

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

03:RCR:tvq
5750.1C
Ser# 03A21668
3 August 1968
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 July 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) GgO 5750.1C
(b) GgUC 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.

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Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:

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

Executive Officer: Major C. E. CANNON, 1-31 July 1968

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

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

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

Administrative Officer: Captain T. R. HOPKINS 1-31 July 1968


2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 July 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>
52	181	1	0	234

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

1 July 1968. A good day to start the month with today. The squadron flew 58.7 flight hours and 159 sorties. Major CANNON with the Seaworthy 4-20 section and Seaworthy 4-8 combined their efforts south of Khe Sanh. A confirmed KBA count of 30 was credited the gunships in this one area.

2 July 1968. Flying 56.5 hours today, the squadron conducted its usual variety of assigned tasks. Seaworthy 4-1 flight led by Captain MCADAMS successfully directed the extract of a recon team surrounded on 3 sides by laying down highly effective suppressive fire. Captain MONROE and his section, while on a VM, found NVA in bunkers and expended on them.

3 July 1968. VMO-5 aircraft flew 45.6 flight hours while making 134 sorties today. Captain CROOM with Seaworthy 4-20 flight, while directing inserts and extracts was called to support a 3rd MarDiv unit that was in contact. He controlled three flights of fixed wing in the area and his flight alone expended 130 rockets and 14,000 rounds of 7.62mm.


4 July 1968. Med-evac escort, recon inserts and extracts, TAC(A) missions, close air support and helicopter attack missions were all performed for a total of 140 sorties and 45.5 flight hours today.

5 July 1968. Captain MONROE, leading Seaworthy 4-20 flight, was called to aid a unit in the Khe Sanh area who had four wounded Marines pinned down by a sniper 15 yards outside the perimeter. The Seaworthy flight provided cover and suppressive fire to enable the rescue of the wounded men. VMO-6 flew a total of 137 sorties in 45.2 flight hours today.

6 July 1968. Seaworthy 20-7 flight, led by LtCol MAAS, while providing cover for the Khe Sanh withdrawal were diverted to an emergency extract of a recon team. Seaworthy 20-8 went down with mechanical problems but Seaworthy 20-7 continued to cover this extract and an emergency extract of another recon team. The squadron expended 225 rockets and 26,000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units today.

7 July 1968. The action today was centered around Hill 689 in the Khe Sanh area where enemy troops were hampering resupply for that hill. The enemy fired mortars and small arms into the position. Seaworthy 4-1 flight delivered suppressive fire and controlled three flights of fixed wing on the enemy positions to effectively reduce the enemy activity.

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8 July 1968. The action around Hill 689 continued today as Seaworthy 4-22 and flight escorted a lift of 210 troops to that position. The Seaworthy flight expended 44 rockets and 2100 rounds of 7.62mm in support of the lift. In other action today, Seaworthy 4-20 flight led by Captain CROOM, while escorting Chatterbox transports spotted 35-40 NVA and called in and directed a fixed wing airstrike which accounted for 7 KBA's.

9 July 1968. VMO-6 aircraft flew 35.3 flight hours while making 122 sorties today. Major HANSEN had a busy morning, launching at 0500 for a brief on recon inserts and extracts for the day. Two extracts and three inserts were scheduled and the mission was uneventful until time for the final insert. The transport helicopter was on final into the zone when he spotted 40 NVA in and around the LZ in what appeared to be a trap. The transport waved off and the Seaworthy flight expended all their rockets into the area. The results of the rockets were unknown and the insert was aborted.

10 July 1968. VMO-6 flew 135 sorties and 52.5 flight hours. The squadron expended 136 rockets and 6700 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units. The Scotland II area alone counted for over half the squadron effort today with 79 sorties, 25.2 flight hours, expending 5700 rounds of 7.62mm and 136 rockets. Major CANNON led Seaworthy 4-22 flight in the Khe Sanh area on the numerous and varied tasks performed.

11 July 1968. A 600 man troop lift was coordinated by Major ROWLAND in Seaworthy 4-13. The first wave was inserted successfully before intensive small arms fire from west of the zone hampered the progress of the lift. The Seaworthy flight provided effective suppressive fire to allow completion of the troop lift in the primary zone.

12 July 1968. Flying 153 sorties and 84.3 flight hours VMO-6 was again devoting most of its effort in support of Scotland II, which accounted for 103 sorties and 65.5 flight hours. Captain MONROE, while leading Seaworthy 4-1 flight, controlled two flights of fixed wing, destroying two enemy bunker positions. He later spotted two enemy mortar positions in the vicinity of Hill 689 and marked the position for Fingerprint 4-9 who ran in fixed wing. Time and fuel state prevented a concrete assessment of the situation.

13 July 1968. Seaworthy flew 148 sorties today and 88.7 flight hours. The squadron expended 102 rockets and 4000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

14 July 1968. VMO-6 spent most of the day on VR missions for Task Force Hotel and the 9th Marines locating and evaluating potential LZ's for an

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14 July 1968. (Continued)

upcoming operation and also trying to pinpoint enemy troop concentrations, movement and structures. The squadron flew 50 sorties and 26.6 hours for this purpose today.

15 July 1968. Seaworthy 4-13 flight led by Captain MONROE coordinated the recon insert and extract effort today. Two teams were successfully inserted but lack of radio contact with them required them to be extracted again but three teams were successfully inserted with no problems.

16 July 1968. While covering an insert of a recon team, Seaworthy 4-13, led by Captain MONROE again, spotted two manned AA positions and NVA moving into a cave. The flight expended their ordnance and the positions sufficiently softened up to be susceptible to fixed wing attack. The team was inserted with no other problems.

17 July 1968. On the first day of Operation Lancaster II, VMO-6 provided the Huey gunships for cover of the 16 transports utilized in the three battalion trooplifts. Seaworthy guns flew 123 sorties and fired 136 rockets and 17,000 rounds of 7.62mm, receiving credit for 12 KBA's. In addition, VMO-6 provided the med-evac guns and three Huey slicks for command and control aircraft. Fixed wing aircraft were also available for the lift.


18 July 1968. The squadron flew 221 sorties and 118.2 flight hours today. The majority of this effort was in support of Lancaster II as Seaworthy provided gun cover for two troop lifts. These were battalion size lifts and were conducted with no problems.

19 July 1968. The tide of events in the Lancaster II area continues to keep VMO-6 active. The squadron flew 95.3 flight hours on 165 sorties in support of this operation today and expended 84 rockets and 2000 rounds of 7.62mm.

20 July 1968. Seaworthy 4-1 section, led by Major CANNON, flew 6.2 hours and 36 sorties in support of the 3rd Recon Battalion. The section inserted 7 teams and controlled 5 flights of fixed wing for LZ preps. The section inserted teams all over the northern I Corps area working with Chatterbox 6-1 & 6-2. Also highlighting the day's activities was Seaworthy 4-4, a slick VIP helicopter. 4-4, piloted by Lt MCBROOM, flew 7.8 hours 24 sorties for Task Force Hotel transporting 5 high-ranking passengers to nearly every LZ in the Task Force Hotel TAOR.

21 July 1968. Lt CONNELLY, flying gun cover for Task Force Hotel med-evacs today in Seaworthy 4-14, escorted the transports on eight med-evac missions. Five were into insecure zones but the transports received no fire.

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21 July 1968. (Continued)

On hearing that Fancy Dan was in trouble Seaworthy offered his services as a gunship and received 4 confirmed KBA's in helping that ground unit.

22 July 1968. While providing gun cover for a trooplift, Captain MONROE leading Seaworthy 4-9 flight spotted a bunker complex and 10-15 NVA. The Seaworthy flight expended their ordnance and left to refuel and rearm while Fingerprint 33 called in fixed wing. Later that day the same flight spotted another 10-15 NVA carrying shelters and expended their ordnance again. The bunker complex was destroyed but it could not be determined how many enemy were killed.


23 July 1968. The squadron flew 163 sorties in 120.5 flight hours while expending 122 rockets and 8500 rounds of 7.62mm today. Lancaster II still accounts for most of the squadron effort with 152 sorties in 77.8 flight hours.

24 July 1968. Fingerprint 28 of the Q-1 Detachment controlled 9 flights of fixed wing on enemy bunkers and trench lines at XD 924498. Because of their professional work Fingerprint and his A0 destroyed 17 bunkers, 2 automatic weapons positions as well as killing at least 2 NVA. VMO-6 flew 87.8 flight hours on 158 sorties today, expending 116 rockets and 15,500 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

25 July 1968. Two Huey gun sections operated in support of Operation CANTON II today, flying 10 hours and 14 sorties in direct support of a troop lift. The primary mission of the sections was coordination of the lift, with an additional task of providing suppressive fire support for the transport helicopters and the ground units. Unsuitable weather prevented a fixed wing prep of the zone which was to be controlled by a VMO-6 Q-1. The two Seaworthy sections prepped the LZ with 28 rockets and 2000 rounds of 7.62mm and the troop lift was successfully completed without enemy resistance.

26 July 1968. Seaworthy 4-7 flight, led by Major HANSEN, logged 11 hours today in support of ground troops in the Lancaster II area. They began the day by running 3 troop lifts of approximately 700 men. During the third troop lift the section found it necessary to run a flight of fixed wing on an enemy position that was harassing the transport aircraft. The lift was successfully completed and the Huey guns expended 28 rockets and 500 rounds of 7.62mm. Fixed wing were available and twenty sorties were flown in support of the lifts.

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27 July 1968. Seaworthy guns flew 26.3 hours, 44 sorties and expended 45 rockets and 1500 rounds of 7.62mm in support of troop lifts today while VMO-6 on the whole flew 74.6 flight hours on 150 sorties.

28 July 1968. Major CANNON, leading Seaworthy 4-9 flight, conducted a VR of the Ba Long Valley then proceeded to XD 826613 to expend 54 rockets and 5000 rounds of 7.62mm on 8-9 hootches spotted by Hayride 14. They worked in conjunction with Fingerprint 25 while delivering their ordnance. The Seaworthy section flew 9.9 hours and 20 sorties today. No estimate of damage was available at the time.

29 July 1968. Seaworthy flew 131 sorties today and 98.9 flight hours. The squadron expended 82 rockets and 8000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

30 July 1968. While providing cover for the afternoon resupply mission, Captain MONROE leading Seaworthy 4-9 flight discovered the presence of 42 rocket launchers situated in 42 well developed positions. Upon arrival of fixed wing on station, he successfully controlled five flights, destroying all 42 positions and achieving 20 secondary explosions.

31 July 1968. VMO-6 ended the month today by flying 101.9 flight hours on 206 sorties while expending 40 rockets and 3000 rounds of 7.62mm. Most of the squadron effort is still directed to the Lancaster II area.

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Part III: Significant Events

8 July 1968. Sea Worthy 4-20 and 4-21 flight with Capt CROOM in the lead, flew the recon insert and extract effort. The flight successfully completed 5 inserts and 3 extracts. On the last insert Sea Worthy 4-20 spotted movement about 700 meters from the proposed LZ, and the flight rolled in to deliver their ordnance. On the second run 4-20 received very intensive small arms fire resulting in damage to the aircraft. Capt CROOM successfully autorotated to a grassy area when the engine failed and while the gunner was extinguishing a fire in the cockpit. All members of the crew were uninjured but the aircraft was unable to be recovered because it was deep in enemy territory. Chatterbox 6-4 was credited with the successful pick-up of Sea Worthy 4-20's crew.

12 July 1968. Today was a big day for VMO 6. For the first time since deploying to the Republic of Vietnam in September 1965, fixed wing aircraft were again in the squadron. The squadron happily accepted the joining of the G-4C Detachment. VMO-6 has continually enjoyed operating with Fingerprints, and is proud to say that they are now a formal part of our squadron.

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

TO FIRST LIEUTENANT

- R. A. CONNELLY
- R. G. REGAN

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TO SERGEANT

- L. R. SHIVELY

TO CORPORAL

J. B. RITTLER
J. M. SAMMONS

