

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

O3:JIL:itvg  
5750.1C  
Ser #03A33668  
5 December 1968  
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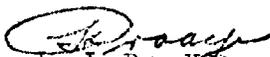
From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-30 November 1968

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.

  
L. J. Drayton  
Acting

VMO-6

CMO CHRON

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## Part I: Organizational Data

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

Commanding Officer: Major H. A. ZANDER 1-30 November 1968

Executive Officer: Major L. J. DRAAYER 1-30 November 1968

Operations Officer: Major M. J. BARKOVICH 1-30 November 1968

Intelligence Officer: Major K. R. BUSKE 1-10 November 1968

Intelligence Officer: Major T. J. RAUSCHER 11-30 November 1968

Administrative Officer: Major T. A. EIKENBERY 1-30 November 1968

Logistics Officer: Captain D. M. LOWE 1-30 November 1968

## 2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam 1 - 30 November 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>
57	264	1	0	322

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

1 November 1968. Today the first OV-10A fam recon flights on Mission 508A/B/C were flown. VMO-6 flew 151 sorties, 79.8 flight hours and escorted 6 med evac missions, expending 46 rockets and 8000 rounds of 7.62mm in support of ground units.

2 November 1968. Seaworthy 2-3, Major DRAAYER and CWO LUCKENBACH, received a hit from suspected air burst which caused CWO LUCKENBACH to receive minor facial scratches.

3 November 1968. Seaworthy 4-10 ran five flights of fixed wing in the 9560 grid after recon team said that he was taking fire from enemy troops in a tree line.

4 November 1968. Seaworthy 2-0 located a lost recon team north of Con Thien.

5 November 1968. Seaworthy 2-7 controlled three strikes by fixed wing on NVA in caves. Seaworthy 3-1 expended 2.75" rockets and 7.62mm against NVA in the open and enemy huts. Seaworthy 4-3 called in CattleCall 5-5 into a zone he had just prepped. During 5-5's approach he received heavy automatic weapons fire, taking four hits in his aircraft. Cattle Call 5-5 returned to Quang Tri while Seaworthy 4-3 & 4-4 controlled two flights of fixed wing on the zone.

6 November 1968. Due to poor weather VMO-6 flew only 23.2 flight hours with 3 med evac missions and 2 VR's while the VIP aircraft flew a full day in the clear areas of northern I Corps.

7 November 1968. Seaworthy 2-1 on Mission 508B controlled 3 Hellborne flights against NVA base camp areas. The strikes were credited with 1 .50 cal pit destroyed, 7 hootches destroyed, 10 meters of trench line destroyed, 1 platform destroyed, and 1 cave and 1 bunker damaged. Chatterbox 6-1 was shot down in the 6757 grid during an insert and Seaworthy 4-8 & 4-9 returned fire and escorted Chatterbox 6-3 to rescue 6-1's crew. Seaworthy 4-5 & 4-6 diverted to cover two CH-46's on the recovery of the crew of Seaworthy Med Evac Chase who crashed in the 9329 grid.

8 November 1968. VMO-6 flew 159 sorties and 93.6 flight hours, escorting 36 med evac missions and expending 260 rockets and 6500 rounds of 7.62mm.

9 November 1968. Bad weather limited VMO-6's O-1 and OV-10's to 7 visual recon missions. UH-1E's provided armed escort for 6 med evac missions.

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10 November 1968. Seaworthy 2-3 controlled two Hellborne flights against an active rocket site in the 0369 grid which was attacking A-4 and an LZ. Seaworthy 2-3 received three hits while controlling the strikes.

11 November 1968. Seaworthy 3-1 controlled six flights of fixed wing on active weapons positions in the 0564 and 0464 grids. Fixed wing were credited with 4 automatic weapons positions, 2-3 .50 cal pits and trenches destroyed with at least 3 KBA. Seaworthy 3-1 was credited with 3 KBA during a suppressive fire run and two secondary explosions during marking runs.

12 November 1968. VMO-6 flew 157 sorties for 100.5 flight hours on 9 medevac missions also expending 278 rockets and 12,200 rounds of 7.62mm. At XD 686618, enemy troops were spotted by Seaworthy 4-7. They expended ordnance to suppress the enemy threat. The area was silenced but further BDA was impossible due to trees. Once again Seaworthy took fire from 666589 and immediately returned fire silencing the fire but a further BDA was not accomplished.

13 November 1968. VMO-6 flew 175 sorties for 100.2 hours escorting 11 med-evac missions and expending 70 rockets and 9500 rounds of 7.62mm.

14 November 1968. Seaworthy 3-5 & 3-6, 4-12 & 4-13 supported Bus Stop Bravo who were in contact with an estimated NVA company. Seaworthy 3-5 & 6 ran fixed wing in the 9661 grid in support of Bus Stop Bravo.

15 November 1968. Seaworthy 4-10 & 11 launched at 0630H to cover an emergency resupply and command troop lift at LZ Mack; all this after flying four hours of emergency resupply the previous night.

16 November 1968. Seaworthy 99-8 flight delivered 48 2.75" rockets and 7000 rounds of 7.62mm on an active mortar position during an emergency resupply.

17 November 1968. Seaworthy 98-9 while on a local night VR of the Quang Tri base, received fire from 500 meters off the north end of Runway 14 and from several points north and east of the field.

18 November 1968. VMO-6 flew 142 sorties for 97.6 hours escorting 6 med evac missions and expending 178 rockets and 7000 rounds of 7.62mm.

19 November 1968. Seaworthy 90+3 fired artillery on 5 NVA in the 0961 grid.

20 November 1968. VMO-6 flew 165 sorties for 108.2 hours, escorting 8 med evac missions and expending 156 rockets 10,300 rounds of 7.62mm.

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21 November 1968. Seaworthy 99-9 & 99-10 covered a downed aircraft in the Ba Long Valley and after rearming and refueling returned to provide additional cover.

22 November 1968. Seaworthy 99-6, while flying cover for Hasty Foot Golf, had an engine failure; cause unknown. The pilot executed an autorotative landing and the crew was picked up by CattleCall 92-6. The aircraft was recovered from YD 088292 and returned to Quang Tri by Space 313.

23 November 1968. Seaworthy 98-5, while on a VR north of Dong Ha mountain, was hit by a .50 cal round. The pilot, Captain G. C. CURRIER, although painfully wounded in the leg, flew the aircraft back to Quang Tri.

24 November 1968. VMD-6 flew 120 sorties for 88.3 hours and escorted 4 med evac missions, expending 139 rockets and 7400 rounds of 7.62mm during the day's operations.

25 November 1968. While on a VR south of Freedom Bridge, Seaworthy 98-0 received a .30 cal hit. Later, 98-7 received seven .50 cal and S/A hits while on an artillery mission in the same area. No crew injuries were received.

26 November 1968. VMD-6 flew 155 sorties for 123.9 flight hours, escorting 15 med evac missions and expending 181 rockets and 9400 rounds of 7.62mm.

27 November 1968. Seaworthy 99-9 & 10 near LZ Anne, fired on NVA troops opposing a recon insert inflicting 5 NVA KBA's.

28 November 1968. VMD-6 flew 186 sorties for 107.9 hours escorting 13 med-evac missions expending 169 rockets and 14,700 rounds of 7.62mm.

29 November 1968. Seaworthy Med Evac Chase escorted six med evac missions.

30 November 1968. Seaworthy 97-5, Lt LAWRENCE and Capt STICHTER, adjusted artillery fire on an estimated 3-10 NVA troops spotted north of Con Thien. Results of the mission were unknown. VMD-6 ended the month of November with 2,636.5 flight hours and 4,408 sorties. Additionally, ten pilots flew over one-hundred hours during the month.

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Part III: Significant Events

During the month, VMD-6 had 10 days that squadron pilots flew over 100 hours. The following pilots flew over 100 hours this month:

Captain T. R. IRVINE  
Captain C. D. SAUNDERS  
First Lieutenant R. A. CONNELLY  
First Lieutenant A. C. MURRAY  
First Lieutenant S. T. PALMASON  
First Lieutenant R. C. REGAN  
First Lieutenant M. J. TEINES  
First Lieutenant J. B. TOY  
First Lieutenant J. E. WARD  
First Lieutenant W. C. WOLFE

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

TO MAJOR

T. A. EIKENBERY

TO SECOND LIEUTENANT

W. J. WALKER

TO SERGEANT

G. M SCHERN

TO CORPORAL

P. LUKACZYK

TO LANCE CORPORAL

R. S. BOUDREAU