

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

O3:RCR:tv
5750.1C
Ser#03A24668
2 September 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 August 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.

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Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:

- Commanding Officer: LtCol B. A. MAAS, 1-31 August 1968
- Executive Officer: Major G. E. CANNON, 1-31 August 1968
- Operations Officer: Major F. J. ROWLAND, 1-31 August 1968
- Logistics Officer: Captain R. H. MEYDAG, 1-31 August 1968
- Intelligence Officer: Captain S. J. DRISCOLL, 1-31 August 1968
- Administrative Officer: Captain T. R. HOPKINS, 1-31 August 1968

2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam

3. Average monthly squadron strength:

<u>MARINE OFFICERS</u>	<u>MARINE ENLISTED</u>	<u>NAVAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAVAL ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
56	185	1	0	242

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

1 August 1968. The squadron started the month with a good day by flying 36.5 flight hours and 157 sorties. Seaworthy 4-1 flight led by Capt MONROE in the afternoon ran 2 flights of fixed wing for LZ preps and later the flight expended ordnance on NVA in the open but results were unable to be obtained at the time. Shortly after this, Seaworthy 4-1 observed several enemy rockets lift off their launch position and impact at the Rockpile. The section then proceeded to the area to deliver fire.

2 August 1968. Today, Seaworthy 4-7 flight, led by Major HANSEN, coordinated a trooplift of 190 troops of Sidedish by CattleCall 5-3 through 8. Fingerprint 30 was also on station. The lift was completed in 45 minutes with no enemy fire encountered.

3 August 1968. Stud DASC diverted Major SHAW's flight, Seaworthy 4-7 & 8, from a trooplift to the emergency extraction of recon team Bulldozer. Fixed wing were unable to be used because of a ceiling of 400' AGL so the Huey Guns prepped the area north and west of the zone. CattleCall 5-2 took intense small arms fire in the zone and was forced to lift before the team could board. 5-2 was able to get his bird back to Stud. The LZ site moved 150 meters and Seaworthy 4-1 & 2 joined 4-7 & 8. With the two sections of guns delivering effective suppressive fire, CattleCall 5-1 was able to make a successful pickup.

4 August 1968. Seaworthy 4-9 flight being led by Major ROWLAND and working in conjunction with Fingerprint 22, effectively delivered fire on an active mortar site that had been spotted by Fingerprint. The flight destroyed the position with accurate fire receiving credit for 2 KBA's and 2 enemy explosions. VMO-6 flew a total of 179 sorties in 69.7 flight hours today.

5 August 1968. Med-evac escort, recon inserts and extracts, TAC(A) missions and air support and helicopter attack missions were all performed for a total of 142 sorties and 52.3 flight hours today.

6 August 1968. Seaworthy 4-11 assumed the afternoon portion of mission 119 and inserted four teams for Dong Ha Force Recon successfully. During the early part of the afternoon they were forced to abort the insert of two teams, one because of ground fire on approach to the zone and the other because the Huey was shot down. Major CANNON in Seaworthy 4-11 commenced to land the Huey into the zone laying covering fire while Chatterbox 6-5 made the successful pickup of the crew of the downed 46. Hellborne 227 was also providing covering fire during the pickup.

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7 August 1968. Seaworthy 4-5 & 6 Flight provided air cover for a tactical troop lift from Task Force Hotel. During the morning 620 troops were repositioned in the Vandegrift area of Scotland II along with 2000 pounds of cargo. Fixed wing prepped the zones and assaults and repositions were made without incident. Seaworthy 4-9 & 10 continued to cover and coordinate the lift of 780 more people in the afternoon. The sections encountered no enemy resistance during the day. Seaworthy flew a total of 24 sorties and 14.0 flight hours in support of the two lifts.

8 August 1968. F10-6 aircraft flew 141 sorties while flying 42.5 flight hours today. Seaworthy's medevac chase was kept busy today. The morning chase flew 14 separate missions and the afternoon flew 6 missions and also picked up one downed G-1 pilot. The Seaworthy VIP Code 5 Huey slick flew 21 sorties and 5.0 hours, landing at nearly every fire base in the Northern I Corps area, enabling the CG, 3rd MarDiv to visit all his field commanders.

9 August 1968. Seaworthy flew 121 sorties and 74.4 flight hours today. The Hancock III area alone accounted for the major effort of the squadron with 116 sorties and 57.8 flight hours. Major CANNON, while leading Seaworthy 4-11 section successfully controlled and coordinated the emergency night extraction of recon team Pelvedere.

10 August 1968. The squadron flew 47.9 flight hours today while making 144 sorties. The wing guns expended 155 rockets and 10,200 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

11 August 1968. Major ROWLAND, leading Seaworthy 4-7 flight performed various tasks today, which included flying cover for two troop lifts, the resupply effort in Vandegrift AO and also expended 54 rockets and 2000 rounds of 7.62mm on a mortar position and NVA in the open. Due to deteriorating weather and upcoming darkness a BDA was unobtainable at the time.

12 August 1968. F10-6 flew 137 sorties and 38.4 flight hours while expending 68 rockets and 4500 rounds of 7.62mm. Seaworthy 4-7 flight, again led by Major ROWLAND directed the successful completion of the emergency extract of recon team Jawbreaker by CattleCall 5-9. Major ROWLAND later controlled two flights of fixed wing for an LZ prep for a troop lift which the Seaworthy flight covered without incident.

13 August 1968. Seaworthy 4-1 & 2 flight, led by Major CANNON, were launched in the morning with CatKiller 13. CatKiller had spotted NVA crossing a river in the open. Although the weather was often obscured at Quang Tri and the target area, the flight delivered their ordnance on the NVA in tree lines and tunnels. When the section returned to refuel and rearm they were

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13 August 1968. (Continued). joined by Seaworthy 4-5 & 6 and both sections proceeded to the target area amid heavy rain and lowering ceilings. The two flights expended their ordnance accurately and received credit for 4 KBA's and 50 feet of trench line destroyed.

14 August 1968. LtCol MAAS, leading Seaworthy 4-5 flight started the day by providing cover for a four segment troop lift of 700 men and acting as TAC(A) controlled two flights of fixed wing on an LZ prep. Later in the day, Seaworthy 4-7 flight led by Major ROWLAND, launched with Chatterbox 6-1 & 2 for the emergency extraction of recon team Fairlane. The Seaworthy flight directed effective suppressive fire on the suspected enemy positions enabling Chatterbox 6-1 to make a smooth and uneventful pick-up.

15 August 1968. Two UH-1E gunships launched in support of the recon team Air Police who were surrounded by NVA. Under the direction of Major David WORKMON in Seaworthy 4-5, a company of Marines supported by tanks were sent as relief. Three times the Seaworthy guns expended their ordnance on the NVA who were attacking both the recon team and the relief company. Despite marginal weather created by a rainstorm, the Huys both covered and directed the ground movement of the two units until the relief was effected. Seaworthy received credit for 8 KBA's and a well done from the beleaguered Marines. VMO-6 as a whole expended 391 rockets and 38,000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units today.

16 August 1968. While covering the troop lift of Line Coach "L", Seaworthy 4-1 & 2 led by Capt CROOM, expended their ordnance on an enemy position after Chatterbox 6-1 took several hits in the zone. One flight of fixed wing was also run on the target by Capt CROOM. Under the organization and cover of the Seaworthy flight the lift was completed successfully. VMO-6 flew 148 sorties and 74.2 flight hours in support of ground units today.

17 August 1968. VMO-6 flew 130 sorties and 67.8 flight hours while expending 93 rockets and 4700 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units. The squadron has flown 1062.7 hours so far in August.

18 August 1968. Major HANSEN, leading Seaworthy 4-7 flight, delivered 23 rockets and 1500 rounds of 7.62mm on NVA in the open but results were not known because the flight was diverted to extract a recon team that was under heavy AK-47 fire. Fingerprint 32 controlled two flights of fixed wing in the area after two H-46's were shot out of the zone. CattleCall 5-11 was finally able to pick up the team successfully with the combined suppressive fire of two gun sections. Seaworthy 4-7 and also Seaworthy 4-5 flight led by Lt TURNER.

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18 August 1968. The squadron flew 173 sorties and 79.2 flight hours today while expending 147 rockets and 10,200 rounds of 7.62mm. The major effort today by VMF-6 was covering numerous troop lifts on a one day operation north of Son Thien. The Seaworthy sections provided effective and accurate suppressive fire throughout the day and were responsible for minimizing the threat of small arms battle damage to the H-46's, while also receiving credit for destroying an enemy BFG site.

20 August 1968. The tide of events in the Lancaster II area continues to keep VMF-6 active. The squadron flew 58.6 flight hours on 140 sorties in support of this operation today while expending 65 rockets and 1600 rounds of 7.62mm.

21 August 1968. Launching late in the day to complete the recon insert/extract effort, Seaworthy 4-7 flight, led by Major ROWLAND, was able to complete three inserts with no complications. On the final extraction of the day things were a little more interesting. The two teams to be picked up had spotted 3-5 NVA in and around the proposed LZ. The Seaworthy flight expended their ordnance and departed to rear and refuel as Fingerprint ran fixed wing on the enemy position. Upon return the Seaworthy flight directed effective suppressive fire as Swift 5-1 completed the pick-up. The extraction was completed without further incident due to the coordination provided by the two gunships and O-1 Charlies.

22 August 1968. Captain MEE, a VMF-6 O-1 pilot, made contact with an infantry unit under NVA attack. Capt MEE called for and directed fixed wing airstrikes on the NVA positions. The fixed wing drops resulted in one secondary explosion, 3 bunkers destroyed and probably 10 NVA killed from one drop alone. Due to intense enemy fire directed at Capt MEE's aircraft a close assessment of bomb damage was not possible.

27 August 1968. The O-1's continue to do an outstanding job. Today, Fingerprint 41 launched at 2000H in support of a Marine battalion despite adverse weather limitations. Fingerprint found the NVA and directed three flights of fixed wing, thereby relieving the pressure on the Marines. The squadron flew 82.2 flight hours on 103 sorties today.

August 1968. VMF-6 aircraft flew 55.0 flight hours on 137 missions expending 128 rockets and 3500 rounds of 7.62mm. Seaworthy 4-9 flight, while covering a resupply of Hill 950 discovered an enemy mortar position and destroyed it, receiving two secondaries.

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25 August 1968. Major WORKMON, leading Seaworthy 4-13 flight, launched early in the evening in support of a recon team under heavy enemy fire. The flight expended their ordnance on NVA in the open and ran fixed wing. Spooky and a Super Spooky provided additional cover as four H-46 aircraft brought in reinforcements. The squadron fired 229 rockets and 16,500 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units today.

26 August 1968. Seaworthy aircraft flew 26.6 flight hours and 32 sorties and expended 110 rockets and 6100 rounds of 7.62mm in support of troop lifts today.

27 August 1968. The squadron today flew 126 sorties and 69.5 flight hours and also escorted 17 medevac missions. Seaworthy aircraft flew 18.4 hours and 28 sorties, expending 52 rockets and 2000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of troop lifts today.

28 August 1968. Capt ROUNSEVILLE, leading Seaworthy 4-9 flight proceeded to KD 924463 to extract Hasty Foot recon team. During the extract the flight received fire from 3 to 4 .50 caliber positions plus numerous automatic weapons. The flight was able to direct a sufficient amount of suppressive fire so that neither the transport aircraft nor themselves received any hits. This was done solely with gunships and no fixed wing. After the extract the flight returned to register the position for direction of artillery and further action the following day.

29 August 1968. Two Seaworthy guns began the day delivering suppressive fire in support of a troop lift and next fired on an anti-aircraft position. While covering the extraction a recon team the transport helo took fire. When the Seaworthy's rolled in they received .50 caliber fire. The extract was completed and arty called in on the .50 cal site. VMC-6 expended 199 rockets and 14,800 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

30 August 1968. Capt CROOM, leading Seaworthy 4-7 flight launched on the emergency extract of the recon team Corporal Pete. The team had been in contact for three days but due to extensive small arms fire and a .50 cal position they had been unable to be extracted. Capt CROOM controlled a flight of fixed wing on the suspected .50 cal position and then provided suppressive fire as the H-46 went into the zone. The extraction was completed through small arms fire was being received.

31 August 1968. VMC-6 ended the month today with 2046.0 flight hours. The squadron flew 68.4 flight hours on 116 sorties while firing 75 rockets in support of ground units. Most of the squadron effort is still directed to the I area.

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Part III. Significant Events

25 August 1968. Seaworthy 4-9 & 10 flight, led by Captain MONROE, spent the afternoon working with a battalion north of Dong Ha. While departing the area after expending their ordnance for the third time, the section took very heavy automatic weapons fire. The wingman, Lt ARMSTRONG, was hit in the foot and by shrapnel in the face but was able to set the aircraft on the deck successfully with no injuries as a result of the landing.

Capt MONROE immediately landed 20 meters from the other aircraft amid intensive small arms fire. The crew of the other bird was loaded and Capt MONROE was able to lift out, only by using emergency fuel. NVA were within 40 meters of his aircraft at the time of the takeoff and several went down under the accurate and blazing fire of the crew chief and gunner of Seaworthy 4-9.

Due to the expert pilot techniques used by both Lt ARMSTRONG and Capt MONROE everyone was saved and only one casualty resulting.

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

TO CORPORAL

F. S. KRISWICZ

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TO LANCE CORPORAL

R. J. WEAVER

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