

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

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5750
Ser #03406469
5 March 1969
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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 - 28 February 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
CMD CHRON

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Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:

Commanding Officer: Major H. A. ZANDER 1 - 28 February 1969

Executive Officer: Major L. J. DRAAYER 1 - 28 February 1969

Operations Officer: Major M. J. BARKOVICH 1 - 28 February 1969

Intelligence Officer: Major T. J. RAUSCHER 1 - 28 February 1969

Administrative Officer: Major T. A. EIKENBERRY 1 - 28 February 1969

Logistics Officer: Major D. E. LOWE 1 - 28 February 1969

2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam 1 - 28 February 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>
52	252	1	0	305

Enclosure (1)

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

1 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-3 & 4, on Mission 505, covered the insert of Frostberg with Cattlecall 8 in support of Godmother under extremely marginal weather conditions. Spotting enemy troops on a trail 250 - 300 meters west of Godmother's position, the two Seaworthy aircraft delivered ordnance with two probable KBA's, and the team was inserted with no further incidents.

2 February 1969. WMO-6 aircraft operated in extremely marginal weather, with Seaworthy's UH-1E aircraft flying 62 sorties and 22.7 flight hours in support of 3rd Marine Division recon teams.

3 February 1969. Again today, operating in extremely poor weather conditions, Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 covered the resupply of Southern Mike and India, plus the pick up of two med evacs, and received hostile fire from three locations while enroute to Vandegrift. Covering the insert of Sparrow Hawk, Seaworthy again took fire and delivered suppressive fire while working with Walnut Hill 1, 2, 3, 4, and Seaworthy 97-5.

4 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13 & 14, on Mission 510, supported Grasshopper 1 Yankee who had approximately 40 NVA troops in the open, and expended ordnance receiving one NVA KBA immediately, and six probable KBA. The enemy troops were reported retreating toward the Ben Hai River. Seaworthy 98-17 and 20 were diverted to support recon team Darting Star and received fire while expending ordnance on the enemy positions and controlled air strikes and artillery fire to support the extract of the team, which was covered by Seaworthy 99-13 & 14.

5 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2, on Mission 203/205, covered the insert of reaction team Spoiler with Cattlecall 9 & 10, expending ordnance on the NVA positions with negative hostile fire. WMO-6 operations were again hampered by inclement weather.

6 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-1, in support of Spoiler, delivered intensive fire on enemy troops west of that team. 98-1 was relieved by Seaworthy 98-4 & 5 who continued the visual recon of that area. Seaworthy 99-3 and 4, on Mission 401/510, covered the insert of Grasshopper as a reaction force for Spoiler by Cattlecall 1, 2, 3, and 4, and also covered the Seaface aircraft which brought Jacksonville 6 into that position.

7 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-1, on Mission 508D, conducted VR through extremely poor weather in support of Spoiler and Prospect, and provided cover for patrols from Grasshopper Delta. With Delta 1 in contact, Seaworthy sighted the enemy troops and ran ordnance on their position with negative EDA due to low fuel and poor visibility. WMO-6 operations were extremely limited due to deteriorating weather conditions.

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13 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 was covering the insert of recon team Darting Star when Cattlecall aircraft inserting them took fire. Seaworthy suppressed the fire and while checking the area received fire from an old bunker. Expendng ordnance, Seaworthy was credited with one enemy KBA. Called then to support Sandbox who was in contact, Seaworthy spotted an enemy soldier and delivered fire killing the NVA. Controlling the extract of Sandbox by Cattlecall, Seaworthy spotted two more NVA troops, and delivered fire, killing one. Seaworthy 98-8 controlled fixed wing on an enemy truck damaging it heavily, then delivered its ordnance on another truck destroying that vehicle.

14 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-7 controlled Lovebug 461 and Hellborne 463 on enemy troops and anti-aircraft guns at YD 208099 and YD 215105 respectively. Both fixed wing flights had excellent coverage, working under poor visibility and through intense ground fire. Seaworthy 98-6 controlled Torchy Rack 23, Real Estate 63 and Dagnar Mike in the YD 1275 area receiving 2 enemy KBA's, destroying 15 enemy bunkers, damaging 3 bunkers and receiving 2 secondary explosions.

15 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-6, in support of 9th Marine units, spotted a bunker and cave complex at YD 214105, and expended eight 5" Zuni rockets destroying 2 bunkers and blowing open a cave. Seaworthy 98-6 then located two .50 caliber machinegun positions and two mortar pits, heavily damaging two of these positions. The squadron's UH-1E aircraft were down most of the day for X-Ray inspection. Seaworthy 97-4 controlled fixed wing on active artillery and truck parks in Laos. Damage assessment was one gun position and one bunker destroyed, one secondary explosion and fire, and 3 KBA's.

16 February 1969. Operation Dewey Canyon received the majority of VMO-6 support. OV-10's controlled 12 flights of fixed wing and 5 artillery missions in support of troops in contact and on gun positions. The UH-1E's delivered suppressive fires in support of medevacs, resupply and recon missions. The one-day TET truce period began at 1800.

17 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-3 and 4 covered the emergency evacuation of 2 emergency, 8 priority and 3 routine medevacs for Jawbreaker Golf. They also supported an emergency resupply of that unit and expended ordnance on NVA troops in an open position near Jawbreaker's position. 99-3 and 4 then covered the emergency medevac of 3 troops by Greenbird 2. Escorting four more medevac missions, Seaworthy 99-4 received one hit in the co-pilot's door, slightly wounding the pilot and co-pilot. This occurred on the last medevac which was in support of Delmar HST. Seaworthy 98-15 delivered heavy suppressive fire on the enemy position during the action in which 99-4 was hit.

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8 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-15, in support of Big Shot, expended ordnance on enemy troops sighted by that team, receiving one enemy KBA. Seaworthy 99-13 & 14, on mission 401/510, were called to support Jawbreaker Echo who had one priority medevac. Landing in an extremely cluttered zone on the side of a mountain, with poor visibility and low ceiling, Seaworthy made the pick up and proceeded to Jawbreaker Foxtrot for three more priority medevacs before returning to Vandegrift Base.

9 February 1969. In the Da Krong Valley Seaworthy 97-9 controlled Seaworthy 98-14 & 15 on an enemy rocket position resulting in 25 rockets destroyed and 3 secondary explosions. Seaworthy 97-9 then controlled Hellborne 267, destroying one truck and one automatic weapons position. Other Seaworthy flights destroyed one truck and damaged five with their ordnance.

10 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13 & 14 on mission 505, were launched to support an emergency medevac mission for Southern Mike "Papa. 2 with Chatterbox. The Chatterbox aircraft made two attempts and was shot out of the zone twice, suffering casualties both times. The lead aircraft was heavily damaged and was left at LZ Cunningham. The mission was supported by Seaworthy's OV-10 aircraft using SUU-40 flares for the first time in country. The OV-10 aircraft controlled artillery and dropped flares with Basketball until Spooky 13 checked in to support the ground troops. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 covered one emergency medevac from Rockcrusher Yankee and provided suppressive fire for Dust-off 710, the medevac aircraft. Later, Seaworthy 99-13 and 14 came on station and covered the Dust-off aircraft for the pick up of 2 KIA's and 2 priority medevacs. 99-13 & 14 were diverted from continuing RON at Vandegrift due to a ground attack at the base. Seaworthy 97-10 controlled Hellborne, Gunfighter, Lovebug, and Ringneck on positions in the Da Krong Valley area destroying 1 truck and heavily damaging another. Also destroyed were six 50 gallon drums and 1 large bunker, receiving 4 secondary explosions and 3 secondary fires.

11 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13 & 14 were launched in support of Southern Mike who had 9 priority and 2 emergency medevacs. Working with Basketball 819 and Seaworthy 98-20, the UH-1E aircraft covered Chatterbox Medevac receiving fire and delivering heavy suppressive fire on the enemy positions. Seaworthy 97-3 controlled air strikes on 18 - 20 NVA troops at YD 095045, receiving 5 enemy KBA, destroying 4 bunkers and one building with one secondary explosion and one secondary fire. 97-3 also controlled Ringneck who dropped 5 - 15 hour delay fuse bombs in the area.

12 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-5 & 6 covered the lift of 11 medevacs from Southern Kilo by Cattlecall Medevac. The Cattlecall aircraft was forced to hover in the zone for 15 minutes in order to lift all the medevacs, and the Seaworthy aircraft received intense enemy automatic weapons fire, which was quickly suppressed. Seaworthy 98-13 controlled Hellborne 275 on an enemy cache and hootch area, with 33 large secondary explosions, and numerous smaller secondaries lasting over an hour. Seaworthy 98-17 and 98-20 delivered ordnance on enemy troops at YD 184033 and YD 183107 receiving 4 confirmed and 1 probable enemy KBA.

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18 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13 and 14 covered Cattlecall 17 and 18 for an emergency resupply of Bulldozer utilizing Crossbill 834 as flare ship. Upon returning to base 99-13 and 14 were called to support base defense in the ProvMAC-39 area. Seaworthy 98-1 controlled Hellborne 151 and 153 on enemy troops and expended its own ordnance in support of Delmar Charlie. Damage assessment revealed seven bunkers destroyed and three enemy killed. Seaworthy 97-1 controlled the New Jersey on bunkers in the YD 1273 and YD 1274 grid squares, destroying 5 bunkers, damaging 5 bunkers and a .50 caliber machinegun position and obtaining one secondary explosion. Two large trail cuts were made and a stream interdicted.

19 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-2 controlled three flights of fixed wing and Hungarian Delta on occupied enemy bunkers. This effort in support of Dewey Canyon yielded fifteen enemy killed. 98-3 controlled four flights in the Scotland II area in support of "Blond" destroying three occupied .50 caliber machinegun positions and killing 7 enemy troops. Squadron UH-1's were busy supporting 5 inserts, 2 extracts and 3 emergency extracts, all of which were completed. Seaworthy 97-5 in support of Operation Scotland II controlled three flights for Southern Echo in contact with NVA. Damage inflicted was three bunkers destroyed and five secondary fires.

20 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-5 and 6 covered the attempted insert of Old Colonel and Iron Hand with Seaworthy 98-4 and spotted an estimated 20 NVA troops in the bunkers at LZ Argonne. The three Seaworthy aircraft delivered ordnance on the enemy. Then 98-4 controlled Gunfighter 3 and 4 on the target receiving 8 probable KBA's and destroying 3 bunkers.

21 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-3 and 4 delivered ordnance in support of Jacksonville Golf-2 at old LZ Sheppard where NVA troops were occupying old positions. They then supported the lift of Jacksonville Fox into the area as a Sparrow Hawk team. The team found one enemy KBA and two enemy wounded by the gunships. The Seaworthy aircraft lifted the two prisoners to Charlie Med for treatment.

22 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-6, escorting Smitty Kilo-2 tanks which had been ambushed, expended all of his ordnance while receiving heavy enemy fire, and then controlled Seaworthy 98-9 and 10, Hellborne 268, Ringneck 005, Dagnar Mike and Dagnar Kilo with good target coverage. Seaworthy 98-1 controlled Smitty Kilo 62 and Upset Fox into the area to make contact with the NVA. One NVA prisoner was taken.

23 February 1969. In support of operation Dewey Canyon, Seaworthy 97-9 and 10 on VR missions near the Laotian border discovered numerous trucks on the road. Controlling four flights of fixed wing each, the two Seaworthy crews accounted for six trucks destroyed and six trucks and one 23 millimeter gun damaged. Seaworthy 98-14 controlled 5 flights in the same area of operations destroying two 122mm guns and eight bunkers with three secondary explosions.

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24 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-7 and 8 observed active mortar positions firing on Delmar "B". The two Seaworthy crews delivered 2.75 rockets and M-60 machinegun fire on the target, suppressing the mortar fire. Seaworthy 98-12 controlled fixed wing and artillery on enemy troops and mortar positions receiving one probable KBA.

25 February 1969. Seaworthy 97-7 controlled fixed wing in support of Operation Dewey Canyon resulting in 2 trucks, 1 bulldozer, 1 APC, one 40mm gun, and 6 bunkers destroyed. During the afternoon, Seaworthy 98-5, 12, 13, 17, and 19 controlled a total of 13 flights of fixed wing on an estimated enemy battalion in bunkers in the YD 2105 grid square. Adding their own ordnance to this support of Dewey Canyon, they accounted for a total of one KBA, 5 probable KBA's, 13 secondary explosions, 6 bunkers and 40 meters of trench line destroyed.

26 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-14 controlled three flights of fixed wing in support of Delmar "D" destroying an ammo dump and obtaining numerous secondary explosions and fires. The Seaworthy crew sighted VC in bunkers and had 3 confirmed KBA's.

27 February 1969. The majority of sorties flown today were in support of Operation Scotland II. Seaworthy 98-4 investigated the YD 0463 and YD 0563 grid squares where suspected NVA regimental positions and two active .50 caliber machinegun sites had been reported. 98-4 adjusted three batteries on the area obtaining excellent coverage. Seaworthy 97-7, working with recon team Temple Lake, controlled Seaworthy 98-14 and 15 on an estimated 20 VC who were in a circle smoking cigarettes. Damage assessment was 1 confirmed KBA and 1 pack abandoned.

28 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13 and 14 supported Method 60 with troops in contact delivering their ordnance on the enemy while receiving fire. They then made an IFR climbout from Dong Ha to attempt an emergency medevac for Masked Essay "A". Their mission ended with an escort of Cattlecall 13 with an emergency blood resupply for Salinas "L". Seaworthy 98-17 supported recon team Temple Lake who had spotted NVA building bunkers and a camouflaged truck at XD 838238. Controlling two flights of fixed wing and using his own ordnance, 98-17 accounted for 3 KBA's, 3 probable KBA's, 1 truck destroyed and 1 bunker destroyed. Seaworthy 99-2 was downed by heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire while escorting other helicopters in the Operation Dewey Canyon area. No one survived the crash.

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Part III: Significant Events

1. Seaworthy OV-10A's and O-1's controlled 255 flights of fixed wing aircraft and 50 artillery missions in direct support of Dewey Canyon. In addition, the OV-10A's delivered their suppressive fire ordnance 54 times in direct support of the ground troops in contact when fixed wing and artillery were not available.

The Seaworthy OV-10A's were launched with the SUU-40 flare pods, for the first time in country to constitute and supplement the night reaction package as an interim light source and control of Basketball/Spooky upon their arrival on station.

2. The following officers were welcomed aboard during February:

Major G. C. PSAROS
 Major L. E. BYERS
 1/Lt O. H. BLAYTON

1/Lt G. H. NELSON
 1/Lt R. L. STAMPER
 1/Lt J. R. ACREBACK
 2/Lt J. E. STURTEVANT

3. The following promotions were effected during February:

TO GUNNERY SERGEANT

R. F. HOCKENBURY

TO CORPORAL

K. W. BELT
 T. W. STRICKLEN

TO LANCE CORPORAL

J. S. CUMMINGS

4. VMO-6 also, with a heavy heart and deeper determination to not let a comrade fall in vain, bid farewell to 1STLT E. A. KEEBLE, 1STLT D. K. JACOBSSGAARD, LCPL W. J. BRENCICH and LCPL E. C. SANCHEZ, who were killed in action on 28 February when their UH-1E was downed by enemy fire.

5. VMO-6 said farewell to Captain T. R. IRVINE and Captain D. B. MCERROOM.

Enclosure (3)