

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96602

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3:WAM:wgb
5750-1
Ser: 03A06568
5 March 1968
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-29 February 1968;
submission of

Ref: (a) 1stMAWO 5760.1C
(b) GruO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Part I; Organizational Data
✓(2) Part II; Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights
✓(3) Part III; Significant Events

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1), (2) and (3) are submitted.

W. J. White
W. J. WHITE

VMO-6 S&C FILES
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DATE: <i>8 Mar 68</i>
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PART I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff - with inclusive dates:

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel William J. WHITE (1-29Feb68)

Executive Officer: Major Bertram A. MAAS (1-29Feb68)

Operations Officer: Major Arthur C. CRANE (1-29Feb68)

Logistics Officer: Major Robert L. NEFF (1-29Feb68)

Intelligence Officer: Captain Gregory A. MCADAMS (1-29Feb68)

Administrative Officer: Chief Warrant Officer Edwin R. VAUGHN (1Feb68)
 Captain Thomas R. HOPKINS (2-29Feb68)

2. Unit location - with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam (1-29Feb68)

3. Average monthly squadron strength:

MARINE OFFICERS MARINE ENLISTED NAVAL OFFICERS NAVAL ENLISTED TOTAL

38

165

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PART II: Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights occurring during the reporting period.

1 Febuary 1968. "Cadaver" is dead as the squadron assumed the new call sign "Seaworthy" as of 0001 today.

2 Febuary 1968. Khe Sanh remains the site of heaviest fighting, with all aircraft being subjected to .50 cal fire while airborne and mortars and rockets on the deck. LtCol WHITE, while flying low-level utilizing the APD equipment, received multiple hits on his aircraft from either a mortar or artillery round going off in front of him. Both LtCol WHITE and his co-pilot Lt MCBROOM received minor injuries caused by flying plexiglas but were able to return the aircraft safely to Quang Tri.

3 Febuary 1968. "Charlie's" transportation corps suffered today when Maj WORKMAN's section managed to kill fifteen water buffalos in a large herd at the entrance to the Bai Long Valley.

5 Febuary 1968. Capt DUPONT's section of guns was called upon to place suppressive fire on a ville northeast of Dong Ha from which truck convoys had been taking RPG rounds and sniper fire. While the gunships were firing on the ville, the ground troops reported three secondary explosions.

7 Febuary 1968. Maj GERARD received heavy fire including .50 cal while evaluating a helicopter LZ near the over-run camp at Lang Vic. Plan was postponed.

8. Lt ROSENAL, while flying as co-pilot to Capt KUFELDT was seriously wounded today. Originating out of Khe Sanh, near the Lang Vic area Capt KUFELDT responded to a call to pick up a med-evac and when he came to a hover fire opened up on all sides. The aircraft received more than thirty hits but Capt KUFELDT managed to get it back to Khe Sanh where Lt ROSENAL was treated for two broken legs and a broken left arm. He was shortly thereafter med-evaced to the States.

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Enclosure (2)

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11 February 1968. Capt CROOM took a small arms round through the thigh while flying as co-pilot to LtCol WHITE during a resupply mission west of Khe Sanh. He was quickly med-evaced and returned to Quang Tri in a matter of hours.

12 February 1968. Maj GERARD was airborne to test fire his guns when he was diverted to assist in an emergency med-evac for Candy Tuft. He went into the zone, picked up the last of the med-evacs, took them to "D" Med and then continued his test flight.

13 February 1968. Most of the action today took place at Khe Sanh with Maj CRANE's section. While escorting a resupply mission Maj CRANE's section came under .50 cal fire several times and on two occasions the resupply aircraft were mortared out of the zone. No injuries or major damage occurred however.

16 February 1968. While assisting in an emergency extraction of reconnaissance team Box Score in the Khe Sanh area. Seaworthy 4-21 was shot down as he attempted to pick up the last three members of the team. Killed immediately were the pilot 1/Lt B.F. GALBREATH, the co-pilot 1/Lt P.A. JENSEN and the gunner SSGT J.E. TOLLIVER. The crew-chief, Cpl. H.W. SCHNEIDER, died of injuries while enroute to Da Nang.

17, 18, 19, 20 February 1968. Weather seriously limited flight operations, with most action taking place at Khe Sanh.

21 February 1968. Maj CRANE's section found several enemy ant nnae while on a THOR Sweep. After expending his section's ordnance on the target Maj CRANE called in artillery to complete the job.

22 February 1968. Operation "Super Gaggle" went into effect today, providing a safe, efficient way to resupply the outposts surrounding Khe Sanh without the necessity of exposing the choppers to fire while on the ground at Khe Sanh.

23 February 1968. Major action in the Quang Tri area recently has been escorting the resupply boats to and from Dong Ha along the Cau Viet River. The boats frequently receive sniper and/or heavier fire up to and including RPG.

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25 February 1968. Maj WORKMAN's section of gunships escorted the river convoy today. The convoy came under both .50 cal and recoilless rifle fire but the Hueys were able to suppress the fire and the convoy was able to continue its run.

28 February 1968. Seaworthy aircraft spent a total of 19.9 hours covering the Sparrow Hawk insert and extract for the downed CH-46 in the vicinity of the Rock Pile.

29 February 1968. The month ended on a typical note with the action being divided between Khe Sanh and the Cau Viet River Patrol with the former, of course, being the more demanding.

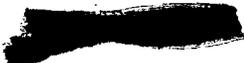
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PART III: Significant Events

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1. On 16 February 1968, Seaworthy 4-20 and 4-21 were launched from Khe Sanh to assist in the emergency extraction of reconnaissance team Box Score. The transport helicopters went in to pull out the team but as they were lifting out two of the team members jumped out to help one other member who did not get aboard. The transport could not go back into the zone because of extensive battle damage. Seaworthy 4-21 elected to go into the zone to pick up the remaining three members and as he was lifting out of the zone he was shot down and crashed. Killed immediately were the pilot 1/Lt B.F. GALBREATH, the co-pilot 1/Lt P.A. JENSEN, and the gunner SSgt J.E. TOLLIVER. The crew-chief, Cpl H.W. SCHNEIDER, died of injuries enroute to Da Nang the following day. One of the team members died in the crash, one died later of injuries, and the last received medical treatment in time to be the sole survivor.