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

INTEL/CCV/dwg  
2 December 1966  
002A34266

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 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 263 430-66 Copy-1 of 3

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for the period 1 November 1966  
to 30 November 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

MAG-15 SUC  
LOG # 001913-CC  
1 0 1

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

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Appendix # 3

HMM-263

Cmd Chron

Nov 1966

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON: 263

1 - 30 NOVEMBER 1966

ENCLOSURE (1)

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## (C) 1. Organizational Data:

(a) Reporting Unit -HMM-263  
 (b) Location -Marble Mountain, RVN  
 (c) Reporting Period -1 Nov 1966 to 30 Nov 1966  
 (d) Commanding Officer -Leslie L. DARBYSHIRE, LtCol, USMC  
 (e) Executive Officer -Bertram W. McCAULEY, Major, USMC  
 1 Nov 1966 - 5 Nov 1966  
 James L. SHANAHAN, Major, USMC  
 6 Nov 1966 to 30 Nov 1966  
 (f) Operations Officer -Raymond A. JASICA, Major, USMC  
 1 Nov 1966 to 5 Nov 1966  
 Bertram W. McCAULEY, Major, USMC  
 6 Nov 1966 to 30 Nov 1966  
 (g) Administrative Officer -William G. BARNES, Capt, USMC  
 1 Nov 1966 to 6 Nov 1966  
 Francis A. HOCEVAR, Capt, USMC  
 7 Nov 1966 to 30 Nov 1966  
 (h) Intelligence Officer -Carlton C. VIELHAUER, Capt, USMC  
 (i) Logistics Officer -Robert L. BOYER, Major, USMC  
 (j) A/C Maintenance Officer -Neil R. VANLEEUWEN, Major, USMC  
 (k) Aviation Safety Officer -Robert D. BLANTON, Capt, USMC  
 (l) Flight Surgeon -Howard H. HENSON, Lt(MC)

## (U) 2. Task Organization and Unit Location:

None; MAG-16, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Vietnam, 1 Nov 1966 to 30 Nov 1966.

## (C) 3. Average Monthly Strength:

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
OFFICERS	47	1	48
ENLISTED	160	4	164

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## NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OCCURRING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

## SUMMARY

- (U) For the month of November the squadron flew 1314.4 hours, 3931 sorties, and 962 tasks in routine support of III MAF. The squadron provided the Med-Evac aircraft for the TAOR throughout the month. The greatest number of fire incidents involved the Med-Evac aircraft and were concentrated in the area bordered by grid coordinates AT 95-65, BT 0665, BT 0650, and AT 9550. On 1 November the squadron concluded its support of Operation Prairie with 13.1 hours of flight time for the day. Starting on 28 November the squadron has supported Operation Mississippi with 4 aircraft on daily standby at An Hoa and 2 aircraft on night standby. All significant events and experiences will be included in the following narrative.
- 1 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 9.5 hours, 32 sorties, and 8 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. One aircraft on night Med-Evac in support of Operation Prairie received fire at coord YD 260530 and YD 172396. No other fire incidents were reported. The squadron concluded its support of Operation Prairie, flying 13.1 hours today.
- 2 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 42.7 hours, 38 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Two aircraft on Med-Evac received fire, one at AT 995512, the other at AT 950603. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 3 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 56.5 hours, 213 sorties, and 58 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 970610, no personnel were injured. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 4 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 45.4 hours, 113 sorties, and 25 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on morning courier was hit at coord AT 990620; no personnel were injured, aircraft was forced to make precautionary landing at Bluebird. No other.

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fire incidents were reported.

5 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 48.1 hours, 165 sorties, and 35 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 954517; no personnel were injured. Two aircraft received fire, 1 on Med-Evac received fire from coord AT 932-564 and 994583 and the other on a psy. war mission received fire from coord BT 0360; neither aircraft was hit. No other fire incidents were reported today.

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6 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 33.2 hours, 126 sorties, and 33 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft was hit at coord AT 974548, no personnel were injured. No other fire incidents were reported today.

7 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 38.0 hours, 145 sorties, and 40 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Two aircraft on Med-Evac received fire at coord AT 975590, 996604, 992593; neither aircraft was hit.

8 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 66.6 hours, 199 sorties, and 45 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 996604; no personnel were injured. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 917587 and 988591; SSgt BAGLEY was hit in the right ankle. Aircraft on Med-Evac received fire from coord AT 988598, 983600, 994611, 977607, 982579, 977595, 980-597, BT 040591 and one aircraft on a resupply received fire at coord AT 997603; none of the aircraft were hit. No other aircraft were fired at today.

9 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 42.7 hours, 164 sorties, and 39 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on a Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 986607 and one aircraft on an admin was hit at coord AT 990622; no personnel were injured. Two aircraft on resupply mission received fire at coord AT 988603 and AT 998607 and one aircraft on a Med-Evac received fire at coord AT 988646; none of the aircraft were hit. No other fire incidents were reported.

10 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 42.1 hours, 161 sorties, and 40 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. 2 aircraft received fire, one aircraft on a test hop received fire at coord AT 954624 and one aircraft on resupply received fire at

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coord AT 997603; neither aircraft was hit. No other fire incidents were reported. All squadron personnel not actually engaged in flying at the time mustered at 0745 for the Birthday Message by the Commanding Officer.

- 11 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 43.4 hours, 129 sorties, and 31 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on resupply was hit at coord BT 003584; no personnel were injured. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 12 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 29.7 hours, 84 sorties, and 27 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Two aircraft on a resupply received fire, one aircraft received fire from coord AT 890520 and one aircraft received fire at coord BT 016620; neither aircraft was hit. No other fire incidents were reported today.
- 13 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 42.9 hours, 146 sorties, and 29 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. One aircraft on resupply received fire from coord BT 003550 but was not hit. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 14 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 34.7 hours, 116 sorties, and 28 tasks in routine support of III MAF. Three Med-Evac aircraft were hit, the first aircraft was shot down in the zone at coord AT 980585, Capt Van Gorder was hit in the right leg and subsequently taken to G-4 hospital. The second aircraft was hit at coord AT 980591 in picking up the crew of the first aircraft, and the third aircraft was hit at coord BT 980587 while picking up the original Med-Evac. No personnel were injured in either the second or third aircraft. One aircraft received fire at coord AT 984586, AT 981512 and AT 977890 while taking a maintenance crew to the downed first Med-Evac aircraft. The aircraft was not hit but its armed UH1E escort was shot down killing all personnel aboard except the co-pilot Roseann 6 who was seriously injured. No other aircraft fire incidents were reported.
- 15 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 26.0 hours, 80 sorties, and 25 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Six aircraft received fire: Courier at coord YD 910215, Med Evac at coord AT 985575, Med-Evac at coord

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AT 990580 and AT 985575, Med-Evac at coord AT 988588, Med-Evac at coord AT 915565, and aircraft recovery at coord AT 985575 and BT 007595. No other fire incidents were reported.

- 16 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 33.7 hours, 107 sorties, and 30 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No fire incidents were reported.
- 17 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 45.6 hours, 132 sorties, and 27 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. One aircraft on Med-Evac received fire at coord BT 138615 but was not hit. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 18 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 40.5 hours, 132 sorties, and 26 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Three aircraft received fire: Med-Evac at coord AT 961586, VIP at coord AT 993665, and VIP at coord AT 970635. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 19 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 31.2 hours, 181 sorties, and 46 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord BT 055680, no personnel were injured. Four aircraft received fire: troop lift at coord AT 920560, Med-Evac at coord BT 170567, Med-Evac at coord BT 055637, and VIP at coord AT 0957. None of the aircraft were hit. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 20 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 62.3 hours, 183 sorties, and 40 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Two aircraft on Med-Evac received fire from coord BT 112600 and BT 044608. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 21 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 65.9 hours, 208 sorties, and 42 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Three aircraft received fire: recon insert at coord AT 978454, Med-Evac at coord BT 048656, and aircraft return mission at coord AT 953623 and AT 968665. No other fire incidents were reported.

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- 22 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 12.3 hours, 42 sorties, and 11 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Two aircraft received fire: admin at coord AT 995-678 and SAR at coord BT 108685; neither aircraft was hit. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 23 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 37.8 hours, 112 sorties, and 31 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Three aircraft received fire: Med-Evac at coord BT 097-556, recon at coord AT 9635, and recon at coord ZC 182426. No other fire incidents were reported. Awards ceremony was held today at 0745.
- 24 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 38.7 hours, 143 sorties, and 35 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Four aircraft received fire: Med-Evac at coord BT 056-639, resupply at coord AT 880473 and 843670, VIP at coord BT 050660, troop lift at coord AT 983616, and Med-Evac at coord AT 9857. No other fire incidents were reported. Awards ceremony was held today at 0745.
- 25 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 86.0 hours, 287 sorties, and 54 tasks in routine support of III MAF. No aircraft were hit. Four aircraft received fire: AM courier at coord AT 980618, resupply at BT 010560, resupply at AT 953620, and aerial recon at ZC 1652, ZC 2055, ZC 2155. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 26 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron did not fly due to very bad weather.
- 27 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 19.4 hours, 55 sorties, and 16 tasks in routine support of III MAF. Weather was marginal. No aircraft were hit. One aircraft on Med-Evac received fire from coord BT 080570. No other fire incidents were reported.
- 28 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 35.4 hours, 116 sorties, and 24 tasks in routine support of III MAF. Two aircraft received fire while on Med-Evac at coord AT 875475 and BT 172445. No other fire incidents were reported. Squadron began support of Operation Mississippi, four aircraft are being stationed at An Hoa daily and two aircraft nightly.

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- 29 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 39.6 hours, 126 sorties, and 24 tasks in support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac was hit at coord AT 980353; no personnel were injured. One aircraft on Med-Evac received fire at coord AT 980353 but was not hit. No other fire incidents were reported. Squadron continued support of Operation Mississippi.
- 30 November 1966 - (U) Today the squadron flew 58.7 hours, 204 sorties, and 55 tasks in routine support of III MAF. One aircraft on Med-Evac received fire from coord AT 939369 but was not hit. No other fire incidents were reported. Squadron continued support of Operation Mississippi.

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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>
2Nov66	CISMESIA, Alan P.	2dLt	092628/7335	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
2Nov66	DWYER, Merle D.	Sgt	1880620/7041	MAG-24 MCAS Cherry Point
2Nov66	MARTINEZ, Leonardo G.	Cpl	2093641/6422	MARTD MARTC NAS Dallas Tex
2Nov66	PENTZ, Everett W. Jr	1stLt	089438/7335	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
3Nov66	HIGGINS, Kenneth E.	LCpl	2158664/6422	HMM-161 MAG-16
3Nov66	COLEY, Alvin L.	1stLt	090633/7335	HMMT-301 MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana
3Nov66	HALL, Larry W.	2dLt	092703/7335	HMMT-301 MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana
3Nov66	PURVIS, Willard H.	SSgt	1200352/6422	MAD NATTC NAS Memphis Tenn
4Nov66	KORAN, William S.	2dLt	095247/7335	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
4Nov66	POLHEMUS, Richard J.	2dLt	095250/7335	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
4Nov66	WELLS, Charles H.	SSgt	1348987/6422	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
4Nov66	ZELINSKI, Roger F.	2dLt	095245/7335	HMMT-301 MHTG-30 MCAF Santa Ana
6Nov66	THOMPSON, Russell A.	PFC	2097661/3516	H&MS-16 MAG-16
6Nov66	HARBISON, Gerald E.	Capt	072591/7337	MCS Quantico Va
6Nov66	HOEEVAR, Francis A.	Capt	074916/7302	MCRD San Diego Calif
6Nov66	KOURY, Moses M.	GySgt	492061/6422	StagBn MCB CamPen Calif
6Nov66	SHANAHAN, Mames L.	Maj	056780/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
6Nov66	HANNER, Joseph M. Jr	2dLt	094427/7335	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
7Nov66	DOULL, William G.	1stLt	090847/7335	HMM-163 MAG-16
9Nov66	STRADER, Randall L.	Sgt	1653434/6422	H&MS-26, MAG-26 MCAF New River
12Nov66	HEGARTY, James A.	SSgt	1582337/6422	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
14Nov66	BAILEY, Ronald J.	SSgt	1533745/6422	HMM-162 MAG-26 MCAF New River
14Nov66	BRYANT, James D.	SSgt	661225/6422	HMM-365 MAG-26 MCAF New River
19Nov66	PETERS, James V.	LCpl	2156081/0141	2dMTBn 2dMarDiv, FMF CamLej
22Nov66	KNIGHT, Robert H.	PFC	2192433/7041	MAD NATTC NAS Memphis Tenn
25Nov66	WEBB, David J.	Sgt	1982360/7041	Marine Wing Hqtrs Gru 1
29Nov66	APARICIO, Jose L. Jr	Cpl	2005116/6611	H&MS-16 MAG-16

## b. Losses during the period

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERNO/MOS</u>	<u>TO</u>
2Nov66	DRISCOLL, Timothy A.	Cpl	2073529/6615	MCAS Beaufort S. C.
2Nov66	GIANOGLIO, Carl P.	Cpl	2103440/0141	Danang FFT CONUS
12Nov66	BAGLEY, Adam B.	SSgt	1387530/6413	Camp Bulter, Okinawa
14Nov66	PAULSON, Erwin W.	Capt	088941/7335	H&MS-16 MAG-16
14Nov66	SCHEURICH, John A.	2dLt	099851/6402	H&MS-16 MAG-16
19Nov66	VANGORDER, James E.	Capt	086689/7335	Camp Bulter, Okinawa
21Nov66	HOLMES, William T. Jr	1stLt	091224/7335	Danang FFT CONUS
21Nov66	LEVAN, Robert L.	Maj	071958/7335	MCS Quantico, Va
22Nov66	DWYER, Merle D.	Sgt	1880630/7041	Marine Wing Hqtrs Gru 1
24Nov66	REED, Kenneth R.	1stLt	091622/7335	5thMarDiv, FMF CamPen Calif
24Nov66	JARA, Robert A.	Cpl	2097005/0141	MB NB Phila Pa.
24Nov66	SANDERSON, Theodore J.	Cpl	2062574/6611	3dMAW MCAS El Toro Calif

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2. (U) Administration

a. Promotions during the period

24Nov66 4 Promotions to LCpl rank from 10Oct66

b. Awards Given:

165 Air Medals Awarded

1 Combat Aircrew Insignia Awarded

3 Purple Hearts Awarded

253 Air Medals Recommended

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## INTELLIGENCE

1. (U) During the month of November the squadron supported the following:

- (a) Operation Prairie
- (b) Operation Mississippi
- (c) Routine III MAF support (Da Nang TAOR)

2. (C) The squadron gave limited support to Operation Prairie.

3. (C) In support of Operation Mississippi, four (4) squadron aircraft were on daily standby at An Hoa and two aircraft were on night standby. There were numerous reports of hostile fire in the area South of An Hoa prior to the Operation. However just before the Operation the hostile fire declined.

4. (U) The Da Nang TAOR again proved the area of most fire incidents. Med-Evac aircraft were the target of most fire incidents as usual. One Med-Evac aircraft was shot down in the Landing Zone and the pilot was wounded. Numerous sweep type operations have had negative results in clearing the Da Nang TAOR of the constant sniper fire.

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

Fire Incidents	57
Hit Incidents	15
Total number of Hits	21
Med-Evac Incidents	32

Areas of greatest intensity are:

AT 95	- 24
AT 96	- 18
BT 06	- 9
BT 05	- 7

6. (U) During the month of November Intelligence training was conducted in the following areas:

- (a) Map Reading
- (b) Survival Training and Survival Radio Training
- (c) Rules of Engagement
- (d) EOB in the I Corps Area

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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1966

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN: . . . . .	1,314.4
TOTAL PASSENGERS CARRIED: . . . . .	2923
TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN: . . . . .	3931
TOTAL MED EVACS: . . . . .	571
TOTAL CARGO LIFTED (TONS): . . . . .	146

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## LOGISTICS

1. AOCF Resume 1 thru 30 November 1966
  - a. Total Submitted 107
  - b. Total Filled 106
  - c. Outstanding 1
  
2. ANFE Resume 1 thru 30 November 1966
  - a. Total Submitted 100
  - b. Total Filled 85
  - c. Outstanding 15
  
3. AVGAS Resume 1 thru 30 November 1966
  - a. Total AVGAS Cost \$25,229.68
  - b. Gallons Utilized 157,688
  
4. AV/OIL Resume 1 thru 30 November 1966
  - a. Total Cost \$687.50
  - b. Drums Utilized 25

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## MAINTENANCE

1. (C) The month of November 1966 was an active one for the maintenance department. Two aircraft were lost during the month. One of these was shipped to FAWPRA for scheduled overhaul. The other received overhaul battle damage while attempting a medical evacuation in a unsecured zone.

2. (C) Aircraft availability showed a sharp rise over last months availability ie. an average of 18 out of 23 aircraft were available compared to 12 out of 21 aircraft during the previous month.

3. (C) The following is a breakdown of aircraft statistics:

A. Average number of aircraft assigned -----	23
B. Not ready aircraft hours for supply -----	1041
C. Not ready aircraft hours for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. -----	2422
D. Operational ready hours -----	11834.0
E. Total possible operational ready hours -----	15600.0
*F. Total flight hours flown -----	1314.4
G. Average flight hours per aircraft -----	57.1
H. Average number of aircraft down each day for battle damage -----	1

\*3F. This months flight hours is lower than last months due to inclement weather.

4. (C) Maintenance recovery crews were sent out on five occasions during the month. Three of the five recovery missions were into unsecured zones to effect the removal of sufficient components to allow the aircraft to be helicopter lifted to a secure area.

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PART IV DOCUMENTATION

NONE

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