today. Squadron aircraft received fire from coord AT 975-688 and 965594 but were not hit. 56.7 hours were flown.

17 October 1966 - (U) The squadron flew 40.5 hours today. 164 passengers, 17 tons of cargo, and 68 Med-Evacs were lifted. Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord BT 016565, AT 855415, and 8949 and BT 142619. There were no hits. The aircraft at coord AT 8949 was fired at by 12.7mm.

18 October 1966 - (U) Total time for today was 59.9 hours. Aircraft received fire from coord BT 070080, 157-591, 205400, AT 965592, and 9352. Only one aircraft was hit at coord BT 070080. There were no injuries and damage was minor.

19 October 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew 63.3 hours today. No aircraft were hit although aircraft on Med-Evac missions received fire from coord AT 880495, 970600, BT 090645 and 068557.

20 October 1966 - (U) 38.1 hours were flown today. One aircraft on a recon insert took five hits from small arms at coord YD 555231. There were no injuries. Other squadron aircraft took fire from coord AT 988652 and BT 086533 but were not hit.

21 October 1966 - (U) Normal operations were conducted today. One Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord YD 567233 and aircraft on a recon insert received fire from coord AT 903700 but were not hit.

22 October 1966 - (U) HMM-263 had two aircraft hit today. Both were hit by sniper fire and in both incidents damage was minor. One aircraft was on a Med-Evac mission and the other was on an admin run. All other missions were routine.

23 October 1966 - (U) Operations were limited today due to inclement weather. Several missions were flown however and one aircraft was hit at coord AT 999545 by automatic weapons fire.

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No one was injured.

24 October 1966 - (U) Routine resupply, admin, and Med-Evac missions were flown today. Squadron aircraft received enemy fire from coord AT 9995, BT 005389, 026620, and 033555. None of the aircraft were hit.

25 October 1966 - (U) All operations were normal today. One aircraft on an admin hop was hit at coord AT 870468. Another aircraft, also on an admin hop was fired at from coord AT 995657 but was not hit.

26 October 1966 - (U) Five squadron aircraft were fired at from coord AT 985585. One aircraft was hit injuring a Vietnamese civilian in the aircraft. One other squadron aircraft was hit while on an admin hop at coord YD 509-344. No one was injured. The remainder of the day's flying was routine.

27 October 1966 - (U) Routine support of III MAF was flown today. One aircraft was hit by small arms and automatic weapons fire at coord AT 991-581. One Med-Evac aboard the aircraft was reinjured. The aircraft received a total of five hits but returned safely. Other squadron aircraft received fire from coord AT 933644, 990580, and 812340 but were not hit.

28 October 1966 - (U) The squadron sent eight aircraft to Dong Ha today to support Operation Prairie. In the local TAOR one aircraft was hit by small arms fire at coord BT 110550. There were no injuries and damage was minor.

29 October 1966 - (U) The majority of the flying today was in support of Operation Prairie. Routine courier and Med-Evac missions were flown in the TAOR. One Med-Evac aircraft received fire from coord BT 035675 but was not hit.

30 October 1966 - (U) HMM-263 flew 30.7 hours in support of Operation Prairie today. On a Med-Evac mission in the TAOR aircraft received fire from coord BT 090690 and AT 960595. There were no hits.

31 October 1966 - (U) The squadron continued support of Operation Prairie today. A total of 29.2 hours were flown in support of Operation Prairie. One Med-Evac aircraft in the TAOR received fire from coord AT 972668 but was not hit.

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PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. (U) Personnel:

a. Gains during the period

DATE	NAME	RANK	SERNO/MOS	FROM
10ct66	ALEXANDER, Bruce D.	CWO-2	067863/7335	H&HS MCAF Santa Ana Calif
10ct66	COPPLE, Jackie D.	SSgt	1218768/3516	MWSG-27 MCAS Cherry Pt NC
10ct66	FARRIMOND, David N.	LCpl	2130991/0141	LFTComPac NAB San Diego Calif
10ct66	FAULKNER, Michael L.	2ndLt	092932/7335	MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana Calif
20ct66	FRENCH, Kerry D.	HM1	3886547/8406	HMM-164 MAG-16
20ct66	STRENDING, Randal L.	HN	6917604/8404	HMM-164 MAG-16
10ct66	CREWS, Curtis T.	1stLt	090327/7335	MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana Calif
10ct66	LENTZ, Lawrence E.	2ndLt	095253/7335	MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana Calif
10ct66	COLBY, Richard J.	2ndLt	092818/7335	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
50ct66	REHBACH, Edward W.	Sgt	1929762/6441	MAD Memphis Tenn
50ct66	ROBERTS, Joseph B.	LCpl	2052961/6611	MWSG-27 MCAS Cherry Pt NC
60ct66	ARTMANNI, Rodlof J.	Cpl	2077020/6441	MAG-32 MCAS Beaufort SC
80ct66	JACQUES, Arturo	GySgt	611691/7113	HMM-164 MAG-16
90ct66	RUPP, Gregory C.	LCpl	2060338/6413	MARTD NAS Twin Cities Minn.
110ct66	BARNETT, Harlis	SSgt	1102253/0241	H&HS-1 MWHG-1 1stMAW
120ct66	BAUER, Paul M.	PFC	2247175/7041	MAD Memphis Tenn
120ct66	HERSHEY, Michael P.	PFC	2194875/6422	MAD Memphis Tenn
150ct66	DARBYSHIRE, Leslie L.	LtCol	051641/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
160ct66	BLANTON, Robert D.	Capt	074874/7335	MAD NAS Pensacola Fla
160ct66	SKAPIK, John N.	PFC	2158001/6441	MAD Memphis Tenn
160ct66	WADDINGTON, David G.	PFC	2153776/6611	MAD Memphis Tenn
170ct66	HAMMER, Noel L.	Capt	085042/7335	MWHG-1 1stMAW
170ct66	BAGLEY, Adam B.	SSgt	1387530/6413	MWSG-27 MCAS Cherry Pt NC
170ct66	GAUTHEY, Leland L.	Cpl	2106715/6441	H&HS MCAS Yuma Arz
170ct66	FLANNERY, Charles G.	Sgt	1533026/6442	MAG-32 MCAS Beaufort SC
210ct66	BROUGHTON, William C.	Sgt	1592792/6422	HMM-264 MAG-26 MCAF New River
210ct66	GUITRON, Mike	PFC	2184404/6413	MAD Memphis Tenn
200ct66	DORFIELD, Charles E.	Maj	059697/7335	H&MS-13 MAG-13 1stMAW
220ct66	CAPRA, Daniel D.	PFC	2141278/3516	8thMar 2ndMarDiv MCB CamLej NC
220ct66	MCDANNEL, Thomas N.	Cpl	2149540/0141	CommElecBn MCRDep San Diego
260ct66	DRIPPS, William R.	LCpl	2099844/0141	8thMar 2ndMarDiv MCB CamLej NC
280ct66	FORESMAN, Bruce L.	PFC	2159893/6422	MAD Memphis Tenn
280ct66	GUKICH, Michael M.	PFC	2162107/6422	MAD Memphis Tenn
300ct66	WINTER, John P.	SSgt	1543201/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
300ct66	HUTTO, John F.	LCpl	2110913/6615	SU#3 HqCo H&SBn Camp Butler Oki
300ct66	CUNNINGHAM, Jay W.	PFC	2153287/3071	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	WESTFIELD, Thomas H.	PFC	2170405/6615	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	KENYON, Ronald D.	LCpl	2142268/6611	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	HAYNES, Robert A.	LCpl	2157815/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	WILLIAMS, Charles A.	PFC	2179276/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	URSO, Martin S.	LCpl	2101745/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	MANN, Leroy C.	PFC	2139570/6615	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	JANKOWSKY, Donald A.	Cpl	2079778/6413	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	HILL, Howard P.	PFC	2168452/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	FLEISHER, Donald L.	LCpl	2194883/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
300ct66	BOSTICK, Lewis W.	PFC	2187804/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16

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DATE	NAME	RANK	SERNO/MOS	FROM
30Oct66	STONE, Kenneth E.	PFC	2197323/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
30Oct66	HIGGINS, Oscar	LCpl	2158664/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16

b. Losses during the period

DATE	NAME	RANK	SERNO/MOS	TO
1Oct66	GOEBEL, Jerome L.	LtCol	038855/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
2Oct66	THOMAS, Edgar D.	2ndLt	085735/6602	MCS Quantico Va
2Oct66	WALLIS, Thomas E.	1tLt	089124/6402	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
3Oct66	KETTERING, Alvah J.	Maj	067506/7335	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
4Oct66	CHERBONNIER, Laurence	1tLt	090144/7335	Camp S D Butler
4Oct66	MACK, Willie M.	SSgt	1509641/6611	Danang FFT CONUS
4Oct66	SPRING, Homer D.	SSgt	1179697/6422	Danang FFT CONUS
5Oct66	SCHULZ, ROdolph M.	Sgt	1548931/6441	Danang FFT CONUS
5Oct66	STANLEY, Willard W.	Cpl	2090293/6422	MCS Quantico Va
6Oct66	GEARY, Newlin C.	Sgt	1589758/6442	MAG-15 9thMAB
6Oct66	KELLY, Michael H.	Sgt	2049805/6422	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
6Oct66	KUBECK, Stanley	LCpl	2029898/0141	MARTD NAS South Weymouth Mass
6Oct66	MCCOY, Glen P.	Cpl	2038468/3516	MCB 29 Palms Calif
6Oct66	SCORSONE, Joseph C.	Cpl	2098658/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
6Oct66	WILLIAMS, David A.	1tLt	091162/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
6Oct66	YOCOM, Donald G.	Capt	088537/7335	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	HARRIS, David F.	Sgt	2043661/6422	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
7Oct66	JOHNSON, Marcus E.	Sgt	1971065/6422	ForTrs FMFLant CamLej NC
7Oct66	JOYCE, Cecil W.	Cpl	2091015/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	KELLY, Henery H.	Sgt	1994300/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	KOENIG, Frederick G.	Sgt	2078596/6441	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	MENA, David L.	Cpl	2022443/7113	Danang FFT CONUS
7Oct66	RAMSBURG, Harry R.	1tLt	090389/7335	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	STUKALO, Nicholas C.	Cpl	2079217/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
7Oct66	WALKER, James A.	Sgt	1609707/6422	Danang FFT CONUS
8Oct66	ASHER, Robert N.	Cpl	2059936/6615	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
8Oct66	LEAMON, Donald W.	LCpl	1906416/6413	2dMAW MCAS Cherry Pt NC
8Oct66	SEQUEIRA, Leon Jr.	Cpl	2067167/6611	MCS Quantico Va
8Oct66	SIMS, Murray G.	Cpl	2055852/6422	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
8Oct66	WALLER, George E.	Sgt	1402011/6418	Danang FFT CONUS
9Oct66	Coke, John F. Jr.	Cpl	2074915/6441	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
9Oct66	ERICK, Robert D.	Cpl	2029030/6611	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif
9Oct66	HEINLE, Edmund E.	1tLt	090169/7335	1stMarDiv FMF
9Oct66	REIL, Lawrence, A.	Sgt	1800084/6422	Danang FFT CONUS
12Oct66	SCOTT, Keith A.	2dLt	097837/6602	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
14Oct66	JANNELL, Manning T.	LtCol	021790/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
19Oct66	LANDWEHR, Dennis W.	Cpl	2089076/6441	MAG-26 MCAF New River NC
19Oct66	SEIFFERT, Edward R.	Capt	088593/7335	MB USNS TI SFRAN
20Oct66	ARTMANNI, Roelof J.	Cpl	2077020/6441	VMO-2 MAG-16
27Oct66	PRICE, William G.	Maj	071573/7335	Camp S D Butler

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2. (U) Administration

a. Promotions during the period

10ct66 1 Promotion to Pfc rank from 10ct66

150ct66 1 Promotion to Maj rank from 3Aug66

160ct66 1 Promotion to PFC rank from 10ct66

160ct66 6 Promotions to Cpl rank from 10ct66

190ct66 2 Promotions to Capt rank from 10ct66

190ct66 1 Promotion to Maj rank from 1Jul66

200ct66 1 Promotion to Capt rank from 10ct66

270ct66 1 Promotion to Maj rank from 1Jul66

b. Awards Given:

125 Air Medals Awarded
2 Combat Aircrew Insignia Awarded
3 Purple Hearts Awarded
168 Air Medals Recommended

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INTELLIGENCE

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1. (U) During the month of October the squadron activity consisted of supporting the following:

a. Operation Prairie

b. Routine TAOR missions, Phu Bai

c. Routine TAOR missions, Danang

2. (C) In support of Operation Prairie, HMM-263 gave considerable aircraft availability. The squadron gave total UH34D support for Operation Prairie for the last five days of October. This area was especially quiet and no fire incidents were reported during this time.

3. (C) During October the squadron gave support to HML-161 by performing missions in the Phu Bai TAOR. There were several fire incidents reported in this area, however it proved less hostile than the Danang TAOR area. The majority of time was spent on resupply and Recon insertions and retractions.

4. (C) As usual the largest area for fire incidents was the Danang TAOR. Again the Med-Evac missions accounted for over half the total fire incidents for the month. Comparing the Danang TAOR with the Phu Bai and Dong Ha TAOR, the Danang TAOR has a larger number of Med-Evacs, with a larger percentage of Med-Evac missions drawing fire than both Phu Bai and Dong Ha.

5. (C) Total statistics for the month were:

Fire Incidents	53
Hit Incidents	14
Total Number of Hits	25
Med-Evac Fire Incidents	29

Areas of greatest intensity are:

AT 95 - 13

AT 96 - 11

BT 06 - 10

6. (U) During the month of October Intelligence training consisted of the following:

a. Map Reading

b. Use of Survival Equipment

c. Viet Cong Tactics and OOB

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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1966

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN:	1527
TOTAL SORTIES:	4748
TOTAL PASSENGERS CARRIED:	4089
TOTAL CARGO LIFTED (TONS)	115
TOTAL MED*EVACS:	927

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LOGISTICS

1. AOCP Resume 1 thru 31 October 1966

a. Total Submitted 124
b. Total Filled 109
c. Outstanding 15

2. ANFE Resume 1 thru 31 October 1966

a. Total Submitted 14
b. Total Filled 13
c. Outstanding 1

3. AV/GAS Resume 1 thru 31 October 1966

a. Total AV/GAS Cost $23,412.48
b. Gallons Utilized 146,328

4. AV/OIL Resume 1 thru 31 October 1966

a. AV/OIL Cost, Total $687.50
b. Drums Utilized 25

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MAINTENANCE

1. During the month of October 1966 the maintenance department began to take on a new face. The new inexperienced personnel joined during the previous month seasoned quickly and aircraft availability went up. The build-up of personnel continued throughout the month.

2. The Monsoons began during the month and curbed the flying effort on at least six days. Since all maintenance is performed outdoors the rain presents a handicap for personnel working on aircraft.

3. Deployment of aircraft and maintenance personnel increased this month with heavy commitments at Dong Ha, Phu Bai, Khe Sanh and on two occassions RONs at outposts due to weather conditions. It was necessary to dispatch maintenance recovery crews only once.

4. Component changes took a sharp drop as opposed to the previous two months and battle damaged aircraft turn around time decreased. The squadron has twenty two aircraft in physical custody with another aircraft scheduled to leave for overhaul in five days. Total flight hours for the month was 1527 hours. Operational ready hours for aircraft was 91%. Average aircraft down for battle damage was 2 per day.

5. The squadron received its first R&Rs which gave a boost to the morale of all hands.

N. R. Van Leeuwen
N. R. VANLEEUWEN

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PART IV DOCUMENTATION

NONE

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