

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

03:JHL:jea  
5750  
Ser #03A03469  
3 February 1969  
Copy 5 of 8

CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 January 1969  
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.

*H. A. Zander*  
H. A. ZANDER

VMO-6

CRD SECTION

FRN 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

5750  
 Ser #03A03469  
 3 February 1969  
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

## Part I: Organizational Data

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

Commanding Officer: Major H. A. ZANDER 1 - 31 January 1969

Executive Officer: Major L. J. DRAWER 1 - 31 January 1969

Operations Officer: Major M. J. BARKOVICH 1 - 31 January 1969

Intelligence Officer: Major T. J. RAUSCHER 1 - 31 January 1969

Administrative Officer: Major T. A. EIKENBERY 1 - 31 January 1969

Logistics Officer: Major D. M. LOWE 1 - 31 January 1969

## 2. Unit location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam 1 - 31 January 1969

## 3. Average monthly squadron strength:

<u>MARINE OFFICERS</u>	<u>MARINE ENLISTED</u>	<u>NAVAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAVAL ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
47	247	1	0	295

Enclosure (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

5750  
Ser #03A03469  
3 February 1969  
Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

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

1 January 1969. The first day of the new year found VMO-6 flying 78 sorties in 62 hours. Seaworthy 99-7/8 ran air strikes and delivered ordnance as an LZ prep for Speeding Home Kilo on an assault lift by Cattlecall 92-4 and 6.

2 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-5/6 after four troop escorts was called to LZ Bagpipe to pick up a medevac having to return to the same LZ later to pick up two more. After covering the escort of Hurricane 426 - 418, they received hostile fire and delivered ordnance on the enemy position. One hundred and five sorties in 39 hours were completed by VMO-6 today.

3 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-1/2, working with Kingsman 18 and 44 participated in the inserts of several teams with Showcase, receiving hostile fire after being inserted. Delivering suppressive ordnance, Seaworthy moved the team and brought Kingsman in to make the extract. Seaworthy then controlled Hellborne 217 and 219 onto the enemy positions. Seaworthy 99-3/4 covered Chatterbox and Cattlecall on the lift of 1500 ARVN troops, then proceeded to Klondike 14 for an emergency medevac with 99-3 being forced to hover over the zone in order to make the pickup.

4 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 were called to support Andrew Charlie, who had made enemy contact. With Andrew Charlie marking the target, 99-3/4 expended all ordnance on the enemy positions. After re-arming, 99-3/4 again expended all ordnance on the enemy positions, still receiving hostile fire. Returning again Seaworthy suppressed the enemy fire and made no further contact. Weather conditions severely hampered all flight operations on this date.

5 January 1969. VMO-6 flight operations were again severely hampered by the weather. Seaworthy 99-5/6 launched, but was forced to return due to poor visibility.

6 January 1969. Seaworthy aircraft were held to 28 sorties in 15 hours due to poor weather. Seaworthy 99-7/8 covered two resupplies, then worked with Hasty Foot Golf, expending ordnance on buildings, bunkers, and trail areas.

7 January 1969. VMO-6 UH-1E aircraft covered eight resupplies and two recon extracts today in extremely poor weather.

Enclosure (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

5750  
Ser #03A03469  
3 February 1969  
Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

8 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-7/8 received fire on their first recon insert, and after suppressing the fire returned the team to Vandergrift. Seaworthy 99-7/8 then covered the extract of three teams before covering the attempted insert of Darting Star by Chatterbox 93-11. After Seaworthy prepped the zone, 93-11 proceeded into the zone and received fire from behind. Seaworthy 99-7/8 delivered suppressive fire and no casualties were reported.

9 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-5/6 covered the insert of Speeding Home India and Lima who were lifted by Cattlecall 92-4. After prepping the zone with the help of Seaworthy 98-4, the two units were inserted with no contact. Two OV-10's were detached to Chu Lai to aid in the search for a downed aircraft in that area.

10 January 1969. Seaworthy's Walnut Hill 1/2 ran two flights of fixed wing on enemy movement around Colorado, then covered Walnut Hill 3/4 on the extraction of that team; expending ordnance on the enemy positions. Seaworthy O-1 aircraft primarily flew SAR in the search of Cabiller 15 with 97-1 sighting heavy trail and bunker activity in three locations. 98-6/7 also aided in the search as well as delivered suppressive fire for Sandbox 3 Alpha.

11 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 covered the troop lifts of Speeding Home, Sand Box, Hasty Foot, Budget 3 and Budget Delta; while 99-1/2 covered the inserts of recon teams Blackbud, Intrigue, Darting Star and Ringlet. Seaworthy O-1's ran VR and TAC(A) missions destroying eight bunkers and damaging two. 98-4 received fire on two occasions while supporting Andrew 14 Delta, who had made contact with an unknown size force. Seaworthy 98-7 spotted enemy troops in three locations, controlling artillery on the enemy forces.

12 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-1/2, found enemy troops in the proposed LZ for August Night and delivered ordnance, and also ran fixed wing on the position. Seaworthy then received a call from Wisdom Jacket, who had made enemy contact, and directed air strikes on that position. 99-3/4 relieved 1/2 for rearm and refuel, and with Seaworthy 97-4 and 5 spotting as weather closed in, was able to extract the team on the first pass by Chatterbox 12/13. Upon the return of 99-1/2, the four gunships expended all ordnance on the enemy positions. Seaworthy 98-1/2 returned from Chu Lai, having completed their SAR mission.

Enclosure (2)

5750  
 Ser #03A03469  
 3 February 1969  
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

13 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 covered the lift of Andrew Charlie by Chatterbox 93-1-4. Although the zone had been prepped by 99-3/4 and artillery, the zone still contained booby traps and Chatterbox 93-1 was damaged upon landing and had to shut down in the zone. 99-4 had to return to Quang Tri due to bad radios, while 99-3 remained on station to cover the troops and crew, and to begin coordination of the recovery team. With 99-4 back on station, 99-3 returned to Vandergrift to refuel, and the insertion of Andrew Charlie resumed along with the insertion of a recovery team. 99-3/4 then expended ordnance on a bunker complex spotted by 97-3, after 1/Lt S. T. PALMASON had spotted one enemy soldier in the doorway of a bunker and had one KBA by placing a 2.75" WP rocket in the doorway hitting the NVA soldier. While marking the target, 99-3/4 then destroyed one bunker and damaged another; with Seaworthy 98-5 controlling artillery on the area later that day. 98-1/2 logged 47.9 hours in three days while detached to Chu Lai on SAR.

14 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 were called to support Andrew Charlie, who made enemy contact and was receiving heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Joined by 97-5, the two gunships delivered ordnance on the enemy positions before being relieved by Walnut Hill 1/2 and Seaworthy 98-5.

15 January 1969. Seaworthy's Walnut Hill 1/2, 99-3-6 participated in the assault lift of Speeding Home and the troop lifts of Salinas Mike, Budget Bravo, Delta and Echo. Seaworthy 99-3/4 covered Cattlecall aircraft on one priority and one routine medevac.

16 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 flew 12 hours in spite of poor weather to cover the inserts of Crystal Star, Old Colonel, as well as the extracts of Air Police, Marshall Hall, Penguin and Old Colonel Alpha. Seaworthy also covered the pickup of two medevacs. 98-2 discovered enemy troops in the open in one location and controlled artillery on their position.

17 January 1969. Seaworthy 98-0-3 were detached to Chu Lai today to participate in SAR operation with Crown. 97-5 received fire while controlling Marshall Hall Charlie on a bunker complex and .50 caliber position in the DMZ. The fire mission was completed with three bunkers destroyed, one damaged and one tunnel caved in.

18 January 1969. VMO-6 flew 90 sorties in 65 hours expending 220 rockets and 19,000 rounds of 7.62 mm. Seaworthy 99-7/8 were called to support Crystal Star and expended ordnance on the enemy positions, receiving hostile fire. After rearm and refuel, the section returned once more to expend ordnance on the enemy and were joined by 99-1/2 and 97-5 who also took fire. Meeting Cattlecall 4-6 at Vandergrift, 99-7/8 returned to Crystal Star to insert a reaction force and were met by 98-6/7, who was controlled by 97-5, expended ordnance on the enemy positions. VMO-6 OV-10's remained at Chu Lai, still participating in SAR with Crown.

Enclosure (2)

5750

03A03469  
3 February 1969  
Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

19 January 1969. Flying 97 sorties and 107 hours VMO-6 aircraft expended 316 rockets and 18,000 rds. of 7.62mm. Recon team Amanda, in contact with enemy troops, was supported by Seaworthy 98-6 who delivered fire on the enemy positions while waiting for fixed wing air strikes. 98-3 controlled three flights of air and observed NVA troops, making several more suppressive fire runs on the enemy. Seaworthy 97-7 relieved 98-6 and controlled more fixed wing on the enemy positions, receiving fire from all sides of the zone. 98-7/10/12 delivered heavy suppressive fire on the enemy and 99-1/2, 5/6 received fire while delivering ordnance during the extract of the team by Walnut Hill 3.

20 January 1969. Seaworthy 98-7, receiving small arms fire, controlled Hellborne 006 on the enemy position, uncovering one large bunker and numerous small ones with three secondary explosions. Seaworthy 98-10, 99-3/4 covered recon team Stein Song on the extract and destruction of a large enemy weapons cache. VMO-6 flew 85 sorties and 97 hours.

21 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-13/14 were covering the lift of three companies when the fixed wing aircraft in the area received hostile fire. 99-13/14 delivered ordnance to the enemy positions while the transports began their lift. On the second wave the enemy fire stopped, and the lift completed with no further incidents. Seaworthy 98-19/20, on a SAR mission for a downed A-6, received fire from two areas near the wreckage of the A-6 and delivered suppressive fire on the enemy. Later in the afternoon they returned to cover a photo plane and again received heavy .50cal and automatic weapons fire. 98-20 received a jolting air burst under his A/C with only minor damage.

22 January 1969. VMO-6 flew 105 sorties and 102 hours expending 295 rockets and 13,600 rds. of 7.62mm. Seaworthy 97-4 controlled two flights of fixed wing in support of ARVN troops in contact. Seaworthy 98-3, 99-13/14 received enemy fire as the two gunships lifted two ARVN KIA's out of the zone. Seaworthy 98-3/4, 99-13/14 delivered heavy suppressive fire on the enemy positions.

23 January 1969. VMO-6 expended 30,200 rounds of 7.62mm and 284 rockets in 89 sorties and 97.6 hours. While on a VR at low altitude, Seaworthy 99-13 observed 10-15 NVA troops on a river bank in the XDO465 area. The flight leaders coordinated with 98-9 and 98-3 while 99-13/14 delivered heavy ordnance on the NVA patrol, receiving return fire. Results were three NVA confirmed and one NVA probable KBA.

24 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-5/6 covered Cattlecall medevac on the extract of one priority and one routine medevac for Heritage 81. Seaworthy received fire several times during the mission and expended ordnance on the enemy positions.

25 January 1969. Seaworthy 97-3, in support of Hayride, spotted NVA troops and controlled three flights of fixed wing on the enemy position. Seaworthy 99-7/8 and 98-10 received fire while covering the emergency extract of the team by Chatterbox 93-7.

Enclosure (2)

5750

Ser #03A03469

3 February 1969

Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

26 January 1969. Seaworthy 98-6 and 10, spotted enemy troops in the trees while flying VR in support of Jawbreaker, and expended heavy fire on the position. Seaworthy 99-1/2 received fire while covering the insert of John Brown. With Seaworthy delivering suppressive fire, the insert was completed without further incident. Seaworthy's Walnut Hill 1 developed partial tail rotor failure in the Dewey Canyon area and the pilot, Major K. C. CARLON, successfully flew the aircraft back to Vandergrift.

27 January 1969. VMO-6 aircraft flew 114 hours and 106 sorties expending 13,150 rounds of 7.62 mm and 145 rockets. Seaworthy's Walnut Hill 1/2, covering Walnut Hill 3-5, received hostile fire while lifting Salinas India and returned fire on the enemy positions. Seaworthy 97.4 received fire from two .50 caliber machine guns and controlled Gunfighter 1/2 on the four active positions, destroying two and damaging two others plus their connecting trenches. 97-5 directed a patrol of Jacksonville Hotel to a bunker they spotted with what appeared to be large boxes covered with camouflaged tarpaulins. A large ammo cache was discovered and captured.

28 January 1969. VMO-6 introduced the HTW into service to aid in LZ preps. Seaworthy 99-1/2 covered the morning attempted insert of Piston Rod, with 99-5/6 preparing the zone with the first tactical drop of the new Helicopter Trap Weapon. The team was pulled due to communication problems and later inserted by Blackwidow 20, covered by Seaworthy 99-9/10 and assisted by Lovebug 274.

29 January 1969. VMO-6 flew 103 sorties in 116 hours and expending 358 rockets and 21,700 rounds of 7.62 mm on this day. Seaworthy 99-1/2 covered two inserts and an extract before covering the attempted insert of Churchview. 99-1 took a hit in the tail pylon and the two aircraft delivered ordnance on the enemy positions while the team was extracted. 99-1/2 continued their mission, covering the insert of four more teams. Seaworthy 98-0 discovered 50 - 60 enemy troops on the road at one position and controlled air and artillery resulting in eight NVA KIA and four bunkers destroyed. Seaworthy 97-7, while supporting Ida May recon team in the DMZ, took a hit in the cockpit area. No injuries were inflicted.

30 January 1969. After three Marine troop lifts, Seaworthy 99-5/6 covered the lifts of Eddy Budget Charlie, and was relieved by 99-1/2, who completed that lift and covered two more lifts of American troops before covering the medevac of 15 troops from Jacksonville Golf. Seaworthy 98-6 supported Eddy Budget firing upon enemy troops in the YD146701 area.

31 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3/4 covered the emergency extract of Early Flower with Cattlecall 93-6/7. Seaworthy delivered ordnance on the enemy position during the extract which was completed smoothly. VMO-6 ended the month of January with 2052.6 hours and 2319 sorties.

Enclosure (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

5750  
Ser #03A03469  
3 February 1969  
Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

Part III: Significant Events

VMO-6 added four new OV-10 Bronco aircraft to its inventory. The squadron had four days where its planes and pilots flew over 100 hours and numerous days that flight hours were in the high 90's. Major R. G. WHALEY flew over 100 hours for the second month in a row. The HTW was introduced.

VMO-6 welcomed aboard the following officers during January:

Major C. K. BLEDSOE  
Captain L. E. AUSTIN  
Captain J. O. ENOCKSON

Captain H. A. LOCKE  
Captain J. R. MORGAN  
Captain J. L. STEVENS  
1/Lt J. A. SPRING

VMO-6 said farewell to 1/Lt F. M. BATHA and 1/Lt D. SILVERS.

The following promotions were effected during the month of January:

TO CORPORAL

C. L. PERKINS

TO LANCE CORPORAL

R. H. MARTIN