

HEADQUARTERS  
PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
FPO San Francisco, California, 96602

3: RTR: gen  
5750  
Ser: 0313368A  
12 May 1968

**UNCL**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 16-30 April 1968; submission  
of  
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C  
Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for Provisional AG-39  
✓(2) Command Chronology for HMM-163  
✓(3) Command Chronology for HMM-262  
✓(4) Command Chronology for VMO-6  
✓(5) Command Chronology for MATCU-66 Det "A" *Filed*  
✓(6) " " HAMS 39 *Sep*  
1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a),  
enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted herewith.

*John E. Hansen*  
JOHN E. HANSEN

*F 1968-68*

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1968-30 APR 1968  
PMA-39 SEC CONTROL NO: 05-68

*Copy No. 1 of 15*

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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39  
Command Chronology  
16 April 1968 to 30 April 1968

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Part I - Organizational Data

Part II - Narrative Summary

Part III - Significant Events

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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## a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

(1) Colonel John E. HANSEN	16-30 April 68	Commanding Officer
(2) Captain Charles H. FEASELMAN	16-30 April 68	S-1/ Adjutant
(3) Captain John A. HATHAWAY	16-30 April 68	S-2
(4) Major Arthur C. CRINE	16-30 April 68	S-3
(5) Major Guy L. LARKIN	16-30 April 68	S-4
(6) Major William A. McGAW Jr.	16-30 April 68	AvnSafO
(7) Lt. Frederick W. ARNESEN	16-30 April 68	Chaplain
(8) Lt. Drewry H. MORRIS	16-30 April 68	Flight Surgeon

## b. Provisional Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-39

(1) See page 1 of enclosure (1) to enclosure (1)

## c. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163

(1) See page 1 of enclosure (1) to enclosure (2)

## d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262

(1) See page 2 of enclosure (1) to enclosure (3)

## e. Marine Observation Squadron-6

(1) See page 1 of enclosure (1) to enclosure (4)

## f. Marine Air Control Unit 66, Detachment Alpha

(1) See page 1 of enclosure (5)

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2. PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39

1st Marine Aircraft Wing

1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FPO San Francisco, California 96602  
Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam 16-30 April 1968

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3. Average Monthly Strength

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
HAMS-39	21	313
HMM-163	47	149
HMM-262	42	171
VMO-6	35	159
MATCU-66	3	26
TOTAL	148	818

4. Important Visitors

a. Major General Norman J. ANDERSON, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Part II Narrative Summary

Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39 formed on 16 April 1968 in formal ceremonies at Quang Tri Air Base, RVN. ProvMAG-39 colors were presented by MGen Norman J. ANDERSON CG, 1stMAW to Colonel John E. HANSEN. For the period of 16-30 April, ProvMAG-39 units accomplished 7,816 sorties, 2,204.9 flight hours, carried 10,295 passengers, 805.6 tons of cargo and flew 296 medevac missions carrying 493 emergencies, 499 priorities and 349 routines. Significant highlights are as follows:

a. 16 April - On mission 54 Highboy 3-1 (UH-34D) HMM-163 lifted out five emergency medevacs while taking mortar, automatic weapons and small arms fire in the landing zone. Seaworthy 4-0 (UH-1E) VMO-6 was damaged by small arms fire and injuring the co-pilot as they were providing suppressive fire for Highboy 3-1.

b. 18 April - At 0035H hours the Quang Tri Airfield received several hostile rocket rounds which destroyed one tent, occupied by HAMS-39 personnel. There were no injuries or damage to other equipment. Welcome Tour 1-1 (CH-46A) escorted by Seaworthy 4-1 (UH-1E) inserted Corporal Pete recon team. As soon as the recon team was out of the aircraft they came under heavy fire. Seaworthy controlled a flight of fixed wing aircraft (Lovebug 310) on the surrounding area and made suppressive fire runs while Welcome Tour extracted the recon team.

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Seaworthy 4-20 flight conducted a visual low level recon for possible survivors of a downed aircraft. Positive beeper signals were heard in the area of search. Seaworthy made several low passes over the area and drew automatic weapons fire from several positions on each pass. All aircraft concerned concurred that the signal was false and the aircraft departed the area.

c. 21 April - Seaworthy 4-20 and 4-21 provided support for a battalion tactical troop lift for Operation Scotland II. Prior to the landing, 4-20 controlled 3 flights of fixed wing for an area prep. During the first part of the landing mortar fire was received in the landing zone and Seaworthy provided suppressive fire expending 59 2.75 rockets and 8,000 round of 7.62.

d. 23 April - Seaworthy 4-1 and 4-2 launched from Quang Tri at 1730 for an emergency extraction of a recon team at XD195473. Jaw Breaker recon team was in heavy contact with NVA. Seaworthy 4-1 and 2 delivered suppressive fire around the area until the NVA broke contact. Welcome Four 1-1 went into the zone for the successful team extract.

e. 24 April - Four Chatter Box (HMM-262) CH-46's and three Seaworthy UH-1E's (2 gunships and 1 Command and Control) launched from Quang Tri to conduct a 240 man tactical troop lift. The landing zone was well prepped by artillery. The gunships provided air cover while the CH-46 aircraft inserted the troops at YD392591 with no resistance. The C&C UH-1E received heavy automatic weapons fire from YD365584 which was quickly suppressed by the gunships. Battalion 1/3 had carefully planned and coordinated the lift and as a result of this planning the lift was exceptionally well organized and proceeded very smoothly.

f. 25 April - Seaworthy 4-6 crashed at Grid 4454 with a loss of all crewmembers plus two passengers. A Bald Eagle quick reaction force was inserted to recover the bodies. No problems were encountered in the recovery.

g. 28 April - A five plane detachment of CH-53 aircraft from HMM-463 reported aboard to operate from Quang Tri airfield.

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Part III Significant Events

1. Personnel. This Group began to receive replacement personnel during this period. Critical shortages exist as follows:

a. VMO-6

MOS	REMARKS
7563	A critical shortage exists in qualified Aviators. To lessen the shortage a survey was made of volunteers to retrain from UH-34D's to UH-1E's and three volunteers have been assigned to VMO-6 for retraining.
6319	A critical shortage exists in the supervisory ranks E5 through E7.

b. HMM-163

MOS	REMARKS
6242	A critical shortage exists in all ranks.
6332	A critical shortage exists in all ranks. The greatest shortage being in the supervisory ranks of E5 through E7.
6339	Two E8's are authorized with none on hand.

c. HMM-262

MOS	REMARKS
	No critical shortage exists.

d. ProvH&NS-39

MOS	REMARKS
	No critical shortage exists.

e. HATCU-66 Det "A"

MOS	REMARKS
	No critical shortage exists.

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2. Administration. Administration has been hampered with the lack of office equipment and supplies. Most office furniture has been manufactured locally from rocket and artillery boxes.

3. Awards. The following award recommendations have been submitted during this period:

- a. Distinguished Flying Cross - 4
- b. Bronze Star - 1
- c. Silver Star - 3
- d. Air Medal - 250

4. Casualties. The following casualties were reported during this period:

- a. Hostile
  - (1) KIA - 4
  - (2) WIA - 1
- b. Non-Hostile
  - (1) KAI - 1
  - (2) WAI - 5

5. Intelligence. During this period, a briefing room and the S-2 watch desk was established in the command bunker. Morning and afternoon briefings were given daily to update command and operations personnel. Daily bulletins were established. Liaison was established with the following units and agencies:

- a. 3rdMarDiv - A daily helicopter courier picked up copies of the COC journal for the previous 24 hours.
- b. Prov Corps Vietnam - Daily INTSUMS were received via 3rdMarDiv.
- c. Quang Tri Sector Intelligence Agency - A daily briefing was attended by group and squadron representatives and an exchange of INTSUMS was effected.

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d. Combined Studies Group - Access to sensitive field and agent reports was gained with copies received daily.

e. 1st Air Cav Div - Daily contact and an exchange of INTSUMS were effected. Particular care was given to a rapid exchange of fire incidents and spot reports.

f. 3rd Recon - Regular and timely receipt of team operations orders was established.

g. Quang Tri Base Defense - Daily contact was maintained.

6. Ground Defense. On 28 April ProviAG-39 assumed responsibility of their position in the sector defense. Ten bunkers were manned on a twenty-four hour basis and a communications network was established. All personnel fan-fired their rifles to adjust for battle sights and eight individuals were instructed in the use of the M-79 grenade launcher as well as ten individuals in the use of the LAAW.

7. Training. Liaison was established with MAG-36 and 1st MAW to continue with school quotas already assigned.

8. Logistics and Supply. Liaison was established with MAG-36 for logistics and supply.

9. Base Development. Construction of airfield and camp facilities continued at a moderate pace with the following projects being completed by MCB-10:

a. 18 air conditioned Quonset huts for tactical flight crews (Officers)

b. A 2100 foot long Southwest parallel taxiway.

c. A 20 foot by 48 foot chapel.

10. Utilities. 300,000 gallons of pure water was provided for Quang Tri Airfield and neighboring 3rd Marine Division Units.

11. TAFDS. The H&MS-39 TAFDS unit dispensed 357,000 gallons of JP-4 and 138,000 gallons of Av Gas at its Dong Ha, Quang Tri and Camp Carroll facilities.

12. Messing. The mess hall at Quang Tri fed an average of 940 people daily in its 200 man facility.

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ENCLOSURE (1)