

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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5750
03A16669
15 Jun 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-31 May 1969; submission of

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39
(2) Command Chronology for Headquarters and 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

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted herewith.

E. A. Parnell
E. A. PARNELL

ProvMAG-39
S&C #522-69
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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39
Command Chronology

1 May 1969 to 31 May 1969

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Staffa. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

(1) Col Edward A. PARNELL	1-31 May 1969	CO
(2) LtCol Paul W. NIESEN	1-12 May 1969	XO
(3) LtCol Prentice A. LINDSAY	13-31 May 1969	XO
(4) Capt Lawrence E. TANKSLEY	1-31 May 1969	S-1/Adj
(5) Maj William N. SIMMONS	1-26 May 1969	S-2
(6) GySgt William F. LOGUE	27-31 May 1969	S-2
(7) LtCol Hans A. ZANDER	1-31 May 1969	S-3
(8) Maj Herman C. BROWN	1-15 May 1969	S-4
(9) Capt David R. SHORE	16-18 May 1969	S-4
(10) LtCol Edward E. SMITH	19-31 May 1969	S-4
(11) Maj Robert N. SIMPSON	1-24 May 1969	AvnSafetyO
(12) Maj Donald S. WAUNCH	25-31 May 1969	AvnSafetyO
(13) LCDR Rodney R. SCHEER	1-31 May 1969	Chaplain
(14) LCDR Gordon F. KELLOGG	1-31 May 1969	Flight Surgeon

b. 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)

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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 May 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine Officers	188	Marine Enlisted	1146
Navy Officers	5	Navy Enlisted	16

4. Important Visitors

- a. Brigadier General W. J. WEINSTEIN USMCR, Assistant Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
- b. Brigadier General R. H. SPANJER USMC, Assistant Wing Commander Designate
- c. Mister H. H. KLEIN, GS-17, Boeing-Vertol Chief Project Engineer 107/Ch-46

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

In May, PMAG-39 squadrons flew continued support for 3rd Marine Division operations in I Corps. The MAG flew medevac, resupply, troop lift and visual reconnaissance missions. The 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division (Army) and ARVN units of the 2nd ARVN regiment also received support from PMAG-39

The Third Reconnaissance Battalion besides receiving routine insert and extract support from the PMAG-39, also utilized transport and gunship aircraft assets for the accomplishment of 28 emergency extracts.

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PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 1 May 69: The Seaworthy team composed of two JLE's, one OLC, and one OV10A continued to provide suppressive cover for the transport helicopters during the emergency extract of a Recon team. The team, "Coconut Candy", had heavy enemy movement 360° around the extract position.
- 2 May 69: While flying over the Cam Lo River valley, Chatterbox 93-2 was involved in a mid-air collision with an Army JLE. The Chatterbox aircraft fell out of control and crashed. All persons on board were killed.
- 3 May 69: During the afternoon Seaworthy escort gunships working a routine resupply mission north of Dong Ha Mt. uncovered two active 50 cal positions. Seaworthy OV10's and OLC's joined the two JLE's and after both positions had been marked, the "Strike Back Package" was used with devastating results. The gun positions destroyed, normal resupply of units in the area continued.
- 4 May 69: The F-4G-39 team was responsible for the emergency extract under fire of two (2) recon teams in "heavy contact". Seaworthy OV10A's and JLE's provided suppressive fire for the Cattlecall transports, while a Seaworthy OLC provided the necessary air control for attacks on the active WIA positions.
- 5 May 69: Once again the Third Recon Battalion provided the activity for the F-4G-39 air team. Today found the Cattlecall transports working together with the Seaworthy OV10A/JLE team in the extraction of "Lucky Punch". The extract aircraft received intense small arms fire during its approach to the LZ, but the Seaworthy team delivered intense suppressive fire which contributed to the success of the mission.
- 6 May 69: The day was marked by massive thunderstorm activity in Northern I Corps. One of the Seaworthy OLC aircraft failed to return to Quant Tri after his normal 2.5 hours of flight time. An extensive air search was instituted with negative results at the end of the day.
- 7 May 69: Today found a continuation of the air search for the missing Seaworthy OLC with negative results. "Airwinded", a recon team requested an emergency extract because they were in "heavy contact". Seaworthy JLE gunships supported the unit which had sustained 2 WIA's and 2 KIA's. The extract was accomplished under the withering fire of the Seaworthy gunships.
- 8 May 69: While on a medevac mission, Cattlecall medevac working along "Madders Ridge" took a direct hit by an RPG round. The aircraft was flown to a secure landing zone nearby and landed safely.

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- 9 May 69: Seaworthy aircraft continued in the search for the missing with negative results. While working a recon insert mission, transports were "shot out" of both the primary and alternate landing zones for Recon Team "Constitution".
- 10 May 69: Although Operation "Apache Snow" commenced on this date the limelight fell once again on the Third Recon Battalion. The Recon team "Elk Hunter" operating near the Lao Bao Prison came in "heavy contact" with a large NVA force. Seaworthy OV10A and F4E teamed up to control fixed wing attack aircraft on the active enemy force. Once the airstrikes were accomplished the Seaworthy gunships covered the emergency extract of the team. The transport aircraft received intense enemy fire during the extract. This extract marked the twelfth emergency extract of a recon team during the first ten days of May.
- 11 May 69: A generally quiet day was experienced by MAC-39. The highlight of the day was the usual emergency recon extract. Today saw "Bellmont Lone" in close enemy contact. The extract was accomplished under the suppressive guns of Seaworthy F4E's.
- 13 May 69: Chatterbox Medevac, while making an emergency hoist pickup, received intense .50 cal and 82mm mortar fire. The pickup was accomplished and the medevacs were taken to the 3rd Med Bn at Quang Tri.
- 15 May 69: Chatterbox aircraft were diverted from the routine resupply mission to perform an emergency extract of the recon team, "Grasshopper". The Chatterbox aircraft took intense enemy fire during the extract.
- 16 May 69: The right standby Cattlecall section was launched for the emergency extract of Recon Team "Marshall Hall". Under the suppressive guns of the Seaworthy F4E/OV10A the extract was completed without incident. The OV10A aircraft controlled flights on fixed wing.
- 17 May 69: The Seaworthy team again supported the U.S. Army transports during the emergency extracts of Recon teams "American Beauty" and "Brake Pool". Both extracts were made despite intense enemy fire.
- 18 May 69: One of the Seaworthy F4E's experienced a tail rotor failure while in support of the 3rd Infantry. Attempting an emergency landing the pilot was forced to select an alternate landing point to avoid hitting a group of Vietnamese on the road. The aircraft crashed avoiding the civilians and the pilot and co-pilot were seriously injured.

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- 19 May 69: F-4 aircraft supported an assault landing to commence Operation Caddo Creek. The landing was made into LZ Baternize. Recon Team "Lucky Punch" was inserted under the gun cover of Seaworthy JLE/O/10A. The team was "shot out" of the primary and alternate LZ's.
- 20 May 69: The highlight of the rather slow day was the emergency extract of two recon teams. Cattlecall aircraft were diverted from routine resupply missions to accomplish the extracts.
- 21 May 69: Under intense enemy fire Cattlecall aircraft who had been diverted off resupply executed an emergency recon extract under the control of a Seaworthy O/10A.
- 22 May 69: Seaworthy JLE gunships provided suppressive fire for Cattlecall transports which accomplished the emergency extract of Recon team "Lucky Punch".
- 23 May 69: Seaworthy gunships supplied the necessary suppressive fire during the assault troop lift of two ARVN units. Cattlecall aircraft having been diverted from a resupply mission completed the emergency extract of Recon team "John Brown".
- 25 May 69: Under the suppressive fire of JLE gunships Cattlecall aircraft completed the emergency extract of a recon team. While in the LZ the transport aircraft was attacked by NVA troops resulting in four confirmed NVA's.
- 26 May 69: Cattlecall aircraft supported the 3rd MarDiv with 2/ emergency medevac missions. Seaworthy JLE gunships had two recon teams "shot out" of their LZ's while working the recon mission covering the transport helicopters.
- 27 May 69: Chatterbox aircraft while working the resupply mission were diverted by Vandegrift DMC to accomplish the emergency extract of Recon team "Sky Merchant".
- 28 May 69: Cattlecall aircraft flew emergency medevac missions for Darting Star (1/9). The aircraft took intensive small arms and mortar fire in the landing zone.
- 29 May 69: Seaworthy aircraft supported the emergency extract of Recon Team "Early Flower". Seaworthy 9C-17, while flying a visual reconnaissance mission were hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire which resulted in a port engine fire and control problems. Unable to control the aircraft the pilot and air observer ejected. Chatterbox aircraft working routine resupply heard the call on guard and picked up the crew.
- 31 May 69: Cattlecall and Seaworthy aircraft supported the 3rd MarDiv in the assault landing on LZ Weisman. The lift of 592 combat troops and two external loads was uneventful.

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1. Personnel. No critical shortages exist.
2. Administration. Administration continues to be hampered by the inadequacy of office equipment and material.
3. Awards. The following award recommendations have been submitted during this periods:
 - a. Silver Star - 5
 - b. DFC's - 24
 - c. Bronze Star - 6
 - d. Air Medals - 53 Single Mission 1932 Strike/Flight
 - e. Navy Commendations - 3
 - f. Navy Achievement - 12

4. Casualties

a. Hostile:	KIA: 2	WIA: 7
b. Non-Hostile:	DIA: 5	MIA: 1
		Other: 11

5. Morale/Welfare Programs. Morale continues to be high within Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39. Work has been completed on the Group tennis court, with the new handball court under construction. These facilities combined with the already operational clubs system, exchange, handball court, skeet range, physical fitness center, and various other recreational facilities, should aid greatly in maintaining a high state of morale. Vigorous troop welfare programs have been in existence since activation of this Group and continue to receive utmost attention at all levels.

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

a. <u>Sunday Celebrations</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Chaplain SCHEER (Lutheran)	11	211	78
Chaplain KLAPPS (Roman Catholic)	4	110	92
Chaplain MIGNONE (Roman Catholic)	4	121	107
Total	19	442	277
b. <u>Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services</u>			
Ascension Day (R.C.)	1	6	5
CAPS	4	44	19
Memorial Services	2	230	N/A

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Religious Discussion Group	4	19	N/A
Religious Instruction	4	18	N/A

d. Pastoral Counseling and Therapy

Religious	3
Pre-Marital	6
Domestic Conflicts	8
Transfer-Discharge	4
Behavior Disorder	11
Psychoneurotic	6
Family Relations	9
Miscellaneous	4
Above individuals seen in therapy more than once.	29
Total Professional Counseling cases for May 1969.	80
Red Cross	29
Brig Visits	2
Hospital Visits	7

7. Civic Affairs. Seventeen Civic Affairs trips were made in the MAG-39 Civic Action area of responsibility. Sixty eight persons from the Group composed the teams implementing personal response and Civic Action Projects. Four Med-Caps were conducted with 122 patients and 162 treatments. The following material was rendered to the Vietnamese:

10 sheets of aluminium
1 black board

8. Intelligence

a. Enemy initiated activity remained at a low level during the month with the enemy generally avoiding contact with major units. The enemy increased his attacks by rocket and mortar during the month with ten area installations receiving approximately 170 rounds of mixed mortars and rockets on the 12th of the month. Enemy anti-aircraft fire continued to make flying extremely hazardous near the DMZ and in the Apache Snow area. Mining incidents along Route 9 increased significantly during the month.

b. Enemy action against PMAG-39 consisted of a rocket attack in the early morning hours of twelve May when seven 122mm rockets impacted in the area causing damage to eleven aircraft and 2 permanent structures. Also, on the night of 19 May, 2 mortars impacted in the area causing damage to 1 aircraft and 2 aircraft maintenance vehicles while wounding 1 Marine. This was the first time since August 1968 that Quang Tri Air Base was targeted by enemy rocketeers. The number of aircraft receiving fire

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increased by 24 from the previous month with a decrease in aircraft hit of 4.

FIRE INCIDENTS: 113

AIRCRAFT HIT: 23

AIRCRAFT DESTROYED: 2

CASUALTIES: 2 KIA's, 5 WIA(M)

c. Agent reports and captured enemy documents indicate that the enemy will launch a Summer Offensive during the month of June. Reports indicate that Vandegrift Combat Base will be one of the major targets, with Sector Headquarters in Quang Tri City being a secondary target. District and sub-sector headquarters are also mentioned as targets during the offensive.

9. Medical

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

(1) Total patients seen at sick call	787
(2) Total number of inpatients	00
(3) Total number of physicals	110
(4) Total number of immunizations	1124

10. Air Operations

a. May Totals

<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>MEDEVAC MISSIONS</u>	<u>MEDEVACS</u>
6,030.8	24,115	1,859.5	867	2,030

b. Quang Tri Air Base Operations

(1) Total monthly operations were 61,628. Operations breakdown by locations are: Quang Tri 25,023, Dong Ha 15,496 and Vandegrift 21,109. 244 GCA's were conducted at Quang Tri and 68 at Dong Ha for a total of 312 GCA's.

(2) SSgt J. N. BEAULIEU and LCpl W. A. OVERSTREET received Control Tower Junior certifications at Quang Tri.

(3) MATCU-62 is preparing to assume approach control responsibilities on 1 August 1969 at Quang Tri.

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(4) Total on board strength has continued to decline but several replacements have arrived this month. A critical stage exists for MOS 1342 replacements. Four of eight diesel mechanics will be transferred in June 1969.

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