

HEADQUARTERS
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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3:HSL:wcp
Ser: 03A28968
15 October 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: AC of S G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

- Encl: J(1) MAG-36 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(2) H&MS-36 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(3) MABS-36 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(4) HMM-363 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(5) HMM-364 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(6) HML-367 Command Chronology September 1968
- J(7) HMH-462 Command Chronology September 1968

*Filed
Sep*

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted for the month of September 1968.

Bruce J. Matheson
BRUCE J. MATHESON

Copy to:
CG, 1st MAW (Copy 1 through 4)
CG, 1st MAW (Copy 5 less enclosures (2) through (7))
S-3 Files (Copy 6)
S&C Files (Copy 7 less enclosures (2) through (7))

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0000-35 S&C Files

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MAG-36

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanders and Staff of MAG-36 and attached squadrons.

MAG-36

CO	1-30 September	Col	Bruce J. MATHESON
XO	1-30 September	LtCol	Herbert J. BLAHA
ADJ	1-30 September	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
S-1	1-30 September	Major	Lawrence P. REIMAN
S-2	1-30 September	Capt	Victor J. DEMARIA
S-3	1-19 September	LtCol	Elvyn E. HAGEDORN
S-3	20-30 September	LtCol	Roy J. EDWARDS
S-4	1-30 September	Major	James R. PARSONS
GSO	1-30 September	Major	"D" "C" MICKEY
SPL SER O	1-30 September	Capt	Wesley H. BIRT
FISCAL O	1-30 September	Capt	Sidney R. GALE
CHAPLAIN	1-30 September	Lt(USN)	Earl E. KELLE
DISB O	1-30 September	1stLt	James R. RACHAL
FLT SUR	1- 4 September	Lt(USN)	Richard F. ROMPH
FLT SUR	5-30 September	Lt(USN)	Barney L. VANZANT
MTO	1-30 September	1stLt	Billy B. LANE
EMB O	1-14 September	1stLt	Fred DAVIDSON
EMB O	15-30 September	Capt	Douglas H. KISTNER
ORD O	1-30 September	1stLt	Benjamin J. STRICKLEY
AMO	1-30 September	Major	Donald A. IVES
COMM O	1-31 September	Capt	Phillip R. MORRIS
CIV ACT O	1- 7 September	Capt	Gordon W. SMITH
CIV ACT O	8-30 September	Capt	Theodore D. OWENS
ASO	1-30 September	Major	James W. WARNER
NATOPS O	1-30 September	Capt	Robert C. MOORE
LEGAL O	1-30 September	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
SGT MAJ	1-30 September	SgtMaj	James R. SKINNER

H&MS-36

CO	1-30 September	LtCol	Ralph THUESEN
XO	1-30 September	Capt	Robert W. WIEGAND

MABS-36

CO	1-11 September	LtCol	William D. WATSON
CO	12-30 September	LtCol	Dennis W. WRIGHT
XO	1-30 September	Major	Edward J. CHESLA Jr.
FEO	1-30 September	Major	James L. LANGFORD
OIC, MATCU-68	1-30 September	Capt	William C. JOINER

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		HMM-363		
CO	1-30 September	Major	James L. HARRISON	
XO	1-30 September	Major	Timothy J. CRONIN	
OPS O	1-30 September	Major	Thomas J. FALESKIE	
		HMM-364		
CO	1-11 September	LtCol	Joseph R. DOEBBRATZ	
CO	12-30 September	LtCol	Merlin V. STATZER	
XO	1-30 September	Major	Kenneth P. PALMER	
OPS O	1-30 September	Major	David L. ELAM	
		HML-367		
CO	1-30 September	LtCol	Richard L. ROBINSON	
XO	1-19 September	Major	Hans A. ZANDER	
XO	20-30 September	Major	James B. BELL	
OPS O	1-27 September	Major	Fred L. GATZ	
OPS O	28-30 September	Major	Dawson P. HANSEN	
		HMH-462		
CO	1-30 September	LtCol	Ronald E. NELSON	
XO	1-30 September	Major	Chester L. WHIPPLE	
OPS O	1-30 September	Major	Billy J. KAHLER	

2. Task organization and unit location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	Phu Bai	1-30 September
H&MS-36	Phu Bai	1-30 September
MABS-36	Phu Bai	1-30 September
MATCU-68	Phu Bai	1-30 September
HMM-363	Phu Bai	1-30 September
HMM-364	Phu Bai	1-30 September
HML-367	Phu Bai	1-30 September
HMH-462	Phu Bai	1-30 September

3. Average Monthly Strength.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MAR OFF</u>	<u>MAR ENL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV ENL</u>
H&MS-36	52	468	0	0
MABS-36	15	499	2	22
MATCU-68	10	74	0	0
HMM-363	50	183	1	2
HMM-364	49	162	1	1
HML-367	47	151	1	0
HMH-462	38	135	1	0
MAG-36				
TOTALS	261	1672	6	25

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4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO MAG-36

- a. Major General Arthur H. ADAMS, Commanding General, 3rd MAW visited MAG-36 on 27 September 1968.
- b. Captain C. B. SMITH, USN, Executive Officer, Subic Bay, visited MAG-36 on 25 September 1968.
- c. The following Officers of First Marine Aircraft Wing visited MAG-36 while on orientation tours. Informal briefings were presented by principal Group Staff Officers.

Colonel Thomas H. NICHOLS
 Colonel Max G. HALLIDAY
 Colonel Warren L. MACQUARRIE

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the reporting period MAG-36 provided support to:

- a. III MAF
- b. U. S. Army
- c. Republic of Vietnam Forces
- d. Republic of Korea Marine Corps

2. Missions flown by MAG-36 included strikes, medical evacuations, reconnaissance insertions and extractions, troop and logistic movements, search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, aircraft escort, tactical aircraft recovery, administrative, courier, flare delivery, MARLOG and VIP flights. Both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft were utilized.

3. MAG-36 supported the following operations:

HOUSTON	WHEELER/WALLOWA	PEGASUS
SCOTLAND II	DRAGON PALACE III	NAPOLEON/SALINE
LANCASTER II	MAMALUKE THRUST	BLUE DRAGON
KENTUCKY	ALLEN BROOK	

4. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- a. An average of 16 aircraft per day were used to augment PMAG-39 at Quang Tri and MAG-16 at Marble Mountain.
- b. MAG-36 maintained an airborne mortar watch over the Phu Bai vital area during the hours of darkness. On 24 September this watch performed SAR service when an Army Mohawk aircraft crashed on takeoff from Phu Bai at night. The helicopter crew rescued the pilot and aided in the search for the crewman who had ejected.
- c. On 30 September, Major HARRISON, CO, HMM-363, led a flight of 24 H-34 helicopters from Phu Bai to the USS Princeton and reported to CG Ninth

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MAB/CTG 79.4 for command as part of the Special Landing Force "ALPHA".

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. AIR OPERATIONS

a. MAG-36 accomplished the following during the month of September:

(1) Flight Hours-(Includes 36.7 hours in support of 1st MAW MARLOG and 11.5 hours flare drop support)	6,049.5
(2) Sorties	19,055
(3) Passengers Carried	24,983
(4) Tons of Cargo Carried	5,995.6
(5) Medical Evacuees Carried	1,199

b. Major aircraft losses were:

<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE AIRCRAFT</u>
Operational	1	UH-1E

c. A UH-1E aircraft of HML-367 crashed on 17 September with Brigadier General William C. CHIP, USMC, on board.

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. Continued three weekly briefs for the Commanding Officer and his staff. Daily briefs held for the Squadron S-2's.

b. Enemy initiated activity was light during the month. Typhoon Bess flooded much of the lowland area causing extensive damage to enemy positions and storage areas. Routes 547 and 548 were washed out in numerous places limiting enemy traffic to a minimum. Allied operations in the Phu Vang district hurt the VC political infrastructure. Order of Battle indicates that the local force units are currently understrength to the point of being combat ineffective. One exception to this case is the C-116 VC Co. whose strength is reported at 60 to 100 personnel. It is presently operating in the Phu Vang area.

c. Fire incidents for the month were concentrated both to the North along the DMZ and to the South in the An Hoa area. There was an increase in fire incidents reported from the Hue City area by both MAG-36 aircraft and Army aircraft.

d. Phu Bai took no incoming artillery shells or rockets during the month.

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- e. Attended monthly G-2 briefing.
- f. Fire Incidents to hours flown - 1 x 65.7 hours
 Hit Incidents to hours flown - 1 x 1512.4 hours
 Hits to total hit incidents - 2 hits per acft
 Hit Incidents to fire incidents - 1 x 23 (4.3%)
- g. Intense Activity Grid Squares:
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| XD 9562 - 4 incidents, 1 hit | YD 0149 - 3 incidents |
| XD 9461 - 4 incidents, 1 hit | YD 7720 - 5 incidents |
| XD 9164 - 4 incidents | AT 9351 - 3 incidents, 1 hit |
- h. Total fire incidents - 92
- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| Aircraft hit | - 4 |
| Holes | - 8 |
| Crew KIA | - None |
| Crew WIA | - None |
| Forced to Land | - None |
| Recovered | - None |
| Destroyed | - None |
| KBA (C) | - None |

3. LOGISTICS

a. Aviation fuel presented no problems this month. The peak day for fuel was 8 September, issuing 24,033 gallons of JP-4 and 7,548 gallons of 115/145 for a total of 31,581 gallons. Total fuel issued for the month was 488,739 gallons of JP-4 and 151,847 gallons of 115/145.

b. The MABS-36 Front Loader broke down and is expected to be dead-lined for at least one month. This will hamper the personnel bunker and sand barrel revetment program currently underway.

c. The following items were received or transferred for repair from MAG-36 Aircraft Maintenance section:

- (1) 85 engines received for processing/repair.
- (2) 7 transmissions received for processing/repair.

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- (3) 20 rotor heads received for processing/repair.
- (4) 48 tail rotor assemblies for processing/repair.
- (5) 2 aircraft transferred.
- (6) 5 aircraft received.
- (7) 4 aircraft received for battle damage repair.
- (8) 5 aircraft repairs completed.

d. Base Development. The month of September saw limited improvements in the MAG-36 area due to the loss of Seabee labor. Matting of the Western Parking Area has been delayed and the new forecast completion date is 15 November 1968. The water distribution system is approximately 75% completed. Completion is expected by 15 October 1968. The Box Culvert is 95% complete. Drainage in the Tactical Air Crew Quarters Area has improved due to road grading and landscaping. Concrete curbing has been built around Group Supply and the Aircraft Parking Area to combat soil erosion. The new base laundry is 95% complete. Storm damage to the Special Services building has been repaired. A new PX, which is being built by MAG-36 personnel, is now 5% completed.

4. ADMINISTRATION

a. The MAG-36 aviator population has shown an increase since the last report. This is due in part to the extremely low number of losses to normal rotation and a steady input of pilots. The enlisted ranks parallel this increase.

b. The Civic Action Officer reports that the dispensary in Thuy Phu has been completed and is in operation. MAG-36 assisted this self-help project with materials and coordination of efforts. The MEDCAP teams made five visits to the installation with apparent favorable results. HMM-462 has assumed support of a school/orphanage in Phu Luong. They have supplied money, materials and labor in support of their project.

c. Casualties for September included:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Reported Injuries, USMC	3	8
Reported Injuries, USN	0	0
WIA,	0	0
KIA	0	0
MIA	0	0
Killed, Non-Hostile, USMC	0	1
Killed, Non-hostile, USN	0	0

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5. CHAPLAIN SERVICES

a. During September the assigned Chaplains conducted Divine Services for personnel of the Protestant and Catholic faiths. A total of 72 services were held with 1,678 personnel in attendance. Weekly indoctrination lectures were given each Thursday to newly arrived personnel. The Civic Action program received various gifts and 23,600 piasters in cash for distribution to needy local agencies.

6. SPECIAL SERVICES

a. The Enlisted Recreation Committee held its quarterly meeting on 1 September; the Recreation Council met on 4 September. MAG-36 representatives attended the Wing Recreation Council meeting on 24 September.

b. The Special Services building was partially destroyed by the typhoon on 5 September; it has since been repaired.

c. The skeet range reopened on 22 September after having been destroyed by fire on 18 August 1968.

d. Intramural Football season opened on 26 September.

e. A total of thirteen (13) squadron parties were held during the month.

f. The Wing Band participated in the Change of Command ceremonies held 11 September. It also held a Mess Hall concert on the same date.