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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
FPO, San Francisco, California, 96602

S-3:DAD: wab  
5750  
03A12568  
4 May 1968

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (ATTN: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 April 1968 to 30 April 1968

Ref: (a) GrdO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology  
      (2) Flight Schedule Missing

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.
2. This letter becomes UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1)

M. J. STEINBERG  
LTCOL USMC

*Handwritten:* HMM-262

*Handwritten:* CMD 24K001

*Handwritten:* Apr 1968

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Enclosure (1)

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 APRIL 1968 TO 30 APRIL 1968

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA  
PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY  
PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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a. Commanding Officer	Melvin J. STEINBERG	LTCOL	1-30 APR 68
b. Executive Officer	David A. ALTHOFF	MAJOR	1-30 APR 68
c. Operations Officer	Herman R. BOLEN	MAJOR	1-30 APR 68
d. Logistics Officer	Kenneth H. MACKIE	CAPT	1-30 APR 68
e. Personnel Officer	Robert J. RICHARDS	CAPT	1-30 APR 68
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Anton E. TREHRIALT	MAJOR	1-30 APR 68
g. Intelligence Officer	William J. BYRNE	1STLT	1-30 APR 68
h. Maintenance Officer	Victor E. ROBBS	MAJOR	1-30 APR 68
i. Sergeant Major	Shirely M. WEAVER	SGTMAJ	1-30 APR 68

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
 PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 EMF, Pacific, FPO, San Francisco, California 96602,  
 Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, 1-30 APRIL 1968

3. Average Monthly Strength of SquadronNAVAL AVIATORS

37

AIRGROUND OFFICERS

4

ENLISTED

171

NAVAL OFFICERS

1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

MAJOR GENERAL NORMAN J. ANDERSON USMC

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

During the month of April, the following operations were supported by MH-262; Operations SCOTLAND, SCOTLAND II, PEGASUS, KENTUCKY, LANCASTER II and NAPOLEON.

Operations SCOTLAND, PEGASUS, and SCOTLAND II occupied the bulk of MH-262's aircraft and accounted for the majority of the tasks, sorties and

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flight time logged.

The squadron's mission, concerning Operations SCOTLAND and SCOTLAND II, was to provide aircraft, as necessary, for resupply and med-evac to the Marine outposts on Hills 881, 861, 861A, 558, 950, 689, and the Khe Sanh Airfield.

Although enemy fire was greatly reduced, due to the extensive changes in the tactical situation and enemy order of battle in the Khe Sanh area, several CHATTERBOX aircraft encountered mortar and small arms fire while engaged in resupply and med-evac activities.

15 April 1968 - CHATTERBOX 25-1, flown by Major THERRIAULT with Capt. BRUNSTER as his co-pilot, took a near miss from a mortar shell while unloading in the LZ on Hill 300. Shrapnel damaged the number one engine oil reservoir. The aircraft was flown to LZ GREY DOG at Khe Sanh where a maintenance/recovery team repaired the damage and the aircraft returned safely to Quang Tri.

17 April 1968 - While engaged in resupply and med-evac activities in the Khe Sanh area, Major ALTHOFF with Colonel HANSEN as his co-pilot, answered a call for an emergency med-evac pickup on a hill to the southwest of Hill 689. Due to low ceiling and visibility, Major ALTHOFF was forced to hover-taxi his aircraft into the area, without gunship or fixed wing support rather than execute a normal approach. The aircraft received numerous hits from small arms fire, which included .50 cal., and was forced to return and land on the upper slopes of Hill 689. The crew was lifted out and the aircraft subsequently recovered.

With the initiation of Operation PEGASUS, HMM-262 received the mission of providing two Ch-46 aircraft, for resupply, troop-lifting and med-evac, to the Marine units engaged in clearing the valley from CALU to Khe Sanh. Two aircraft remained at CALU overnight and were augmented, as necessary, by other CHATTERBOX aircraft for the numerous troop lifts supporting the operation.

As a result of Operation PEGASUS the low level air corridor from CALU to Khe Sanh was rendered relatively safe. In the initial stages of the operation, scattered incidents of small arms fire attended the flight up the valley. Due to the rapid progress of the operation, the enemy units were cleared out and fire incidents were reduced to a negligible amount.

Numerous reconnaissance teams were inserted and extracted during the month of April 1968. Several extracts were classed as priority and emergency.

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- 5 April 1968 - CHATTERBOX 23-1 and 23-2 launched to extract a recon team taken under heavy small arms fire and pinned down. The flight was escorted by MAJ MILLER (Army GI-C) and SERVICITY (UH-1E) gunships, which supplied the necessary suppressive fire, enabling the transport helicopters to enter the zone and extract the team. CHATTERBOX 23-1 was hit by small arms fire but received only minor damage and returned safely to Quang Tri.
- 27 April 1968 - CHATTERBOX 26-1 and 26-2 launched on a priority extract, supported by SERVICITY (UH-1E) aircraft. They extracted the recon team, receiving fire but sustaining no hits.

HMM-262 supplied one aircraft for the Division Courier Run on the days when the aircraft availability and combat operational commitments permitted. The courier aircraft stopped at Dong Ha, Phu Bai, and Danang, carrying passengers, couriers and cargo.

The weather improved considerably during the opening days of the month and flight operations were significantly hindered on only five days due to weather conditions.

During the month of April there was an increase of Helicopter Aircraft Commanders from 11 in the month of March to 16 by the 20th of April. This increase solved a major shortage problem and allowed for more flexibility in scheduling.

The Squadron Commanding Officer, LtCol STEINBERG, was absent from the squadron and TD to TASK FORCE GLICK/ROTEL from 19 April to 30 April 1968.

HMM-262 flew total of 1337.5 flight hours for the month of April, supporting the various operations and commitments assigned.

### PART III

#### 1. Personnel

- a. Transfers to HMM-262 - 7 Officers - 32 Enlisted.
- b. Transfers from HMM-262 - 3 Officers - 8 Enlisted.
- c. Promotions to present rank.

SGT P. E. GODFREY (MERITORIOUS)	29 APRIL 1968
SGT G. L. RUMF.	1 APRIL 1968
SGT M. L. TURNER	1 APRIL 1968
COL N. J. CRETTELL (MERITORIOUS)	1 APRIL 1968

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CPL R. H. MANN	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL S. D. BINGHAM	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL D. M. ECLAND	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL T. R. LAYDEN	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL G. E. FERRELL, Jr.	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL G. A. PURCELL	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL F. STALSBY	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL D. H. MILLS	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL R. C. TOVICH	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL D. W. LIVELY	16 APRIL 1968
LCPL N. W. LIVINGSTON	16 APRIL 1968

## 2. Awards

## a. Purple Heart

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Wound</u>
LCPL ROBERT W. MCKINNEY	23 JAN 1968
LCPL LOUIE W. BERNARD, JR.	24 JAN 1968
LCPL ROBERT W. MCKINNEY	31 JAN 1968
SSGT JOHN D. CRABLE, JR.	3 FEB 1968
CPL KENNETH W. THOMAS	12 FEB 1968
CPL SAMUEL J. FLORES	15 FEB 1968
CPL CLARENCE W. REESE	21 FEB 1968
CPL DENNIS L. SLEDGIER	25 FEB 1968
LCPL EDWARD J. BRADLEY	28 FEB 1968
SGT DAVID A WALLACE	9 MAR 1968
SSGT JOHN D. CRABLE, JR.	5 APR 1968

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## b. Distinguished Flying Cross.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Award</u>
MAJOR DAVID A. ALTHOFF	5 APR 1968
CAPT ALLEN F. DAVIS	5 APR 1968

## c. Single Mission Air Medal.

<u>Name</u>
1STLT L. A. DUFRESNE

3. Casualties

SSGT John D. CAUBLE, Jr. 1511999 WIA.

4. Reenlistments

a. None.

5. Safety. Listed below are the aircraft accidents for the month of April 1968:

<u>INCIDENT</u>	6	ECHO Damage
<u>ACCIDENT</u>	0	
<u>GROUND ACCIDENT</u>	1	CHARLIE Damage
<u>PERSONAL INJURY</u>	1	Foxtrot

The majority of incidents and ground accidents occurred while supporting Marines at Khe Sanh.

6. Intelligence Officer

a. During the month of April 1968 there were two attacks on Quang Tri Air Base by mortars and rockets. In the mortar attack a total of 90-100 rounds of 82mm mortars were received resulting in one of HMM-262's CH-46A helicopters being damaged. The rocket attack occurred on 17 April 1968 and 26 rockets were fired at the base. Eight rockets landed inside the base perimeter resulting in minor damage to the mat area. There were 33 fire incidents with four aircraft being hit. Two of the four hit were forced to land.

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7. Moral and Welfare

a. A limited number of wall lockers were issued to the enlisted personnel. It is anticipated that all Squadron members will receive a wall locker within the near future.

b. A Squadron party was held at 1600 on 30 April 1968. Soft drinks and steaks were served.

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