

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

O3:CSC:wgb
5750.1C
Ser #03A18368
1 July 1968
Copy 1 of 6

[REDACTED]
From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
(Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-30 June 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C
(b) GruO 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.

C. E. Cannon
C. E. CANNON
Acting

VMO-6 S&C FILES
SER: 1009-68
DATE: 6 JUL 68
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Enclosure (5)

VMO-6

CMD CHRON

JUNE 1968

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 Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:

Commanding Officer: Lt Col B.A. MAAS, 1-30 June 1968

Executive Officer: Major C.E. CANNON, 1-30 June 1968

Operations Officer: Major F.J. ROWLAND, 1-30 June 1968

Logistics Officer: Major R.L. NEFF, 1-30 June 1968

Intelligence Officer: Captain T. ALEXANDER, 1-30 June 1968

Administrative Officer: Captain D.H. DUPONT, 1-30 June 1968

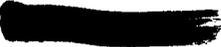
2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, 1-30 June 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>
33	163	1	0	197

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

1 June 1968. Recon inserts and extracts were the order of the day. Three hot inserts in the Scotland II area were attempted and five peaceful extracts in the Kentucky area were completed. Fixed wing was utilized effectively under low cloud cover in support of the proposed inserts and resulting immediate extracts.

2 June 1968. The sweep south of Khe Sahn was kicked off today with Lt Col MAAS leading a flight of 4 gunships and coordinating a regimental size troop lift, using 12 transports. After a total of 88 sorties, over 1200 Marines were successfully inserted.

3 June 1968. The Khe Sahn area is active as usual. Maj SHAW, leading Sea Worthy 4-20 flight flew a total of 18.6 hours, 40 sorties and completed 22 tasks in support of recon team inserts and emergency extracts, med-evacs and resupply missions.

4 June 1968. Maj ROWLAND, with the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight, inserted recon teams, conducted troop lifts, escorted resupply, delivered close air support and carried med-evacs for a well rounded day.

5 June 1968. VMO-6 again exhibited its versatility as Maj CANNON, with the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight today inserted recon teams, conducted troop lifts, escorted resupply and delivered fire on NVA in the open with effective results.

6 June 1968. More troop lifts in support of Task Force Hotel today. Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, led by Maj CANNON, controlled a battalion size lift into a hot zone. One of the transports took heavy fire and crashed near the zone. The gunships covered the rescue efforts and the troop lift was successfully completed. 277 2.75" rockets and over 19,000 rounds of 7.6mm were expended in support of this operation.

7 June 1968. South of Khe Sahn is continually active with troop lifts, close air support and transport gun cover being the everyday tasks of Sea Worthy aircraft.

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Enclosure (2)


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8 June 1968. Another 600+ man troop lift was completed successfully under marginal weather conditions. Capt CROOM, leading the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight marked the zone and successfully escorted the transports into the zone. 1.1 hours of flight time were all that were necessary for the lift.

9 June 1968. Maj ROWLAND, leading the Sea Worthy 4-24 flight, had a little different day today. Starting with a small troop lift (one company) which was completed without incident, the flight was on its way to home field when mirror flashes were spotted. After several low passes, a landing was made and a recon team without radio was found. Transports were called and the team was lifted from the bush.

10 June 1968. Rather a quiet day for VMO-6. The squadron flew 144 sorties for a total of 52.5 flight hours. Med-evac cover, resupply cover, convoy cover, TAC(A) missions and VIP flights were all performed by Sea Worthy pilots.

11 June 1968. 17.6 flight hours, 46 sorties, 28 tasks, 92 2.75" rockets expended and 8,000 rounds of 7.62mm of ammo used are the facts and figures for Sea Worthy 4-24 flight today. Maj ROWLAND led his section on VR's, extracts, inserts, NVA in the open, and in general had a busy day.

12 June 1968. Three sections of Sea Worthy aircraft carried the load at Khe Sahn today. Troop lifts, med-evacs, resupply, VR's and close air support missions were performed for a total of 110 sorties.

13 June 1968. In the Scotland II area, Maj ROWLAND and the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight continued productive VR's. Spotting NVA in the open, fire was delivered, and in return .50 cal fire was received. In the Lancaster II area recon inserts and extracts were the most productive flights. Sea Worthy 4-24, led by Capt CROOM, made 4 inserts and 4 extracts (2 emergency).

14 June 1968. Five .50 cal positions on the approach to the LZ made the first few minutes of the troop lift interesting today. A battalion size lift south of Khe Sahn was greeted by previously concealed NVA after fixed wing and artillery prep failed to knock them out. The first wave was put in and the .50's were spotted. Before the second wave arrived Sea Worthy 4-22, led by Capt CROOM, combined with the AO's and fixed wing on station to knock out the automatic weapons positions. The completion of the lift was uneventful.

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15 June 1968. Rather busy in the Khe Sahn area today. Two Sea Worthy flights expended 282 2.75" rockets and 16,000 rounds of 7.62mm and directed 3 flights of fixed wing with with 20 D2A's, 4 D9's and 8 D7's. Capt MONROE with the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight worked over active mortar positions and NVA in the open while Sea Worthy 4-1 flight with Capt CROOM extracted recon teams a few clicks away. Seemed to be quite a few NVA in the area today.

16 June 1968. Sea Worthy 4-22 flight conducted a 3 company troop lift into 2 zones today. Maj RONLAND briefed with the transport drivers from two squadrons and prepped the zones with his section. With 102.6 flight hours today, the squadron put forth maximum effort in support of ground units in northern I Corps.

17 June 1968. Back into LZ Loon today. Main mission was recovery of MIA U.S. personnel. An insert of 531 Marines after fixed wing and arty prep was initiated without incident. A false lift into another zone 2 clicks away helped draw attention from the primary lift.

18 June 1968. Maj CANNON led the Sea Worthy 4-20 flight in the morning, coordinating a troop lift into Leatherneck Square. The main opposition was small arms fire and suppressive fire was delivered. Later in the afternoon the Sea Worthy 4-5 flight coordinated the emergency extraction of a recon team in the Khe Sahn area. The extract was made in darkness by hoist as the flight delivered suppressive fire against continual sniping in an area of heavy enemy concentration.

19 June 1968. The squadron flew 94.8 flight hours today. The Khe Sahn crews logged 39.2 hours of this. Just an average day according to VMO-6 standards, with a variety of tasks performed efficiently.

20 June 1968. A slow day for the Sea Worthy pilots. Only 91 sorties and 36.2 flight hours were flown today. Definitely a change of pace from the normal level of operations.

21 June 1968. Back in the Lancaster II operational area, Maj CANNON with Sea Worthy 4-20 flight conducted a 500 man troop lift into 4 separate zones with minimum delay. Operational totals look better with 130 sorties and 65.2 flight hours flown.

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22 June 1968. Sea Worthy 4-1, led by Maj HANSEN, had a variety of jobs today. Locating lost recon personnel, team inserts with gunship prep, team inserts controlling fixed wing prep, routine team extracts, emergency team extracts under fire and troop lifts were all completed in a competent fashion transport squadrons have come to expect from VMO-6.

23 June 1968. The squadron flew 144 sorties and 75.5 flight hours while expending 144 rockets and 17,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammo in support of ground units today. After 4 hours and with three sections of Sea Worthy guns on station, the recon team Badminton was successfully extracted from near the DMZ. Coordination between the sections of gunships, the team on the ground and the fixed wing and arty made the extract possible.

24 June 1968. Emergency extracts have been occurring in several sections of the TAOR. Sea Worthy 4-1 flight with Maj CANNON, 4-5 flight with Capt MONROE, and 4-1 (AM) flight with Capt CROOM all completed emergency extracts under fire. The squadron flew 192 sorties while expending 125 rockets and 9,200 rounds of 7.62mm in support of these extracts and other normal operations.

25 June 1968. In the Scotland II area alone, Sea Worthy flights delivered 130 rockets and 8,700 rounds of 7.62mm. While scouting for an NVA mortar position, Sea Worthy 4-1 flight, with Capt MONROE, found a twin .50 instead. Delivered ordnance on same, and directed an AO to the position. Resulting air strikes were run, and one A-4 was shot down. The pilot successfully ejected and Sea Worthy 4-1 made the pick-up. A good job by Sea Worthy 4-1.

26 June 1968. Control and coordination of a 1,000 man troop lift began the day for Sea Worthy 4-20 and 4-1 flights with Maj CANNON and Capt MCADAMS. The zone was prepped with 2.75" rockets and 7.62mm as the 10 transports approached. Receiving only light sniper fire, the division continued to deliver suppressive fire until the insert was completed.

27 June 1968. Recon teams were in contact all morning. Capt MCADAMS, leading Sea Worthy 4-20 attempted to insert his first recon team but was shot out of the zone. On the second try in a new area, with a new team, the same thing occurred. On yet a third insertion, the team was successfully inserted but made contact immediately. Covering fire by Sea Worthy enabled the transports to make the extraction with only one KIA in the recon team. A strike out as far as insertions go, but as Sea Worthy 4-1 called in artillery on the different positions and delivered ordnance it was sure that the NVA suffered casualties.

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28 June 1968. The usual expected WMO-6 missions today. 99 rockets were delivered on targets and 10,500 rounds of 7.62mm in support of recon team extracts, NVA in the open and suspected NVA positions.

29 June 1968. A 0330 brief time for 12 Sea Worthy pilots as Maj CANNON, Maj SHAW and Capt MCADAMS led sections in a coordinated air-ground effort to trap transient NVA in the local area. Six recon teams were inserted successfully into preplanned zones in an effort to locate the enemy. A company size Marine unit was standing by as a reaction force. Unfortunately, little contact was made.

30 June 1968. The squadron flew 1868.1 hours this month after completing 67.7 hours today. A gain of 67+ hours over last month. Twenty out of twentyeight pilots assigned had over 100 hours per man, and others flew a constant 100+ hour pace as they were available for flying purposes. A good flying month for the squadron.

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Part III: Significant Events

During the month of June 1968 the following promotions were effected:

TO STAFF SERGEANT

D. P. OLDHAM

TO SERGEANT

M. E. COX
T. V. GOOD
J. P. LAVERY
O. F. WHEELER
A. J. MOZOL
C. B. TRACY

TO CORPORAL

R. D. SYMONDS