

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

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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 November 1968
✓(2) H&MS-36 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(3) MABS-36 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(4) HMM-265 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(5) HMM-363 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(6) HMM-364 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(7) HML-367 Command Chronology November 1968
✓(8) HMM-462 Command Chronology November 1968

Filed
Dep

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted for the month of November 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 (8))

S-3 Files (Copy 6)

S&C Files (Copy 7 less enclosures (2) through (8))

DOWN GRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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68-36 S&C Files

681239
682825
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MAG-36

CMD CHRON

Nov 1968

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

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

MAG-36

CO	1-30	November	Col	Bruce J. MATHESON
XO	1-30	November	LtCol	Herbert J. BLAHA
ADJ	1-30	November	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
S-1	1-20	November	Maj	L. P. REIDMAN
S-1	21-30	November	Maj	F. E. LACEY
S-2	1-16	November	Capt	V. J. DEMARIA
S-2	17-30	November	1stLt	G. R. HANSON
S-3	1-30	November	LtCol	R. J. EDWARDS
S-4	1-5	November	Maj	J. R. PARSONS
S-4	6-30	November	Maj	K. P. PALMER
GSO	1-30	November	Capt	J. J. PAIGE
SPL SER O	1-7	November	Maj	W. "H" BIRT
SPL SER O	8-30	November	Capt	R. C. PARKER
FISCAL O	1-5	November	Capt	S. R. GALE
FISCAL O	6-30	November	Capt	W. F. PERCIVAL
CHAPLAIN	1-30	November	Lt (USN)	E. E. KEELE
DISB O	1-30	November	1stLt	J. E. RACHAL
FLTSUR	1-30	November	Lt (USN)	B. L. VANZANT
MTO	1-30	November	1stLt	B. B. LANE
EMB O	1-9	November	Capt	D. H. KISTNER
EMB O	10-30	November	1stLt	J. W. SHAFFER
ORD O	1-5	November	Maj-	J. R. PARSONS
ORD O	6-30	November	CWO-2	R. F. GOLON
ANO	1-30	November	Maj	D. A. IVES
COMM O	1-30	November	1stLt	L. A. JUAREZ
CIV ACT O	1-30	November	Capt	T. D. OWENS
ASO	1-9	November	LtCol	J. W. WARNER
ASO	10-30	November	Maj	D. P. HANSON
NATOPS O	1-10	November	Maj	R. C. MOORE
NATOPS O	11-30	November	Maj	J. W. PINSON
LEGAL O	1-30	November	Capt	T. R. PRESTON
SGT MAJ	1-30	November	SgtMaj	J. R. SKINNER

H&MS-36

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	Ralph THUESEN
XO	1-30	November	Capt	Gerald W. HUBBELL

MABS-36

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	Dennis W. WRIGHT
XO	1-30	November	Maj	Edward J. CHESLA Jr.
FEO	1-30	November	Maj	James L. LANGFORD

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OIC MATCU 68	1-4	November	Capt	Billy K. GABRIEL
OIC MATCU 68	5-30	November	Capt	William E. McCOLLUM

HMM-265

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	R. L. YANKE
XO	1-30	November	Maj	R. W. CREIGHTON
OPS O	1-30	November	Maj	G. G. EVANS

HMM-363*

CO	1-30	November	Maj	James L. HARRISON
XO	1-30	November	Maj	Timothy J. CRONIN, Jr.
OPS O	1-30	November	Maj	Herbert F. SAEGER

HMM-364

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	M. V. STATZER
XO	1-5	November	LtCol	D. L. EIAM
XO	6-30	November	Maj	E. W. GRAHAM
OPS O	1-5	November	Maj	K. P. PALMER
OPS O	6-20	November	Maj	F. E. LACEY
OPS O	21-30	November	Maj	G. H. GROSSFUSS

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OIC MATCU 68	1-4	November	HML-367	Billy K. GABRIEL
OIC MATCU 68	5-30	November		William E. McCOLLUM
CO	1-30	November	LtCol	R. L. ROBINSON
XO	1-30	November	LtCol	J. B. BELL
OPS O	1-13	November	Maj	J. A. MCGINN
OPS O	14-30	November	Maj	W. J. GASH
CO	1-30	November		
XO	1-30	November		
OPS O	1-30	November	HMM-462	

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	R. E. NELSON
XO	1-30	November	Maj	D. H. ANDERSON
OPS O	1-30	November	Maj	C. L. WHIPPLE
	1-30	November		James L. HARRISON

* HMM-363 joined on 29 October 1968 for OPCON. ADCON remains with 9th MAB. HMM-363 operational data for the period 1-30 November 1968 are included in MAG-36 totals.

CO	1-30	November	LtCol	R. L. YANKE
XO	1-30	November	Maj	R. W. CREIGHTON
OPS O	1-30	November	Maj	G. G. EVANS
CO	1-30	November	Maj	James L. HARRISON
XO	1-30	November	Maj	Timothy J. CRONIN, Jr.
OPS O	1-30	November	Maj	Herbert F. SAEGER

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2. Task organization and unit location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	Phu Bai	1-30 November
H&MS-36	Phu Bai	1-30 November
MABS-36	Phu Bai	1-30 November
MATEU-68	Phu Bai	1-30 November
HMM-265	Phu Bai	1-30 November
HMM-363	Phu Bai	1-30 November
HMM-364	Phu Bai	1-30 November
HML-367	Phu Bai	1-30 November
HMH-462	Phu Bai	1-30 November

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	46	423	0	0
MABS-36	16	511	3	20
MATEU-68	7	73	0	0
HMM-265	54	172	1	0
HMM-363	47	149	1	0
HMM-364	53	167	1	0
HML-367	46	151	1	0
HMH-462	51	155	1	0
MAG-36				
TOTALS	320	1801	8	20

4. Important visitors to MAG-36.

a. On 9 November, MAG-36 was visited by Brig. Gen. H. W. HISE, Asst. 1st MAW Commander. He attended a combined Marine Corps Birthday and Awards Ceremony where he presented: 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 13 Single Mission Air Medals, 3 Navy Commendation Medals, 2 Navy Achievement Medals, 3 Purple Hearts and 1 Letter of Commendation. Brig. Gen. HISE, escorted by the Group Commander and Group Sergeant Major, later attended the Enlisted and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Birthday Dinners. The General presided at a short ceremony and cut the birthday cake at each mess. He then attended a ceremony in the Officers' Wing of the MAG-36 mess hall, where he cut the birthday cake and remained for dinner. He departed MAG-36 at 1300 for Quang Tri to participate in PMAG-39 ceremony.

b. Col. J. E. GARNER, 1st MAW Supply Officer, and Capt. R. H. TROWER USN, Wing Chaplain, visited MAG-36 on 29 November. After a visit with the Group Commander, they were briefed by MAG-36 Staff Officers in the COC Bunker. Col. GARNER then visited the Group and Squadron supply activities. Capt. TROWER toured the command escorted by the Protestant Chaplain.

c. LtCol A. G. WAITE, FMF Pac Aviation Supply Officer, visited the Group Commander, H&MS-36 Aircraft Maintenance and Group Supply on 24 November.

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d. LtCol E. J. HARDER, Provost Marshal, 16th Military Police Group Task Force and LtCol R. W. HOOKER, CO, 504th MP Battalion, visited the Group Commander and CO, MABS-36 on 25 November.

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:

MEADE RIVER	JEB STUART III
SWIFT MOVE	DAWSON RIVER
DARING ENDEAVOR	VERNON LAKE
WHEELER/WALLAWA	VICTORY DRAGON III
NEVADA EAGLE	VICTORY DRAGON V
LANCASTER II	DODGE VALLEY
NAPOLEON/SALINE II	NICOLLECT BAY
HENDERSON HILL	SCOTLAND II
PRAIRIE FIRE	KENTUCKY

4. A Post-Arrival Inspection of HMM-265 was conducted on 25 November with satisfactory results.

5. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

a. An average of 28 aircraft per day were utilized to augment FMAG-39 at Quang Tri and MAG-16 at Marble Mountain.

b. MAG-36 participated in one of the largest helicopter assault operations ever conducted against enemy forces. Briefings, for the operation known as "Meade River", were held on 16, 18 and 19 November-- and the assault was conducted on 20 November. MAG-36 furnished 14 CH-46, 6 CH-53, and 6 UH-1E aircraft of a total assault force composed of 46 CH-46,

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8 CH-53, 14 UH-1E and 4 UH-34 aircraft provided by MAG-16, MAG-36, PMAG-39 and SLF-B. MAG-36 aircraft departed Hue/Phu Bai at 0530 for a night flight to An Hoa, Dai La pass and Hill 55, staging areas for CH-46, CH-53 and UH-1E aircraft respectively. After a 10 minute delay, due to ground fog in the landing area, the MAG-36 initial wave of CH-46 aircraft landed at 0810 along Route 4 from AT 993577 to BT 025575. Flights were met with heavy enemy opposition, however, a total of 4 waves were conducted and all troops inserted as planned during this phase of the operation. Casualties/Damage were: 2 crewmembers KIA, 3 WIA (major), 3 WIA (minor); 1 CH-46 destroyed, 1 CH-46 major damage, 9 CH-46 minor damage. There were no combat casualties/damage incurred in CH-53 or UH-1E aircraft.

c. Two HMM-265, CH-46 aircraft received minor damage on 18 November during a back-taxi incident. One blade was damaged on each aircraft.

d. On 22 November the wreckage of a UH-34D was found 16 NM east of Phu Bai (ZD 150050) by the 1st ARVN Division, 154 Regiment. The wreckage was identified as an HMM-362 aircraft missing since 30 November 1967. The remains of 4 crewmen were found and were removed to the mortuary at Danang.

e. A CH-46 from HMM-265 crashed at BT 020571 on 25 November. The aircraft received Charlie damage and there were no injuries. It was later externally lifted by CH-54 to Danang Air Base.

f. An A-4C made an emergency Moresst landing at Hue/Phu Bai on 30 November. The aircraft was refueled and it departed the same day.

g. A UH-1E from HMM-367 crashed on 27 November as a result of fuel starvation during a landing approach to MMAF. The aircraft received ALFA damage and 3 crewmen received Bravo injuries.

h. On 30 November a CH-46 from HMM-265 made a precautionary landing 15 NM northwest of Phu Bai at YD 738357. The aircraft experienced a control malfunction but landed with no damage/casualties. The crew of 4 and 1 passenger were evacuated by USAF "Jolly Green" helicopter. The 101st Airborne Division provided a reactionary platoon for aircraft security. The CH-46 was externally lifted to Phu Bai on 1 December by CH-54.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. AIR OPERATIONS

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

(1) Flight Hours	5,997.6
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(2) Sorties	19,002
(3) Passengers Carried	30,132
(4) Tons of Cargo Carried	6,642.3
(5) Medical Evacuees Carried	481

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. Enemy ground activity increased during the month compared to the previous month. The majority of the activity in Thua Thien Province was in the Phu Loc District. One possible deterrent to a large scale enemy attack in the Phu Bai area was the capture of a large number of enemy weapons and material in supply caches discovered throughout the Province during this period

b. The Phu Bai Combat Base received 3 rounds of enemy 122 mm rockets on 1 November. Impacts were on a taxiway between the runway and Base Operations inflicting minor damage, near the ARVN Training Compound with no damage incurred and outside the MAG-36 Base Area, near the MACV Building, with no damage. No casualties were incurred during the attack.

c. One 82 mm mortar round impacted in a marsh area of the XXIV Corps on 27 November with no damage or casualties.

d. Intensity of fire received by grid zone.

AT = 69FL/17Hits	YC = 2FL/0Hits
BT = 26FL/8Hits	ZC = 2FL/0Hits
YD = 25FL/4Hits	XD = 14FL/1Hit

e. Incident Statistics:

Fire incidents - 138 (total)

Aircraft Hit - 30

Fire incidents to hours flown - 1 x 43.5 hours

Hit incidents to hours flown - 1 x 199.9 hours

Hit incidents to fire incidents - 1 x 4.6 (21.7%)

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f. Aircraft Statistics:

Forced to land - 4

Recovered - 4

Destroyed - 2

g. Enemy Killed by Air (KBA)

KBA (Confirmed) - 7

KBA (Probable) - 0

3. LOGISTICS

a. The dispensing of aviation fuel proceeded very smoothly this month. The peak day for fuel was 27 November when 28,129 gallons of JP-4 and 2,501 gallons of 115/145 were issued for a total of 30,630-gallons. Total fuel issued for the month was 586,703 gallons of JP-4 and 101,587 gallons of 115/145.

b. During the month one of MABS-36's front loaders became operational. With this loader working, sand was delivered to new personnel bunker sites and ten new bunkers were constructed this month.

c. Principal HAMS-36 Maintenance Section activities during the month were:

(1) Processed or repaired:

(a) 78 engines

(b) 2 transmissions

(c) 21 rotor heads

(d) 26 tail rotor assemblies

(e) 145 miscellaneous dynamic components

(2) Aircraft transferred - 0

(3) Aircraft received -9

(4) Aircraft for battle damage repairs:

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(a) Received -9

(b) Repairs completed - 4

d. Base Development

(1) A crew of Seabees, working most of the month, continued the laying of matting and construction of revetments on the Western Parking Apron. Approximately 35,000 square yards of matting were laid and twenty five ARMC0 revetments were built.

(2) Another crew of Seabees repaired the large drainage culvert at the east end of HML-367's parking apron. The area through which the culvert passes was leveled and soil cemented in preparation for the laying of matting. This matting should be in place by the end of December.

(3) Rain damage to the roads in the MAG-36 area was a continuous problem during the month, especially the roads north and south of the Tactical Air Crews Quarters. Public Works and the Seabees have been working to improve the roads and drainage.

(4) The new MAG-36 P.X., constructed by the MABS-36 Utility Section, opened for operation on 11 November.

(5) The water distribution system became operational on 25 November. Some leaks have appeared in the system but Public Works has maintained it in an operating condition.

(6) A concrete floor was poured for the new chapel, which is now under construction. The completion date was moved to sometime in February. Overhead beams have been torn down; their original construction was considered unsafe.

(7) Construction was started on 25 November for two new mess facility buildings. These buildings should be completed by the last of December.

(8) The new Officers' Club is approximately 50% completed.

4. ADMINISTRATION

a. The MAG-36 aviator population has shown a slight decrease since the last report with 37 transfers and 15 joined. The Group enlisted population remained relatively steady during November, however, a general decline of experience and skill levels in certain MOS's was noted within HMM-364. A primary area of concern was the 6300 field. Only 13 personnel are on hand

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of 23 authorized in 6341 MOS, 2 of 7 SNCO in 6320 MOS, 1 of 4 E-5 in 6320 MOS, 0 of 3 SNCO in 6341 MOS and 1 of 3 E-5 in 6341 MOS. Replacements for MAG-36 did not parallel this decrease in skills and experience.

b. During the month of November, Civic Action supplied materials for two footbridges in Thuy Phu which were built by the people. Materials were also delivered for an addition that is planned for the dispensary. Landscaping around the dispensary, which is needed to control erosion, has been completed.

c. HML-367 completed several sidewalks at an orphanage in Thuy Luong.

d. HML-62 has made several visits to a church/school in Phu Luong and an orphanage at Kim Luong. During this time they completed construction of a dormitory addition to the church/school. The squadron flight surgeon made calls at the Phu Luong Church, providing medication for minor ailments of members.

e. During the month 600 school kits were distributed to the schools in the area. Voluntary contributions which were for salaries of school teachers and a playground project in Phu Luong and Kim Long reached 45,000 piastres.

f. Early in the month a rabbit project was begun on an experimental basis. Ten rabbits (2 male, 8 female) were delivered to a Vietnamese villager with the terms that he would return 10 rabbits after they had multiplied. These 10 will in turn be given to another person in a different part of the village with the same arrangement. The idea behind the project is to provide a small part of the protein which is needed so badly in the peoples' diet.

g. During November, 150 people were treated at Med Caps.

h. Casualties for November included:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USMC	5	25
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USN	1	0
WIA	8	12
KIA	2	0
MIA	0	0
Killed, non-hostile, USMC	0	0
Killed, non-hostile, USN	0	0

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5. CHAPLAIN SERVICES

a. During the month of November, the assigned Chaplains conducted Divine Services for personnel of the Protestant and Catholic faiths. Transportation to the XXIV Corps Chapel was provided for personnel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

b. The Catholic Chaplain continued to conduct services for several CAP units on a regular basis each week, as well as Divine Services for PMAG-39 and MCB-133. CAP's visited weekly are: ECHS 2, 3, 4, and 5; ALPHA 2 and 3.

c. A total of 49 services were conducted aboard the MAG-36 compound with 1152 personnel in attendance. Services for other units totaled 28 with 956 personnel in attendance.

d. A joint Catholic-Protestant Memorial Service was conducted for two pilots of HMM-265 who died as the result of a crash during operation Meade River.

e. In addition to their primary duties, the Chaplains of MAG-36 contributed time to maintain contact with their Vietnamese counterparts. As usual, occasional visits were made by the Protestant Chaplain to the Tin Lanh Church of Phu Luong and by the Catholic Chaplain to the Kim Luong Orphanage of Hue. Chaplain civic action gifts for the month were \$474.32 cash; 659 pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies; 40 pounds of toys; 500 pounds of scrap lumber and 137 miscellaneous items.

f. The Catholic Chapel Fund donated \$600.00 to PMAG-39 to aid their chapel expansion program.

6. SPECIAL SERVICES

a. Eighteen Squadron/Section parties were scheduled and held at the Special Services recreation areas.

b. On 10 November the Guy and Doll Show performed on stage at the Special Services Theatre.

c. On 12 November the Dig Richards Show was presented on stage in the "E" Club for the entire base population.

d. On 14 November the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Band played in the enlisted messhall.

e. The Special Services Library should be completed soon. Forms have been built to pour a concrete base for the building.

f. A boxing ring is being assembled and a boxing program will commence soon.

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g. The photo dark room has been inadequate and poorly stocked. It is currently undergoing remodeling with volunteer help. It will become functional again in December and an instructor will be available.

h. The Skeet range operated four days weekly until the supply of skeet birds was expended late in the month. Birds are now on order.

i. Utilization of the MARS radio calls to CONUS has been constant. Twenty calls every other day were scheduled with 85% completion of all calls attempted.

j. Plans have been drawn for a 2500 seat outdoor amphitheater and a handball court. The plans will be submitted for approval during December.

k. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing allocated 10,000 Christmas Cards to MAG-36 to be distributed to all personnel. Distribution has been made through Special Services. Squadrons will distribute five cards per Marine in an attempt to obtain equalized dissemination.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. November was an average month for message traffic with 6596 incoming and 1656 outgoing messages.

b. On 2 November the Wing G-3/Group S-3 teletype covered circuit was relocated from the Communications Center to the COC Bunker and on 14 November all stations were up for the first time. This was the first time that PMAG-39 was up on the circuit.

c. The Communications Center renovation program was started on 28 November. The final result will be a secure Crypto Center with additional work benches, shelves, tape bins and cabinets. Estimated completion is programmed for 3 December 1968.

d. The PRC-47 Radio (Wing Command Net 1) has been modified with an improved antenna lead and the TRC-75 Radio (Back-up Wing Command Net 1) was activated. The Wing Tactical Net 2 was also improved by applying an inverted "V" antenna.

8. PHOTO

a. The Photo Lab has been expanded and now occupies an area twice the size of the original room. This change was in conjunction with the communications renovation program which utilized an area vacated by the intelligence section. The intelligence section was earlier moved to the COC Bunker.

9. BASE DEFENSE

a. MAG-36 continues to provide Security Guard for ALPHA Sector of the

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Phu Bai Combat Base defensive perimeter. Thirty-eight security personnel augmented by 86 Marines from tactical squadrons make up the MAG-36 Provisional Rifle Company.

b. On 2 November ALPHA Sector received 3 small arms rounds from the area of YD 881163. One Marine received minor injury and the enemy was fired on with unknown results.

c. A practice mobilization of the reserve platoons was held by XXIV Corps on 15 November. Some weaknesses were uncovered and the drill proved to be very beneficial.