

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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4 February 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 January 1969 to 31 January 1969
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1B
Encl: (1) Command Chronology

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

A. N. Allen
A. N. ALLEN

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CMO CHRON

HMM 262 98C.018-69
4 of 8

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 JANUARY 1969 TO 31 JANUARY 1969

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ENCLOSURE (1)
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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Organization Data

a. Commanding Officer	Albert N. ALLEN	LtCol	1-31 Jan
b. Executive Officer	Leo J. IHLI	Major	1-31 Jan
c. Operations Officer	Donald S. WAUNCH	Major	1-31 Jan
d. Logistics Officer	Raymond G. PINSON	Major	1-31 Jan
e. Personnel Officer	Wayne R. BRYAN	Capt.	1-31 Jan
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Harvey E. BRITT	Major	1-31 Jan
g. Intelligence Officer	Richard P. EVANS	1stLt	1-31 Jan
h. Maintenance Officer	Marvin R. NELSON	Major	1-31 Jan
i. Sergeant Major	Alexander J. SONCRANT	1stSgt	1-31 Jan

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
 Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
 FMF Pacific, FPO, San Francisco, California 96602
 Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 January 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength of SquadronNaval Aviators

41

Air/Ground Officers

3

Enlisted

160

Naval Officers

1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

General Leonard F. CHAPMAN, Jr.	Commandant of the Marine Corps	10Jan69
MajGen Charles J. QUILLTER	Commanding General, 1st MAW	28Jan69
BGen George E. DOOLEY	Chief of Staff, 3rd MAF	30Jan69

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HMM-262 flew a total of 1623.1 hours in support of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing operations during the month of January 1969. A total of 188.3 hours were flown in support of the 1st Marine Division, and a total of 1292.5 hours were flown in support of the 3rd Marine Division. Scotland II and Dawson River, 3rd Marine Division operations, accounted for the majority of the squadron's flight time. HMM-262 lifted a total of 1232 med-evacs which included 100 emergency, 137 priority, and 995 routine during the month.

In support of Scotland II, the squadron flew a total of 1604 sorties for 370.3 hours. A total of 4209 combat troops and 247.6 tons of cargo were transported for 4th Marine operations.

HMM-262 flew a total of 370 hours in support of Dawson River. It took 1570 sorties to lift 4348 combat troops and 242.3 tons of cargo for 9th Marine operations.

Low ceilings, rain, and fog curtailed operations 15 days out of the month. Two to three day periods of bad weather around the 5th, 14th and 31st curtailed squadron operations. Ground fog and low ceilings delayed morning operation continually throughout the month.

HMM-262 increased its support of the 1st Marine Division by frequently sending a flight of four or more aircraft to the An Hoa area. New efforts also were commenced south of the YD 20 grid line near the A Shau Valley in support of Operation Dewey Canyon. Total operations in the month of January extended HMM-262 farther than ever before in the I Corps area.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS2 January 1969

HMM-262 lifted a total of 999 Marines from Vandergrift Combat Base to multiple zones just east of the Laotian border at XD709428, XD692445, XD706440, and XD745441. With twelve transport helicopters, the entire 1st Battalion of the 9th Marine Regiment and Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines conducted air assaults into those zones. Major D. S. WAUNCH led eleven other aircraft commanded by 1stLt R. J. TOMLIN, Major D. O. MCGARR, 1stLt J. C. O'CONNOR, Major M. R. NELSON, 1stLt R. N. HARVEY, Major L. J. IHLI, Capt. R. B. GRUNDY, Capt. W. R. BRYAN, and Capt. M. E. MITCHELL on the lift which took an average of 5.3 hours per aircraft. Eight externals which weighed a total of seven tons were also lifted into the zones. The assault was covered by four UH-1E gunships, two OV-10's, and two A-4's on station. HMM-262 completed the mission without mishap, and no enemy fire was taken.

3 January 1969

Aircraft commanded by LtCol A. N. ALLEN, 1stLt R. P. EVANS, 1stLt R. N. HARVEY, Capt. W. R. BRYAN, Capt. R. B. GRUNDY, Major D. S. WAUNCH, 1stLt R. J. TOMLIN, 1stLt R. L. BARTON, and Capt. P. W. MADDEN transported

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1122 combat troops from the 2nd ARVN Regiment. The assault troop lift was flown from Vandergrift Combat Base to XD817224, XD808310, XD841345, and XD788383, zones near the Laotian border. The landing zones were prepped by fixed wing aircraft, and with cover by two UH-1E gunships the mission was completed without mishap. HMM-262 aircraft also transported 1.5 tons of internal cargo, and flew an average of 3.4 hours per aircraft to successfully complete the ARVN assault troop lift.

8 January 1969

1stLt R. L. BARTON, Section Leader on a recon mission received fire on two separate occasions while attempting to insert recon teams "Wisdom Jacket" and "Darting Star". Moderate enemy fire was received just after landing at YD025601 with "Wisdom Jacket" aboard. With the insert position compromised, it was decided to depart with the team aboard, and abort the insert. While on an approach to XD944642 with "Darting Star" aboard, intense automatic weapons fire was received. An immediate wave-off was executed. Though numerous enemy rounds were fired at 1stLt BARTON's aircraft not one scored a hit as he evaded the fire. Two UH-1E gunships flew cover for the transports, and had prepped the zone.

12 January 1969

HMM-262 lifted a total of 1172 combat troops with ten aircraft, which flew a total of 53.1 hours to complete the mission. The troop lift was led by Major R. E. BRITT, followed by aircraft commanded by 1stLt R. N. HARVEY, 1stLt R. L. BARTON, 1stLt T. W. DRAPER, Major L. J. IHLI, 1stLt G. E. WARREN, Capt. W. R. BRYAN, 1stLt N. J. LEMOINE, Major R. G. PINSON, and Capt. R. B. GRUNDY. Combat troops of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines and of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines were lifted from XD788383, XD766455, XD730417, XD784423, XD745443, XD809393, XD783398, XD864577, and XD854593 to Vandergrift Combat Base. At one time fire was reported enroute at XD776431, but no damage to aircraft or injury to personnel resulted. Next followed an assault lift of 2nd ARVN Regiment troops from XD863360 to XD825227. After fixed wing prep of the landing zone, HMM-262 escorted by two UH-1E gunships commenced the assault. The assault went without mishap, but mechanical difficulties to 1stLt HARVEY's aircraft required him to leave his aircraft at LZ Gates over night. All crews flew a total of 4 to 7 hours to successfully complete the mission.

13 January 1969

HMM-262 conducted an assault troop lift into an old landing zone, Catapult, at XD826617. Major D. S. WAUNCH led five other aircraft commanded by 1stLt R. P. EVANS, Major D. O. MCGARR, 1stLt R. J. TOMLIN, Capt. M. E. MITCHELL, and Major H. R. BOLLEN. Landing zone Catapult was thoroughly prepped by artillery from FSB's Neville and Russell. With further prep by UH-1E gunships covering the assault itself, the transports, which had lifted out elements of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines at XD864577, commenced the insertion. As Major WAUNCH hovered in the zone prior to touchdown, an explosion occurred approximately 30 meters to the rear of his aircraft. He

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departed the zone. When it was assured that a stray round from friendly mortars was not the cause, Major W. WUNCH approached the zone, this time from a different direction to avoid observation by enemy FO's. After a successful landing and the troops had disembarked, an explosion just ahead of the left stub wing rendered Major W. WUNCH's aircraft unflyable. The aircraft was shut down, and the crew departed with the .50 caliber machine guns. 1stLt EVANS hovered with only his ramp touching the ground, and successfully rescued the crew of the downed aircraft. With the crew returned to safety the rest of the flight completed the troop lift inserting 150 troops to secure the landing zone.

22 January 1969

Major R. G. PINSON leading a section of quick reaction transports successfully extracted recon team "Dallas Girl" without incident. Then as darkness approached, recon team "Blend", surrounded by an unknown size enemy unit at YD180557, requested immediate extraction. With flares and fire support from a C-117 Spooky aircraft, and cover from two UH-1E gunships, Major PINSON commenced his approach. Fire suppression by the gunships kept the enemy down while the team boarded the transport. While the aircraft was in the zone enemy fire commenced. On departure the intensity of fire increased. Major PINSON managed to evade enemy hits and returned the team unharmed to Quang Tri.

25 January 1969

LtCol A. N. ALLEN led twelve aircraft on an assault troop lift into multiple zones at the northern entrance of the A Shau Valley. Eleven aircraft commanded by Capt. R. G. CANADA, Major R. H. NELSON, 1stLt R. M. HARVEY, Major D. S. WUNCH, 1stLt N. J. LEMOINE, Major D. O. MCGAHA, 1stLt R. L. BARTON, Major L. J. IHLI, 1stLt R. P. EVANS, Major R. G. PINSON and Capt. W. R. DRYAN transported the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. A total of 676 combat troops were lifted from Vandergrift Combat Base and LZ Henderson to YD185136, YD188153, YD018594, YD081411, and YD199168 in 162 sorties, which required 54.0 aircraft flight hours to complete the mission. The landing zones were prepped by fixed wing aircraft. Covered by two OV-10's and four UH-1E gunships, the mission was completed without mishap. With the assault of 3/9 a new operation, Dewey Canyon, had begun.

26 January 1969

Two HH-262 resupply aircraft were diverted for an emergency recon extraction. LtCol A. N. ALLEN led the flight to YD065155, where an eight man recon team, Church View, was in contact with the enemy. LtCol ALLEN, event 93-6, deemed a quick extraction necessary. Covered by two UH-1E gunships he commenced his approach. On final approach to the zone 93-6 took fire, which continued as he hovered in the zone. Intense fire from all sides was directed at the transport while the team entered the aircraft. On departure the enemy fire continued. With suppressive fire from the gunships and the transport itself, no hits were sustained in the extract aircraft. Church View was successfully extracted from the grasp of the

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enemy and returned to Quang Tri with only one minor injury to the recon team.

29 January 1969

Diverted from a resupply mission, LtCol A. N. ALLEN and 1stLt R. W. HARVEY were directed to extract recon teams Chiropractor and Crystal Star. LtCol ALLEN escorted by two UH-1E gunships landed at XD924680 to extract Chiropractor, who had captured a wounded enemy soldier. Immediately after the transport lifted from the zone it came under intense enemy fire. LtCol ALLEN was able to avoid being hit, and without injury to personnel or damage to the aircraft, the team was returned to Vandergrift Combat Base. Then recon team Crystal Star at YD179103 called for an emergency extraction when enemy movement was detected on all sides. 1stLt HARVEY covered by two UH-1E gunships landed in total darkness into a tight, tree confined area using only a strobe light for direction into the zone. While departing the zone the aircraft came under moderate enemy fire, but skillfully evading hits, 1stLt HARVEY returned the beleaguered team unharmed to Quang Tri.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Transfers to HM-262 - officers 8, enlisted 19
- b. Transfers from HM-262 - officers 6, enlisted 23
- c. Promotions to present rank:

Major Dayle O. MCGINN	4 January 1969
Capt. Raymond E. GRUNDY	1 January 1969
Capt. Griffin H. HARGRELL	1 January 1969
Sgt James T. FLOWERS, Jr.	1 January 1969
Cpl Lyndon E. FARR	14 January 1969
LCpl Thomas V. STANWOOD	14 January 1969
Pfc Robert D. BROUSSARD	16 January 1969

2. Awardsa. Distinguished Flying Cross

SKITT, Harvey E.	Major	28 January 1969
WALNCH, Donald S.	Major	28 January 1969

b. Bronze Star

HEALING, Nicholas J.	Cpl	28 January 1969
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c. Navy Commendation Medal

FERRARI, John J.	LCpl	28 January 1969
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d. Combat Aircrew Wings

CLIVERT, Charles M.	LCpl	30 January 1969
ROZELL, Donny R.	LCpl	25 January 1969

e. Air Medal (Strike/Flight Award)

CLIVERT, Charles M.	LCpl	20 January 1969
HAUGLAND, Robert L.	SSgt	8 January 1969
RILEY, Dale A.	Cpl	5 January 1969
SEALY, Roger L.	LCpl	20 January 1969
SINER, Glenn E.	Cpl	5 January 1969
STALSBY, Frankie	LCpl	8 January 1969
WHEELER, Kenneth W.	Cpl	5 January 1969
WILKINS, Charles A.	LCpl	8 January 1969

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3. Casualties

FRANKS, Barry R.	Cpl	D.I	17 January 1969
MAYNE, Stephen W.	LCpl	D.I	17 January 1969

4. Reenlistments

WARD, Ray M.	SSgt		27 January 1969
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5. Safety. Listed below are the aircraft incidents and accidents for the month of January 1969:

Ground Accidents-----	1 Echo
Ground Accidents - Due to Enemy Action-----	None
Air Accidents - Operational-----	None
Air Incidents - Operational-----	6 Echo
Air Accidents - Due to Enemy Action-----	1 Charlie
Air Incidents - Due to Enemy Action-----	1 Echo
Injury to Personnel-----	1 Foxtrot

6. Intelligence

The month of January showed an increase in anti-aircraft activity by the enemy. This reporting period (1-31 January 1969) consisted of a higher fire incident rate in comparison to the number of sorties flown and the previous months statistics:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>FIRE INCIDENTS</u>	<u>AVERAGE FIRE INCIDENTS PER 100 SORTIES</u>
December	6245	22	.355
January	6167	21	.345

The areas receiving the greatest concentration of fire incidents were:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS</u>
Central DMZ	7
CALU West	5
Dewey Canyon	23 (Includes 1stMAW totals)

There was a total of 21 fire incidents resulting in two hits. Total incidents include the following type fires:

16 Small Arms (Dec68 - 17)
9 Automatic Weapons (Dec68 - 9)
18 .30 Caliber (Dec68 - 20)
1 .50 Caliber (Dec68 - 1)
2 Mine (Dec68 - 0)

The S-2 Section has established a large area map depicting Northern I Corps from the DMZ to Chu Lai. The operating TAOR's are depicted on this map.

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