

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

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03A03369
2 February 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16

Subj: Command Chronology for January 1969, submission of

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1B
(b) GruO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 Command Chronology for
January 1969.

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the subject is submitted as enclosure (1).
2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

HMH-463

COMD CHRON

R. W. PEARD

MAG-16	
SAC #	0977-69
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HMH-463 S&C FILES
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MARINE HEAVY HELICOPTER SQUADRON 463
Marble Mountain Air Facility
Republic of South Vietnam
1 January 1969 - 31 January 1969

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ENCLOSURE

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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O.	LtCol	Roger W. PEARD	1	January 1969-
X.O.	LtCol	Paul F. MAGINNIS	1	January 1969-
S-1	Maj	Franklin H. HEINS	1 - 6	January 1969
S-1	Maj	Jack G. MILLS	7	January 1969-
S-2	Maj	Paul B. WESTMILLER	1	January 1969-
S-3	Maj	Peter R. WORDEN	1	January 1969-
S-4	Maj	William A. ALLANSON	1	January 1969-

2. (C) Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Vietnam, 23 May 1967 - 31 January 1969.

3. (C) Average Monthly Strength

Officers: 37 N/A 5 A/G

Enlisted: 195

4. (U) Important Visitors to the Command:

15 January 1969: Major General Carl A. YOUNGDALE, Deputy Commander III MAF

17 January 1969: Brigadier General Homer S. HILL, Assistant Commander 1st MAF

29 January 1969: Brigadier General George E. DOOLEY, Chief of Staff III MAF

PART II CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF MONTHS MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

1 JANUARY 1969: To start off the New Year two CH-53A's supported Operation VICTORY DRAGON VI by flying 34 sorties for 4.8 hours during which time 132 troops and 29.0 tons of cargo (2.7 internal, 26.3 external) from LZ-211 to the various ROKMC outposts west of Hoi An.

Operation TAYLOR COMMON was supported by five '53s that flew 81 sorties for 16.9 hours during which time 540 troops and 65.8 tons of cargo (2.4 internal, 63.4 external) from LZ YANKEE at An Hoa to LZ's SPEAR, MACE, DAGGAR, LANCE, and CUTLASS.

One aircraft suffered four damaged tail rotor blades when they contacted the ground at LZ DAGGAR, as a result the zone was declared unsuitable. Repairs were effected on the spot, and the aircraft was flown back to MMAF.

2 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON six '53s flew 109 sorties for 24.3 hours transporting 395 troops and 146.1 tons of cargo (11.4 internal, 134.7 external) from An Hoa to the Fire Support Bases (FSB) to the west.

Two UH-1E's were airlifted from Marble Mountain to HEMS-17.

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Danang for the first Admin TAR's of the year.

3 JANUARY 1969: While supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON six '53s flew 112 sorties for 24.3 hours transporting 203 troops and 142.1 tons of cargo (7.3 internal, 134.8 external) from An Hoa.

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4 JANUARY 1969: Poor weather hindered flight operations, and two missions were cancelled as a result.

5 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON seven '53s flew 111 sorties for 29.0 hours transporting 493 troops and 151.0 tons of cargo (11.0 internal, 140.0 external) from An Hoa to LZs PIKE, CUTLASS, and JAVELIN.

6 JANUARY 1969: Supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON two '53s flew 16 sorties for 5.4 hours transporting 52 troops, of which 20 were medevacs, and 18.1 tons of external cargo from An Hoa to LZ PIKE.

Also supported was Operation VICTORY DRAGON VI. Two '53s flew 12 sorties in marginal weather transporting 19.6 tons of external cargo from LZ-211 to Ham Salad, Latin Rebel, and Night Cover positions.

7 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON three CH-53As flew 14 sorties for 5.3 hours transporting 64 troops and 7.9 tons of cargo (1.2 internal, 6.7 external) from An Hoa to LZ PIKE.

8 JANUARY 1969: Once again Operation TAYLOR COMMON was supported by six '53s flying 45 sorties for 13.1 hours, transporting 121 troops and 41.9 tons of cargo (3.0 internal, 41.9 external) from An Hoa to the Fire Support Bases in the mountains.

9 JANUARY 1969: Eight CH-53As supported Operation TAYLOR COMMON for 27.6 hours flying 126 sorties which lifted 446 troops and 153.8 tons of cargo (8.1 internal, 145.7 external) from YANKEE LSA at An Hoa.

Two UH-1e's were airlifted from An Hoa to Marble Mountain for two Admin TAR's.

10 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON eight '53s flew 140 sorties for 31.3 hours transporting 708 troops and 125.9 tons of cargo (2.0 internal, 123.9 external) from An Hoa.

One aircraft suffered limited damage when a stump contacted the underside of the helicopter while landing in a new zone.

11 JANUARY 1969: Operation TAYLOR COMMON was supported by five CH-53A flying 66 sorties for 15.9 hours transporting 100 troops and 99.7 tons of cargo (21.3 internal, 78.4 external).

One UH-34D was airlifted from LZ-401 to the USS OKINAWA for an Admin TAR.

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12 JANUARY 1969: While supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON eleven '53s flew 26 sorties for 20.5 hours during which time 426 troops were carried in addition to 110.0 tons of resupply (1.3 internal, 108.7 external) moved from An Hoa.

ROKMC Operation VICTORY DRAGON VII was supported by one '53 that flew 13 sorties for 1.9 hours transporting 18 troops and 2.4 external tons of rice from BT 074496 to LZ-211.

One UH-1E was carried from MMAF to H&MS-17 at Danang for an Admin lift.

13 JANUARY 1969: Hindered by poor visibility and low ceilings only one CH-53A supported Operation TAYLOR COMMON by flying 8 sorties for 3.3 hours transporting 139 troops and 0.9 internal tons of cargo from LZ-467 to An Hoa.

In support of Operation VICTORY DRAGON VII three '53s flew 39 sorties for 8.0 hours lifting 83 troops and 42.0 tons of cargo (0.8 internal, 41.2 external) from LZ-211 to the various ROKMC outposts in the Hoi An area and back. One '53 received five hits from automatic small arms fire while delivering cargo to BT 050565. The damage was quickly assessed, and the aircraft was flown back to Marble Mountain uneventually.

14 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53s flew 67 sorties for 13.3 hours transporting 163 troops and 82.8 tons of cargo (0.5 internal, 82.3 external) from An Hoa to LZ's DAGGER, CUTLASS, JAVELIN, PIKE, and SPEAR.

One UH-1E was carried from An Hoa to MMAF, and another UH-34D was carried from MMAF to Danang for two Admin recoveries.

15 JANUARY 1969: Supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53As flew 72 sorties in 15.4 hours. They transported 306 troops and 71.3 tons of cargo (3.6 internal, 67.7 external) from An Hoa to CUTLASS, PIKE, DAGGER, ZC 062391 and ZC 095404. Missions 45 and 52 were incomplete due to weather conditions.

Major General YOUNGDALE visited the squadron and was briefed by the Executive Officer on the capabilities and missions of the '53.

16 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON seven '53s had 87 sorties in 23.7 hours moving 347 troops and 111.7 tons of cargo, all external, from An Hoa to western landing zones.

17 JANUARY 1969: TAYLOR COMMON support required nine CH-53As flying 130 sorties for 33.0 hours transporting 471 troops and 170.7 tons, (3.9 internal, 166.8 external) to landing zones PIKE, CUTLASS, MAXWELL and other western zones.

One UH-34 was lifted from Delta Pad to Marble Mountain for an Admin TAR.

Brigadier General HILL visited the squadron to discuss aircraft assets and utilization with the Commanding Officer.

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18 JANUARY 1969: Supporting TAYLOR COMMON six CH-53As flew 99 sorties in 22.4 hours carrying 368 troops and 103.7 tons of cargo (3.2 tons internal and 100.5 tons external) to zones in the TAYLOR COMMON area.

One UH-1E was recovered from BT 055545 and transported to Marble Mountain for a Field recovery. A second UH-1E, carried from An Hoa to Marble Mountain, was an Administrative TAR.

19 JANUARY 1969: Flying in support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON six CH-53As completed 109 sorties in 24.7 hours. They transported 272 troops and 124.8 tons of cargo (4.2 tons internal and 120.6 tons external) to zones west of An Hoa.

While carrying an external load one aircraft suffered a hole in the belly from a broken external strap.

20 JANUARY 1969: In support of TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53As flew 58 sorties in 9.5 hours lifting 171 troops and 42.7 tons of cargo (0.2 tons internal and 42.5 tons external). While supporting this operation, one aircraft received automatic weapons fire while in the clouds on GCA final into An Hoa and sustained limited damage. The aircraft returned to Marble Mountain for repairs.

Operation VICTORY DRAGON VII was supported by one aircraft for 0.5 hours. The day's mission was incomplete due to weather and aircraft availability.

One UH-34 was lifted from LZ-41 to MMAP for an Administrative TAR.

21 JANUARY 1969: While supporting Operation VICTORY DRAGON VII three CH-53As flew 58 sorties in 10.2 hours. They carried 140 passengers and 74.9 tons of cargo (0.5 tons internal and 74.4 external). Two 53s sustained battle damage while on this mission. One of these aircraft had to be shut down while in the operating area. After evaluating the damage, the aircraft was safely flown back to Marble Mountain.

Supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53As completed 48 sorties in 10.9 hours transporting 112 passengers and 64.8 tons of cargo (0.4 tons internal and 64.4 tons external) from An Hoa to the numerous Fire Support Bases to the west.

22 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON two '53s flew 30 sorties for 9.0 hours transporting 107 troops and 40.0 tons of cargo (4.0 internal, 36.0 external) from An Hoa to LZs MAXWELL, DAGGER, and PIKE.

One A-4E was airlifted from H&MS-12 at Chu Lai to Danang Air Base for an Admin TAR.

23 JANUARY 1969: Again in support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53As flew 66 sorties for 14.5 hours during which time 227 troops

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and 87.3 tons of cargo (0.7 internal, 86.6 external) were moved from YANKEE LSA at An Hoa.

One U.S. ARMY UH-1B was carried from An Hoa to Red Beach for an Admin TAR

24 JANUARY 1969: While supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON four CH-53s flew 41 sorties for 10.0 hours, transporting 84 passengers and 54.0 tons of cargo (0.4 internal, and 53.6 external) from An Hoa to LZs MAXWELL, CUTLASS, BROADSWORD, and DAGGER.

25 JANUARY 1969: Poor aircraft availability hampered the completion of the day's assigned missions. In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON four '53s flew 58 sorties in 14.2 hours lifting 73 troops and 82.0 tons of cargo (0.2 internal, 81.8 external) from An Hoa to the western FSBs.

26 JANUARY 1969: Once again Operation TAYLOR COMMON was supported. Three '53s flew 51 sorties for 12.1 hours transporting 130 troops and 66.8 tons of cargo (0.7 internal, 66.1 external) from An Hoa.

One UH-1E was lifted from An Hoa to MMAF for another Admin recovery.

27 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON five '53s flew 68 sorties for 19.3 hours, during which time 168 troops and 81.3 tons of cargo (3.0 internal, 73.3 external) were carried from An Hoa to the operational area to the west.

One strike damaged UH-1E was brought back to MMAF from An Hoa for an Admin TAR.

28 JANUARY 1969: Support for Operation TAYLOR COMMON was provided by seven '53s that flew 77 sorties for 21.4 hours transporting 174 troops and 90.7 tons of cargo (6.3 internal, 84.4 external) to the various FSBs in the operating area.

Three U.S. NAVY UH-2Cs were carried from the USS CORAL SEA to Marble Mountain for Admin recoveries.

At approximately 1800H, First Lieutenants William H. EARP and Walter E. STOCKMAN Jr. were diverted from the mission they were working to externally carry a deceased whale from the beach to a disposal area nearby. This sortie was the squadron's first Tactical Whale Removal (TWR).

29 JANUARY 1969: In support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON eight CH-53As flew 123 sorties for 30.3 hours transporting 391 troops and 109.1 tons of cargo (3.2 internal, 105.9 external) from An Hoa to LZs CUTLASS, PIKE, TOMAHAWK, and DART.

30 JANUARY 1969: While supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON five '53s flew 109 sorties for 27.7 hours lifting 327 troops and 116.8 tons of cargo (5.8 internal, 111.0 external) from An Hoa to LZs CUTLASS, FALCON, and TOMAHAWK.

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One UH-1E was retrieved at AT 928533 and carried to Marble Mountain for a Field TAR.

31 JANUARY 1969: Supporting Operation TAYLOR COMMON five '53s flew 44 sorties for 13.7 hours transporting 101 troops, 41 medevacs and 62.0 tons of cargo (10.8 internal, 51.2 external) from An Hoa to the various FSBs. One aircraft received substantial damage from an enemy .50 calibre position. The aircraft was able to return to Marble Mountain for repairs.

PART III Significant Events

1. (C) Personnel

a. Transferred	3 Officers 1 USN(MC)	17 Enlisted
b. Promoted	2 Officers	1 Enlisted
c. Joined	4 Officers	15 Enlisted

2. (U) Administration: On 7 January 1969 Major Jack G. MILLS replaced Major Franklin H. HEINS as Admin Officer, as Major HEINS was transferred to COMUSMACV, Saigon.

3. (U) Awards: A squadron Awards Ceremony was held on 13 and 14 January 1969.

Air Medals Earned:	54 Officers	83 Enlisted
Good Conduct:	7	
Meritorious Mast:	4	

4. (U) Casualties: None

5. (U) Civic Action: In conjunction with Operation HOPE more packages of school supplies were given to the Hoa Long Village School.

6. (U) Morale/Welfare: None

7. (U) ISO: Approximately 40 Fleet Home Town News Releases were submitted to the First Marine Aircraft Wing ISO this month.

8. (U) Intelligence/Counter-Intelligence: HMM-463's S-2 Department held weekly intelligence briefs at the weekly officers' meetings. The local friendly and enemy situations were discussed and analyzed. A

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prognosis was given of enemy activity in the Danang, An Hoa, Hoi An Triangle.

9. (C) Air Operations:

a. Hours Flown	722.7
b. Sorties	2763
c. Passengers	9061
d. Cargo	Total: 3086.7 Tons
	Internal: 166.5
	External: 2830.2 (Less TAR weight)
	TAR: 90.0

Type Aircraft Recovered	Average Weight
UH-34D (7 Admin)	4.5 Tons
UH-1E (10 Admin, 2 Field)	3.5 Tons
A-4E (1 Admin)	4.5 Tons
UH-2C (3 Admin)	4.0 Tons

10. (C) Air Control:

a. Actual Instrument Hours:	26.2
b. Hours of GCA Operations:	20.4
c. Number of Aircraft Radar Controlled:	34

11. (C) HMI-463 participated in the following Operations:

VICTORY DRAGON VI and VII, TAYLOR COMMON

12. (U) Ground Defense: None

13. (U) Command Relationship/Command and Control: None

14. (U) NBC Defense: Gas Chamber Drill was conducted for all personnel on 13, 14, 15, 16, 30 and 31 January 1969.

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15. (U) Training:

a. Familiarization firing of T/O weapons was held on 13, 14, 15, 16, 30, and 31 January 1969.

b. Schools attended during the month of January 1969:

NBC School: 1stLt RACKLEY Sgt GRAY

JEST School: Maj MILLS 1stLt WALTERS 1stLt ANDERSON

c. Pilot ground training was conducted weekly by qualified personnel concerning the various operating phases of the CH-53A.

16. (C) In support of Operation VICTORY DRAGON VI, which was terminated on 11 January 1969 and Operation VICTORY DRAGON VII, HMI-463 flew 157 sorties for 28.0 hours transporting 373 troops and 167.9 tons of cargo (4.0 internal, 163.9 external) from LZ-211.

In support of Operation TAYLOR COMBON, HMI-463 flew 2261 sorties for 542.0 hours, transporting 7720 troops and 2628.7 tons of cargo (121.0 internal, 2507.7 external) from YANKEE LSA at An Hoa.

17. (U) Supply: None

18. (U) Motor Transport: None

19. (U) Engineering: None

20. (U) Maintenance:

a. Normal maintenance was performed on all squadron aircraft.

b. The following is a list of high utilization components for the previous month:

1. 25 Main Landing Gear Brakes
2. 19 Tail Rotor Pitch Change Links
3. 16 Rotor Tachometers
4. 15 Pitch Change Rods
5. 15 RT 294/ARC 44 Receiver/Transmitters (FM)
6. 12 Main Rotor Blades
7. 11 Primary Servos
8. 10 RT 384/ARN 52 Receiver/Transmitters (TACAN)
9. 9 Main Rotor Blade Dampers
10. 8 Lower Fuselage Anti-collision Lights

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21. (U) Avionics: None
22. (U) Base Development/Military Construction: The new squadron hanger is still under construction. First Lieutenant N. H. RACKLEY has been supervising the construction of protective bunkers in the troops living area and hanger area.
23. (U) Communications/Electronics: None
24. (C) Combat Missions Assigned:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| a. Missions Assigned | 102 |
| b. Missions Completed | 83 |
| c. Missions Cancelled | 5 |
| d. Missions Incompleted | 15 |
25. (U) Weather: During the early part of the month, low ceilings and poor visibility hindered accomplishment of missions. The remainder of the month consisted of clear skies, generally enabling assigned missions to be completed.

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