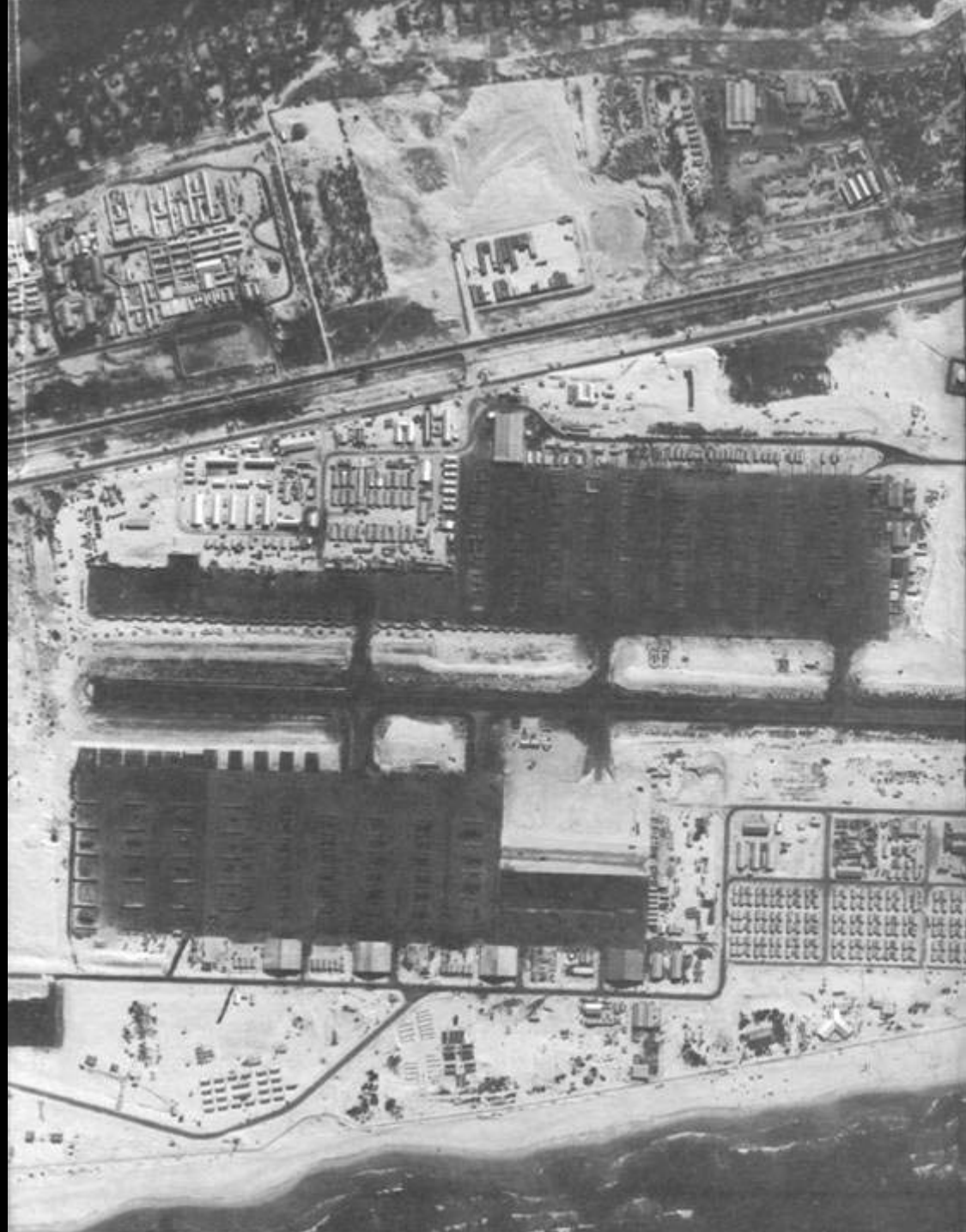


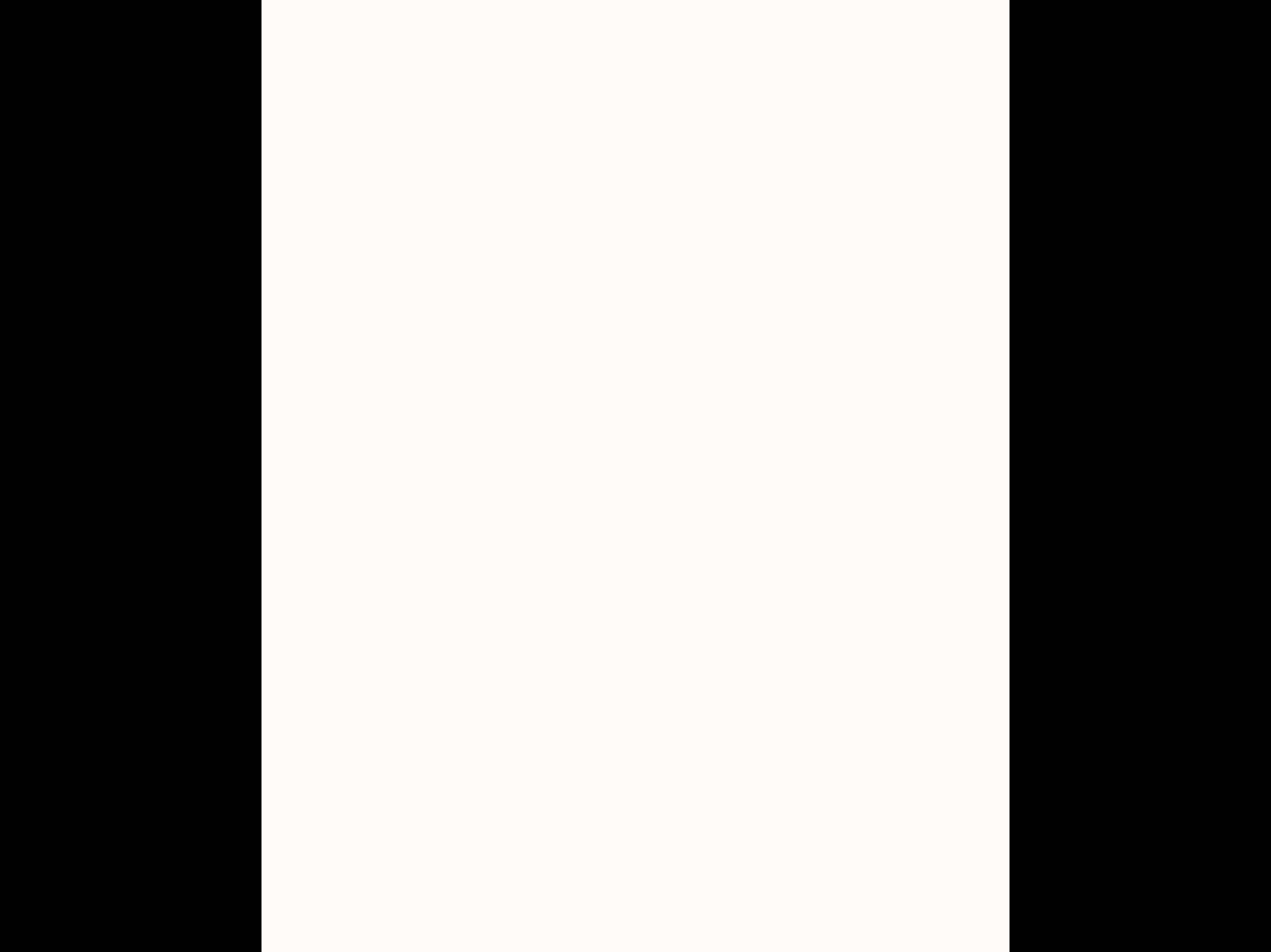
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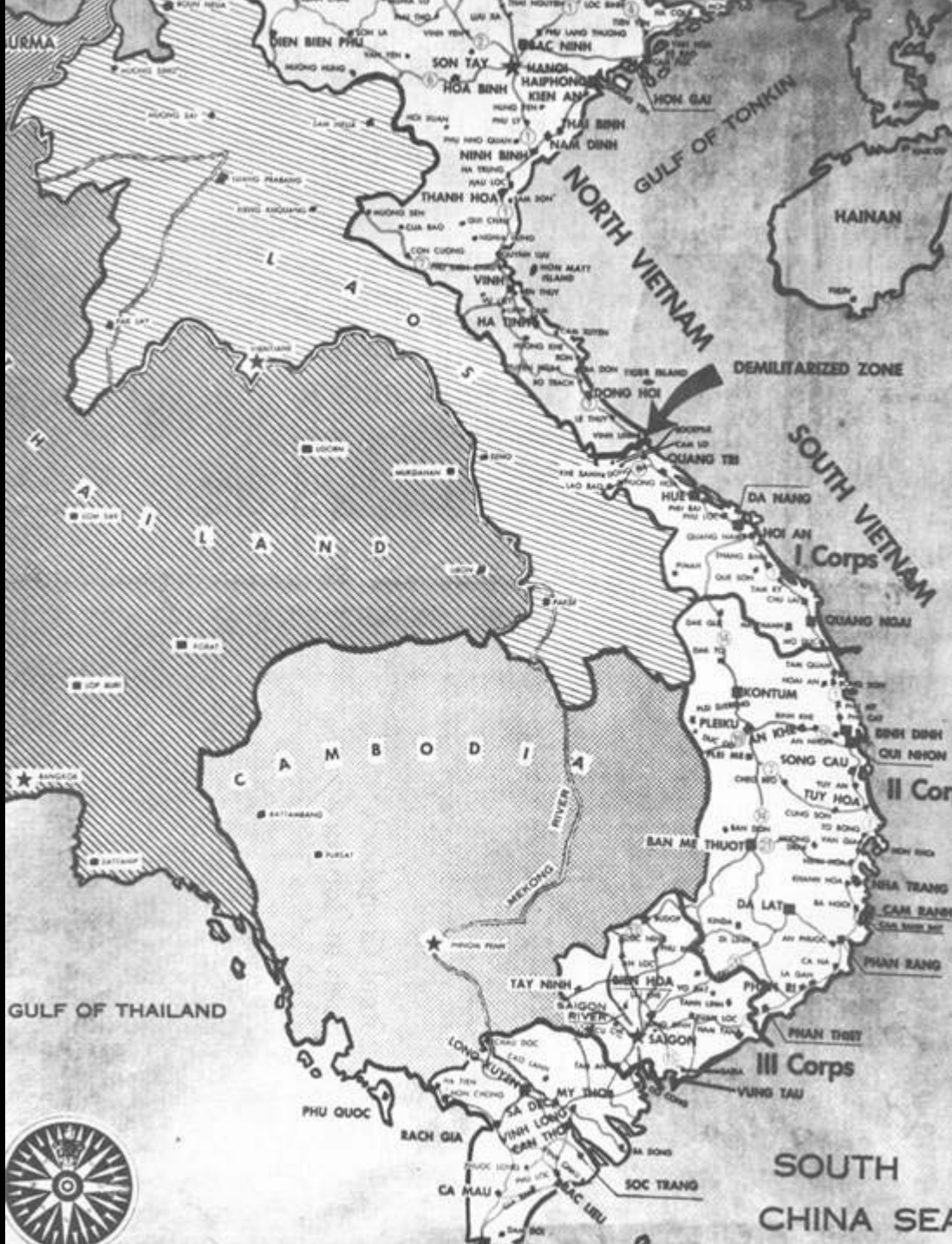


Vietnam 1967-1968









URMA

DIEN BIEN PHU

PHU LANG THUONG
BAC NINH

SON TAY
HOA BINH

HAI PHONG
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BAN ME THUOT

DA LAT

PHU THIEP

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GULF OF THAILAND



SOUTH
CHINA SEA



THE TIGER'S TALE

Dedicated to the Officers and Men of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361,
who greatly contributed to the success of the Marine Air-Ground Team.

Dedicated to the Ground Marines serving all of us and to whom we have been
proud to render support.

Dedicated to those thousands of medical evacuees, military and Vietnamese
civilians, whose lives and health we have helped to preserve and prolong.

Dedicated to the people of the Republic of South VietNam whose peace we have
sought to make more secure.

But dedicated especially to those who have paid a higher price in permanent
injury sustained, thankful to the Almighty that the highest price was required of none:

LiCol. D. M. WILSON

Maj. G. L. JOHNSON

Capt. T. KIRKMAN

Cpl. T. L. ENGLISH



It was with the greatest of pleasure that I commanded the Officers and Men of HMM-361 from October 1967 to March 1968. The esprit and camaraderie manifested throughout the most harrowing of combat conditions produced one of the most impressive helicopter performance records in the Marine Corps. I commend all the Tigers with pride and reverence for their tireless efforts.

D. M. WILSON
Commanding Officer

-This has been, without a doubt, the finest Squadron of Officers and Men with whom I have ever had the pleasure of working and flying. They faced every challenge with a zest and sincerity which make me grateful to consider myself one of them.

GEORGE A. PORTER
Executive Officer



I assumed command of HMM-361 on 26 March 1968 due to an extremely unfortunate and untimely accident. During the time I was associated with the Squadron, I witnessed many young men new in the military and new to the combat environment develop into mature, experienced and highly competent Marines. That was the most gratifying aspect of my tour with HMM-361.

HMM-361 was a leader among squadrons in many respects, but in one regard it achieved an unparalleled and unmatched record. During the last fifteen months of 361's tour in RVN not one—either officer or enlisted—lost his life. Such a feat can only be attributed to the skill and devotion to duty of all hands.

HMM-361 was a proud squadron and made of the fiber of greatness. It was a great privilege to have served as its Commanding Officer. May HMM-361 enjoy our successes.

F. W. CRONE
Commanding Officer



I take great pride in having been afforded the opportunity of coordinating the combined efforts of the Officers and Men of HMM-361 from 26 March to 20 May 1968. The zeal and professionalism demonstrated by HMM-361 daily, under the continued pressures of combat, instilled the Tigers with that undaunted spirit which few squadrons possess. I humbly thank you gentlemen for the privilege of serving as your Executive Officer.

L. DELMORE III
Executive Officer



Hmm-361
will rule the world



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361, commanded by LtCol L. F. CHILDERS, entered the Republic of VietNam in August 1965. During its first month in Country, the Squadron took part in three operations, flying a total of 2,173 hours, a new high for this type of squadron in VietNam. The Squadron participated in Operation MIDNIGHT, taking part in the first large scale, night combat, vertical envelopment in VietNam.

During the coming months, the reputation of the HMM-361 Tigers spread throughout the I Corps as Squadron Commanders Maj H. M. STEADMAN, LtCol M. D. TWEED, and LtCol E. W. TRAUT continued to mold the Squadron into an effective fighting force. During this period of Squadron rotated to Okinawa for brief training and regrouping exercises.

Maj. H. A. BRUCE assumed command of HMM-361 on 24 May 1967. On 30 June, the Squadron shattered 1stMAW helicopter records, having logged 20,000 flight hours during the previous year.

On 21 July 1967, HMM-361 moved from the Marble Mountain Air Facility to the Dong Ha Airfield, eight miles south of the DMZ. On 28 August the Airfield came under a heavy enemy rocket and artillery attack. Damage to Squadron aircraft was moderate with one UH-34 destroyed by a direct hit.



On 2 September, HMM-361 again came under enemy attack, sustaining moderate damage to several aircraft. Then, at 0855 on 3 September, during an extremely intense rocket attack, the ammunition dump was detonated. For eight hours the ammo cooked off, totally destroying the Enlisted living and shops area. Damage to aircraft was extensive and the Squadron took 46 personnel wounded.





Later that same day the entire squadron was evacuated to Marble Mountain. Within two days the Tigers were again airborne, supporting troops in the Danang area. Within a week, HMM-361 pilots were again flying daily commitments to Dong Ha.

On 13 October, Maj Bruce was officially relieved by LtCol D. M. Wilson during a change of command ceremony at Marble Mountain. In mid November the Squadron embarked aboard the USS Iwo Jima as an integral unit of Special Landing Force 'A'. During the coming months the Squadron flew resupply, medevac and aerial strikes in support of BLT's 1/3 and 2/4. The early part of January found the Tiger Squadron basking in a Philippine Island sun as the Iwo underwent a rehab period of ten days. During this time the Squadron conducted training operations with BLT 2/4 in preparation for their respective parts in future



operations. HMM-361 personnel did find time for swimming, horsebackriding, and sightseeing, thoroughly enjoying their well earned vacation!

On 15 January 1968, the Iwo returned to Vietnamese waters. Offensive operations were conducted from the deck of the Iwo until mid February when the Squadron debarked and returned to Marble Mountain Air Facility. The Squadron operated in the Danang area, providing medevac, resupply and VIP chase to units of the 3rd Marine Division. On 21 March LtCol Wilson was seriously wounded during a night medevac emergency mission and, of necessity, was relieved during a Change of Command Ceremony at USNH, Danang, by Maj F. W. Crone. The Squadron remained at Marble Mountain continuing to perform in an outstanding manner until the Squadron Colors were rotated to CONUS on 20 May 1968.

In retrospect, HMM-361, in a 36 month period in Vietnam, flew 32,174 hours, 90,807 sorties, 15,768 medevacs, carried 36,294 tons of cargo and 88,414 passengers.



Sections





OPERATIONS: Maj Balch, Solomon, Moore, Tompkins, Pensinger, Capt Council



S-1: ABOVE, Lt Drucker, Livesey, Weaver, Dell, Scofield, Gamberoni, Parker. LEFT, front row, Capt Kirkman, Lt Madri, Capt Husser, Lt Drucker, back row, Capt Zipair, Capt Gage, Lt Corley, Lt O'Connor, Lt Sabin.



S-4: front, Chaken, Stokes, Gaspard. Back, Capt Noble, Scott.



MAINTENANCE: Front, Tolan, Mincey, Nobrega, Rothstien. Back row, Oubre, Colber, Meglic, Grazino, Maj Ranta.



Brand and Henschel



PARALOFT; Hall and Souiri



Cook, Dance, Swim



Daily, Morski



TRANSPORTATION: Holland



Winterton, Doane

DONG HA, RVN, 3 SEPTEMBER 1967

From: Commanding Officer, Third Marine Division
To: All Personnel of The Dong Ha Combat Base

To all hands at the Dong Ha Combat Base I wish to extend my sincere "Well Done" for the truly professional way that you have conducted yourselves during recent enemy artillery and rocket attacks and particularly your actions on the afternoon of 3 September 1967.

Upon arrival at Dong Ha yesterday, I was extremely impressed with the manner in which you were bouncing back from a very serious situation. The teamwork I witnessed between units and services was truly outstanding. Your resourcefulness, ability to improve, and willingness to work together for the common cause was most inspiring. The fact that you suffered no KIA's during the attack reflects a high degree of security.

Your initiative, perseverance and devotion to duty, under some of the most adverse conditions in VietNam are recognized and truly appreciated.

Maj. Gen. HOCHMUTH











Marble Mountain





After the devastation sustained at Dong Ha, the Tigers are returned to Marble Mountain Air Facility to rebuild. The primary mission assigned is, as before life saving medical evacuation. As many field units continue to be far removed from their parent organizations, isolated by arduous terrain and the enemy, resupply and troop movements are assigned

as subsidiary missions. Tiger recognition spread throughout the I Corps once again as HMM-361 readily accepted and accomplished the most difficult and unusual assignments. Squadron spirit and professionalism, at all levels, contributed to peak Tiger performance during the period, September — November 1967.



PREPARATION FOR EMBARKATION



U.S.S. Iwo Jima



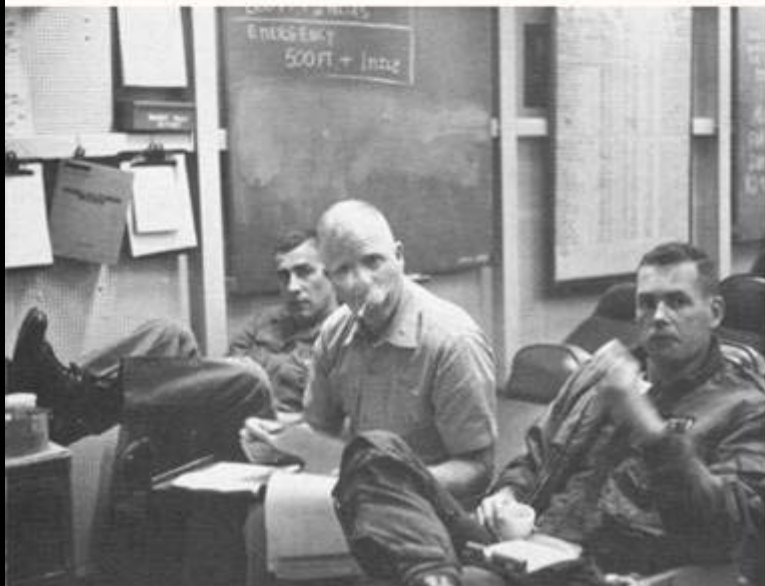
Tiger versatility continues to be evidenced by a smoothly coordinated embarkation of helicopters, equipment, material, and men to the USS IWO JIMA. The Tigers comprised the aerial arm which delivered the highly effective mobile jab for Special Landing Force Alfa's, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. Adverse weather conditions limited maintenance capability, and the doldrum of isolation were overcome with confidence and ease by the foraging Tigers of HMM-361.

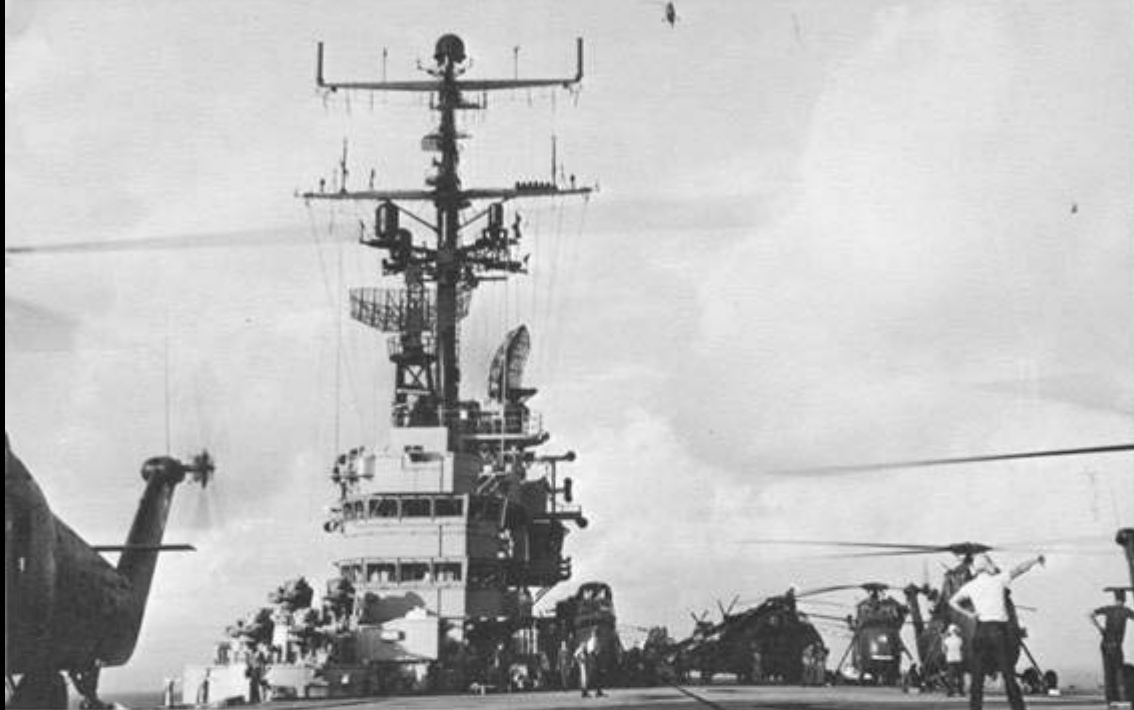


Camaraderie strengthened by working, living and social association created a job performance which was frequently the point of praise. Brief respite is granted in the form of ship's replenishment at Subic Bay, Philippine Islands during January 1968. HMM-361's ability to perform so efficiently was materially aided by the pride and esteem displayed by those they served during the period, November 1967-February 1968.



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ALONGAWHO?







Return to Marble



On 10 February 1968, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361 returned to Marble Mountain Air Facility in the Republic of VietNam. Resolutely the Squadron pursued their primary mission, Medical Evacuation, with the full realization that in a few short months the Squadron Colors were to rotate to CONUS. The Tigers continued to vigorously respond with matchless performance in operation after operation, mission after mission. The Tiger's "Can Do" attitude prevailed as the Squadron, near-

ing retirement, was forced to endure severe personnel attrition. Though undermanned, medevacs were quickly and efficiently accomplished and cargo flown began to tally. Maintenance crews worked voluntarily at a feverish twenty-four hour pitch to maintain aircraft availability. The Squadron's Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel M. WILSON'S fervent and frequently repeated desire "Not to lose any man and keep the Squadron together," was not to be.



CHANGE OF COMMAND

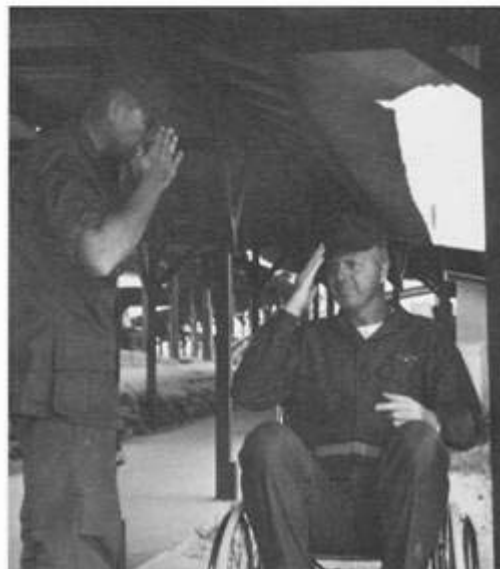




At 1830 on 21 March 1968, LtCol Wilson launched as pilot of the night medevac aircraft. The mission was to evacuate two critically wounded Korean Marines from an unsecure zone south of Danang. Two gunships were scrambled to cover the extraction. Darkness had set in as the UH-1E's attempted to silence the hostile fire coming from around the zone. LtCol Wilson, realizing the necessity of a speedy recovery if the wounded were to be saved, began his approach to the flashlight marked zone. As the helicopter touched down, a burst of enemy fire tore into its side, striking and seriously

wounding LtCol Wilson. Due to the the instant recovery and presence of mind of his copilot, Lt Boone, the crippled aircraft was flown from the zone and landed at a nearby airfield where another aircraft rushed LtCol Wilson to medical aid.

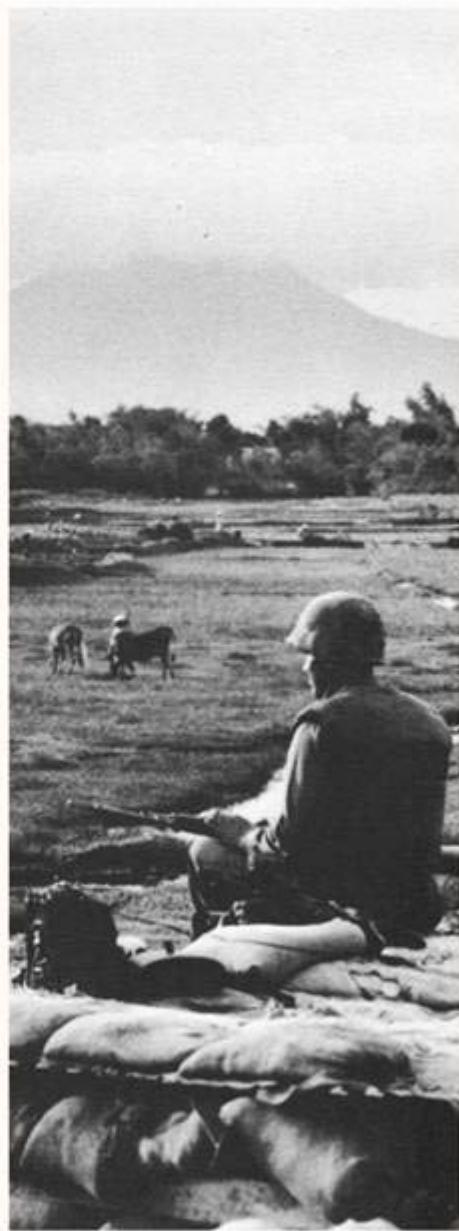
In a small ceremony at USNH, Danang, LtCol Wilson relinquished command of HMM-361 to Maj F. W. Crone. The heroic medevac pilot was then medevaced himself for treatment in the United States. The Squadron pressed on with a rededicated spirit and a sincere hope that LtCol Wilson's recovery would be rapid and complete.



THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE









OPERATIONS



Fremont	Ballistic Armor
Kingfisher	Neosho II
Swift	Lancaster II
Ardmore	Fortress Attack
Neosho	Dinousar
Madina	Worth
Knox	Marching Dragon
Granite	Black Dragon
Essex	Brilliant Dragon
Napoleon	Rice Bowl
Ballistic Arch	Ballard Valley
Newton	Brilliant Dragon II
Foster	Allen Brook
Kentucky	

AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

LtCol D. M. Wilson
Maj L. Delmore
Maj R. J. Ranta
Maj G. L. Johnson
Capt J. O. Atkinson*
Capt W. F. Daniell*
Capt L. M. Zipsir
1/Lt R. R. Aucella*
1/Lt K. R. Boone
1/Lt J. E. Day

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Capt A. LaRocca
Cpl J. R. Setter*
HM-2 D. B. Winter
HM-2 W. R. Yancey

SINGLE MISSION AIR MEDAL

Capt G. L. Kersey
Capt T. S. Sigler
1/Lt M. L. Jackson
1/Lt J. R. Aucella
Cpl T. W. Teal*
Cpl M. A. Weiler*

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Cpl R. D. Conkwright*
HM-2 K. E. Vredenburg*
Cpl L. R. Walker*
HN D. X. Sullivan*

* RECOMMENDED BUT NOT YET RECEIVED



The Officers
and Men of 361

WILSON D. M.
PORTER G. A.
CRONE F. W.



DELMORE L.
JOHNSON G. L.
RANTA R. J.



ANDERSON W. G.
ATKINSON J. O.
AUCELLA J. R.



BOONE K. R.
BROWN W. G.
CORLEY W. C.



COUNCIL R.
CRUTCHER J. W.
CUNNINGHAM G. W.





DAY J. E.
DANIELL W. E.
DRUCKER J.



EATON R. D.
GAGE W. R.
GEHRING P.



GLOER D. L.
HEINLE E. E.
HURME S. I.



HUSSER R. D.
JACKSON M. L.
KERSEY G. L.



KIRKMAN T. R.
KRUGER J.
KUCAN R. J.

LARocca A.
LUBY J. E.
MADRIR P.



MCSHANE W. J.
MILES J. P.
MURPHY W. R.



MURRAY P. J.
O'CONNOR M. D.
ROGAL M. J.



RYMAN J. E.
SABIN R. R.
SCHIPPER D. J.



SCHULTZ S. P.
SEELEY D. J.
SIGLER T. S.



TRAINOR J. K.
YULE G. T.
ZIPSIR L. M.



ACKLEY W. J.
AKINS
ALVERS G. M.



AMBLO D. R.
ANDERSON R. L.
ATKINS



ATKINS T. B.
AUDETTE R. W.
BAILEY M. G.



BANNISTER C. W.
BEAM H. E.
BECKETT C. R.





BLAINE T.
BOSWELL
BOWLEY N. A.



BRETHHAUER S. C.
BROGLIO J. D.
BROWN M. R.



BUCKMAN J. E.
CAHILL J. H.
CALDWELL J. T.

CAREY G. A.



CARLSON B. E.





CARNEY J. C.
CASTRUITA P. R.
CAVALLARO J. C.



CHAKEN P. M.
CHERRY J. W.
CLARK J. Q.



CLASPELL D. W.
COLBORN W. T.
COLLINS J. W.



CONKWRIGHT R. D.
COOK H. G.
COPE R. J.



COPELAND T. J.
CORYER J. A.
CROW B. M.

DANCE W.
DAVIS E. R.
DAVIS R. L.



DAWSON D. R.
DAY E. A.
DEARMAN D. R.



DEGEARE J. P.
DEKEYSER R. D.
DELL G. F.



DEWAR P. G.
DOANE D. L.
DORAN D. D.



DURANT W. D.
DZIERSON E. L.
EGGENA J. R.



FERRIS G. M.
FISH R. L.
FLYNN P. F.



FOUTS L. A.
FREEMAN R. L.
FREEMON J. P.



FRITZ D. R.
GAMBERONI W.
GASPARD R. J.



GIDLEY J. A.
GOCHENOUR L. E.
GODDARD J. D.



GONZALEZ M. E.
GRAZZINO N. E.
GREEN L. L.





GROVE J. I.
 GUY J. H.
 HALL E. P.



HALL R. H.
 HALL R. M.
 HANNA J. H.



HARRINGTON R. J.
 HARRIS W. L.
 HEINTZ R. S.



HESS M. H.
 HICKS G. I.
 HILBORN R. W.



HILL H. P.
 HOWELL D. M.
 HUNT J. D.



HUTCHINSON D. W.
IACULIO C. D.
JACKS R. O.



JENKINS J. L.
KAJDACZ H. M.
KARNEY S. L.



KENNEY J. L.
KRAFT T. H.
KRAUS B. E.



LEONE R. J.
LYNCH D. S.
MAAHS C. E.



MARLBOROUGH G. A.
MARLETT W. D.
MARTIN A. D.





McFARLAND J. L.
MEGLIC J. P.
MEREDITH M. E.



MINCEY J. B.
MILES J. M.
MILLER J. W.



MITCHELL L. S.
MOORE G. E.
MOORE R. O.



MOSHIER J. C.
MOYERS J. L.
MULLIGAN P. J.



MULLINS D. R.
NASELLO G. C.
NEWTON R. C.

NOBLE J.
NOBREGA A.
O'BRIEN R. R.



OFFT R. O.
OUBRE J. A.
PARKER R. K.



PATTERSON L. J.
PATTERSON Z. H.
PAUL J. M.



PAYNE D. L.
PICARD R. R.
REIGLE C. T.



RICHARDSON K.
ROTHERMEL
ROTHSTEIN R. W.





ROY R. P.
SABO T. O.
SAMOL J. E.



SANCHEZ
SARTWELL R.
SAUNDERS J. L.



SCOFIELD S. F.
SCOTT K. E.
SHELTON L. J.



SHOCKLEY J. E.
SMITH G. I.
SOLOMON P.



SOLURI A. J.
SPEICHTER T. J.
STAUTZENBACH A. L.

STEPHENSON
STOKES J. R.
STOVER



TANNER



TEAL



TOLNAY D. G.



TOMKINS T. M.
TURNER
VALDEZ



VANCE R. A.
VANSSEKLE R. A.
VIRCHOW



WAGONER D. A.
WALKER L. H.
WALTHER M. W.



WALTON V. W.
WEAVER J. H.
WEBER T. R.



WEILER M. A.
WESLEY W. R.
WESTERFELD W. E.





WHITAKER
WHITED
WIECH H. J.



WILKENS L. L.
WILLARD G. O.
WILLIAMS D. P.



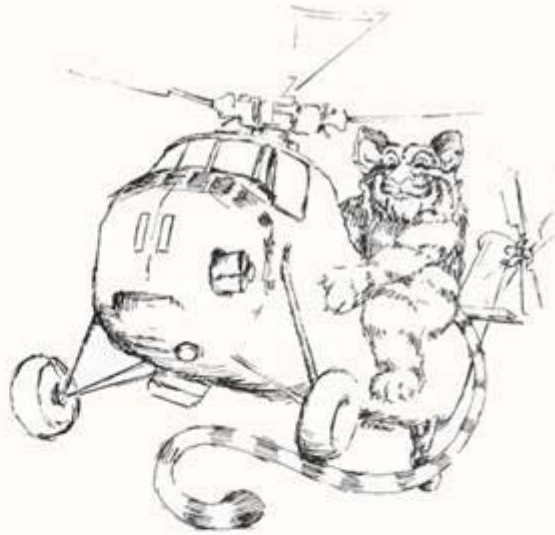
WILLIAMS R. W.
WILSON L. H.
WINKLER D. J.



WENTER D. B.
WENTERTON L. D.
YANCEY W. R.



YOUNG R. D.
ZELIADT R. R.



Random Shots





Oh, The Yellow Rose of Texas!



And the Recruiter told me I'd be stationed in Miami Beach.





If the guys in Nashville could only see me now!



Who is he?



You're right, this one does have ten cylinders.



QUACK!



65% fewer cavities!



I think I'll just read for a while. The pool doesn't open for another thirty minutes.





Come on, Chop!



Let's see, red on red or red on yellow?



Groupies

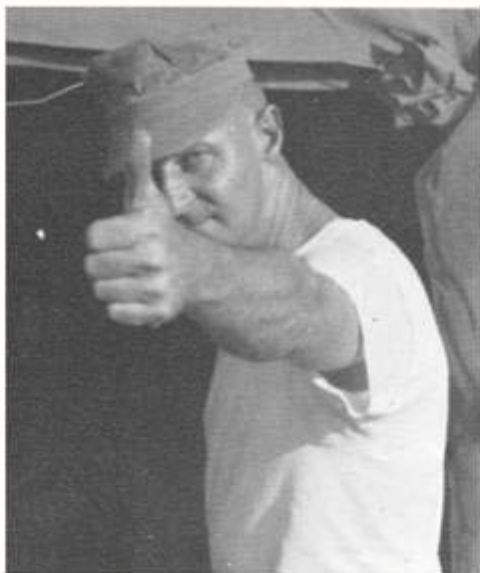


Oh, just tidying up the place.



On safari, 1968.







Which way to Disbursing?



Stamp, Sarge, and Gunney



Quick, hand me a handkerchief. I feel a sneeze coming on.



I may be rough — but I can put it where I want it!



So that's how you cure seasickness.



Let's see, did I tighten that horn locking pin?





Looks like a size 12D.



How did you guess I'm a second tour pilot?



And our team of trained experts will solve any of your radio problems.



Let's see, which hole do I put my foot in now?



Yes it's fresh coffee, but it's made with last weeks grounds.





THE HYMN OF OUR CORPS

Eternal Father grant we pray
To all Marines both night and day
The courage, honor, strength and skill
Their land to serve thy law fulfill
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky,
Be with them always in the air,
In darkening storms or sunlight fair.
O hear us when we lift our prayer
For those in peril in the air.



HMM-361 CRUISE BOOK STAFF

Capt Ryman

Sgt Moore

Capt Eaton

Sgt Newton

Lt Drucker

