

HEADQUARTERS

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

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 03A7169
 12 Mar 1969

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (G-3)
 Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-28 February 1969; submission of
 Ref: (a) Wg0 5750.1C

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.

E. A. Parnell
 E. A. PARNELL

PROVMAC-39
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PROV MAC-39

1st MAW

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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39

Command Chronology

1 February 1969 to 28 February 1969

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Staff

a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| (1) Col. Walter SIENKO | 1-28Feb69 | CO |
| (2) LtCol. Paul W. NIESSEN | 1-28Feb69 | XO |
| (3) Capt. LAWRENCE E. TANKSLEY | 1-28Feb69 | S-1/Adjutant |
| (4) LtCol. Billy D. BOULDIN | 1-28Feb69 | S-2 |
| (5) LtCol. James A. WELLS, Jr. | 1-28Feb69 | S-3 |
| (6) Maj. Herman C. BROWN | 1-28Feb69 | S-4 |
| (7) Maj. Robert C. SIMPSON | 1-28Feb69 | AvnSafO |
| (8) LCDR Rodney R. SCHEER | 1-28Feb69 | Chaplain |
| (9) LCDR Gordon F. KELLOGG | 1-28Feb69 | 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

1-28 February 1969

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12 Mar 19693. Average Monthly Strength

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|------|
| Marine Officers | 195 | Marine Enlisted | 1128 |
| Navy Officers | 4 | Navy Enlisted | 17 |

4. Important Visitors:

- a. Lieutenant General R. G. STILLWELL, Commanding General, XXIV Corps
- b. Major General G. B. DRAKE, Deputy Commanding General, XXIV Corps
- c. Major General Ngo Quang TROUNG, Commanding General, First ARVN Division
- d. Major General C. J. QUILTER, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing
- e. Major General R. G. DAVIS, Commanding General, Third Marine Division
- f. Brigadier General R. B. CARNEY Jr., Assistant Division Commander, Third Marine Division

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of February ended with ProvMAG-39 aircraft supporting the 3rd MarDiv in operations Kentucky, Scotland II, Marshall Mountain, and Dewey Canyon. Monsoon type weather affected and hampered flight operations throughout the month and at times forced flight operations to be cancelled. To give the 3rd MarDiv maximum support for the Dewey Canyon Operation, ProvMAG-39 aircraft resupplied the units by utilizing the paradrop system, when normal resupply was impossible. Instrument climbsouts and radar approaches were also used when weather in the Dewey Canyon area would permit this type of operation.

Aboard Quang Tri Airbase, construction continued at a rapid pace and the new skeet range was completed and opened.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTSChronological Sequence of Events

1 February 1969. Under extremely marginal weather conditions, aircraft from VMO-6 and HMM-161 inserted recon team Frostberg in support of Godmother. The Seaworthy aircraft 99-3&4 delivered ordnance with two probable KBA's.

2 February 1969. VMO-6 and HMM-161 supported the 3rd MarDiv recon teams in extremely marginal weather.

3. February 1969. Covering the insert of a Sparrowhawk, in which Walnut Hill 1,2,3&4 received small arms fire, Seaworthy aircraft delivered suppressive fire. The mission was completed with negative hits.

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4 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-13&14 supported Grasshopper 1 Yankee who had approximately 40 NVA troops in the open and expended ordnance accounting for 1 KBA and 6 probable KBA's.

5 February 1969. In 142.3 flight hours, ProyMAG-39 aircraft flew 391 sorties in support of the 3rd MarDiv. Weather hampered operations throughout the day.

6 February 1969. Cattlecall 1,2,3&4 covered by Seaworthy 99-3&4 inserted Grasshopper as a reaction force for Spoiler without incident.

7 February 1969. ProyMAG-39 operations were extremely limited due to deteriorating weather conditions, although 194 sorties and 62.7 flight hours were completed.

8 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-15, in support of Big Shot, expended ordnance on enemy troops sighted by that team, receiving 1 enemy KBA.

9 February 1969. Seaworthy 97-9 controlled Seaworthy 98-14&15 on an enemy rocket position resulting in 25 rockets destroyed and 3 secondary explosions. Seaworthy 97-9 then controlled Hellborne 267 destroying one truck and one automatic weapons position.

10 February 1969. Chatterbox medevac escorted by Seaworthy 99-13&14 were launched on mission 505 to support Southern Mike Papa 2. The Chatterbox aircraft made two attempts and were shot out of the zone. The lead aircraft was heavily damaged and was left at LZ Cunningham. The mission was supported by Seaworthy's OV-10 aircraft using SUU-40 flares for the first time in country.

11 February 1969. Seaworthy 97-3 controlled air strikes on 18-20 NVA troops receiving 5 enemy KBA, destroying 4 bunkers and 1 building with one secondary explosion and one secondary fire.

12 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-13 controlled a fixed wing flight on an enemy cache and hootch area, with 33 large secondary explosions and numerous smaller secondaries lasting over an hour.

13 February 1969. Controlling the extract of Sandbox by Cattlecall aircraft, Seaworthy 99-1&2 spotted two NVA troops and delivered ordnance, killing one. Seaworthy 98-8 controlled fixed wing on an enemy truck and damaged it heavily.

14 February 1969. ProyMAG-39 aircraft flew 460 sorties in 202.2 flight hours. Although weather was a limiting factor, 567 troops and 56.6 tons of cargo were moved.

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15 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-6, in support of 9th Marine units, spotted a bunker and cave complex. Delivery of ordnance on the position resulted in 2 bunkers destroyed.

16 February 1969. While ProvMAG-39 aircraft and crews flew 385 sorties in 152.2 flight hours, medevac aircraft from both HMM-161 and HMM-262 received numerous small arms hits. All missions were completed with no major aircraft damage or injury to personnel.

17 February 1969. Seaworthy 99-3&4 provided cover for medevac and resupply to Jawbreaker Golf. Ordnance was expended on NVA troops in the open near the Jawbreaker position. Seaworthy 99-4 received one hit in the co-pilot's door resulting in slight injury to the pilot and co-pilot while supporting Delmar HSM.

18 February 1969. Cattlecall 92-17&18 covered by Seaworthy 99-13&14 completed an emergency resupply of Bulldozer utilizing Crossbill 834 as a flare ship. Seaworthy 97-1 controlled naval gunfire from the U.S.S. New Jersey with excellent results.

19 February 1969. HMM-161 participated in a tactical trooplift utilizing 8 aircraft. While flying 201 sorties in 53.2 flight hours 696 troops and 22.1 tons of cargo were carried.

20 February 1969. Chatterbox 93-7 conducted an emergency extract of recon team Amanda. Cover was provided by VMO-6 UH-1E's and Army cobras. Although small arms fire was taken by all aircraft, no major damage or injury resulted.

21 February 1969. Weather greatly hampered flight operations, although a Sparrowhawk team was inserted at LZ Sheppard. The team found one enemy KBA and two enemy wounded as a result of ordnance expended by Seaworthy 99-3&4.

22 February 1969. Seaworthy 98-8, escorting Smitty Kilo 2 tanks which had been ambushed, expended all of his ordnance while receiving heavy enemy fire and controlled three flights of fixed wing aircraft with good target coverage.

23 February 1969. Chatterbox 93-5&6 while supporting Delmar on a medevac mission received intense small arms fire and by directing their own suppressive fire with added coverage from Seaworthy 99-3&4 accounted for three probable enemy KBA's while completing the mission.

24 February 1969. While supporting the 3rd MarDiv on a tactical trooplift, Cattlecall 92-6 received intense small arms fire and was forced to make an emergency landing at LZ Cunningham. After repairs 92-6 returned to Quang Tri while the trooplift was completed without further incident.

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25 February 1969. Seaworthy 97-7 controlled fixed wing in support of Operation Dewey Canyon resulting in 2 trucks, 1 bulldozer, 1 APC, one 40mm gun and 6 bunkers destroyed. Cattlecall 92-5 successfully completed an emergency medevac mission in which two separate landings were made due to intense small arms fire on initial landing. No injuries were sustained although the aircraft received numerous hits.

26 February 1969. While on a tactical trooplift for the 9th Marines, Chatterbox 93-1 took numerous hits from a detonated mine while in the landing zone. An immediate take-off was made with the troops still aboard. To complete the mission, although both gunners had received minor wounds from shrapnel, another approach was commenced and the lift continued without further incident.

27 February 1969. Seaworthy 97-7, working with recon team Temple Lake, controlled Seaworthy 98-14&15 on an estimated 20 VC who were in a group smoking cigarettes. Damage assessment was one confirmed KIA and one pack abandoned.

28 February 1969. While supporting the 3rd MarDiv, Seaworthy 99-2 was downed by heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire while escorting other helicopters in Operation Dewey Canyon. There were no survivors and recovery operations were conducted by aircraft from HMM-161.

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 - 36
 - c. Bronze Star - 2
 - d. Air Medals - 86 Single Mission 614 Strike/Flight
 - e. Navy Commendation - 10
 - f. Navy Achievement - 6

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UNCLASSIFIED3:PMS:djf
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12 Mar 19694. Casualties

a. Hostile: KIA - 4 WIA - 9

b. Non-Hostile: DAI - 0 Other - 2

5. Morale/Welfare Programs

a. A potable water distribution system is now under construction.

b. Twenty-nine 20 man bunkers have been completed.

c. The skeet range has been completed and opened.

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

| | <u>Number</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Communed</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| a. <u>Sunday Celebrations:</u> | | | |
| Chaplain SCHEER (Lutheran) | 11 | 194 | 93 |
| Chaplain KLAFFS (Roman Catholic) | 4 | 91 | 83 |
| Chaplain ECKER (Roman Catholic) | 4 | 99 | 89 |
| b. <u>Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services:</u> | | | |
| Chaplain ECKER (Roman Catholic) | 2 | 60 | 52 |
| LENTEN DEVOTION | 2 | 18 | N/A |
| CAPS | 3 | 30 | 18 |
| c. <u>Education:</u> | | | |
| Religious Discussion Group | 4 | 36 | N/A |
| Religious Instruction | 6 | 6 | N/A |
| d. <u>Pastoral Counseling and Therapy:</u> | | | |
| Religious | 4 | | |
| Pre-Marital | 2 | | |

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| | |
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| Domestic Conflicts | 8 |
| Transfer-Discharge | 2 |
| Behavior Disorder | 12 |
| Psychoneurotic | 7 |
| Family Relations | 10 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 |
| Above individuals seen in therapy more than once. | 22 |
| Total professional counseling cases for February 1969. | 73 |
| Red Cross | 34 |
| Brig Visits | 2 |
| Hospital Visits | 5 |

7. Civic Affairs. Fourteen (14) Civic Affairs trips were made in the ProvMAG-39 Civic Action area of responsibility. Sixty-four (64) persons from the Group composed the teams implementing personal response and Civic Action Projects. Thirty (30) hours of English was taught in the TRIEU PHONG secondary school. Two (2) Med-Cap trips were conducted with twenty-two (22) patients and thirty-two (32) treatments. The following material was rendered to the Vietnamese:

- a. Fifteen (15) lbs. of toys
- b. Four (4) reams of paper
- c. Forty-eight (48) pieces of chalk
- d. One hundred (100) pens
- e. Fifty (50) 50 lb. bags of cement
- f. Ten (10) 2x4's
- g. Ten (10) lbs. of soap

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h. Twenty-four (24) bottles dandruff shampoo

i. Ten (10) lbs. of candy

j. Sixty (60) lbs. of fish

8. Intelligence

a. During the first part of the month enemy initiated activity remained at a low level. However, the 9th Marine Regiment met very stiff resistance as they pushed South in Operation Dewey Canyon near the Laotian border. The enemy fought a delaying action in an attempt to hide or move his large supply and weapons caches. On the 23rd the start of the "TET" Offensive commenced and with sapper and ground attacks on FSB's Neville and Russell, West of the Rockpile. Incoming, rockets/mortars, increased in the area North of Route #9 from the Rockpile East to the South China Sea.

b. Enemy action against ProvMAG-39 was limited to ground fire against Group aircraft and three incidents of incoming 60mm mortar and small arms fire along the perimeter. The mortar attacks occurred in the early morning hours of 18, 22, and 25 February, causing no damage or casualties. This was the sixth consecutive month that Quang Tri Air Field has not been targeted by enemy rocketeers. The number of aircraft receiving fire was up 26 from the previous month, with an increase in aircraft hit can be attributed to the increased enemy action in the Dewey Canyon area and weather conditions which resulted in low ceilings causing aircraft to fly at a very low level in order to support 3rd Marine Division Units.

FIRE INCIDENTS: 104AIRCRAFT DESTROYED: 1AIRCRAFT HIT: 28CASUALTIES: 4 KIA 11 WIA

c. Reports that have been received, indicate that this year's "TET" Offensive will be a three phase operation. Each phase will run 5-7 days terminating the last of March. Indications are that the enemy will continue to hold his major units in Laos and the DMZ while sending smaller independent units, up to Regimental size, South from the DMZ to harass friendly units with booby traps, mines and attacks by fire (rockets/mortars). There are indications that a Sapper unit, well trained and equipped with improved scuba gear and equipment, has been sent South in an attempt to interdict the shipping on the Cua Viet River. The large amount of supplies captured in Dewey Canyon has disrupted the enemy's logistical build-up in Thua Thien Province and probably disrupted or delayed any plans the enemy may have had for an attack on Hue.

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9. Medical

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Total patients seen at sick call | 710 |
| (2) Total number of in-patients | 000 |
| (3) Total number of physicals | 107 |
| (4) Total immunizations | 392 |

10. Air Operations

a. February Totals

| <u>HOURS</u> | <u>PAX</u> | <u>TONS OF CARGO</u> | <u>MEDEVAC MENS</u> | <u>MEDEVACS</u> |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 4,594.8 | 14,817 | 1,504.0 | 564 | 3,046 |

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