

MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 463
Marine Aircraft Group 16
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

CONFIDENTIAL

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3750
6 December 1967
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16
Subj: Command Chronology for November 1967; submission of
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1B
(b) GruO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓ (1) Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 Command Chronology for November 1967.

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the subject report is submitted as enclosure (1).
2. Upon removal of enclosure (1), downgrade to UNCLASSIFIED.

J. L. Sadowski
J. L. SADOWSKI

HMH-463

CMO CHRON

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MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 463
Marble Mountain Air Facility
Republic of South Viet Nam
1 November 1967 - 30 November 1967

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

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PART I Organizational Data

1. (C) CO LtCol Joseph L. SADOWSKI 1 Nov 1967 -
 XO LtCol Charles H. NORTHFIELD 1 Nov 1967 -
 S-1 Maj Victor M. LEE 1 Nov 1967 -
 S-2 Capt Bert E. G. SANDVOSS 1 Nov 1967 -
 S-3 Maj Kenneth H. WILCOX 1 Nov 1967 -
 S-4 Maj George F. EBBITT 1 Nov 1967 -

2. (C) Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Viet Nam, 23 May 1967 - 30 November 1967.

3. (C) Average Monthly Strength:
 Officer: 49 NA 4 A/G 1 USN
 Enlisted: 255

4. (C) Important Visitors to Command: Rear Admiral G. S. MORRISON, Assistant Commander, Logistics Fleet Support Group, Naval Air Systems Command, visited the squadron area and received a brief on squadron activities from LtCol J. L. SADOWSKI, Commanding Officer, HMH-463.

PART II Chronological Summary of Month's Major Activities

Normal combat support operations were conducted throughout the month.

3 Nov 1967 - Ten CH-53A's were flown from the USS Iwo Jima upon their arrival in RVN.

14 Nov 1967 - Three CH-53A helicopters flew 49 sorties lifting 647 troops and 9.5 tons of cargo from the USS Tripoli to An Hoa in support of SLF Alpha.

16 Nov 1967 - Three aircraft transported 1078 Vietnamese refugees from AT 884516 to LZ 432 in conjunction with Operation Foster.

18 Nov 1967 - Four CH-53A helicopters flew 39 sorties in 10.2 flight hours lifting 15.0 tons of cargo and 385 troops from Phu Bai to ZC 135974 in support of the Third Marine Division.

20 Nov 1967 - The squadron completed its first test and evaluation of aerial delivery of cargo successfully. Five 1,500 pound loads were dropped from the aircraft over Red Beach from altitudes varying from 800 to 1,000 feet using airspeeds of 80, 100, and 120 knots.

23 Nov 1967 - Two CH-53A helicopters flew 28 sorties in 8.8 flight hours lifting 511 troops from YD 640275 to YD 517445 in support of the ARVN's.

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29 Nov 1967 - Four CH-53A helicopters flew 55 sorties in 11.0 flight hours lifting 770 troops and 12.05 tons of cargo from An Hoa to LZ 413 in support of the First Marine Division.

PART III Significant Events

1. (C) Personnel:

- a. Transferred: 8 Officers 17 Enlisted
- b. Promoted: 4 Officers 0 Enlisted
- c. Joined: 9 Officers 27 Enlisted

2. (U) Administration: None.

3. (U) Awards:

- a. Squadron officers were awarded the following Air Medals:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| First Award | 3 |
| Fifth Award | 1 |
| Sixth Award | 7 |
| Eleventh Award | 2 |

- b. Squadron enlisted personnel were awarded the following Air Medals:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| First Award | 16 |
| Sixth Award | 15 |
| Sixteenth Award | 1 |

4. (C) Casualties:

a. Major William C. COWPERTHWAIT, 077813, WIA on 11 Nov 1967. Major Cowperthwait was medevaced to Tripler Army Hospital, Hawaii for an indefinite recuperation period.

b. Gunnery Sergeant Robert R. LA LONDE, 1411857, WIA on 11 Nov 1967, was hospitalized at the Naval Support Activity Hospital Danang RVN for 14 days after which he returned to full duty.

c. Staff Sergeant Charles A. TRUEX, 1533588, was transferred to Naval Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee for surgery and recovery from wounds received 15 October 1967.

d. Corporal Nathan W. SKAGER, 2192650, WIA on 17 November 1967. Corporal SKAGER was medevaced to Cam Ranh Bay Hospital for 15 days; whereupon, he returned to full duty.

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5. Civic Action: None.
6. (U) Morale/Welfare: None.
7. (U) Informational Services: None.

8. (C) Intelligence/Counter-Intelligence: The inclement weather has been a significant factor in the increase in the number of fire incidents during the month. Despite the fact that hostile area weather minimums were maintained, 31 aircraft received fire. Fifteen aircraft were hit by enemy fire and twelve of these were hit while enroute.

9. (C) Air Operations:

- a. Hours Flown: 1118.2
- b. Sorties: 3223
- c. Passengers: 18,044
- d. Cargo: Total: 2820.2 Tons
- Internal: 1364.3 Tons
- External: 1315.5 Tons
- TAR: 140.4 Tons 37 Aircraft

| Type Aircraft recovered: | Average weight: |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 - UH-34 | 4.8 Tons |
| 5 - CH-46 | 6.2 Tons |
| 11 - UH-1E | 3.0 Tons |

- e. Average flight time per pilot: 45.6 Hours
- f. Average flight time per Aircraft Commander: 52.8 Hours
10. (C) Air Control:

- a. Actual Instrument Hours: 43.4 Hours
- b. Hours of GCA Operation: 25.5 Hours
- c. Number of Aircraft Radar Controlled: 48

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11. (C) HMH-463 participated in the following operations: ESSEX, FOSTER, GRANITE, KENTUCKY/LANCASTER, NEOSHO, OSCEOLA, SCOTLAND.
12. (U) Ground Defense: None.
13. (U) Command Relationships/Command and Control: None.
14. (U) NBC Defense: None.
15. (C) Training:
- a. Crew Chiefs in Training: 27
 - b. Aerial Gunners in Training: 20
 - c. JEST: 2
 - d. Fifty-seven enlisted personnel qualified with the M-60 Machine Gun after receiving familiarization lecture and firing the weapon on the Rifle Range.
16. (C) Logistics:
- a. Flying the TACLOG, squadron aircraft lifted 538,398 pounds of cargo and 2,059 troops in 105.2 flight hours and 239 sorties.
 - b. Squadron aircraft were instrumental in resupplying Khe Sanh with provisions and fuel. CH-53 helicopters lifted 369,850 pounds of fuel, 363,985 pounds of cargo and 971 personnel in 155.1 flight hours and 302 sorties, excluding the daily TACLOG.
 - c. In support of the Republic of Korea Marines the squadron flew 185 sorties in 49.4 flight hours lifting 434,600 pounds of cargo and 930 troops.
 - d. During the period of 16-24 November 1967, squadron pilots flew 128 sorties in 24.1 flight hours lifting 4,293 Vietnamese refugees from the Operation Foster area.
17. (U) Supply: None.
18. (U) Motor Transport: None.
19. (U) Engineering: None.
20. (C) Maintenance:
- a. Normal maintenance was performed on all squadron aircraft during the month.

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b. The following is a listing of high utilization components sent to the Intermediate Maintenance Activity, H&MS-16, for repair:

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | Fuel Controls |
| 3 | Sleeve and Spindle Assemblies |
| 3 | Main Rotor Blades |
| 4 | Tail Rotor Blades |
| 2 | Main Rotor Heads |
| 1 | Tail Rotor Head |
| 6 | T-64 Engines |
| 12 | Main Rotor Blade Dampers |
| 56 | AN/ARN-52(V) Tacans |
| 1 | First Stage Hydraulic Reservoir |
| 13 | Second Stage Hydraulic Reservoirs |
| 5 | Utility Hydraulic Reservoirs |
| 22 | Pitch Control Rods |

c. During the month, the squadron has encountered a significant problem with our hydraulics system. An increase in the rate of hydraulic reservoir failures has been experienced. This could lead to a catastrophic control system failure in the event that both reservoirs failed. At present, a new modified reservoir is being installed in all aircraft in an attempt to alleviate this problem. At this time, fifteen aircraft have the modified reservoir installed.

21. (U) Avionics: None.
22. (U) Base Development/Military Construction: None.
23. (U) Communications/Electronics: None.

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