

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON SIX  
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force Pacific

03:JES:gdm  
5750  
Ser #03:21769  
5 August 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 1-31 July 1969

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4  
(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 reference (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (3) are herewith submitted.

*A. S. PIPER*  
A. S. PIPER  
Acting

*VMO-6*

*CMD CHRON*

*JULY 1969*

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## Part I: Organizational Data

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

Commanding Officer: LtCol A. K. SHARLTON 1-31 July 1969

Executive Officer: Major A. S. PIPER 1-31 July 1969

Operations Officer: Major J. A. BRANDON 1-31 July 1969

Intelligence Officer: Major C. R. BLEDSOE, 1-15 July 1969  
 Major W. H. HUFFCUT II, 16-31 July 1969

Logistics Officer: Major J. T. HIGAN, III 1-31 July 1969

## 2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam 1-31 July 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	225	1	0	278

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## Part II: Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights

1 July 1969. Outside of our work with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, July started very quietly for VNO-6. We inserted seven recon teams, two of which were later that day engaged in heavy contact and had to be immediately extracted.

2 July 1969. Today started slowly but about noon things began to roll. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 were escorting Chatterbox Medevac into a zone when the NVA began firing. Medevac was hit but limped to LZ Pete. Seaworthy 98-12 & 15 flew cover on the downed medevac bird until a reaction force could be inserted. Later that night Seaworthy 99-7 & 8 flew cover for a night emergency resupply. While working for 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion today, we covered one insert and two extracts.

3 July 1969. Today we covered the insertion of two recon teams and five routine extractions. A sixth team was extracted that was in heavy contact on all sides. Flight cover for the night emergency extraction were Seaworthy 98-20 and Seaworthy 99-7 & 8. Helicopters covered a night emergency medevac and an OV-10 located and neutralized an active enemy mortar position.

4 July 1969. Flew cover for the extraction of three recon teams this morning. Seaworthy 98-5 ran three flights of fixed wing on a suspected mortar position that resulted in three secondary fires. The OV-10's had one convoy escort and one photo mission besides their normal visual recon tasks. The O1's had two convoy escorts besides their normal visual recon tasks. Our UH-1E's covered two day emergency medevacs and one night emergency medevac. Seaworthy 99-5 and 6 covered the extraction of a downed CH-46.

5 July 1969. Outside of our normal visual recon and resupply cover flights, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion provided most of our work for the day. We extracted two teams in the morning. In the afternoon recon team "Harsh Word" began to hear movement to the north. Seaworthy 97-6 was the first on the scene and provided visual reconnaissance and directed two flights of fixed wing on the suspected enemy position. Later it was decided to link M 3/3 up with the team. Two UH-1E's and an OV-10 provided the airborne security for the relief column. Seaworthy 98-5 ran fixed wing on NVA in support of E 2/4 and that resulted in one secondary explosion.

6 July 1969. The recon package today inserted eight teams and extracted two. One of our OV-10's ran fixed wing on an area that he received fire from while VRing. The airstrikes resulted in six secondary explosions and one confirmed KIA. Seaworthy 98-15 ran fixed wing on coordinates supplied by the 3rd Marines that resulted in four secondary explosions and one secondary fire. Seaworthy 97-1 called air and artillery on retreating NVA with unknown results.

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7 July 1969. The O-1's conducted two convoy escorts and normal VR hops. The UH-1E's flew normal resupply cover during the day and had one night emergency medevac and one night emergency resupply. Seaworthy 98-13 spotted one NVA and some bunkers while doing visual recon for 2/4. He called in airstrikes on the position and got a secondary explosion. The recon package had one routine insert and extraction and one insert that was shot out. Just after the team was inserted, they began taking fire from all sides. The team was immediately extracted.

8 July 1969. Early start on action today, Quang Tri airfield came under a rocket attack shortly after midnight. Seaworthy 98-18 was airborne at the time and spotted the launching site but was unable to take action against the enemy due to counter battery fires that prevented him from entering the area. He was joined a short time later by our standby CV-10 and two standby UH-1E gunships but all four birds had to remain clear of the rocket launching area due to the counter battery fires from Quang Tri. The recon package inserted two teams in the morning. Late that night Seaworthy 99-5 & 6 flew cover for an emergency night medevac.

9 July 1969. Seaworthy 97-3 ran air on NVL bunkers that resulted in three secondary fires. Seaworthy 97-8 also ran air on NVL bunkers, observing two secondaries. The recon package made two inserts and four extracts. One team, "Early Flower", was in contact at the time of extraction.

10 July 1969. Four convoys were escorted by our fixed wing aircraft. The recon package inserted four teams and extracted three. One team, "Caktree", was in contact at the time of extraction. Also assisting in Caktree's extraction were Seaworthy 98-11 & 15.

11 July 1969. Two CV-10's and one O-1 went to the aid of recon team "Salinas" which was in light contact. Under their cover "Salinas" was able to withdraw to a safe position. Two of our UH-1E's covered the extraction of recon team "Nurse". Most of the area was very quiet due to bad weather.

12 July 1969. Seaworthy 97-4 ran a flight of fixed wing on a mortar position. The results were one secondary fire and three secondary explosions. Seaworthy 97-7 had a visual sighting of NVA, called in arty and fixed wing. Four secondary fires resulted after the airstrike. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 covered an emergency medevac prior to working with the daily recon package. The recon package inserted four teams and extracted two.

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13 July 1969. Recon team "Wisdom Jacket" came in heavy contact. Five OV-10's came to the teams aid before it finally linked up with a ground company. The recon package inserted two teams and extracted two teams.

14 July 1969. Quiet day again. Recon package inserted four teams. Seaworthy 99-7 & 8 covered a night emergency medevac.

15 July 1969. Recon package inserted three teams and extracted two. Seaworthy 97-7 discovered an enemy rocket launching site. Five secondaries resulted from the airstrikes he ran on the area.

16 July 1969. Two more rocket launching sites were located by our OV-10's. When destroyed by airstrikes, one area produced three secondaries and the other contained one visible rocket that was exploded. Two enemy cable crossings were discovered by Seaworthy 98-3. Recon package inserted three teams and pulled two.

17 July 1969. Recon team "Salinas" had movement in their area. The OV-10 that went to their aid controlled five flights of fixed wing in the area.

18 July 1969. Recon team "Elk River" became surrounded by a numerically superior force. Three OV-10's came to their aid until they could be extracted. The extraction helicopter was covered by Seaworthy 99-5 & 6.

19 July 1969. The recon package inserted three teams and extracted two.

20 July 1969. Seaworthy 98-4 spotted an estimated platoon of NVA. He ran three flights of air on their position. Seaworthy 99-5 & 6 covered portions of the First ARVN Regiment during a patrol. After delivering their ordnance, they received a confirmed BDE of 38 KIM. The recon package inserted five teams and extracted three.

21 July 1969. Seaworthy 98-20 spotted ten NVA crossing a river on a cable. Using suppressive fire he had five confirmed KIM's and two probable KIM's. There was one recon insert and one extract.

22 July 1969. Recon package inserted five teams and extracted three.

23 July 1969. Recon package extracted four teams.

24 July 1969. Seaworthy 98-12 ran fixed wing on bunkers and fighting holes he spotted. He got two secondary fires from the area. Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 flew cover for an emergency medevac. Our O-1's and OV-10's had numerous sightings of NVA troops today.

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25 July 1969. The sightings of NVN troops in the open continue. They are being spotted in both the 3rd and 4th Marine TRO's. Seaworthy 98-7 ran C/S for troops in contact and had four KMA. The recon package inserted four teams, one of which was immediately extracted due to heavy enemy contact. The package then extracted four teams.

26 July 1969. Seaworthy 98-11 ran fixed wing on bunkers that he spotted and obtained two secondary explosions. The recon package inserted two teams.

27 July 1969. A busy day. Seaworthy 97-2 ran fixed wing on NVN that he spotted and got two KMA's. Seaworthy 97-5 ran fixed wing on NVN in the open that were spotted by a ground unit and obtained two secondaries. Seaworthy 98-2 ran air on bunkers that were spotted by a ground unit, getting two more secondaries. The recon package inserted four teams.

28 July 1969. A short day due to high winds. Seaworthy 99-7 & 8 covered the extraction of a recon team and one emergency medevac. The recon package extracted one team.

29 July 1969. No fly due to high winds.

30 July 1969. Nine of our CV-10's went to the aid of an USA ground unit throughout the day. One was hit by ground fire and the squadron was credited with a total of eight KMA. Seaworthy 98-4 spotted two AA guns and destroyed them and their crews of four NVN by utilizing five artillery batteries simultaneously.

31 July 1969. Seaworthy 99-7 & 8 were launched as escort for a night emergency medevac. As the medevac helicopter was leaving the landing zone, it was hit by ground fire and crashed. As the crew withdrew from the downed helicopter and set up a night position with the USA ground unit that originally requested the medevac, they were covered by the escorts, Seaworthy 99-7 & 8 and Seaworthy 98-17 & 19. As the ground situation deteriorated, a "Spooky" was launched and put into the battle. Eventually the enemy was beaten back. Seaworthy 97-6 also went to the aid of an USA ground unit that was under a mortar attack. Running three flights of fixed wing on the position, he received two secondary explosions.

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## Part III: Significant Events

1. For the first three and a half weeks of July, very little enemy action was noted by this squadron, except for Seaworthy 99-5 & 6 on 20 July 1969.

2. The following officers were welcomed aboard during July:

Major W. H. HUFFCUT, II  
 Captain R. E. DEBLEY  
 Captain R. W. HEIN  
 Captain W. L. O'CONNOR  
 Captain R. L. PAPPAS

Captain R. L. SNYDER  
 Captain T. WILLIAMS  
 1/Lt W. P. CLARK  
 1/Lt H. J. STEINDORF

3. The following promotions were effected during July:

TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL

A. K. CHARLTON

TO SERGEANT

T. C. BROOKS

TO CORPORAL

W. R. AMSTUTZ  
 M. S. BROWN

TO LANCE CORPORAL

P. G. TORINES

TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

R. G. DEEDS

4. VMO-6 said farewell to the following officers during July:

Major L. E. BYERS  
 Major C. R. BLEDSOE  
 Major K. C. CLON  
 Major R. L. LEVIN  
 Major R. H. MEYD. G  
 Captain E. L. DUFTON

Captain R. E. LUND  
 Captain R. J. MORLINTY  
 Captain R. D. PARKER  
 Captain E. J. PORZIO  
 1/Lt W. J. KROUGH  
 1/Lt L. C. MURPHY

5. Dropped from VMO-6 rolls due to missing in action:

Captain N. K. BILLIPP

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Enclosure (3)

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