

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

3:EWH:lgm
5750
03A31069
6 November 1969

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

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
(1 to 15 October 1969)
✓(4) Command Chronology for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262
(1 to 15 October 1969)

1. In accordance with reference (a), the subject report is hereby submitted for the period 1 - 31 October. This will be the final report for Provisional Marine Aircraft Group - 39.

2. Due to Redeployment of Marine Vertical Observation Squadron-6, their Command Chronology will be submitted at a later date as enclosure (5).

O. V. Gallentine
O. V. GALLENTINE

MAA-38 SAC FORM

89094 6
1 5

1st MAW SAC No.	Copy No.
4204-69	1

Downgraded at 3 year
Intervals; Declassified after
12 years

Copy 1 of 5 Copies

Page 1 of ___ Pages

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39
Quang Tri-Hue/Phu Bai, Vietnam
1 through 31 October 1969

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF
SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

PART III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

Page ___ of ___ Pages

Enclosure (1)
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I
ORGANIZATION I DATA
1 through 31 October 1969

1. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39

Colonel Owen V. GALLENTINE

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Prentice A. LINDSAY

Executive Officer

1 - 17 Oct 1969

Lieutenant Colonel John E. WEBER, JR.

Executive Officer

18 - 25 Oct 1969

a. Staff

Major Robert G. WHALEY S-1/ADJ

1 - 25 Oct 1969

Major Clarence L. DAVIS S-2

1 - 8 Oct 1969

GySgt Floyd L. WATTS S-2

9 - 25 Oct 1969

LtCol John E. WEBER, Jr. S-3

1 - 25 Oct 1969

Major Robert L. LEVAN S-4

1 - 25 Oct 1969

Major Michael E. COLLINS AvnSafO

1 - 25 Oct 1969

LCdr Donald L. KRABBE Chaplain

1 - 22 Oct 1969

LCdr James F. LYONS Flight Surgeon

1 - 4 Oct 1969

b. Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-39

Lieutenant Colonel Warren G. GRETENKY

Commanding Officer

1 - 10 Oct 1969

Major Joseph F. GOLDEN

Commanding Officer

11 - 31 Oct 1969

c. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161

Major Richard W. CARR

Commanding Officer

1 - 15 Oct 1969

d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262

Major Donald J. MESKAN

Commanding Officer

1 - 15 Oct 1969

e. Marine Observation Squadron 6

Lieutenant Colonel Albert K. CHARLTON

Commanding Officer

1 - 12 Oct 1969

2. During the reporting period Headquarters, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group-39 was located at Quang Tri Combat Base from 1 - 10 October 1969, at Hue/Phu Bai Combat Base from 11 - 31 October 1969 in the Republic of Vietnam

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. The beginning of the reporting period found ProvMAG-39 in the midst of PHASE II Redeployments. HMM-161 of ProvMAG-39 was up and operating at Phu Bai while HMM-262 was in a stand down status while re-establishing its CP at Phu Bai. On 3 October, both tactical helicopter squadrons were flying the majority of their missions in support of the 3rd Marine Division, 1st ARVN, and U. S. Army units in NICTZ from the Quang Tri Combat Base. As operations continued from Quang Tri, crews and aircraft were replaced each evening. On 2 October 1969, VMO-6 began stand down status preparatory to its move in connection PHASE II Redeployments.
2. During the first 13 days of the month, heavy monsoon rains hampered the relocation of ProvMAG-39 and its subordinate units.
3. On 8 October, VMO-6 commenced the fly away of its OV-10 (aircraft), and Detachment Alpha of VMO-6 relocated to Phu Bai with 11 UH-1E aircraft to await shipping for their move to Okinawa.
4. On 10 October, the Headquarters of ProvMAG-39 was relocated at Phu Bai, less the S-4 Section which remained at Quang Tri to continue coordination of relocation efforts. Operational control moved from the Quang Tri COC to Phu Bai COC on 12 October. Staff sections of ProvMAG-39 were merged or allotted space within MAG-36 Headquarters.
5. Pilots with VMO-6's Detachment Alpha continued to fly missions, augmenting HMM-367 due to a pilot shortage. However, VMO-6's Detachment continued to exercise their aircraft on daily maintenance flights until embarked on 21 October.
6. On 12 October 1969, OPCON and ADCON of VMO-6 was passed to CG III MAF and subsequently to CG NINTH MAB.
7. The 15th of October was the last day that ProvMAG-39 had control of tactical squadrons, passing ADCON of HMM's-161 & 262 to MAG-16 and OPCON to MAG-36.
8. On the 16th of October, the Commanding Officer of ProvMAG-39, Colonel Owen V. GALLENTINE, assumed Command of Marine Aircraft Group 36 at a change of Command Ceremony held at the H&MS-36 flight line area at Phu Bai.
9. On 18 October, the Administrative Office of H&MS-39 relocated to Phu Bai from Quang Tri, while Command remained at Quang Tri thru the reporting period.
10. For the remainder of the period, the reduction of ProvMAG-39 and H&MS-39 to CADRE status was under way. This progress was hampered by the necessity to retain certain elements at Quang Tri for support of the HMM's-161 & 262 which were operating in support of the 3rd Marine Division, and other Northern ICTZ units.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11. On 18 October 1969, ProvMAG-39 announced CADRE status, with Colonel O. V. GALLENTINE as Commanding Officer of ProvMAG-39, and Major J. F. GODLEN as Commanding Officer of H&MS-39. However, personnel still remained in H&MS-39 pending receipt of orders from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing for reassignment.

12. Personnel and equipment of MATCU-62 were embarked and enroute to MAG-13 at Chu Lai, ADCON and OPCON were passed to MAG-13 on 26 October 1969.

UNCLASSIFIED

Page ____ of ____ Pages

Enclosure (1)
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PART III
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Average Monthly Strength: (Note: No Average would adequately reflect the true picture of the group's strength during the entire period. In order to indicate the reduction progress the average strengths are shown for four periods during the month.)

1 - 16 October 1969:	Marine Officers: 168	Navy Officers: 4
	Marine Enlisted: 973	Navy Enlisted: 7
17 - 21 October 1969:	Marine Officers: 79	Navy Officers: 2
	Marine Enlisted: 659	Navy Enlisted: 5
22 - 25 October 1969:	Marine Officers: 34	Navy Officers: 1
	Marine Enlisted: 451	Navy Enlisted: 2
26 - 31 October 1969:	Marine Officers: 2	Navy Officers: 0
	Marine Enlisted: 0	Navy Enlisted: 0

2. Administration: Administration, not only in the S-1 section but all of the staff sections, was hampered by inadequate office equipment and materials.

3. Casualties: Hostile: 0 WIA: 1 Non-Hostile: 1 Others: 2

4. Morale and Welfare:

a. Morale within the Group continued to be high with entertainment groups appearing at clubs prior to departure from Quang Tri, and subsequently at Phu Bai.

b. Welfare of the troops within the Group has been good, except for the providing of adequate foul weather attire for the monsoon weather.

5. Important Visitors: The following important visitors attended the Change of Command Ceremony on 16 October 1969.

Major General William G. THRASH, CG FIRST MAW
Major General NGO-QUANG TRUONG, CG FIRST ARVN
Brig. General Edwin B. WHEELER, Deputy Commander XXIV
Brig. General Robert H. SPANIER, AWC AUXHQ, FIRST MAW
Brig. General Rogan FULLER, ADC 3rd MARDIV

6. Intelligence:

a. Enemy activity against the Quang Tri Combat Base decreased during the month with only one rocket attack occurring at 2130, 15 October 1969. The base received three 122mm rockets which resulted in negative casualties and damage.

Page ____ of ____ Pages

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

b. The number of aircraft receiving fire decreased by 63 from the previous month. There were no aircraft hit while under operational control of ProvMAG-39.

Fire Incidents:	-----	5
Aircraft Hit:	-----	0
Forced to Land:	-----	0
Aircraft Destroyed:	-----	0
Casualties:	-----	0

7. Operations. During the period squadrons were operational to ProvMAG-39 there were no major operations supported. The majority of support for the 3rd Marine Division was incidental to the Division redeployment activities. While operational to ProvMAG-39, the tactical squadrons flew the following:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>PAX/TROOPS</u>	<u>CARGO TONAGE</u>	<u>MISSIONS/CASUALTIES</u>
2554	1009.1	7867	245	64/128

a. On 5 October 1969, Vandergift Combat Base air facilities were secured.

b. Tower operation was assumed by the Army at Quang Tri on 15 October 1969. MATCU-62 terminated GCA operations on the 23rd of October.

c. On 26 October 1969 MATCU-62 was embarked equipment and personnel were chopped ADCOM and OPCOM to MAG-13:

d. Crash Crew activities through the period consisted of:

(1) Quang Tri:

Aircraft Emergencies	10
Medevacs	21
Structural Fires	2
Wash downs	1

(2) Dong Ha:

Aircraft Emergencies	1
----------------------	---

8. Logistics:

a. TAFDS dispensed 610,016 gallons of JP-4 and 20,723 gallons of Aviation Gas as of 23 October 1969.

b. Construction: All construction at Quang Tri Air Base has been terminated.

Page ____ of ____ Pages

Enclosure (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLAS...ED

c. Embarkation: Embarkation of all major units of ProvMAG-39 was completed on 26 October 1969. Only essential support elements remain at Quang Tri.

d. Motor Transport: ProvMAG-39 Motor Transport section was augmented by 14 High Boys and six 6X6 trucks from 1st MAF for movement of ProvMAG-39 units. A total of 26 convoy trips were made between Quang Tri and Phu Bai, one trip to Danang and one to LZ Baldy (South of Danang).

9. Medical. The Senior Medical Officer at the beginning of the reporting period was LCDR James LYONS, MC USNR. The Medical Department was dissolved as of 17 October 1969 with personnel, supplies, and equipment being reassigned to MAG-36. While at Quang Tri the Medical Department supplied support to VMO-6, HMMs-161 & 262, and H&MS-39. Also MEDCAP service to three Vietnamese Villages was provided.

a. Average daily outpatient treatment: 25

b. Average of 2 MEDEVAC missions flown daily with 2 patients per mission.

10. Chaplain Activities.

a. Chaplain: LCDR Don L. KRABBE, CHC USN, 1 - 22 October 1969.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
b. Sunday Celebrations:	5	152
Memorial Services:	3	163

c. Professional Counselling Interviews: 37

d. Pastoral Calls (Hospital): 14

e. Red Cross Cases: 9

11. Civil Affairs. No civil affairs activity was conducted due to displacement of the Group.

12. ProvMAG-39 was recognized for its support in the following messages, CG III MAF 090408Z Oct 1969, CG 3rd MARDIV 110332Z Oct 1969, and CG FMAW 180130Z Oct 1969 (S). Unclassified messages included in Part IV.

Enclosure (1)
UNCLAS...ED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The attached unclassified messages recognized ProvM.G-39 for its support in the Northern ICTZ during its existence and during the current monsoon season.

Page ____ of ____ Pages

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

36
 HNN36 DE WG PRCA 2000 RUMHMA 300 2000
 DE RUMHMA 1000 2000
 ZNY ERENE

0 110332Z 00 60

FM CG THIRD MARDEB (C) 1000

TO RUMHMA/CG FIRST MAR

INFO RUMHMA/CG IIE MAR

RUMHMA/CG FIRST MAR 400 0000

RUMHMA/CG MAG INHIBIT 1000

RUMHMA/CG MAG INHIBIT 1000

BT

UNCLAS E P T C

1. WE AIRMANSHIP AND GROUND

DEBAYED BUY FIRST MARINE

AIR WING HELICOPTER PILOTS IN 1000 0000

DIVISION UNITS DURING ADVERSE WE 1000 0000

COPTER 3 WERE NOTED BY NAVY ON 1000 0000

OF THIS DIVISION. THE 1000 0000

THE FIRST MAR. WELL 1000 0000

1000 0000 SENDS.

BT

1000 0000

36 DE W6206PTTEZ YUW RHMMFA0983 2820403-EE RUMLMHA.

ZNY ENCL

P 092400Z OCT 69

FM CG 114 YAF

TO RUMLMHA/PROV MAG THREE NINE

INFO RUMLMHA/CG FIRST MAW

RUMW P/CG THIRD MARDIV

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

1. SIXTEEN MONTHS AGO, PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39 WAS ORGANIZED IN COMBAT TO MEET A VITAL REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMAND AND CONTROL ORGANIZATION IN NICZ. FROM THE DATE OF ITS INSTITUTION, PROVMAG-39 HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET THE MYRIAD CHALLENGES IT FROED WITH PROFESSIONALISM, ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION. ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANY VICTORIES ACHIEVED OVER THE ENEMY IN NICZ ARE A TRIBUTE TO ITS FIGHTING SPIRIT. THE COMPLETION AND MEN OF PROVMAG-39 MY APPRECIATION FOR A JOINT EFFORT. LT JEN VICKERSON.

END