

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 363
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
APO, San Francisco, 96602

3:TJF:ral
5750
Ser: 03A02169
21 Jan 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 January - 21 January 1969;
submission of
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) GruO 5750.1B
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology Report

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter may be downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

T. J. Cronin, Jr.
T. J. CRONIN JR

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ENCLOSURE (5)

AMM-363

Cmd Chron

1-21 JAN 1969

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Squadron Commander and Staff, with inclusive date of duration in assigned billets:

Commanding Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Maj T. J. CRONIN
Executive Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Maj T. J. PALESKIE
Operations Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Maj T. J. PALESKIE
Maintenance Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	1st Lt. R. L. KEMERLY
Administrative Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Capt T. B. DICKSON
Logistics Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Maj T. B. HILL
Aviation Safety Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	Capt G. F. HALMIDAY
Intelligence Officer	1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969	1st Lt. J. A. KELLGHER

2. Task organization and unit location with inclusive dates:

HMA-363; MIG-36, 1st IAW, F4TPa6 1 Jan - 21 Jan 1969
Phu Bai, IAW

3. Average strength of squadron during period:

Officers: 32 Enlisted 109

4. Important visitors to the squadron: None

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PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Normal daily flight operations during this reporting period consisted of med-evacs, resupply, aerial recon, command and control, VIP chase, and admin/liaison missions. The events listed took place during the course of these operations.

1 Jan 1969

On this date BUNO's 147183, 147192, 148788 and 150223 were dropped from this squadron and attached to H&MS-16.

Capt PINSCHENIT, Lt's ZEHMS, FLICKINGER, and NASH flew missions in support of the 3rd MAR DIV with Scarface aircraft. Lt NASH's aircraft was unable to return from Quang Tri due to a fuel pump failure.

Lt SEARING flying mission 79 in support of HMM-363 returned Lt NASH and his crew to Phu Bai. Lt SEARING also flew mission 81 in support of the 1st MAR DIV.

Capt WILLIAMS and Lt MARTIN flew VIP chase missions with Comprise Aircraft in support of ROKMC and 1st MAR DIV.

Lt RUZICKA flew mortar watch at Phu Bai. Lt RUZICKA reported taking fire upon investigating a fire fight at YD 985065.

2 Jan 1969

Maj FALESKIE, Capt WILLIAMS, and Lt MARTIN each flew VIP chase missions with Scarface aircraft in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Capt DICKSON and Lt FLICKINGER flew missions 2 and 10 in support of the 1st MAR DIV and the ROKMC, respectively.

Capt HALLIDAY flew night mortar watch over Phu Bai reporting negative enemy activity.

3 Jan 1969

Maj CRONIN and Lt HALMOND flew VIP chase missions in support of the 3rd MAR DIV in and around Vandergrift with Scarface aircraft.

Capt WILLIAMS and Lt KELLEHER flew VIP chase missions with Comprise aircraft in support of the 1st MAR DIV and the ROKMC.

Lt STEISER flew mission 75 in support of the 3rd MAF carrying logistical supplies to the two aircraft detached to Chu Lai for SAR.

Capt PINSCHENIT and Lt ZEHMS each flew a night mortar watch mission over Phu Bai reporting negative enemy action.

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On this date BUNO 146816 was detached from this squadron to FAWPRA (SMIC) for overhaul.

Maj CRONIN attempted to lead a section to Da Nang in accordance with missions 2-10. However after three attempts, he was forced to return to Phu Bai due to weather. All other flights were cancelled.

5 Jan 1969

Maj FALESKIE in an attempt to complete mission 73 led three aircraft to Quang Tri under marginal weather conditions. Upon reaching Quang Tri, weather conditions became acute thus causing the termination of further flight operations. Maj FALESKIE returned to Phu Bai.

6 Jan 1969

The squadron was placed on a mechanical hold by Group while oil samples were tested from engine crankcases. The test confirmed that the wrong type of oil was used and all flight operations were cancelled for the remainder of the day.

7 Jan 1969

All flights cancelled due to weather.

8 Jan 1969

Maj HILL led four aircraft on mission 73 in marginal weather. Upon reaching Quang Tri the flight was split into two sections.

Maj HILL led one section with Lt FLICKINGER flying as his chase on mission 103 in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Lt STETSER led the second section with Lt KELLEHER flying as his chase on mission 105. Both sections flew until weather conditions forced the aircraft to return to Phu Bai.

9 Jan 1969

On this date BUNO's 150570 and 149383 were detached to HMM-362 and H&MS-16 respectively.

Maj CRONIN, Maj HILL, Capt DICKSON and Lt FLICKINGER flew on mission 73 each flying VIP chase on Scarface aircraft. Missions 102, 103, 104, 105 and 107 were completed by the above aircraft.

A section led by Capt PINSCHENAT was sent to Chu Lai to relieve the aircraft and crews detached there.

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~ On this date BUHO 149328 was detached from this squadron to FOMPRA (MHC) for overhaul.

Maj FALESKIE led a section in support of the 9th Marines. Together the two aircraft carried a total of 38 pax and 300 lbs of cargo.

Lt's STEINMETZ and KELLEHER each flew VIP chase missions with Scarface aircraft in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Lt's ESLER and FLICKINGER each flew a night mortar watch mission neither reporting any enemy activity.

11 Jan 1969

Maj CRONIN, Lt TALBOTT and Lt HAMMOND flew Command and Control missions with Scarface aircraft. The aircraft all flew in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Capt HOOTON led a section in support of the 3rd MAR DIV and 11th Engineers.

12 Jan 1969

Maj HILL led a section in support of the 3rd MAF. The section carried out a VIP chase function.

Capt HOOTON led a section in support of the 4th and 9th Marines. Functions flown consisted of Command and Control, Med-evac and Visual Recon.

Lt ESLER flew a taxi run from Vandergrift to Quang Tri carrying 89 pax and completing his assigned mission.

Lt HAMMOND flew mission 79 in support of the 1st MAR DIV.

13 Jan 1969

Capt DICKSON led a section in marginal weather conditions to Dong Ha flying mission 73 in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Capt HOOTON and Capt WILLIAMS launched to Chu Lai to replace aircraft and crews which lost all SAR capability due to enemy fire. Lt LUNA of the Chu Lai detachment was injured by enemy fire. Capt HOOTON returned in one aircraft leaving one in support at Chu Lai for SAR.

Lt GUILFORD and Lt FLICKINGER flew night mortar watch, neither aircraft reporting any enemy activity.

14 Jan 1969

Lt GILLESPIE led a section on missions 501, 111, 105, 401, and 106 in support of the 3rd MAR DIV. The two aircraft carried 133 pax and 2500 lbs of cargo. Mission functions included troop lift, Command and Control, Visual Recon, Resupply and Med-evac operations.

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Capt WILLIAMS flew on missions 103 and 107 flying taxi and supporting the 3rd MAR DIV.

Lt KELLEHER flew on mission 103 with a scarface aircraft on a VIP chase function.

Capt PINSCHENAT led a section returning from Chu Lai SAR.

15 Jan 1969

On this date all remaining aircraft attached to this squadron were detached to H&MS-36. All subsequent operations will be flown utilizing H&MS-36 aircraft. The following BUNO's stand detached as of this date.

150224; 150209; 148091; 149343; 149396; 150716; 150225; 148814; 150210; 147162; 150221; 150219; 147200; 149355; 150721; and 148069.

Two aircraft launched but were forced to return due to weather conditions. Day operations were subsequently secured by Group.

Lt ESLER flew night mortar watch reporting negative enemy action.

16 Jan 1969

Maj HILL, Lt FLICKINGER and Lt KELLEHER each flew command and control missions with Scarface aircraft in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Lt ZEHMS flying missions 502A, 108 and 102 was forced to RON at Quang Tri, due to weather conditions.

17 Jan 1969

Maj PALESKIE and Maj HILL each led a section in support of the 3rd MAR DIV flying missions 104, 105, 504, and 108.

Lt ZEHMS flew mission 102 after taking off from Quang Tri.

Lt FLICKINGER flew mission 104 in support of the 4th Marines.

Capt PINSCHENAT flew on mission 75 in and around Phu Bai.

18 Jan 1969

Maj CROMEN led a section in support of the 9th Marines completing mission 105.

Capt HALLIDAY, Capt GILLESPIE and Lt NASH each flew command and control missions with Scarface aircraft supporting the 3rd MAR DIV.

Capt WILLIAMS and Lt TARBOTT flew night mortar watch reporting negative enemy action.

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Lt ZEHMS led a section in support of the 9th Marines. The section carried a total of 67 pax and 4000 lbs of cargo.

Maj FALESKIE, Capt GILLESPIE and Lt FLICKINGER each flew command and control missions in support of the 3rd MAR DIV.

Capt HALLIDAY and Lt KELLEHER each flew a night mortar watch mission neither reporting enemy activity.

20 Jan 1969

Capt DICKSON, Capt HOOTON, Capt WILLIAMS, Lt ZEHMS and Lt TALBOTT each flew a section with Scarface aircraft in a command and control capacity.

21 Jan 1969

Lt ZEHMS flew on mission 33, testing a special device for clearing landing zones. All other flights were cancelled due to maintenance.

At 2400 this date HMM-363 ceased to exist as a functional Squadron attached to Mag-36 RVN. HMM-363's flag returned home at 0001 on 22 Jan 1969.

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PART III - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Promotions

- a. Officers 0
- b. Enlisted 2

2. Awards

- a. Officers: 1
- b. Enlisted 5

3. Casualties

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERNO/MOS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1st Lt	R. E. IUNE	095728/7561	13 Jan 1969	B56891

4. Air Operations

- a. Total Flight Hours: 541.3
- b. Total Sorties: 1279
- c. Total Cargo Tons: 15.2
- d. Total Med-Evacs: 27
- e. Total Passengers: 1475