

PROV MAG-39  
SAC # G13-69  
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HEADQUARTERS  
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

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5750  
03A19769  
16 JUL 1969

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (G-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-30 June 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) Filed  
✓(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

PROV MAG-39

CMD CHRON

JUN 1969

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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39  
Command Chronology

1 June 1969 to 30 June 1969

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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## a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39

(1) Col Edward A. PARRELL	1-30Jun69	CO
(2) LtCol Prentice A. LINDSAY	1-30Jun69	XO
(3) Capt Lawrence E. TANKSLEY	1-30Jun69	S-1/Adj
(4) GySgt William F. LOGUE	1-10Jun69	S-2
(5) Maj Leo J. IHLI	11-30Jun69	S-2
(6) LtCol Hans A. ZANDER	1-30Jun69	S-3
(7) LtCol Edward E. SMITH	1-30Jun69	S-4
(8) Maj Donald S. WAUNCH	1-30Jun69	AvnSafO
(9) LCDR Rodney R. SCHEER	1-30Jun69	Chaplain
(10) LCDR Gordon F. KELLOGG	1-03Jun69	Flight Surgeon
(11) LCDR James F. LYONS	4-30Jun69	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  
 1-30 June 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine Officers	189	Navy Officers	4
Marine Enlisted	1171	Navy Enlisted	16

4. Important Visitors

a. Major General C. J. QUILTER, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.  
 b. Brigadier General R. H. SPANJER, Assistant Wing Commander  
 c. Brigadier General W. G. JOHNSON, Assistant Wing Commander Designate

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of June was marked by a crescendo of events which peaked on the morning of 18 June with the assault on C-1. Early days of June saw much of ProvMAG-39 flight time spent in working with emergency coverage of recon teams along the DMZ. Both transport squadrons had two CH-46's shot down in the early days of the month.

The events of 17 June saw the night Medevac aircraft shot down with an RPG and one of the escorting Seaworthy gunships hit causing serious injury to the pilot and gunner.

The remainder of the month calmed off in enemy activity to the monthly low on 30 June 1969.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Chronological Sequence of Events

1Jun69: With the support of Seaworthy UH-1E gunships Chatterbox Medevac extracted emergency medevac under intense enemy fire.

2Jun69: Chatterbox 93-5 was diverted from resupply missions to accomplish an emergency recon extract. While in the landing zone the transport aircraft came under intense enemy small arms fire. The pilot remained in the LZ to complete the extract. Cattlecall medevac while hoisting emergency medevacs received heavy small arms fire and upon attempting to depart the hoist site, the aircraft was shot down and burned on impact.

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3Jun69: Chatterbox medevac while working the medevac mission for Task Force Hotel came under small arms fire. The medevacs were extracted and the gunners on Chatterbox medevac were credited with 2 confirmed KIA's.

5Jun69: At dawn Seaworthy 97-14 while on a general VR. of the Dong Ha area, observed 5 rockets on launchers aimed at Dong Ha Combat base. 97-14 firing Naval Gunfire and working with Seaworthy 98-5 who controlled three flights of fixed wing air on the site attempted to divert the enemy attack. The assaulting aircraft received heavy .50 Cal. fire. The results of the attack were 27 NVA 122MM rockets destroyed and 10 KBA's.

7Jun69: Working with two recon teams along the DMZ MAG-39 aircraft encountered intense small arms and .50 cal. fire. Both Chatterbox and Cattlecall had an aircraft shot down and consumed by fire. Seaworthy, OV-10A's and UH-1E gunships assisted the recon team in linking up with the downed crew of the Chatterbox aircraft. Seaworthy, OV-10A's controlled artillery and fixed wing air around the teams position for 48 hours while a reaction force moved into the area.

10Jun69: Working with additional recon teams Seaworthy had one UH-1E gunship shot down along the DMZ. Cattlecall resupply A/C were diverted to extract an emergency medevac. During the extract the medevac aircraft took heavy .50 cal fire and made a forced landing near the LZ.

17Jun69: Cattlecalls night medevac section while working with the ARVN forces at C-1 took a direct hit with an RPG round and made a forced landing near the LZ. The crew remained in the LZ overnight. While supporting the night medevac section Seaworthy UH-1E gunships received intense automatic weapons fire. One of the Seaworthy pilots and one crew chief were seriously wounded. Seaworthy gunships and OV-10A's remained on station throughout the night killing over 200 NVA within 500 meters of the besieged out post during the encounter.

25Jun69: Seaworthy OV-10A's working with fixed wing aircraft accounted for five KBA's, one .50 cal machine gun and numerous secondary explosions and fires along the DMZ.

1. Personnel. No critical shortages exist.

2. Administration. Administration continues to be hampered by the inadequacy of office equipment and material.

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

- a. Silver Star - 5
- b. DFC's - 28
- c. Bronze Star - 7
- d. Air Medals - 74 Single Mission 1949 Strike/Flight
- e. Navy Commendations - 15
- f. Navy Achievement - 15

4. Casualties

- a. Hostile: KIA: 3 WIA: 29
- b. Non-Hostile: DOD: 1 Other 7

5. Morale/Welfare Programs

Morale continues to be high within Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39. Work has been completed on the Group basketball court, and the tennis court. 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 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)	15	294	120
Chaplain KLAPPS (Roman Catholic)	5	153	128
Chaplain MIGNONE (Roman Catholic)	4	123	112
Chaplain SMITH (Roman Catholic)	1	30	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>388</b>

b. Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Service

CAPS	5	55	17
Memorial Service	3	201	N/A

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<u>c. Education</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Religious Discussion Group	5	41	N/A
Religious Instruction	6	33	N/A
Character Guidance	1	7	N/A

<u>d. Pastoral Counseling and Therapy</u>	<u>Number</u>
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Religious	5
Pre-Marital	4
Domestic Conflicts	6
Transfer-Discharge	5
Behavior Disorder	7
Psychoneurotic	3
Family Relations	7
Miscellaneous	5

Above individuals seen in therapy more than once

Total Professional Counseling cases for June 1969.

Red Cross	20
Brig Visits	5
Hospital Visits	6

e. Civic Affairs

Twenty (20) Civic Affairs trips were made in the MAG-39 Civic Action area of responsibility. 91 persons composed the teams implementing personal response and Civic Action Projects. Ten (10) Med-Caps were conducted with 339 patients and 400 treatments. The following material was rendered to the Vietnamese:

200 Medical Kits	3 dozen pencils, 2 dozen
2500 lbs scrap lumber	box of crayons
10 reams of paper	2 boxes assorted english books

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03A197697. Intelligence

a. Enemy activity remained at a low level during the month with the enemy generally avoiding contact with major units, with the exception of the Utah Mesa area. The enemy employed forces ranging from platoon to up to two (2) companies on occasions around the Khe Sanh area during the month. The enemy sustained heavy casualties during these encounters while friendly casualties were light. Mining incidents continued throughout the TAOR.

b. Enemy action against PMAG-39 consisted of a rocket attack at midnight on 10 June 1969 when five (5) 122MM rockets impacted in the MATCU area causing the destruction of one (1) hootch and moderate damage to a generator, while wounding five (5) Marines. This was the second consecutive month that Quang Tri Air Base was targeted by enemy rocketeers. The number of aircraft receiving fire decreased by 13 from the previous month with an increase in aircraft hit of two (2).

FIRE INCIDENTS: 100

AIRCRAFT HIT: 25

CASUALTIES: 4 KIA; 13 WIA(E); 17 WIA(M)

c. Evidence of possible attacks by fire and sapper attacks against various installations is again accumulating. If such attacks materialize, they will more than likely occur sometime during the time frame of the 1st through the 23rd of July which is being considered as the enemy's 3rd phase of the summer campaign. This includes the period of low lunar illumination between the 11th through the 23rd with possible emphasis on the morning hours of the 12th, 13th and 23rd. However, the enemy retains the capability of launching such attacks at any time and with little warning. During the coming month the enemy is expected to continue to avoid significant contact, concentrating on foraging, re-organization, relocation and training. Scattered harassing attacks by fire and small probes can be expected throughout the area.

8. Medical

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

(1) Total patients seen at sick call	507
(2) Total number of in-patients	000
(3) Total number of physicals	148
(4) Total immunizations	1145

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03A1976910. Air Operationsa. June Totals

<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>MEDEVAC MISSIONS/MEDEVACCS</u>
5,442.1	18,228	1255.3	929/2186

b. Quang Tri Air Base Operations

<u>Aircraft Emer</u>	<u>Structural</u>	<u>Medevacs</u>	<u>Wash Downs</u>
21	7	29	3

2. 1205/17Jun69 UH-1E from HML-367 crashed after rotor blades picked up loose matting. Crash Crew responded and controlled leaking fuel and cooled engine. Four crewmen escaped with two injured.

3. During June crews stood by on eight defuels and two Red Label Cargo aircraft.

c. Dong Ha

<u>Aircraft Emer</u>	<u>Medevacs</u>	<u>Fuel Fires</u>
8	6	2

2. 0620/5Jun69 Crash Crew used 700 gals water 330lbs PKP, 10 gals light water to extinguish fire in bulk fuel area started by enemy rockets.

3. 0830/10Jun69 Crash Crew used 1500 gals water, 40 gals foam to extinguish fuel line fire in bulk fuel area.

d. LZ Vandegrift Operations

<u>Aircraft Emer</u>	<u>Emer Extract Stand-by</u>	<u>Vehicle fires</u>
16	2	2

2. Vehicle fires were jeeps from Division Units. Water used in both instances.

3. Aircraft from HML-367 caught fire. Crash Crew used one 15lb CO<sub>2</sub> bottle to extinguish.

e. Air Traffic Control

1. MATCU-62, Quang Tri Airbase, Dong Ha Airbase, and Vandegrift Airbase, RVN.

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2. Average Monthly Strength: 11 Officers and 76 Enlisted

3. N/A

NARRATIVE SUMMARYAir Traffic Control:

Operations for the month totaled 64,547. Operational breakdown by location are: Quang Tri 21,164; Dong Ha 16,492; Vandegrift 26,891. 187 GCA's were conducted at Quang Tri and 3 at Dong Ha. The low GCA totals continue as a result of good weather.

Sgt R. S. HOWLAND and LCpl J. W. DEWITT received Control Tower Junior certifications at Quang Tri.

GySgt E. R. NELSON received Approach Control qualification 10 June 1969. MATCO-62 is preparing to assume Approach Control responsibilities on 31 August 1969 at Quang Tri.

PERSONNEL:

Total on board strength has continued to decline but several replacements have arrived this month. Four of eight diesel mechanics were transferred during this month leaving the unit in a critical state for HOS 1342 replacements.

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