

HEADQUARTERS
 Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 Fleet Marine Force Pacific
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

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 13 Feb 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (G-3)
 Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-31 January 1969; submission of
 Ref: (a) WgO 5750.IC

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology for Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39
 ✓(2) Command Chronology for Provisional Headquarters & Maintenance
 Squadron-39
 ✓(3) Command Chronology for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161
 ✓(4) Command Chronology for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262
 ✓(5) Command Chronology for Marine Observation Squadron-6
 ✓(6) Command Chronology for Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-62
 ✓(7) Command Chronology for Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-62
 Detachment "A"

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures
 (1) through (7) are submitted herewith.

W. Sienko
 W. SIENKO

PROV MAG-39

CMD CHRON

JAN 1969

PROV MAG-39

SEC # 143-69

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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39

Command Chronology

1 January 1969 to 31 January 1969

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA**1. Staff****a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39**

(1) Col. Walter SIENKO	1-31Jan69	CO
(2) LtCol. Paul W. NIESSEN	1-31Jan69	XO
(3) Capt. Lawrence E. TANKSLEY	1-31Jan69	S-1/Adjutant
(4) LtCol. Billy D. BOULDIN	1-31Jan69	S-2
(5) LtCol. James A. WELLS, Jr.	1-31Jan69	S-3
(6) Maj. Herman C. BROWN	1-31Jan69	S-4
(7) Maj. Robert C. SIMPSON	1-31Jan69	AvnSafO
(8) LCDR Rodney R. SCHEER	1-31Jan69	Chaplain
(9) LCDR Gordon F. KELLOGG	1-31Jan69	Flight Surgeon

b. Provisional Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-39

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

c. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161

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

d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262

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

e. Marine Observation Squadron-6

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (5)

f. Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-62

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (6)

g. Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-62 Detachment "A"

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (7)

2. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Fleet Marine Force Pacific, FPO San Francisco 96602

Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam

1-31 January 1969

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3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine Officers 184

Marine Enlisted 1185

Navy Officers 4

Navy Enlisted 17

4. Important Visitors:

- a. General Leonard F. CHAPMAN Jr., Commandant of the United States Marine Corps
- b. Major General Carl A. YOUNGSDALE, Deputy Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
- c. Major General Charles J. QUILTER, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The first month of 1969 ended with ProvMAG-39 supporting the 3rd MarDiv and 1st MarDiv in the southern I Corps. In operations in support of the 3rd MarDiv, ProvMAG-39 aircraft and crews participated in operations Dawson River, Scotland II, Marshall Mountain and Dewey Canyon. Monsoon type weather hampered flight operations on several days and at times forced all flight operations to be cancelled. Early morning ground fog delayed re-supply in most of the 3rd MarDiv TAOR.

Aboard Quang Tri Airbase, construction of various buildings and bunkers has continued at a rapid pace, highlighted by the completion of ten concrete security bunkers and the SNGO Club.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTSChronological Sequence of Events

1 January 1969. In 497 sorties, ProvMAG-39 aircraft flew 167.1 flight hours. Weather delayed several missions, including a tactical troop lift.

2 January 1969. With good weather, the aircraft of ProvMAG-39 logged 226.8 flight hours in troop lifts which carried 2,150 men. In other action in the III MarDiv TAOR, the UH-1E gunbirds of VMO-6 received fire while escorting an Army CH-47 and returned it with unknown results.

3 January 1969. While working with two Army UH-1H slicks on recon team inserts and extracts, a team fell into contact immediately after being inserted. The two UH-1E gunbirds of VMO-6 assigned to cover the slicks and recon teams, responded with suppressive fire enabling the team to move and be picked up by the Army slicks.

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4 January 1969. The gunbirds of VMO-6, working in extremely poor weather, supported a unit of the 3rd MarDiv in contact with NVA troops. The gunbirds rearmed three (3) times in their efforts to suppress the enemy fire. There were 18 med-evac missions flown, carrying 5 emergency, 24 priority and 58 routine med-evacs.

5 January 1969. The monsoon weather conditions held flight operations to 18.1 flight hours, primarily C&C and VIP hops.

6 January 1969. Weather conditions again restricted ProvMAG-39 flight operations. There were 17 med-evac missions flown evacuating 8 emergency, 9 priority and 26 routine med-evacs.

7 January 1969. Weather conditions were responsible for the incompletion of four (4) missions and holding ProvMAG-39 to 90.7 flight hours.

8 January 1969. The weather cleared enough to allow recon insertions and extractions. The CH-46D aircraft of HMM-262 were covered by two UH-1E gunbirds of VMO-6. Intense small arms and automatic weapons fire on two inserts of teams for 3rd MarDiv were aborted without sustaining any hits.

9 January 1969. The Group sent two OV-10A's from VMO-6 to Chu Lai to participate in the search for a downed aircraft. The aircraft of HMM-161 flew five recon team inserts, two of them in the DMZ, with no fire received.

*Deputy
Commander*
10 January 1969. Weather again delayed flight operations in Quang Tri. The highlight of the day came as the gunbirds of VMO-6 covered the extraction of a 3rd MarDiv recon team under fire. Two flights of fixed wing were then run on the area.

11 January 1969. Troop lifts and VR missions were the highlights of the day. HMM-161 transported 1,481 troops in tactical lifts. The O-1's of VMO-6 ran VR and TAC(A) missions destroying 8 bunkers and damaging two.

12 January 1969. Tactical troop lifts by HMM-262 went without opposition though one aircraft (CH-46D) was left in a tactical landing zone over night. The gunbirds of VMO-6 were able to spot enemy troops in a proposed LZ and run fixed wing on them. Another section was called on to support a recon team in contact and direct fixed wing support for them while coordinating the emergency extract which was flown by HMM-262.

13 January 1969. On a tactical troop lift into an old LZ which had been prepped by artillery, a CH-46D exploded a mine, causing it to have to stay there in the zone. An O-1 on station spotted an NVA soldier in a bunker near the landing zone and killed him with a W.P. marking rocket.

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14 January 1969. The monsoon weather conditions delayed ProvMAG-39 flight operations until noon. The Group flew 115.6 flight hours and conducted 15 med-evac missions evacuating 2 priority and 119 routine med-evacs.

15 January 1969. ProvMAG-39 aircraft logged 88.5 flight hours while lifting 959 troops in support of the 3rd MarDiv.

16 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-3,4 provided gun cover for the inserts of recon teams Crystal Star and Old Colonel, as well as the extracts of four teams.

17 January 1969. Four Seaworthy OV-10A aircraft participated in SAR operations at Chu Lai and four Chatterbox aircraft operated in the An Hoa area while supporting MAG-16 and the 1st MarDiv.

18 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-7,8 supported the in contact recon team Crystal Star and expended ordnance on the enemy positions. After receiving fire they were joined by Seaworthy 99-1,2 and 97-5. After suppressing the enemy fire, Cattlecall 92-4,5,6 inserted a reaction force to aid Crystal Star.

19 January 1969. ProvMAG-39 aircraft continued to support the 3rd MarDiv by controlling numerous flights of fixed wing aircraft on observed enemy troops.

20 January 1969. While supporting the 1st MarDiv in the An Hoa area with six Chatterbox aircraft, ProvMAG-39 aircraft gave continued support to the 3rd MarDiv. Seaworthy 99-3,4 covered recon teams Stein Song on the extract and destruction of a large enemy weapons cache in the DMZ.

21 January 1969. Seaworthy 98-19,20 participated in a SAR mission and fired suppressive fire in the area after receiving .50 cal. and airburst. Cattlecall aircraft completed an insert of a reaction team without incident into an old LZ.

22 January 1969. HMM-161 completed the initial strike into the northern part of the Ashau Valley. Seaworthy aircraft provided control of fixed wing zone prep and cover during the lift.

23 January 1969. Seaworthy 99-13,14 while on a low level VR observed 10-15 NVA in the open. While suppressing the enemy fire 99-13,14 had 3 NVA confirmed and 1 NVA probable KIA.

24 January 1969. The CH-46D's of HMM-262 conducted a 330 man tactical troop lift in support of Operation Marshall Mountain. The lift was covered by two gunbirds from VMO-6.

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25 January 1969. Operation Dewey Canyon, into the Ashau Valley began as HMM-262 lifted 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines into 5 separate zones. The lift went without opposition but was covered by two (2) OV-10A and four (4) UH-1E gunbirds from VMO-6.

26 January 1969. Operation Taylor Common with the 1st MarDiv accounted for 33.2 flight hours for the transports of HMM-262. ProvMAG-39 as a whole flew 212.7 flight hours.

27 January 1969. An O-1 from VMO-6 directed a patrol from a 3rd MarDiv unit to a bunker which contained a large ammo cache, which was captured.

28 January 1969. VMO-6 introduced the HTW (Helicopter Trap Weapon) into service to aid in the clearing of old LZ's of booby traps. ProvMAG-39 flew 209.4 flight hours in good weather, supporting units of 3rd MarDiv.

29 January 1969. The aircraft of ProvMAG-39 logged 255.2 flight hours in good weather. The highlight of the day came when an OV-10A spotted an estimated 50-60 NVA soldiers in the 9th Marines TAOR. Controlling artillery from 3 positions and five A-4's on the target, there were eight NVA confirmed dead and four (4) bunkers destroyed.

30 January 1969. In 615 sorties supporting units of the 3rd MarDiv, ProvMAG-39 logged 216.3 flight hours. There were 1392 troops/pax carried as well as 98.6 tons of cargo.

31 January 1969. VMO-6 and HMM-161 teamed up on an emergency recon team extraction to complete it smoothly even though the weather was very close to being unacceptable.

1. Personnel. No critical shortages exist.
2. Administration. Administration continues to be hampered by the inadequacy of office equipment and materials.
3. Awards. The following award recommendations have been submitted during this period:
 - a. Silver Star - 1
 - b. DFC's - 6
 - c. Bronze Star - 1
 - d. Air Medals - 17 Single Mission 492 Strike/Flight
 - e. Navy Commendation - 15
 - f. Navy Achievement - 25

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4. Casualties

a. Hostile: KIA - 0 WIA - 1
 b. Non-Hostile: DAI - 2 Other - 4

5. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. The SNCO Club has been completed and is in use at this time.
 b. Potable water is now available in all showers.
 c. Site preparation for the tennis court, basketball court and special services building have been completed.

6. Statistical Analysis. The Chaplain reports the following statistical categories as he functions in his pastoral roles of Priest, Educator, Counselor and Civic Action Officer.

<u>a. Sunday Celebrations:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Chaplain SCHEER (Lutheran)	8	174	81
Chaplain KLAFFS (Roman Catholic)	1	21	17
Chaplain ECKER (Roman Catholic)	5	115	103
Chaplain FRANKLIN (Roman Catholic)	2	61	48
<u>b. Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services:</u>			
Chaplain ECKER (Roman Catholic)	4	56	44
Memorial Services	1	66	N/A
<u>c. Education:</u>			
Religious Discussion Group	4	36	N/A
Religious Instruction	6	6	N/A
Personal Response School	1	35	N/A
<u>d. Pastoral Counseling and Therapy:</u>			
Religious	9		

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Domestic Conflicts	8
Transfer-Discharge	6
Behavior Disorder	16
Psychoneurotic	6
Family Relations	6
Miscellaneous	9
Above individuals seen in therapy more than once.	<u>32</u>
Total professional counseling cases for January 1969	96
Red Cross	23
Brig Visits	4
Hospital Visits	5

7. Civic Affairs. Twenty-three (23) Civic Affairs trips were made in the ProvMAG-39 Civic Action area of responsibility. One hundred five (105) persons from the Group composed the teams implementing Personal Response and Civic Action Projects. Forty-eight (48) hours of English was taught in the TRIEUF PHONG secondary school. The following material was rendered to the Vietnamese:

- a. 10 lbs. of candy
- b. 60 lbs. of fish
- c. 2 boxes of pears
- d. 4 boxes of apples
- e. 1 box of school supplies
- f. 1 box of English books

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8. Intelligence

a. Enemy initiated incidents or offensive activity remained at a low level. Continued lack of major contact or evidence of enemy unit presence, indicates that the major enemy units are still located in Laos and above the DMZ in NVN. Ground units continue to find enemy weapons and food caches, which indicates that the enemy may be positioning his supplies for the upcoming reported "TET" Offensive. Enemy action against ProvMAG-39 was limited to ground fire against Group aircraft and isolated incidents of sniper rounds into the perimeter of the airfield. This was the fifth consecutive month that Quang Tri Airfield was not targeted by enemy rockets. The number of aircraft receiving fire was up 7 from the previous month, although the number of aircraft hit was 2 less, and there were no aircraft lost as a result of enemy fire.

Ground to air fire statistics:

INCIDENTS**NO. AIRCRAFT HIT**

74

8

b. Agent reports and captured enemy documents indicate that the enemy will launch a "TET" Offensive during the month of February. Indications are, that although the enemy does not have the capability to duplicate his effort of "TET" 1968, he still possesses the strength to launch a limited general "TET" Offensive in order to demonstrate his ability to carry out offensive operations. Reports indicate that Quang Tri City will be one of the major targets, with enemy troops massing and moving toward the city from Base Area 101. Although Allied operations in this area have met no major contact in the past six months and it is thought that the enemy units have been driven out of Base Area 101 to the South, this is a traditional staging area and avenue of approach for an attack on Quang Tri City. The enemy has continued to increase his efforts to win the people at the hamlet and village level, but cordon operations by US/ARVN forces have disrupted this campaign and resulted in the killing/capturing of many high level VCI throughout the province.

9. Medical

a. In accordance with reference (a), the following statistics represent the activity of the Medical Department during the month of January 1969:

(1) Total patients seen at sick call	686
(2) Total number of in-patients	000

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(3) Total number of physicals 81

(4) Total immunizations 287

10. Air Operations

a. January Totals

<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>MEDEVAC MSNS</u>	<u>MEDEVACGS</u>
5,187.8	32,772	1,768.1	583	2,541

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