

**ORIGINAL**

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6  
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force Pacific  
APO San Francisco 96602

03:GSC:wgb  
5750.1C  
Ser #03A15468  
2 June 1968  
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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 May 1968; submission of  
Ref: (a) W.O 5750.1C  
(b) GauO 5750.1B  
Encl: (1) Part I: Organizational Data  
(2) Part II: Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights  
(3) Part III: Significant Events  
1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (3) are herewith submitted.

*B. A. Maas*  
B. A. MAAS

VMO-6  
CMD CHRON

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DATE: 5 June 68
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Enclosure (5)

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**Part I: Organizational Data**

**1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:**

Commanding Officer: LtCol B. A. MAAS, 1-31 May 1968

Executive Officer: Major G. E. CANNON, 1-31 May 1968

Operations Officer: Major F. J. ROWLAND, 1-31 May 1968

Logistics Officer: Major R. L. NEFF, 1-31 May 1968

Intelligence Officer: Captain T. ALEXANDER, 1-31 May 1968

Administrative Officer: Captain D. H. DUPONT, 1-31 May 1968

**2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:**

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 May 1968

**3. Average monthly squadron strength:**

<u>MARINE OFFICERS</u>	<u>MARINE ENLISTED</u>	<u>NAVAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAVAL ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
36	158	1	0	194

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

1 May 1968. Heavy contact for Marines in the I Corps was the order of the day. VMO-6 flew 114 sorties in support of ground units. Med-evac chase, flown by Capt CROOM, made 35 sorties, completing seventeen missions for troops in contact for a total of 10.6 hours.

2 May 1968. Ground units continued their heavy contact north of the Cua Viet River today. Sea Worthy aircraft flew 133 sorties and expended 12,100 rounds of 7.62mm and 175 2.75" rockets while providing suppressive fire for transport helicopters and close air support for Marines. Capt PRICE, leading the night quick reaction section, made repeated low passes under fire with lights on to locate a radioman separated from his unit. Acting as decoy, he enabled the transport to slip in and extract the man without being seen.

3 May 1968. With 143 sorties and 58.2 flight hours today the tempo of events has not changed. Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, led by Capt FAIRFIELD, showed VMO-6 versatility in its various missions today. Acting in TAC(4) capacity, recon LZs were prepped and the transports were guided into the zones with covering fire by the Huey's. Convoy cover was next in order. DASC diverted the flight for an emergency extract of a recon team. Again fixed wing support was utilized and covering suppressive fire for the transports was delivered enabling the team to be extracted safely.

4 May 1968. 142 sorties and 57.0 flight hours by the squadron today. Sea Worthy 4-20, led by Capt FAIRFIELD, coordinated and controlled a 430 man troop lift of Dunbar County in the Scotland II area. Fixed wing ordnance was expended on the landing zone with resulting secondaries. A flight of six Chatterbox aircraft carried the troops into the zone. After completion of the lift the gunship flight stayed on station until the ground units were organized and in proper positions.

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5 May 1968. Action north of Dong Ha continues heavy for the fifth day. Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, led by Capt FAIRFIELD, was diverted from another mission to conduct a 600 man emergency troop lift. The first wave made heavy contact with an estimated battalion sized force of NVA, and numerous casualties were inflicted on the advancing Marines. Sea Worthy 4-1 directed med-evac pick-ups and continued suppressive fire for transports delivering more troops and resupply. As the lift came to completion, aircraft from the Highboy, Welcome Tour and Space squadrons made numerous med-evac pick-ups in hot zones. Sea Worthy 4-1 delivered accurate rocket fire silencing one .50 cal position and numerous small arms fires were suppressed.

6 May 1968. Flying 175 sorties and 68.1 hours today, squadron pilots kept pace with the continuing trend of operations. Lt Col MAAS, leading Sea Worthy 4-1 and Chatterbox 20-1 flight on recon inserts, ran into a hot zone. He first prepped the zone with fixed wing and directed the transports in. Heavy fire was received in the zone and the transports exited the area under cover of suppressive fire by the gunships. More fixed wing ordnance was then directed on the previously concealed positions.

7 May 1968. In the Khe Sahn area today, Sea Worthy 4-20 flight, led by Major WORKMAN covered troop movements, troop lifts, resupply, med-evacs and also performed VR missions in the area. Mortar fire was impacting in the zones, but the Huey guns moved into the area and even though no tubes were spotted, no further fire was received in the hill positions.

8 May 1968. Still in the Scotland II area, Sea Worthy 4-20 flight, led by Major WORKMAN, covered and directed the battalion size troop lift into Hill 881N. After artillery and air prep, the lift was initiated and the first wave inserted successfully. Continuing lifts into the area came under mortar and small arms fire, but were completed without aircraft damage. Sea Worthy 4-22, flown by Capt CROOM, was diverted from the lift for emergency extracts of two recon teams to the south of Khe Sahn. The two sections flew a total of 70 sorties and 106.4 pilot hours in support of ground units.

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9 May 1968. VMO-6 expended 73 rockets and 16,200 rounds of 7.62mm in support of 3rd Mar Div units today. Med-evac escort, recon inserts and extracts, TAC(A) missions, close air support and helicopter attack missions were all performed for a total of 162 sorties and 51.8 flight hours.

10 May 1968. Early morning close air support requirements brought Sea Worthy 4-5 flight, led by Capt MONROE, to support Annihilation 6. A total of 50 rockets and 4,000 rounds of 7.62mm were expended on known NVA positions in a treeline. Barracuda was also in trouble at another position and Capt MCADAMS, with his Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, expended 28 rockets and 5,000 rounds of 7.62mm in their support. All of this was accomplished prior to 0800. The squadron continued to fly most of the day for a total of 82.2 flight hours and 180 sorties.

11 May 1968. Working to the southwest of Quang Tri airfield, Sea Worthy 4-1, piloted by Capt FAIRFIELD, made a VR of the area for possible NVA bunkers and rocket sites. Several fresh bunkers were located and fixed wing were called in. Later more bunkers were found and more heavy support called in. The weather remaining good in the area, the squadron was able to fly 108 sorties expending 123 rockets and 12,000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

12 May 1968. VMO-6 aircraft flew 61.7 flight hours while making 175 sorties today. Capt CROOM, with Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, had an uneventful morning with two inserts and two extractions. On a low pass over one zone 5 122mm rockets were spotted in the elephant grass. Receiving clearance to fire, the flight expended on the site and observed a total of 5 secondary explosions.

13 May 1968. Lt Col MANS had a busy morning, launching at 0630 to support the body recovery effort of a recon lieutenant. Suppressive fire in the area resulted in at least one KBA while taking moderate to heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. A recon team was first inserted and then a reaction team. Finally, both were extracted under fire. While briefing at Camp Carroll, incoming 75mm was received in the zone. Three gunships and one transport made it off the ground successfully. One gunship and one transport had to be left until the following day due to battle damage. Coordination and hard work was the order of the day with a total of 28 rockets and 4,500 rounds of 7.62mm being delivered on this one mission.

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14 May 1968. A 650 man troop lift was coordinated by Major NEFF in Sea Worthy 4-1. The first two waves were inserted successfully before incoming artillery rounds impacted near the zone. Sea Worthy 4-1 moved the insert zone for the safety of the 13 aircraft involved and continued the lift. Later, resupply was initiated, but bad weather conditions hampered further operations. After completing resupply the gunships expended ordnance on a previously sighted rocket position which had been active a short time earlier.

15 May 1968. A total of 16.8 hours of flight time and 25 sorties were flown by the Sea Worthy 4-1 flight in connection with recon team inserts and extracts. Capt MONROE, in the morning section, and Capt CROOM, in the afternoon section. 4 inserts and 2 extracts. Looks like a good month ahead for squadron flight time. Presently 819.0 hours have been flown, with a predicted 1800+ for the month.

16 May 1968. Back to Scotland II area for emergency med-evac cover, emergency resupply escort and close air support fire. Sea Worthy 4-20, led by Capt MONROE, flew a total of 12.2 hours in support of transport helicopters and ground units. VMO-6 flew 172 sorties and 57.7 flight hours to sustain the increased pace of activity in the area.

17 May 1968. Major ROWLAND's section, Sea Worthy 4-22, expended 51 2.75" rockets and 6,000 rounds of 7.62mm while working in support of Scotland II. The flight provided gun cover for transports involved in troop lifts, resupply and med-evac pick-ups, along with controlling fixed wing on active mortar positions, again showing the versatility of armed gunships with a qualified TAC(A) as flight leader.

18 May 1968. VMO-6 flew 165 sorties and 69.5 flight hours. The squadron expended 106 rockets and 8,300 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units. The Scotland II area alone counted for over half of the squadron's effort today with 94 sorties, 33.0 flight hours, expending 56 rockets and 5,300 rounds of 7.62mm. Lt Col MAAS led Sea Worthy 4-20 flight in the K'e Saha area on the numerous and varied tasks performed.

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19 May 1968. VMO-6 flew 186 sorties, 48.4 flight hours while expending 142 rockets and 14,300 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

20 May 1968. Recon team in contact again, and Sea Worthy 4-1 with Major NEFF as flight leader came to their assistance. Talking with the AO on station, it was decided to let the team move to another zone while the gunships fired between them and their enemy. This move was completed successfully and the transports were able to get in and out of the new zone without difficulty.

21 May 1968. Resupply at Khe Sahn is in as great a demand as ever. Major CANNON, in Sea Worthy 4-20, led the gunship section. A total of 42 sorties, eleven tasks and 12.4 hours were flown by his section.

22 May 1968. The Quick Reaction section led by Capt DUPONT was diverted from mission to mission today, but was able to handle each situation in its turn. Recon inserts and extracts, close air support for troops in contact, convoy cover, armed helicopter escort and TAC(A) tasks were all performed with the section under fire in all tasks except convoy cover.

23 May 1968. Capt MCADAMS, leading Sea Worthy 4-20 flight, coordinated a battalion size troop lift in the Khe Sahn area today, flying 32 sorties and 11.2 hours in the process. Upon the successful completion of the lift, resupply and med-evac pick-ups in the area were made by the transports with the gunships on station. The squadron expended 102 rockets and 5,500 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units today.

24 May 1968. Sea Worthy 4-22 was in the action again in the Scotland II area. In the helicopter close air support role, Capt DUPONT and his flight delivered accurate rocket and machinegun fire for troops in contact. 3 KBA's were awarded with an undetermined number of probables and wounded.

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25 May 1968. A 400 man troop lift to the coastal area northeast of Dong Ha was the highlight of operations today. First reconning the proposed zone, Seaworthy 4-1 flight, led by Major CANNON, then acted as helicopter escort for the six transports involved. The ground unit made contact shortly after the successful lift and the Huey flight delivered accurate suppressive fire on the enemy ville.

26 May 1968. Seaworthy flew 202 sorties today and 68.6 flight hours. The squadron expended 149 rockets and 2,900 rounds of 7.72mm while in support of ground units.

27 May 1968. VMO-6 flew 168 sorties and 74.8 flight hours today. The Khe Sanh area was well covered and sorties covering most Marine positions north of Quang Tri City were flown. The squadron expended 160 rockets and 10,700 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units who were in contact most of the day. In several cases, med-evacs and resupply were run after dark as the zone had been too hot in the day.

28 May 1968. The squadron expended 155 rockets and 12,000 rounds of 7.62mm today. Of this total, the Scotland II operation provided the most activity. Capt DUPONT (Lightning) leading the Seaworthy 4-20 flight provided accurate and intensive close air helo support for the Marines in heavy contact. While making gun and rocket runs the flight received heavy automatic weapons fire and airbursts. Rearming 3 times, the flight delivered 116 rockets and 5100 rounds of 7.62mm. Southern Hotel awarded the flight 4 KBA's and numerous probables, but due to continuing enemy fire from other locations could not confirm any more.

29 May 1968. Seaworthy 4-1 flight led by Major ROWLAND coordinated the recon insert and extract effort today. Due to lack of available fixed wing the section prepped the zones themselves and successfully inserted the desired teams. A big day for rockets and 256 were expended in the support role.

30 May 1968. The month is drawing to a close and the Khe Sahn area continues to be a high threat area. Maj CANNON, leading Sea Worthy 4-20 flight, successfully inserted 2 of 3 recon teams, being shot out of one zone. Moving to Khe Sahn to escort resupply efforts, the flight again came under fire, and as resupply progressed, received fire from 4 different areas. The resupply was completed with the covering suppressive fire of the Huey gunship flight. 166 rockets were expended by the squadron today, along with 9,800 rounds of 7.62mm.

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31 May 1968. This month ended with a bang as the squadron expended 257 rockets and 25,300 rounds of 7.62mm. Sea Worthy 4-20, led by Capt CROOM, laid down suppressive fire to extract 16 med-evacs from the Khe Sahn area from a hot zone. Returning to Khe Sahn after refueling and rearming, swimmers were spotted in the river, and in a low pass automatic weapons fire was received. The flight expended on the target but heavy smoke prevented an accurate BDA. Later, joining with Sea Worthy 4-5 flight, 4-20 flight worked to provide covering fire for Gold Lemon B in the Ca Lu area. After numerous passes, one twin and 2 single .50 cal positions opened up on the 4 aircraft. Evasive action was taken and accurate suppressive fire was delivered on the twin. This enabled the AO on station to accurately plot the AA positions for forthcoming artillery and fixed wing strikes.

The squadron flew a total of 1801.4 flight hours and 3258 sorties this month. This is the most productive reporting period in the past 8 months.

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**Part III: Significant Events**

5 May 1968. At 0310 Quang Tri airfield received 20 rounds of incoming 122mm rockets. The majority of the rounds impacted in the line area damaging UH-34D's, CH-46's and one UH-1E from VMO-6 sustained limited damage.

13 May 1968. Soa Worthy 4-1 and 4-2 flight, with C'pt MONROE and Major ROWLAND, were credited with 21 KBA's while working with an ARVN unit east of Quang Tri. This was the largest BDA of the month for the squadron.

During the month of May 1968, the following promotions were effected:

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL

B. A. MAAS

TO FIRST LIEUTENANT

A. R. RODGERS

TO STAFF SERGEANT

L. A. WHISENHUNT

TO CORPORAL

J. W. COX  
 L. J. VEACH

TO LANCE CORPORAL

M. C. TRIVETTE