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

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5750
4 Mar 1969
03A06369



From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February 1969

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C
(b) GrpO 5750.1C
(c) SqdO 5750.1

Encl: (1) Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Command Chronology

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), Enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

2. Downgrading instructions: Group 4. Unclassified when Enclosure (1) is removed.

RE HOFSTETTER
R. E. HOFSTETTER

HMM-263, S & C Files
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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
1-28 February 1969

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. STAFF OFFICERS

Commanding Officer	LtCol R. E. HOFFMAYER	1-28 Feb 1969
Executive Officer	Major L. I. BLANKENSHIP	1-28 Feb 1969
Operations Officer	Major R. D. FOWNER	1-28 Feb 1969
Administrative Officer	Capt D. S. VAN LIEW	1-28 Feb 1969
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major F. P. ACCOMANDO	1-28 Feb 1969
Logistics Officer	Major B. R. TERHORST	1-28 Feb 1969
NATOPS Officer	Capt R. B. GRUNDY	1-23 Feb 1969
	Capt J. G. FLYNN	24-28 Feb 1969
Aviation Safety Officer	Major D. P. REICHERT	1-25 Feb 1969
	Capt J. A. HOCKADAY	26-28 Feb 1969
Intelligence Officer	CWO-2 R. L. WINFIELD	1-28 Feb 1969
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt J. C. SHORT	1-28 Feb 1969
Flight Surgeon	Lt T. S. DAVIS	22-28 Feb 1969
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj D. N. SIMMS	1-28 Feb 1969

2. UNIT LOCATION

HMM-263 1-28 February 1969, Marble Mountain Air Facility, Danang, Republic of Vietnam

3. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Officer	52	1	0	53
Enlisted	167	0	0	167

4. IMPORTANT VISITORS

MajGen P. J. FONTANA, Deputy Commander, FMFPAC visited the HMM-263 Squadron area on 15 February 1969.

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PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. Daily Summary of Events. The following was flown in support of III MAF, 1st MARDIV, HMM-263, Operation TAYLOR COMMON and Operation VICTORY DRAGON.

- 1 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 130 sorties for 35.1 flight hours, lifting 506 troops/passengers and 5.8 tons of cargo. Eight med-evac missions were flown during the day, carrying 1 KIA and 17 WIA's. Two fire incidents reported from AT938598 and AT 950535. No damage or injuries.
- 2 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 142 sorties for 50.9 flight hours, lifting 195 troops/passengers and 39.7 tons of cargo. Seven med-evac missions were flown. Eight WIA's were carried. One automatic weapons fire was received and one small arms was also reported. No damage or injuries were sustained.
- 3 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 carried 459 troops/passengers and 34.6 tons of cargo, requiring 218 sorties and 54.4 flight hours. Med-evac missions flown for the day totaled 7 with 12 KIA and 24 WIA's being carried. Three fire incidents from small arms were reported. No hits or injuries sustained. Suppressive fire accounted for 500 rounds being expended.
- 4 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 187 sorties for 52.8 flight hours. Troops and passengers carried amounted to 148, with 26.2 tons of cargo also being carried. The 3 fire incidents for the day were from small arms fire. During the day 44 WIA's were carried on 25 different missions.
- 5 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 252 sorties during the 74.3 flight hours accumulated during the day. During this period 447 troops/passengers were carried and 40.7 tons of cargo lifted. Twelve med-evac missions were flown during the day which carried 20 WIA's. No damage or injuries were reported from the one small arms fire incident which occurred. Suppressive fire amounted to 200 rounds expended.

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- 6 February 1969 (C) During the day, HMM-263 flew 44.7 flight hours and 156 sorties. Total troops/passengers and cargo lifted for the day amounted to 185 and 17.5 respectively. Fourteen WIA's were carried on 12 different med-evac missions. No fire incidents were reported during the day.
- 7 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 performed 16 med-evac missions during the day. Twenty-four WIA's were carried. Troops/passengers carried came to 228 with 30.8 tons of cargo lifted. This required 54.3 flight hours and 163 sorties flown. Two fire incidents were reported. One from automatic weapons and the other from small arms fire. Neither caused any damage or casualties.
- 8 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 118 sorties for 38.0 flight hours, carrying 83 troops/passengers and lifting 2.2 tons of cargo. Nineteen med-evacs (8 KIA, 11 WIA) were carried on 19 separate med-evac missions.
- 9 February 1969 (C) During the day HMM-263 carried 274 troops/passengers and 39.5 tons of cargo. Med-evacs for the day accounted for 34 WIA's being lifted on 13 different med-evac missions. A total of 55.4 flight hours and 176 sorties were flown. One small arms fire incident occurred with no damage or injuries being sustained.
- 10 February 1969 (C) A total of 67.5 flight hours and 264 sorties were flown during the day. Cargo lifted was 33.5 tons and 536 troops/passengers were also carried. Approximately 250 rounds of suppressive fire were expended when small arms fire was received. Six to eight hits were counted on the aircraft. No injuries. One sick and 19 WIA's were carried during the day on 13 different med-evac missions.
- 11 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 114 sorties for 47.9 flight hours, carrying 411 troops/passengers and 4.5 tons of cargo. Fifteen casualties (1 KIA, 14 WIA) were carried during the day on an equal number of med-evac missions. A total of 4 fire incidents were reported for the day. All occurred from small arms fire. Three aircraft received no

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hits, the remaining aircraft sustained 4-6 hits. No injuries and no return fire.

- 12 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 lifted 124 troops/passengers and 23.8 tons of cargo. Flight hours came to 38.8 with 148 sorties being flown. Fifteen casualties were carried during the the day with a like number of missions flown. Three fire incidents were reported with none receiving any damage or injuries. Suppressive fire amounted to 350 rounds being expended
- 13 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew a total of 326 sorties and 77.4 flight hours for the day. Cargo lifted was 40.8 tons and 452 troops/passengers carried. Four med-evac missions with 4 WIA's being lifted. Two small arms fire incidents were reported. No damage or injuries were sustained. Approximately 350 rounds were spent as suppressive fire.
- 14 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 125 sorties for 37.7 flight hours, carrying 500 troops/passengers and 67.1 tons of cargo. Four fire incidents were reported. Twenty-five hits were received with no injuries sustained. Suppressive fire amounted to 315 rounds being expended. Fifteen med-evac missions were performed. Twenty-three WIA's were carried.
- 15 February 1969 (C) Troops/passengers carried were 109 with 8.1 tons cargo lifted during the day. HMM-263 flew 34.6 flight hours and 141 sorties. Thirty-nine WIA's were lifted on 30 different missions. One fire incident was reported with 1 hit and no injuries being sustained.
- 16 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 150 sorties for 47.3 flight hours, carrying 261 troops/passengers and 14.1 tons of cargo. Ten med-evac missions were flown with 16 WIA's being carried. Two small arms fire incidents were reported this day. No damage or injuries were sustained, 350 rounds were expended as suppressive fire.

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- 17 February 1969 (C) Flight time for the day was 45.0 hours and 166 sorties also being flown. Fifty-one point eight tons of cargo and 145 troops/passengers were also flown. Twenty-four med-evac missions with like number casualties (21 WIA, 3 sick) being carried. Three fire incidents were reported with negative damage or injuries being sustained.
- 18 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 carried 534 troops/passengers and 40.9 tons cargo during the day. Flight hours totaled 74.8 with 250 sorties. Med-evacs came to 57 WIA's with 39 missions being flown. No fire incidents were reported.
- 19 February 1969 (C) Ninety-six sorties and 36.0 flight hours were flown by HMM-263 during the day. Troops/passengers was 130 carried and 19.5 tons of cargo lifted. Nine WIA's were carried on 7 different med-evac missions. Two fire incidents, both from small arms were reported. No damage or injuries were sustained.
- 20 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 113 sorties for 35.1 flight hours, carrying 145 troops/passengers and 17.9 tons of cargo. Thirty-five med-evacs were flown, lifting 50 WIA's. Fire incidents for the day came from automatic weapons. Injuries and hits were negative.
- 21 February 1969 (C) During the day HMM-263 lifted 36.9 tons of cargo and 113 troops/passengers, 33.0 flight hours and 143 sorties were flown. Med-evac missions totaled 10 for the day (1 KIA, 10 WIA). No hostile fire was received.
- 22 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 90 sorties for 19.5 flight hours, carrying 149 troops/passengers and 6.4 tons of cargo. One sick and 10 WIA's were carried during the day on like number med-evacs. Three fire incidents were reported for the day. One aircraft received one hit. Both gunners were hit. The starboard gunner received shrapnel wounds and the port gunner was struck at the base of his skull. Later on he passed away due to the

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seriousness of his wound. Suppressive fire came to 120 rounds being expended.

- 23 February 1969 (C) Fifty-nine point nine flight hours and 220 sorties were flown by HMM-263. The total number of troops/passengers for the day came to 285 with 14.3 tons of cargo carried. Med-evac missions came to 62 with 7 KIA and 151 WIA's being carried. Four fire incidents were reported all from small arms. Fire returned came to 110 rounds expended.
- 24 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 212 sorties for 59.1 flight hours, carrying 107 troops/passengers and 26.5 tons of cargo. Seventy-five med-evac missions were flown with 16 KIA's and 95 WIA's being carried. Three fire incidents were reported with negative injury or damage being sustained. Suppressive fire amounted to 275 rounds being expended.
- 25 February 1969 (C) Flight hours for the day totaled 50.6 with 163 sorties also being flown. Twenty-nine tons of cargo and 166 troops/passengers being carried. Med-evacs totaled 26 missions (4 KIA, 22 WIA). Two fire incidents were reported with 530 rounds being spent on suppressive fire.
- 26 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 flew 97 sorties for 34.8 flight hours, carrying 136 troops/passengers and 31.8 tons of cargo. Negative damage or injury was reported after mortar fire was received at ZC0948 grid square.
- 27 February 1969 (C) Troops/passengers carried for the day was 182 with 37.1 tons of cargo being flown. HMM-263 totaled 82.5 flight hours and 205 sorties. Nineteen KIA's and 43 WIA's were carried on the 22 med-evac missions which were performed. One fire incident was reported. Damage and injury was negative. Suppressive fire totaled 120 rounds.
- 28 February 1969 (C) HMM-263 ended the month by flying 181 sorties for 58.0 flight hours, carrying 182 troops/passengers and 40.7 tons of cargo. Total med-evacs flown on this last day were 27 with 32 WIA's

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being carried. Two small arms fire incidents were reported. No damage or injuries were sustained, but approximately 870 rounds were expended on suppressive fire.

2. HMM-263 flew a total of 1,411.6 flight hours; 4,746 sorties; lifting 7,492 troops/passengers and 720.7 tons of cargo with an average aircraft availability of 11 aircraft for the period.

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d. During this reporting period the Intelligence Section produced 3 newsletters in a continuing update of combat intelligence and security problems in the Banang area. A SERE lecture was conducted at Group and presented by Wing. Ten Officers attended JEST School at Cubi Point. To keep the troops informed, the plan of the day carried several articles on combat intelligence, security, and sabotage.

e. Fire incidents for February are as follows:

<u>FIRE INCIDENTS</u>	<u>A/C HIT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF HITS</u>
75	29	124

f. The following is a summary of this Section's activities during the reporting period: Keeping the Commanding Officer informed daily of the enemy situation, updating the pilots each morning on the high threat areas and debriefing the pilots at the completion of their missions, presenting an update of the general enemy situation at the weekly ACM, and maintaining liaison with Group on a daily basis, with Wing on a Weekly basis, including a trip to 1st Recon Battalion at An Hoa and Quang Tri.

5. LOGISTICS

a. NORS "G" Resume

(1) Submitted	217
(2) Completed	194
(3) Pending	23

b. NORS "N" Resume

(1) Submitted	122
(2) Completed	90
(3) Pending	32

6. OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

a. Major Operations Supported:

(1) One hundred seventy-eight aircraft of HMM-263 flew 3,654 sorties for 1,067.0 flight hours, lifting 7,098 troops/passengers,

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PART III
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. PERSONNEL

	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
a. Personnel Joined	6	1	7
b. Personnel Dropped	2	15	17

2. ADMINISTRATION

	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
a. Personnel Promoted	0	4	4
b. Personnel Reduced	0	0	0

3. CASUALTIES FOR THE MONTH

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERNO.</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>KIA/WIA</u>	<u>DATE</u>
BOLAN, Edward W.	LCPL	2317284	USMC	KIA	22Feb69
CHURCH, Ralph A.	LCPL	2321454	USMC	WIA	22Feb69
SADLER, Alan L.	CPL	2274209	USMC	WIA	23Feb69
MUNOZ, Anselmo Jr.	LCPL	2185545	USMC	WIA	23Feb69
HANEY, Terry L.	LCPL	2335887	USMC	WIA	23Feb69

The above were all wounded in Quang Nam Province, RVN

4. INTELLIGENCE

a. The Squadron Intelligence Section received and recorded Intelligence information from Wing, Division, III MAF, MAG -16 and Recon on a daily basis. Through pilot debriefs and spot reports Intelligence information was forwarded through MAG-16 to higher, lower and adjacent units.

b. First MAW G-2, working very closely with our Squadron on mission 52, obtained a limited amount of hand-held photography of the LZ's we were supporting.

c. HMM-263 received negative incoming during the reporting period.

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655.5 tons of cargo. Two hundred fifty-seven med-evac missions carried 132 Emergency, 93 Priority and 226 Routine evacuees and expended 4,558 rounds of .50 caliber ordnance in support of Operation TAYLOR COMMON.

(2) Six aircraft of HMM-263 flew 158 sorties for 29.0 flight hours, lifting 188 troops/passengers and 54.3 tons of cargo in support of Operation VICTORY DRAGON.

b. Total Flight Hours	1,411.6
c. Total Tasks	1,222
d. Total Sorties	4,746
e. Total Troops/passengers	7,492
f. Total Tons of Cargo Lifted	720.7
g. Total Med-Evacs Carried	887

7. AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

The following Squadron aircraft received battle damage during the period 1-28 February 1969; 154800, 154802, 154806, 154807, 154808, 154809, 154810, 154812, 154813, 154814, 154815, 154817, 154829, 154833, 154835 and 154843.

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Feb 1969