

HEADQUARTERS
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
APO San Francisco, 96302

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03482769
15 August 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (6-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-31 July 1969; submission of
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.13

- Encl: (1) Command Chronology for Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39
- (2) Command Chronology for Head Quarters 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.

O. V. Callentine
O. V. CALLENTINE

PROV MAG-39

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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39
Command Chronology

1 July 1969 to 31 July 1969

PART I

PART II

PART III

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39

(1)	Col Edward A. FARNUM	1-31Jul69	OO
(2)	Col Brentice A. HENDSAY	1-31Jul69	XO
(3)	Capt Laurence E. TANKSLEY	1-31Jul69	S-1/Adj
(4)	Maj Leo J. INLI	1-30Jul69	S-2
(5)	Maj Clarence L. DAVIS	11-31Jul69	S-2
(6)	LtCol Hans A. ZANDER	1-31Jul69	S-3
(7)	LtCol Edward E. SMITH	1-16Jul69	S-4
(8)	Maj Robert L. LEVAN	17-31Jul69	S-4
(9)	Maj Donald S. WAUNCH	1-23Jul69	AvnSafO
(10)	Maj Kenneth C. CARLON	24-31Jul69	AvnSafO
(11)	LCDR Rodney R. SCHEER	1-20Jul69	Chaplain
(12)	LCDR Donald L. KRABBE	21-31Jul69	Chaplain
(13)	LCDR James F. LYONS	1-31Jul69	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) to 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, 96302
Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam
1-31 July 1969

3. Average monthly strength

Marine Officers	178	Navy Officers	4
Marine Enlisted	1158	Navy Enlisted	16

4. Important Visitors

a. Major General William G. THRASH, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The month of July showed a significant decline in enemy activity. Although one OH-46 was hit and was able to make an emergency landing for repairs on the 2nd, fire incidents remained at a very low level. Through the 17th of July most of ProvMAG-39's efforts were in the form of resupply and troop rotations. Intensified enemy activity in the Leatherneck Square area, and the intense ground fire taken by the medevac helicopter on 18 July seemed to indicate the beginning of renewed enemy activity. During the next few days an even greater increase in enemy sightings was reported by the visual reconnaissance aircraft.

The activity slowly increased in tempo until the 31st when 2 Marine units and one Army unit were in hard contact. It was during the night and early morning hours of the 31st of July and 1st August that the only loss of aircraft and personnel occurred from this Group.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Chronological Sequence of Events

25Jul69: At 1400 HML-262 Medevac with Seaworthy 99-1 and 99-2 as escort launched to pick-up emergency medevacs for Showcase Golf-2 in the EE 9403 grid. While in the pick-up zone the medevac helo came under intense small arms fire and was forced to divert and make an emergency landing at A-4. The medevac chase helo made a pick-up of the downed helo's crew while Seaworthy CV-10's covered the insert of a reaction force to guard and repair the downed helo. The gunner of the downed helo was wounded in the leg and the helicopter was later repaired and flown back to Quang Tri.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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- 3Jul69: During the night Seaworthy OV-10's and UH-1E gunships teamed up to support the emergency extraction of a 3rd Recon Battalion Team in heavy contact. Later an OV-10 located and neutralized an active enemy mortar position.
- 6Jul69: Activities remained low with the Visual Recon aircraft being the only aircraft to be fired upon. Fixed wing attack aircraft were called in on the position from which they drew fire and on other suspected enemy positions. The air strikes accounted for one confirmed KBA, ten secondary explosions and one secondary fire.
- 8Jul69: Shortly after midnight Quang Tri airfield was the target of a rocket attack. An OV-10 that was airborne at the time spotted the launching site, but he and two UH-1E gunships that soon joined him could take no positive action because of counter battery fires.
- 12Jul69: Along with normal operations one section of CH-46's was sent to support the 1st MARDIV. During an assault lift into YD 9462, light fire was received coming out of the LZ but no hits were received.
- 15Jul69: During the day an O-1 aircraft on a visual recon mission spotted an enemy rocket launching site. Calling in fixed wing attack aircraft, the site was destroyed and there were five secondary explosions. HMM-161 supported an ARVN assault into the XD 9936 grid with six CH-46's.
- 16Jul69: Visual recon aircraft spotted two more rocket launching sites this date. Airstrikes were called which resulted in one rocket destroyed and three secondary explosions.
- 18Jul69: Chatterbox Medevac helicopter took intense small arms fire while attempting emergency medevac pick-up at YD 135750. An emergency landing was made at A-4. Repairs were made in the field and the aircraft later flown back to Quang Tri.
- 20Jul69: HMM-161 furnished six aircraft to work an ARVN Troop Lift in Operation Durham Peak for the 1st MARDIV. While aiding an ARVN unit further North, Seaworthy UH-1E's delivered their ordnance in support of a patrol in contact receiving a confirmed BDA of 38 KBA.
- 24Jul69: Action remained very low today but enemy spottings by VR aircraft rose sharply.

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31 Jul 69: The month ended with an increase of enemy activity. Seaworthy aircraft supported two Marine units and one Army unit in heavy contact. During an emergency medevac pick-up for the U. S. Army the Chatterbox helo was shot down by an RPG. One crew member was killed and one was seriously injured. Rescue operations and close cover continued until early the next morning until all medevacs and crew members were safely extracted from the hot area.

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 month:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| a. Silver Stars - 9 | e. Air Medals - 916 Strike/
Flight, 50
Single Mission |
| b. Legion of Merit - 1 | |
| c. DFC's - 32 | f. Navy Commendation - 8 |
| d. Bronze Star - 10 | g. Navy Achievement - 16 |

4. Casualties

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Hostiles: KIA - 1 | Non-Hostiles: DAI - 0 |
| WIA - 9 | Other - 11 |
| MIA - 1 | |

5. Morale and Welfare. Morale continues to be high within this Group.

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

a. Organizational Data

(1) LCDR Don KRABBE, CHC, USN, a Lutheran Pastor, took over as Group Chaplain on 15 July 1969 from LCDR R. R. SCHEER, CHC, USN, also a Lutheran Pastor. Chaplain SCHEER is enroute to NAS Alameda.

b. Significant Highlights

(1) First services held in the newly completed Chapel were on 20 July with Chaplain SCHEER and Chaplain KRABBE both celebrating the service.

(2) Tentative plans for a formal dedication are being made for the latter part of August or first part of September.

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03122769c. Statistical Analysis

<u>(1) Sunday Celebrations</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communed</u>
Chaplains SCHEER & KRABBE	9	212	80
Chaplain KLAPPS (Roman Catholic)	9	123	107
Chaplain SHAY (Roman Catholic)	4	78	70
TOTAL	17	413	257

<u>(2) Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services</u>			
CARS	4	39	25

<u>(3) Education</u>			
Religious Discussion Group	3	17	
Religious Instruction	2	10	
Baptisms	3		
Drug Abuse Lecture	2	127	

<u>(4) Counseling Cases</u>			
Counseling, Individual Cases	63		
Brig Visits	3		
Hospital Visits	12	(3rd Med Bn and USS Repose)	
Red Cross	33		

d. Civic Affairs

(1) The duty of Group Civic Affairs Officer has now been assumed by 1/Lt A. J. UNSER of HMM-262 with the Group Chaplain providing assistance as needed.

7. Intelligence

a. Enemy activity continued at a low level during the month with the enemy generally avoiding contact with major units.

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b. Enemy action against ProvMAC-39 consisted of a rocket attack in the early morning hours of 8 July when four 122mm rockets impacted in the area causing major damage to one aircraft and minor damage to two other aircraft and minor damage to a water main. There were negative casualties as a result of the attack. Also on the night of 31 July, the perimeter of ProvMAC-39 received three 60mm mortars that resulted in negative casualties or damage. This was the third consecutive month that Quang Tri Air Base was targeted by enemy rocketeers. The number of aircraft receiving fire decreased by 45 from the previous month with a decrease in aircraft hit of 17.

WERE INCORPORATED: 55
 AIRCRAFT HIT: 48
 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED: 01
 CASUALTIES: 01 KIA; 03 WIA(E); 02 WIA(M)

c. During the coming month the enemy is expected to continue to avoid significant contact. However, the enemy retains the capability of launching large scale attacks at any time with little warning.

3. Medical

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

(1) Total number of patients seen at Sick Call	653
(2) Total number of in-patients	300
(3) Total number of physicals	164
(4) Total number of immunizations	815

9. Air Operations

a. July Totals

<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>MEDEVAC MISSIONS/MEDEVACS</u>
4,433.5	21,189	1328.5	479/927

b. Quang Tri Air Base Operations

<u>1. Aircraft Emer</u>	<u>Structural</u>	<u>Medevacs</u>	<u>Wash Downs</u>
16	17	31	5

c. Iong Ha

<u>1. Aircraft Emer</u>	<u>Medevacs</u>	<u>Fuel Fires</u>
8	1	1

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03A22769d. LZ Vandegrift Operations1. Aircraft Emer Emer Extract Stand-by Vehicle fires

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e. Air Traffic Control:1. MACG-62, Quang Tri Airbase, Dong Ha Airbase, and Vandegrift Airbase, RVN.2. Average Monthly Strength: 10 Officers and 62 Enlisted3. N/ANARRATIVE SUMMARYAir Traffic Control:

Operations for the month totaled 54,775. Operational breakdown by location are: Quang Tri 18,300; Dong Ha 16,023; Vandegrift 20,452. 355 GCA's were conducted at Quang Tri and 8 at Dong Ha. The low GCA totals continue as a result of good weather.

PERSONNEL:

Total on board strength has continued to decline but several replacements have arrived this month. This unit remains in a critical state for NCS 1342 replacements having only four on board.

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