

## HEADQUARTERS

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

UNCLASSIFIED

PROV MAG 39  
 SOL 804-69

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 03E25069  
 11 September 1969

PROV MAG-39

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)  
 Subj: Command Chronology for the Period of 1-31 August 1969; submission  
 of  
 Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4  
 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.

*O. V. Gallentine*  
 O. V. GALLENTINE

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|-----------------|----------|
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ADDITIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-39  
Command Chronology

1 August 1969 to 31 August 1969

PART I

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PART II

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PART III

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ADMINISTRATION

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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## a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

|                               |              |                |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| (1) Col Owen V. GALLENTINE    | 1-31 Aug 69  | CO             |
| (2) LtCol Prentice A. LINDSAY | 1-31 Aug 69  | XO             |
| (3) Capt Lawrence E. TANKSLEY | 1-12 Aug 69  | S-1/Adj        |
| (4) Maj Robert G. WHALEY      | 13-31 Aug 69 | S-1            |
| (5) Maj Clarence L. DAVIS     | 1-31 Aug 69  | S-2            |
| (6) LtCol Hans A. ZANDER      | 1-23 Aug 69  | S-3            |
| (7) LtCol John E. WEBER       | 24-31 Aug 69 | S-3            |
| (8) Maj Robert L. LEVAN       | 1-31 Aug 69  | S-4            |
| (9) Maj Kenneth C. CARLON     | 1-31 Aug 69  | AvnSafO        |
| (10) LCDR Donald L. KRABBE    | 1-31 Aug 69  | Chaplain       |
| (11) LCDR James F. LYONS      | 1-31 Aug 69  | Flight Surgeon |

## b. Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-39

LtCol Warren G. CRETNEY

## c. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161

Maj Richard A. CARR

## d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262

Maj Donald J. MIESKAN

## e. Marine Observation Squadron-6

LtCol Albert K. CHARLTON

## f. Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-62

Maj B. W. PRASSELL 1-14 Aug 69 OIC

Capt A. E. ROMPOS 15-31 Aug 69 OIC

ENCLOSURE (1)

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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 August 1969

3. Average monthly strength

|                 |      |               |    |
|-----------------|------|---------------|----|
| Marine Officers | 187  | Navy Officers | 4  |
| Marine Enlisted | 1155 | Navy Enlisted | 13 |

4. Important Visitors

a. Change of Command - 1 August 1969

- (1) Lieutenant General M. ZAIS, Commanding General, XXIV Corps
- (2) Lieutenant General, WHEELER, Deputy Commanding General, XXIV Corps
- (3) Major General William G. THRASH, Commanding General, 1st MAW

b. 8 August 1969 - General Leonard F. CHAPMAN Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General H. NICKERSON, Commanding General, III MAF

c. 22 August 1969 - Lieutenant General M. ZAIS visited ProvMAG-39 facilities.

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

a. The afternoon of 1 August 1969 saw command of ProvMAG-39 pass from the hands of Col. E. A. PARNELL to those of Col. O. V. GALLENTINE. Important visitors on hand for this event included Lt. Gen. ZAIS, Commanding General XXIV Corps, Maj. Gen. WHEELER, Deputy Commanding General XXIV Corps, and Maj. Gen. THRASH, Commanding General 1st MAW.

b. General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, Commandant of the Marine Corps visited the ProvMAG-39 area during the afternoon of 8 August 1969.

c. The month of August was characterized by a slow significant increase in the tempo of enemy activity, culminating in several large unit actions and three rocket attacks upon Quang Tri Airbase during the final 10 days. Flight operations continued at a rapid pace with an increase in fire incidents involving helicopters. The majority of ProvMAG-39's operations involved resupply and troop rotations in addition to 918 Med-Evacs extracted. Enemy ground activity underwent sporadic increases and a continued threat of sapper forays and attacks by fire exist.

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PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1Aug69: Command of ProviAG-39 was assumed by Col. C. V. GALLENTINE. HU-161 reported one fire incident in the ID9963 grid. One aircraft received hits with no casualties and the resupply mission was completed. WO-6 observation aircraft reported several significant cache areas and six secondary explosions were recorded as a result of air strikes on these areas.

2Aug69: HU-161 aircraft flew two sensor placement missions in the ID8955 and 8424 grids. A VMC-6 OV-10A pilot coordinated SAR efforts when a USAF fixed wing pilot he was controlling was forced to eject due to mechanical malfunction. Another VMC aircraft spotted 35 NVA traveling a road with no action taken due to low fuel state.

3Aug69: HU-161 helicopters received intense ground fire while carrying out two Recon emergency extracts in the ID9048 and ID1773 grids respectively. No hits occurred and the missions were completed.

4Aug69: A VMC-6 observation aircraft reported 8 secondary explosions while controlling fixed wing in support of USA ground unit.

5Aug69: While carrying out a visual reconnaissance, a WO-6 O-1 aircraft discovered an NVA rocket position and destroyed two rockets with directed artillery fire.

7Aug69: HU-161 carried out several Med-Evacs in coordination with VMC-6 gunships. Nine secondary explosions occurred as a result of air strikes run by VMC-6 aircraft.

8Aug69: ProviAG-39 relinquished operational control of the slick detachment furnished by HU-367 and returned control of this unit to HU-36. ProviAG-39 has maintained control of this detachment since 10 December 1968.

9Aug69: While controlling air strikes in support of "E" 2/3, a VMC-6 observation aircraft reported 4 secondary explosions and two KIA. Another WO-6 OV-10A aircraft encountered mechanical problems while on a training hop and the pilots were forced to eject East of Dong Ha Combat Base. HU-262 aircraft accomplished the rescue of the downed air crew.

10Aug69: HU-161 helicopters were subjected to intense small arms, mortar, and RPG fire while carrying out Med-Evacs for "E" 2/3. No hits were sustained and 22 emergency, 45 priority, and 8 routine Med-Evacs were recovered. HU-262 aircraft encountered mortar fire while engaged in a troop lift into the ID8461.

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11Aug69: Five KIA were reported by a VM0-6 observation aircraft as a result of strikes run in support of the 3rd Marines.

12Aug69: HMM-161 aircraft were subjected to intense fire while attempting a night priority Med-Evac in the XD8659 grid. Returning to the zone, the mission was accomplished, although the aircraft was the target of a suspected satchel charge. No damage was sustained by the Med-Evac aircraft.

13Aug69: Fifty NVA were reported in a bivouac area by a VM0-6 observations aircraft. No action was taken due to low fuel state.

15Aug69: Three recon teams were inserted and six were extracted. Four secondary explosions and three KIA were reported by a VM0-6 C-1 in support of recon team "Sanforized".

17Aug69: HMM-161 aircraft engaged in two ~~escort~~ troop missions. A VM0-6 observation aircraft controlled artillery and air strikes on an NVA unit in the open. Ten KIA reported.

18Aug69: Two VM0-6 gunships covered a USA troop lift.

19Aug69: HMM-161 carried out several night Med-Evacs while being hampered by poor visibility, low ceilings, and enemy action.

20Aug69: VM0-6 aircraft covered six Med-Evac missions, three emergency extractions of USMC Recon teams, and two emergency extractions of USA Recon teams.

21Aug69: Two HMM-262 aircraft were subjected to rocket and mortar fire while refueling at Vandergrift Combat Base. No damage was reported. Quang Tri air field received four 122mm rockets during the early morning hours. No damage or casualties sustained. An air burst was reported by HMM-262 aircraft at XD985548.

22Aug69: Three air bursts were reported by HMM-262 aircraft in the XD9855, YD0255, and YD0256.

23Aug69: HMM-161 aircraft recovered seven emergency, seven priority Med-Evacs and one routine night Med-Evac.

24Aug69: At first light an emergency recon extract was carried out by HMM-161 aircraft. The team suffered one KILLED and three wounded.

25Aug69: HMM-161 carried out its first scheduled C & G missions.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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26Aug69: Several rockets impacted inside the Vandergrift Combat base resulting in 5 emergency Med-Evacs who were immediately recovered by HMM-161 aircraft. Two HMM-262 aircraft came under fire from RPG's while carrying out Med-Evacs for "B" 1/3. After a fixed wing prep, the mission was completed. During the evening hours Quang Tri received three 122mm rockets resulting in one building destroyed and no casualties.

29Aug69: While launching on a visual reconnaissance mission, a VM-6 OV-10A aircraft crashed on take-off. Both crewmen lost their lives.

30Aug69: HMM-161 supplied seven aircraft for a 550 man 2nd ARVN troop lift, while VM-6 aircraft coordinated artillery fire and fixed wing strikes.

31Aug69: Quang Tri Combat Base received thirty-one 122mm rockets resulting in 3 KIA, 25 WIA(E), 4 WIA(M), 15 buildings destroyed and seven damaged.

PART IV ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel. Critical shortages exist in the following MOS's: 0221, 1371, 3261, 6320, 6711, and 2542.

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 - 2    | e. Air Medals - 562 Strike/Flight, 23 Single Mission |
| b. Legion of Merit - 2 | f. Navy Commendation - 13                            |
| c. DFC's - 11          | g. Navy Achievement - 12                             |
| d. Bronze Star - 10    |  |

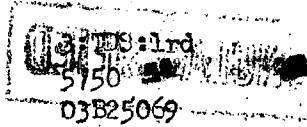
4. Casualties.

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. Hostile: KIA - 0 | Non-Hostile: DAI - 1 |
|                     | WIA - 2              |
|                     | Other - 10           |

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 Counselor.

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**UNCLASSIFIED****a. Organizational Data**

(1) LCDR Don KRABEE, CHC, USN, 1-31 August 1969

**b. Significant Highlights**

(1) The date for the formal dedication of the Chapel has been set for 28 September 1969.

**c. Statistical Analysis****(1) Sunday Celebrations**

|                                  | NUMBER | ATTENDANCE | COMMUNED |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|----------|
| Chaplain KRABEE                  | 10     | 320        | 118      |
| Chaplain KLAFFS (Roman Catholic) | 5      | 223        | 210      |
| Chaplain SNEA (Roman Catholic)   | 5      | 69         | 63       |
| TOTAL                            | 20     | 612        | 391      |

**(2) Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services**

|                           |   |     |    |
|---------------------------|---|-----|----|
| CAPS                      | 3 | 23  | 12 |
| Memorial Services         | 2 | 185 |    |
| Holy Day (Roman Catholic) | 1 | 35  | 25 |

**(3) Education**

|                            |   |    |  |
|----------------------------|---|----|--|
| Religious Discussion Group | 2 | 7  |  |
| Religious Instruction      | 3 | 4  |  |
| Drug Abuse Lecture         | 1 | 58 |  |

**(4) Counseling Cases**

|                              |    |                             |  |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|--|
| Counseling, Individual Cases | 96 |                             |  |
| Drug Visits                  | 0  |                             |  |
| Hospital Visits              | 16 | (3rd Med Bn and USS Repose) |  |
| Red Cross                    | 22 |                             |  |

**(5) Correspondence**

|                        |    |  |  |
|------------------------|----|--|--|
| Response to incoming   | 13 |  |  |
| Welcome aboard letters | 98 |  |  |

**d. Civic Affairs**

(1) The duty of the Group Civic Affairs Officer has now been assumed by 1st Lt. A. J. UNSER of HM-262 with the Group Chaplain providing assistance as needed. MEDCAPS - 12 Treatments - 413 Personal Response - 16 persons.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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03B25069~~UNCLASSIFIED~~74 Intelligence

a. Enemy activity increased during the month as indicated by sharp contacts with company or multi-company NVA forces in the central DMZ area and increased sapper attacks against friendly forces.

b. Enemy action against Quang Tri Combat Base increased during the month with three rocket attacks and one mortar attack:

(1) On 2 August, the base received two 60mm mortars outside the perimeter resulting in negative casualties or damage.

(2) On 21 August, the base received four 122mm rockets resulting in negative casualties or damage.

(3) On 26 August, the base received three 122mm rockets resulting in one building destroyed and no casualties.

(4) On 31 August, the base received thirty-one 122mm rockets resulting in 3 KIA, 25 WIA(E), 4 WIA(M), 15 buildings destroyed and 7 buildings damaged.

c. The number of aircraft receiving fire increased by 47 from the previous month with an increase in aircraft hit by two:

(1) Fire Incidents: 92

(2) Aircraft Hit: 10

(3) Forced to Land: 1

(4) Aircraft destroyed: 0

(5) Casualties: 1 WIA(M)

d. During the coming month it is estimated that the enemy will continue to initiate company size Sapper supported attacks against selected targets, to support the current Fall Offensive.

### 8. Medical

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

(1) Total number of patients seen at Sick Call 512

(2) Total number of in-patients 000

(3) Total number of physicals 85

(4) Total number of immunizations

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## 91 Air Operations

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## a. Quang Tri

## (1) A/C Emergencies - 15, MEDEVAC - 29

(2) At approximately 0635/29Aug69 an OV-10 crashed into a hanger at the north end of the field. Both occupants were killed and the aircraft suffered strike damage. Agents used were 75 gals of light water and approximately 3,000 gals of water due to A/C and structural fires in hanger.

(3) 2220/31Aug69 crash vehicles responded to structural fires in Division area started by incoming. Fires were extinguished in FLSG Division laundry and in another building containing recon equipment and two living quarters.

## b. Dong Ha

## (1) A/C Emergencies - 12, Pipeline - 1, Grass - 1

## c. Vandegrift

## (1) A/C Emergencies - 4, Structural - 3, Fuel - 2, Grass - 2, MedEvac &amp; Extract - 9.

(2) Crash Crew is called to fight fires that Division Fire Dept. loses control of and/or is unable to respond to.

1. MedEvac &amp; Extract (E)

2. Structural - 3, Fuel - 2

(3) Pipeline - 1, Grass - 1

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ENCLOSURE (1)