

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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5750
03A24670
6 SEP 1970

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 - 31 August 1970
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8B
(c) WgO 5750.1C
(d) GruO 5750.1C

Encl: ✓(1) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Command
Chronology for period 1 - 31 August 1970

1. In accordance with references(a) through (d), enclosure
(1) is hereby submitted.

L. K. Keck
L. K. KECK

HMMA-263, S. A. C. Files
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HMMA-263

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 263
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602
Marble Mountain, Republic of Vietnam

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY 1 AUGUST TO 31 AUGUST 1970

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03A24670PART IIORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

HMM-263

LTCOL L. K. KECK

1-31 August

2. LOCATION

During the period of 1-31 August 1970 the Blue Eagles of HMM-263 were located at Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer	Major D. N. ANDERSON	1-31 August
Operations Officer	Major T. J. TOBEN	1-31 August
Logistics Officer	Major R. W. GEIS	1-31 August
A/C Maintenance Officer	Captain D. D. FROST	1-31 August
Administrative Officer	Captain H. P. BREAZEALE	1-6 August
	1st Lt J. L. FORESMAN	7-31 August
NATOPS Officer	Captain L. R. MEDLIN	1-6 August
	Captain H. P. BREAZEALE	7-31 August
Aviation Safety Officer	1st Lt P. D. PARKER	1-6 August
	1st Lt M. K. MORRISON	7-31 August
Intelligence Officer	1st Lt L. K. WILLIAMS	1-31 August
Awards Officer	1st Lt P. A. MAZURAK	1-31 August
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj M. S. LANDY	1-31 August

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Officers	47	1	0	48
Enlisted	166	0	0	166

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August was a busy month for the Peachbush Eagles of HMM-263. Peachbush aircraft launched on 858 flights, 100 of these being flown during the hours of darkness. During the month 5352 sorties were flown resulting in 1335 flight hours. Helicopters of HMM-263 carried 259.9 tons of cargo while 11,720 passengers enjoyed rides in Peachbush aircraft. A total of 107 medevac missions were flown by the squadron and 642 injured personnel were transported to medical facilities. Of these, 177 were emergency cases, 174 were priority and 291 were routine. Enemy activity remained at a relatively low level this month with only 13 fire incidents being reported and only 1 hit was taken by our planes. Squadron gunners expended 1200 .50 Cal rounds on Viet Cong and NVA positions.

The squadron continued to receive, report and interpret intelligence information from XXIV Corps, III MAF, 1st MAW, 1st MAR DIV, MAG-16 and 1st RECON BN. Through spot reports, fire incident reports and other pilot debriefing forms, intelligence information was passed to MAG-16 for dissemination to higher, lower and adjacent units. MAG-16 did not come under rocket or mortar attack this month.

HMM-263 was involved in strikes, RECON inserts and extracts during this period. Separate briefs and debriefs were given to pilots and aircrews.

To provide continuous up to date intelligence, the intelligence unit conducted briefs at AOM's and before Recon missions. Current fire incidents, Recon and OOB maps were kept and made available to the pilots.

Five officers and four enlisted marines attended Jungle Escape and Survival Training at NAS, Cubi Point, R. P.

During the month enlisted personnel earned a total of 230 Strike Flight Awards and officers earned 152. Six enlisted were promoted to their present ranks. During the month 10 officers and 41 enlisted joined the ranks of Peachbush while 10 officers and 30 enlisted departed for new duty.

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03A24570PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 August 1970 The month of August started off good for the Peachbush aviators. The most significant event was that Peachbush Carroll "took hits" by a VC/Green Beret flagpole at the Nan Son coal mines.
- 2 August 1970 Captain MEDLIN was on a test hop when the number 2 engine caught fire while testing the emergency throttle system. The aircraft received minor damage and was landed safely at MIAF. Lt "Pig" MACRAE and copilot Lt Rob MEYERS reported taking fire near Hoi An while flying night medevac.
- 4 August 1970 Lt J. E. O'BRIEN gave Major General ARMSTRONG, CG 1st MAW, a flying lesson in Peachbush's VIP CH-46D. BGen CONLEY also logged "left seat time" with Peachbush 26. One casualty of the day was a popped droop stop from a little rough ground handling by the "students." Major GEIS led the Bald Eagle package which logged 25 hours and carried 600 troops. The days work accomplished a total of one VC helmet, 1 map case and 1 canteen were captured.
- 5 August 1970 Peachbush was supplemented by officers and enlisted men not going home with IMM-161.
- 7 August 1970 Today was a relatively quiet day for the Blue Eagles as we had three standby missions. However, during the late evening Major TOBEN launched a section of Bald Eagle to provide a SAR capability for an accident the Purple Foxes had on night medevac.
- 9 August 1970 Enemy guns tried again and failed. Lt Pete MAZURAK while leading a section of night medevac took fire from the "Dodge City" area west of the French Fort. Fortunately no hits were taken and the incident was reported to the intelligence section.
- 12 August 1970 The enemy struck with brutal accuracy today as 15 emergency medevacs, 4 KIA and one routine medevac were extracted by Lt DEVORE and Lt WZOREK. The casualties were caused by a 250 pound bomb installed as a booby trap 2.5 clicks south of Liberty Bridge.
- 15 August 1970 Today Peachbush lost a great asset to the squadron, Capt. MEDLIN. Fortunately the Eagles didn't lose him to the enemy just to Wing Headquarters. Capt MEDLIN will function as Comptroller for MIAW.

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- 16 August 1970 Major T. TOBEN flew out to the rescue of one of the Battalion Recon teams. It seems that once again Recon was swift, silent but surrounded. Major TOBEN extracted the team on a ladder from their "heaven" in the Que San mountains.
- 17 August 1970 The enemy causes havoc once again. Lt WRIGHT while performing a medevac mission for the 7th Marines, took a hit in the rotor system. The incident took place just minutes after "Charlie" mortared "M" company's position. Thirty-two medevacs were taken out of the perimeter with one US KIA, 15 emergency and 15 routine medevacs.
- 19 August 1970 The Blue Eagles of HMM-263 had a very quiet day as we had all stand-by missions except for the VIP and C&C packages. We accrued only 24.8 hours today.
- 21 August 1970 Today HMM-263 covered medevacs for the 1st and 5th Marines. It was a very busy day for the Eagles of mercy as they carried a total of 46 medevacs, twelve of which were emergency cases.
- 22 August 1970 Mission 80 - no go.
- 24 August 1970 The Sea Knights of HMM-263 held up their end of the work today as they covered medevac, recon, VIP, and resupply missions. In the process of completing the missions for the 1st MARDIV, 263 accrued 62.9 hours.
- 25 August 1970 The Blue Eagles launched on a nine plane strike in support of the 5th Special Forces Group. The objective was the insertion of troops into a proposed ARVN fire support base, LZ GUAMO in Happy Valley. The second aircraft into the zone, piloted by Lts. J. P. SMITH and R. C. BENNEY, crashed and burned, but miraculously no one aboard was seriously injured. Only scrapes and burns were sustained.
- 26 August 1970 A full day for the Blue Eagles medevac, resupply and C&C with a total of 62.3 hours being flown.
- 28 August 1970 Today was an easy day for the Blue Eagles with Bald Eagle stand-by and only 24.7 hours being flown.
- 29 August 1970 The Blue Eagles CO, LTCCL KECK, with Lt Ron CORNETTA as co-pilot on his HAC check took fire on an emergency recon extract.
- 30 August 1970 Lt Rick KUNKEL performed an emergency ladder extract of the recon team "RAZORBILL" in contact with the enemy in Elephant Valley.
- 31 August 1970 HMM-263 wound up the month with another Bald Eagle stand-by and one emergency extract by Lt John SMITH.

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PART IV
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE SUBMITTED