

MARINE AERIAL REFUELER TRANSPORT SQUADRON 152  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15 (Rein)  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF  
FPO, San Francisco, 96602


3:GTH:jdt  
5750  
8 Oct 1968

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 15; (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1 September through 30 September 1968:  
submission of

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. The subject "Command Chronology" is submitted in accordance with  
reference (a).

  
W. D. SMITH  
Acting

VNGR-152

CMDCHRON

SEP 1968

MARINE AERIAL REFUELER TRANSPORT SQUADRON 152  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15 (Rein)  
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, MAF  
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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 September to 30 September

1968

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## PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

VMGR-152

COMMANDER

LtCol. Frank G. MCLENON

ATTACHED UNITS

None

2. LOCATION

1 - 30 September: Okinawa

3. STAFF OFFICERS: (Changes)

Major E. C. MERRICKS

1stMAW ATCO

1 to 30 September

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTHUSMCUSNOFFENLOFFENL52 Naval Av  
16 Av Ground

547

2

4

## PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the month of September, VMGR-152 flew 1,038 sorties for a total of 1,789 flight hours. 31,803 passengers and 4,118 short tons of cargo were transported.

The sub unit based at Danang continued to operate with an average of four aircraft. Missions flown consisted of aerial refueling, logistics, and flare drops.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Commitments

A review of the commitments flown during September shows the following significant events in chronological order.

3 September - 149812 - Crew: Major C. L. MCCAULEY and Major D. H. BODE - on flight at 1840 hours, four and one half miles out on tacan approach to runway 27 at Phu Bai, received small arms fire, taking two hits. Both rounds in left wing through fuel cell #1.

4 September - 149814 - Crew: CWO H. WILDFANG and Major R. K. ERVI - Provided flare drop for emergency air resupply to Camp Carroll. Provided flare drop for emergency air evacuation on radial 270 degrees north of Dong Ha.

5 September - 149814 - Crew: CWO WILDFANG and Major R. K. ERVI - Provided transportation for MGen QUILTER from Chu Lai to Danang.

5 September - 150687 - Crew: Major B. R. PETERSON and Captain A. L. POWERS - Provided transportation for Col. FRYE, FMFPAC Inspector from Futema to Ubon to Danang. Diverted from Danang to Ubon due to Typhoon.

6 September - 150686 - Crew: Major R. E. WHITE and Captain W. D. JONES - Provided flare drop for an eight (8) aircraft air strike dropping napalm and bombs south of Danang. Provided flare drop to light bridge north-west of Danang during power failure.

8 September - 150686 - Crew: Major T. P. SWEDENBORG and Captain J. D. MORTENSEN - Provided flare drop in vicinity of An Hoa, caught 150 VC in the open, air strike using Air Force F4's was called in using CBU.

8 September - 149812 - Crew: Major L. R. ALLEN and Major B. R. BRIDGEMAN - Provided transportation for Admiral RUSSEL (USN), LtGen LABELLA (U. S. Air Force), MGen ANDERSON (USMC), and BGen HILL (USMC) from Danang to Dong Ha and return to Danang.

10 September - 150686 - Crew: Major D. E. FANNING and Major W. S. SMITH - Provided emergency air refueling to Lovebug 301 flight - Lovebug 301 flight called Vice-squad to dump their load due to low fuel state of his wingman. Basketball 686 (on station tanker) informed Lovebug 301 of its position and commenced to turn towards Lovebug 301 for join-up. Join-up accomplished and wingman received necessary fuel to complete mission.

10 September - 149812 - Crew: Major D. L. MCEVOY and Major D. H. BODE - Provided transportation for Captain RENFRO (USN) from Futema to Danang.

10 September - 150687 - Crew: LtCol F. G. MCLENON and Captain D. A. MCKINNON - At approximately 1900 hours on mission #611, provided flare illumination on the 258 radial, 17 miles from Dong Ha for medical evacuation. Medical evacuation chase was Seaworthy 4-11 and 4-12, medical evacuation was Swift 5-4 and 5-6. Medical evacuation was accomplished most expeditiously under enemy small arms fire. At approximately 2115, provided flare drop for second medical evacuation and emergency resupply on the 274 radial, 14 miles from Dong Ha. Medical evacuation chase was Seaworthy 4-11 and 4-12, medical evacuation was Swift 5-4 and 5-6. The first attempt at evacuation was withdrawn due to intense enemy mortar and heavy machine gun fire. The medical evacuation package withdrew to re-arm and refuel. The second attempt was by Seaworthy 4-11 and Cattlecall 5-12. Illumination was provided by Basketball 687 and covering fire by Seaworthy 4-11 flight. Although the zone again came under intense enemy mortar and heavy machine gun fire, Cattlecall 5-12 executed the evacuation of the seven (7) casualties in a minimum of time. Reference: CO VMGR-152 ltr 6:FGM:jkn over 1650 dtd 12 Sep68 to CO, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, Subj: Medical evacuation missions conducted 10Sep68.

12 September - 149812 - Crew: Major D. L. MCEVOY and Major D. H. BODE - Provided transportation for Captain LEURHA (USN), 1stMAW Medical Officer, from Danang to Dong Ha. Provided transportation for Col JOBE from Dong Ha to Danang.

13 September - 149812 - Crew: Major P. J. VOGEL and Captain D. E. HUBBARD - Provided flare drop in support of Milbrook 14A, troop in close contact. Assisted in setting up and successful completion of two ambushes, directed relief into area. Reconstituted and relieved on station within 45 minutes, provided light until dawn. Milbrook 14A advised Basketball 812 was instrumental in both ambushes and in preventing penetration of positions.

14 September - 149812 - Crew: Major P. J. VOGEL and Captain D. E. HUBBARD - Provided flare drop for emergency resupply to John Brown Foxtrot, 18.5 nautical miles on radial 273 from Dong Ha. Provided ECM support through Water Boy by Pignet aircraft. Provided flare drop in support of Spooky, 8 nautical miles south-west of Dong Ha on radial 235 for support of artillery fire.

18 September - 149814 - Crew: Major L. M. BRDAR and Captain D. T. MCKEE - Provided flare drop for emergency medical evacuation west of Dong Ha.

21 September - 149811 - Crew: Major W. H. HOFHEINZ and Major J. R. SMILEY - Provided flare drop for two ejected B-57 crew members, 11-14 nautical miles on radial 036 from Dong Ha. Both crew members ended up in the water with destroyer on station and Basketball 811 providing illumination while in a semi cloud condition.

24 September - 149811 - Crew: Major R. A. FRITZLER and Major F. E. MILLNER - on GCA final approach at 3 miles and 1500 feet to Chu Lai received small arms fire, receiving one hit in right wing root near wing and fuselage faring.

25 September - 148247 - Crew: Major J. W. HAYNES and Captain K. F. HELLER -  
 Provided transportation for BGen G. D. WEBSTER (USMC) from Futema to Dong Ha.

25 September - 149814 - Crew: Major D. L. MCEVOY and Captain R. D. CATER -  
 Provided flare drop on a 290 degree radial at 17 Nautical miles from Chu  
 Lai tacan in support of American Division. Provided flare drop on a 135 degree  
 radial at 9 nautical miles from Danang in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine  
 Brigade.

26 September - 149814 - Crew: Major D. L. MCEVOY and Captain R. D. CATER -  
 Provided flare drop on a 200 degree radial at 9.5 nautical miles from  
 Dong Ha tacan to provide illumination for helicopter extracting 3rd Force  
 Recon Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.

28 September - 149812 - Crew: Major J. C. RHODES and Captain D. A. MCKINNON -  
 Provided transportation for BGen HILL (USMC) from Quang Tri to Danang.

29 September - 150686 - Crew: Major C. L. DEORNELLAS and Major W. S. SMITH -  
 Provided flare drop in DMZ for medical evacuation and troops in contact.

2. <u>FLIGHT STATISTICS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>DETACHMENT ONLY</u>
CARGO TONS	4,118	3,910
PASSENGERS	31,803	30,217
HOURS FLOWN	1,789	1,680
SORTIES	1,038	978
AR MISSIONS	83	83
AD MISSIONS	0	0
FLARE MISSIONS	59	59
FLARES DROPPED	10,386	10,386
A/C HIT BY HOSTILE FIRE	2	2

### 3. PERSONNEL

a. Squadron Personnel were divided between the squadron at Futema and  
 Sub Unit #1 at Danang as follows: (monthly average)

MCAF FUTEMA	64 Officers	450 Enlisted
MCAF FUTEMA (USN)	2 Officers	3 Enlisted
SUB UNIT #1	4 Officers	97 Enlisted
SUB UNIT #1 (USN)	0 Officers	1 Enlisted

b. New Pilot Assigned

Major J. R. SMILEY  
Major J. J. MCMASTERS  
Major H. D. SANSOM  
Captain K. F. HELLER

c. New Crew Members Assigned

GySgt R. E. CLEMENT  
GySgt J. C. STROHMAYER  
Cpl T. M. SEAWRIGHT

d. New Non-Crew Members Assigned

SSgt J. H. YOUNG  
Cpl M. J. MASTRAPASQUA  
Cpl J. H. SAILER  
LCpl M. E. BANOSKY  
LCpl T. A. BUCKENMEYER  
LCpl C. K. HARDIN  
LCpl D. C. STUART  
LCpl M. B. DEWEY

4. AWARDS

a. On 22 September 1968, VMGR-152 was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for Fiscal Year 1968.

b. The following awards were presented within the Command during this period.

(1) Fourteen (14) Air Medals

(2) Seven (7) Navy Achievement Awards