

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

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14 November 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: (1) MAG-36 Command Chronology October 1968  
(2) H&M-36 Command Chronology October 1968  
(3) MAB-36 Command Chronology October 1968  
(4) HMM-265 Command Chronology October 1968  
(5) HMM-364 Command Chronology October 1968  
(6) HMM-367 Command Chronology October 1968  
(7) HMM-462 Command Chronology October 1968

*Filed*  
*sep*

*MAG-36*

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

*Bruce J. Matheson*  
BRUCE J. MATHESON

*CMD CHRON*

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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## PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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

## MAG-36

CO	1-31 October	Col	Bruce J. MATHESON
XO	1-31 October	LtCol	Herbert J. BLAHA
ADJ	1-31 October	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
S-1	1-31 October	Maj	Lawrence P. REIMAN
S-2	1-31 October	Capt	Victor J. DEMARIA
S-3	1-31 October	LtCol	Roy J. EDWARDS
S-4	1-31 October	Maj	James R. PARSONS
GSO	1-29 October	LtCol	"D" "C" MICKEY
GSO	30-31 October	Capt	Joseph J. PAIGE
SPL SER O	1-31 October	Capt	Wesley H. BIRT
FISCAL O	1-31 October	Capt	Sidney R. GALE
CHAPLAIN	1-31 October	Lt(USN)	Earl E. KEELE
DISB O	1-31 October	1stLt	James R. RACHAL
FLT SUR	1-31 October	Lt(USN)	Barney L. VANZANT
MFO	1-31 October	1stLt	Billy B. LANE
EMB O	1-31 October	Capt	Douglas H. KISTNER
ORD O	1-18 October	1stLt	Benjamin J. STRICKLEY
ORD O	19-31 October	Maj	James R. PARSONS
AMO	1-31 October	Maj	Donald A. IVES
COMM O	1-15 October	Capt	Philip R. MORRIS
COMM O	16-31 October	1stLt	Luis A. JUAREZ
CIV ACT O	1-31 October	Capt	Theodore D. OWENS
ASO	1-31 October	LtCol	James W. WARNER
MATOPS	1-31 October	Capt	Robert C. MOORE
LEGAL O	1-31 October	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
SGT MAJ	1-31 October	Sgt Maj	James R. SKINNER

## H&amp;MS-36

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	Ralph THUESEN
XO	1-25 October	Capt	Robert W. WIEGAND
XO	26-31 October	Capt	Gerald W. HUBBELL

## MABS-36

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	Dennis W. WRIGHT
XO	1-31 October	Maj	Edward J. CHESIA, Jr.
FEO	1-31 October	Maj	James L. LANGFORD
MATCU 68	1-26 October	Capt	William C. JOINER
MATCU 68	27-31 October	Capt	Billy C. GABRIEL

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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## HMM-265

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	R. L. YANKE
XO	1-31 October	Maj	R. W. CREIGHTON
OPS O	1-31 October	Maj	C. A. PALMORE

## HMM-363\*

CO	29-31 October	Maj	James L. HARRISON
XO	29-31 October	Maj	Timothy J. CRONIN, Jr.
OPS O	29-31 October	Maj	Herbert F. SAEGER

## HMM-364

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	M. V. STATZER
XO	1-4 October	Maj	K. P. PALMER
XO	5-31 October	LtCol	D. L. ELAM
OPS O	1-4 October	Maj	D. L. ELAM
OPS O	5-31 October	Maj	K. P. PALMER

## HML-367

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	R. L. ROBINSON
XO	1-31 October	LtCol	J. B. BELL
OPS O	1-27 October	Maj	D. P. HANSON
OPS O	28-31 October	Maj	J. A. MCGINN

## HMM-462

CO	1-31 October	LtCol	R. E. NELSON
XO	1-31 October	Maj	D. H. ANDERSON
OPS O	1-31 October	Maj	J. D. STRICKLAND
OPS O	16-31 October	Maj	C. L. WHIPPLE

\* HMM-363 joined MAG-36 on 29 October 1968 for OPCON. ABCON remains with 9th MAB. HMM-363 operational data for the period 29-31 October 1968 are included in MAG-36 totals.

## 2. Task organization and unit location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	Phu Bai	1-31 October
HAMS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 October
MABS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 October
MATCU-68	Phu Bai	1-31 October
HMM-265	Phu Bai	1-31 October
HMM-363	Phu Bai	29-31 October
HMM-364	Phu Bai	1-31 October
HML-367	Phu Bai	1-31 October
HMM-462	Phu Bai	1-31 October

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## 3. Average Monthly Strength.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MAR OFF</u>	<u>MAR ENL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV ENL</u>
HAMS-36	47	465	0	0
MABS-36	16	519	3	20
MATCU-68	9	73	0	0
HMM-265	54	181	1	0
HMM-364	51	169	1	0
HML-367	47	150	1	0
HMH-462	49	143	1	0
MAG-36				
TOTALS	273	1700	7	20

## 4. IMPORTANT VISITORS TO MAG-36

a. On 31 October, MAG-36 was visited by Lt. Gen. L. W. WALT, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Gen. H. NICKERSON, Jr., Dep C/S Manpower, and party. Lt. General WALT was briefed by Commanding Officer, MAG-36. The briefing was followed by a visit to each tactical squadron's ready room and the HAMS-36 Maintenance Hangar. The General presented four Distinguished Flying Crosses and six Purple Hearts. He spoke with many squadron personnel regarding the Marine Corps' appreciation of excellent combat performance. He later departed for Headquarters U.S. Army XXIV Corps, at Phu Bai Combat Base. Members of his party included:

Brig. Gen. H. S. HILL  
Col. E. A. BAILEY  
Col. T. M. FIELDS  
Col. R. C. GRAY  
Maj. C. F. DEAN  
Capt. B. J. CAVLEY  
Mr. C. BEJOET

Asst. Comdr, 1st MAM  
G-1, 1st MAR DIV  
Dir. of Info., HQMC  
Div. of Aviation, HQMC  
Lt. Gen. NICKERSON'S Aide  
Lt. Gen. WALT'S Aide  
Interpreter

b. Brig. Gen. H. S. HILL, Asst. 1st MAM Commander, visited the Intermediate Maintenance Activity and HMH-462 on 7 October 1968.

c. Brig. Gen. H. C. OLSON, CG, FLC and Brig. Gen. J. L. FEELEY, Jr., relief for Brig. Gen. OLSON, visited CO, MAG-36 on 19 October 1968.

d. Brig. Gen. H. W. HISE, Asst. 1st MAM Commander, and Col. E. H. FINLAYSON, G-3, 1st MAM, visited CO, MAG-36 on 26 October 1968.

e. Col. W. L. MACQUARRIE, CO, MAG-16, visited MAG-36 on 23 October 1968.

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## PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During this 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, 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:
 

MAMALUKA TROST	VICTORY DRAGON II
LINCOLN II	VICTORY DRAGON III
MA OLEON/SALINA II	SCOTLAND II
ROBINSON HILL	OWEN MESA
TALLEDEGA CANYON	MAUI PEAK
PRAIRIE FIRE	SUSSEX BAY
JEB STUART III	HOUSTON
4. A recommendation that MAG-36 be awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period 31 January 1968 through 2 March 1968 was submitted to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. During this period, MAG-36(-) had participated in Operation Hue City under extremely poor weather conditions, and against fanatic enemy opposition, in support of United States and ARVN units.
5. During October, familiarization firing of the M-16 rifle was conducted and M-16's were issued to replace the M-14. A total of 791 personnel fired the M-16. Additional personnel were previously qualified and only 16 stragglers remained to qualify. Fam firing will be continued for stragglers and new personnel.
6. A post-arrival inspection of F4U-462 was conducted with satisfactory results.
7. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
  - a. An average of 22 aircraft per day were utilized to augment FMAG-39 at Quang Tri and MAG 16 at Marble Mountain.

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b. HMM-462 flew 1,125 hours during its second full month in Vietnam lifting 5,699.2 tons of cargo and 9,653 troops. On two occasions, over 300 tons of cargo were lifted in a single day. The squadron logged 174 actual instrument hours and performed extensive night operations while moving air freight between Danang, Marble Mountain, Hue/Phu Bai and Quang Tri. Five UH-34D's were externally lifted in a night operation from USS PRINCETON to Marble Mountain.

c. HMM-364 and HMM-265, flying CH-46 helicopters, logged more than 1325 hours each, lifting a combined total of 642 Med Evacs, 17,585 troops and 1,567.1 tons of cargo.

d. HMM-265 was detached from MAG-16 and joined MAG-36 on 1 October 1968. The squadron aircraft flew 76 sorties and 51.3 hours in moving personnel and equipment from MAF to Hue/Phu Bai.

e. On 17 October a CH-46D from HMM-364 made a precautionary landing on the 215 degree radial, 19 nautical miles of the Channel 69 Hue/Phu Bai TACAN because of low fuel state. All crewmembers were safely extracted the same day. The aircraft was recovered by U. S. Army CH-54 on 21 October after several unsuccessful attempts on previous days due to bad weather.

f. A UH-1E received Echo damage on 18 October 1968 when the fuel nozzle slipped from the tank during refueling. An engine fire resulted when fuel was ingested through the engine intake. One Marine received Foxtrot injuries.

g. On 30 October, HML-367 reinstated its support of a special mission. It was directed to operate with U.S. Army Special Forces in an operation conducted from Forward Operating Base One, known as "Frario Fire". During the first day of operation, two UH-1E aircraft expended 4000 rounds of 7.62 MM ammo in support of this mission.

## PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## 1. AIR OPERATIONS

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

(1) Flight Hours	5,411.6
(2) Sorties	16,350
(3) Passengers Carried	38,463
(4) Tons of Cargo Carried	7,239.7
(5) Medical Evacuees Carried	644

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b. The above figures include 66.1 flight hours, 93 sorties, 82 passengers and 8.9 tons of cargo accomplished by HMM-363, OPCON but not ADCON to MIG-36.

c. A mid-air collision of a CH-46A from HMM-265 and a UH-34D from HMM-362, MIG-16, on 11 October resulted in ALFA damage to both aircraft. Four HMM-265 crew members sustained ALFA injuries. Eight ALFA injuries were sustained in the HMM-362 aircraft.

d. On 25 October, a CH-46A from HMM-265 rolled on its right side during a night ground turn-up, resulting in one aircraft ALFA, one aircraft DELTA, and two aircraft ECHO damage. Three personnel received FOX-TROT injuries.

## 2. INTELLIGENCE

a. The Group S-2 Officer conducted three weekly briefs for the Commanding Officer and his staff. Daily briefs were held for Squadron S-2 Personnel.

b. Enemy ground activity remained light, although attacks by fire near the DMZ did increase slightly. Activity in Thua Thien Province has decreased, although the C116 Local Force Company is still working north of Phu Bai, and is considered to be combat effective. Phu Bai Combat Base received no incoming fire this month. Aircraft fire incidents for the month were concentrated south of Danang. Aircraft flying north received little fire.

c. Intensity of fire received by grid zones:

XD-19FI/CHits	ZC-17FI/2Hits
XD-55FI/3Hits	AT-45FI/10Hits
BT-17FI/3Hits	

d. Incident Statistics:

Fire Incidents - 132 (Total)

Aircraft Hit - 18

Fire Incidents to hours flown - 1 x 41.0 hours

Hit Incidents to hours flown - 1 x 300.6 hours

Hit Incidents to fire incidents - 1 x 7.3 (13.7%)

e. Crew Statistics:

Crew KIA - 4 (Mid air collision in operating area)

Crew WIA - 1 (3 in ground accident not considered WIA)

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## f. Aircraft Statistics:

Forced to land - 2

Recovered - 2

Destroyed - 2 (1 midair collision, 1 ground accident)

## g. Enemy Killed by Air (KBA):

KBA (Confirmed) - 6

KBA (Probable) - 27

## 3. LOGISTICS

a. Aviation fuel presented no problems this month. The peak day for fuel was 19 October, when 35,633 gallons of JP-4 and 2,075 gallons of 115/145 were issued for a total of 37,708 gallons. Total fuel issued for the month was 553,311 gallons of JP-4 and 101,667 gallons of 115/145. TAFDS is now 100% JP-4 and 115/145 AVIATION is dispensed only from refueler trucks.

b. Both of the M88-36 front loaders are down and will remain in a down status for at least one month for parts and maintenance. This has hampered the personnel bunker construction program. However, by using equipment from the MCB's and the Army, the program has made progress.

c. Principal M88-36 A/C Maintenance Section activities during the month were:

## (1) Processed or repaired

(a) 107 engines

(b) 2 transmissions

(c) 15 rotor heads

(d) 36 tail rotor assemblies

## (2) A/C transferred - 1

## (3) Aircraft for battle damage repairs

(a) received - 9

(b) repairs completed - 4



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## d. Base Development

- (1) The absence of almost all MCB labor during the month of October severely limited the scheduled improvements on the base.
- (2) Matting of the Western Aircraft Parking Area has been delayed again and the new completion date is now estimated as early December 1968.
- (3) The water distribution system is now complete, but problems with the water conditioning plant have prevented the system from being turned on. These problems should be corrected within the next fifteen days at which time the system will become operative.
- (4) Rain damage to the roads surrounding the Tactical Air Crew Quarters Area has been repaired.
- (5) Construction of a new base laundry was completed this month by MAB personnel.
- (6) A new PX, being constructed by MAB personnel, is now 95% complete.
- (7) AMCO revetments are being constructed on the western parking area. Twenty six have recently been completed with eighty seven remaining to be assembled.
- (8) During October, MAG-36 supported Bravo Maintenance Company of the 101 Airborne Division with 6 GP tents, 200 cots and 1 20KV generator. Dispensary, PX, and Mess Facilities were also provided. All equipment has been returned with the exception of the 20KV generator.
- (9) A Sunday Buffet has been initiated and is open from 1200 until 1900. Approximately 3000 personnel are served during this period.

## 4. ADMINISTRATION

- a. The MAG-36 aviator population has shown a slight 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 MAG-36 sponsored dispensary in the village of Thuy Phu treated 95 patients, an increase of 75% over last month. The MEDCAP teams made five visits to the installation with favorable results.
- c. An irrigation dam was completed at YD 918128. This is the largest self-help project in this area and was originally started by Task Force XRAY. Work was continued with assistance provided by the 29th Civil Affairs Company and MAG-36. A ceremony was held on 30 October in cele-

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bration of its completion.

d. The Thuy Phu Village Chief and Assistant Village Chief were hosted at the MAG-36 Officers' Mess on 5 October 1968. They were presented a gift of two rice threshing machines, which were donated by 1st MAW Civil Affairs Office.

e. Casualties for October included:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Hospitalizing Injuries, non hostile, USMC	0	7
Hospitalizing Injuries, non hostile, USN	0	0
WIA	0	1
KIA	2	2
MIA	0	0
Killed, Non-Hostile, USMC	0	0
Killed, Non-Hostile, USN	0	0

##### 5. CHAPLAIN SERVICES

a. During the month of October, the assigned Chaplains conducted Divine Services for personnel of the Protestant and Catholic faiths. Transportation arrangements were made to FLSA-4 for personnel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

b. The Catholic Chaplain continues to provide religious coverage for several CAP units on a regular basis each week, as well as weekly Divine Services at MAG-39.

c. A total of 75 services were conducted aboard the MAG-36 compound with 1,622 personnel in attendance.

d. In addition to their primary duties, the Chaplains of MAG-36 contributed time to maintaining contact with their Vietnamese counterparts. Occasional visits to the Kim Luong Orphanage of Hue have been made by the Protestant Chaplain. Usually, men from various squadrons are taken along to view these institutions and tour the premises, since financial support, through the Chapel Funds, is contributed to these places. In addition, other gifts are donated from the squadrons.

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e. On 27 October 1968, 23 Vietnamese young people from the Tin Lanh Church of Phu Luang were hosted at the 1030 Protestant Divine Service. The Vietnamese pastor expressed his gratitude and the gratitude of his church for the help received from the military Protestant congregation. The Vietnamese young people sang two hymns. Afterward, refreshments were served in a short fellowship period.

## 6. SPECIAL SERVICES

a. The Diana Dawn show appeared the 18th of October 1968. Due to bad weather, it was held indoors in the Enlisted Mens' Club.

b. The Doll and Guy show appeared on the 30th of October 1968. This show was sponsored by the Wing Club System.

c. A total of fifteen parties were held during the month of October. The pond, softball diamond, and Special Services Hut were utilized for these parties.

d. During the month of October, LCpl C. D. SPROULL, of HMM-36 fired two perfect rounds of skeet. On one string of fire, L/Cpl SPROULL broke 14 consecutive birds before missing.

e. Construction started to remodel a building, vacated by the Civic Action Officer, to house a MAG-36 Library. Plans are to make it fully air conditioned, but progress is slow due to the shortage of supplies.

f. The present football schedule has been changed several times due to bad weather and a flooded playing field. Cancelled games have been rescheduled.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Sixteen TCM-20 telephones are presently installed within the headquarters system. TCM-20 installations for the 3M system are also complete in HMM-36, HMM-364, and HML-367.

b. October was an average month for message traffic with 6,741 incoming and 1,791 outgoing messages.

## 8. BASE DEFENSE

a. MAG-36 maintained Security Guard for ALPHA Sector of the Phu Bai Combat Base defensive perimeter. This sector is located on the northern portion of the base and extends for a distance of 3000 meters. It includes 17 bunkers plus a watch tower. The MAG-36 sector covers 20% of the total perimeter of the Phu Bai Combat Base. A security force is permanently assigned, but it must be augmented by Marines from the tactical and support squadrons. The M/L for this security force is 1 Officer/83

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Enlisted Personnel. Present on hand strength is 38 Enlisted, or about 45% M/L. A total of 86 Marines from the AH-36 tactical helicopter squadrons are required to augment the assigned security force. The use of these technically trained Marines of the Air Group significantly reduces each squadron's operational and support capability.