

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39  
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific  
APO, San Francisco, California 96302

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5 March 1969

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: 3-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 February 1969 to 28 February 1969  
Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1E  
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).

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
A. N. ALLEN

*Handwritten:* HMM-262

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HMM 262 SEC. 042-69

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*Vertical stamp:* FEB 1969

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 26  
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 FEBRUARY 1969 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1969

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a. Commanding Officer	Albert W. ALLEN	LtCol	1-28 Feb
b. Executive Officer	Leo J. IMLI	Major	1-28 Feb
c. Operations Officer	Donald S. WAUNCH	Major	1-28 Feb
d. Logistics Officer	Raymond G. PERSON	Major	1-28 Feb
e. Personnel Officer	Wayne R. DULAN	Capt.	1-28 Feb
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Harvey E. BRIDG	Major	1-28 Feb
g. Intelligence Officer	Richard P. LEVINS	1stLt	1-28 Feb
h. Maintenance Officer	Marvin R. NELSON	Major	1-28 Feb
i. Sergeant Major	Alexander J. SONGRANG	1stSgt	1-28 Feb

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262  
 Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
 MAW Pacific, MPO, San Francisco, California 96602  
 Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-28 February 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength of Squadron

<u>Naval Aviators</u>	<u>Air/Ground Officers</u>
43	2
<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Naval Officers</u>
164	1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

Major General R. G. DAVIS      Commanding General, 3rd MarDiv      26 Feb 69

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HMM-262 flew a total of 1183.6 hours in support of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing operations during the month of February 1969. All these hours were flown in support of the 3rd Marine Division. Specific operations supported were Kentucky, Scotland II and Dewey Canyon. The squadron lifted a total of 1498 med-evacs including 217 emergency, 453 priority and 828 routine.

The breakdown of the operational support is as follows:

	<u>NO. OF SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>
Dewey Canyon	2546	664.8	3293	396.1
Kentucky	254	55.0	306	40.2
Scotland II	793	180.9	1676	142.9

Low ceilings, rain, and fog curtailed operations 23 days out of the month. Support for units in the field was seriously affected by adverse weather the first eight days of the month. Because of the bad weather the Dewey Canyon area was resupplied from Quang Tri. External loads were lifted from the Quang Tri LSA and carried out to the area using radar vectors to VFR on top from Quang Tri. After delivery of the loads, the aircraft returned to the Quang Tri area VFR on top and executed instrument approaches to home field.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS3 February 1969

HMM-262 resupply aircraft event numbers 93-11 and 93-12 commanded by Major R. E. BRITT and 1st Lt T. W. DRAPER respectively, were diverted to pick up med-evacs for the Ninth Marines. With 93-11's hoist down, 93-12 was directed to Foxtrot Company of 2/9's position at YD159100 to hoist out 2 emergency med-evacs. The hoist on 93-12 failed which left no means of extracting the wounded from their present position. Major BRITT sighted a zone approximately 75 meters away where he hovered as the med-evacs were moved to 93-11. Major BRITT hovered exposed to the enemy for approximately 10 minutes outside of the friendly perimeter. With an extremely low fuel state, 93-11 climbed IFR to shoot a GCA into Quang Tri. Covered by two OH-1B gunships, 93-12 returned to Vandegrift Combat Base. Enemy small arms fire had been received enroute to the 9th Marines TAO and small arms, and automatic weapons fire was received twice by 93-12 enroute to Vandegrift Combat Base. No hits were sustained by 93-11, but 93-12 sustained two small arms hits to his aircraft while completing the mission.

4 February 1969

First Lieutenant R. N. HARVEY, while resupplying the top of the Rockpile at XD980559 took a sheet of tin roofing through his forward rotor

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blades. Extensive damage to one forward rotor blade started extreme vibrations. Lt. HARVEY calmly maneuvered his aircraft from a hover over the zone to a field below the Rockpile. A safe landing was made with no further damage to the aircraft and no injuries to personnel. Approximately 5 feet of inner pockets of the blade were missing and the spar was cracked in several places. After the blade was changed in the field Lt. HARVEY flew the aircraft back to Quang Tri.

Also on this day Major J. S. WUNGH, commanding an HH-262 med-evac transport, was directed to pick up emergency med-evacs at YD186128. Enemy forces had shot up a patrol from Lima Company, 3/9 engaged in Operation Dewey Canyon. Major WUNGH, proceeding down the Da Krong Valley was hindered by low ceilings until he reached the LZ. Without UH-1H gunships for cover, the med-evac aircraft approached the zone unprotected in order to extract the wounded Marines. Major WUNGH took small arms fire on approach to, in, and departing from the zone. An explosion occurred approximately 50 meters away while Major WUNGH sought a place to hover on the steeply sloped zone. Blade damage caused by brush on the steep slope and .30 cal. fire did not detain him from completion of the mission. Major WUNGH sped back to Charlie Med at Vandegrift Combat Base in order to save the emergency med-evac's life.

10 February 1969

HH-262 night med-evac aircraft launched out of Vandegrift Combat Base to pick up emergency med-evacs at Mike Company, 3/9's position (YD192111). Escorted by two UH-1H gunships the med-evac transports proceeded with poor visibility caused by haze and darkness. Captain R. G. CHANDL approached the zone only to come under intense automatic and small arms fire. Both the co-pilot and corpsman were wounded by small arms fire, and the pilot hit by shattered plexi-glass. Immediately Capt. CHANDL waved off his approach and maneuvered his crippled aircraft, streaming fuel, to FSB Cunningham, a secure position, at YD185135. Lt. G. E. WARDEN commanding the med-evac chase orbited LZ Cunningham until cleared to pick up the personnel from the lead med-evac aircraft. The lead aircraft was left in the LZ until extracted by an Army OH-54. Lt. WARDEN successfully returned the wounded personnel to Quang Tri.

16 February 1969

First Lieutenant R. J. TORLIE commanding 93-14 was diverted from a re-supply mission for an emergency med-evac from the 4th Battalion, 9th Marines H&F position located at YD181065. On the approach to the zone, small arms fire was taken and the aircraft was hit several times. Lt. TORLIE managed to evade major aircraft damage or injury to personnel, and continued the approach. 93-14 successfully extracted the wounded Marines by hoisting them from the tree cluttered zone. The med-evacs were taken to Charlie Med at Vandegrift Combat Base. Three small arms holes were discovered in the aircraft.

20 February 1969

Chatterbox 93-7 commanded by Major H. S. BRITT, was called upon for an

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emergency extract of a 3rd Division reconnaissance team, Aminda, at YD185165. The team was being chased by an enemy force of at least platoon size. Cover for the extract was provided by two VMO-6 UH-1E gunships, two Army Cobras, and two F-4's on call. The approach to the zone seemed to go without incident, although three aft blades were slightly damaged by trees located in the small LZ. Exit from the zone was accomplished without incident and the team was dropped off at FSB Cunningham (YD185136). No injuries were sustained by any of the personnel aboard. Upon landing at Vandegrift (AD995495), the aircraft was found to have one bullet hole in the belly, which was surmised to have been taken either upon entry to or exit from, the recon zone.

23 February 1969

While on a resupply mission in support of Dewey Canyon, event 93-10 commanded by 1stLt G. B. WARDEN, took intense small arms and automatic weapons fire while delivering supplies to Mike Company, 3/9 located at YD230086. Aircraft communications were completely destroyed and damage was sustained to the control systems. Lt. WARDEN successfully landed his badly damaged aircraft at FSB Cunningham (YD185136). Upon inspection of his helicopter, Lt. WARDEN's crew chief found that the damage to the controls would necessitate external removal of the aircraft to Quang Tri for repairs. As of the last day of the month bad weather has prevented Army CH-54's from entering into the Dewey Canyon area.

25 February 1969

At 0800H, events 93-1 and 93-2 commanded by Major L. J. ILLI and 1stLt M. J. LAFOINE were diverted from a resupply mission to pick up emergency med-evacs at FSB Neville (YD820576). At the same time 93-3 and 93-4 commanded by Major R. G. PINSON and 1stLt G. B. WARDEN were diverted to pick up emergency med-evacs at FSB Russell (AD912587). These two positions had been penetrated by enemy forces during the early morning hours. Because of low ceilings and low visibility, radar vectors were obtained to VFR on top and the positions located by TACAN positioning. Events 93-1 and 93-2 picked up 7 emergencies and 2 MI's from Alfa Company, 1/4 at FSB Neville. Events 93-3 and 93-4 picked up 14 emergencies from Echo Company, 2/4 at FSB Russell. Because of continuing cloud cover and low visibility, it was necessary for all four aircraft to obtain instrument approaches and GOA's for return to Quang Tri, where the med-evacs were taken to the 3rd Medical Battalion.

26 February 1969

Event 93-1 commanded by Major M. R. NELSON was involved in Mission 401, lifting troops of Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines to a newly acquired LZ located at YD124044. The LZ had signs of recent enemy activity. The troop lift was covered by two UH-1E gunships. The first approach to the zone was normal, and Major NELSON remained in the zone for approximately two minutes because the troops aboard seemed to think their drop point was

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incorrect. While still in the zone a mine was detonated near the aircraft and both gunners were hit by shrapnel. Major HUBBS lifted from the zone and small arms fire was received but no hits were taken. The troops were still aboard, so another approach to the zone was made and the troops dropped off (this time without incident). The aircraft was then flown back to Suong Tri. Both gunners received medical attention for minor wounds. Maintenance personnel found 12 holes in the cabin area of the aircraft as a result of mine damage, however no major systems were affected.

28 February 1969

Captain K. F. VAN WICKEL was diverted at the completion of a troop lift to pick up two emergency med-evacs at Charlie Company, 1/4's position (XD970610). Capt. Van WICKEL maneuvered through the scattered low clouds and poor visibility to the landing zone. While in the zone a 60mm mortar explosion occurred in front of his aircraft. The med-evacs were transported to Charlie Co. at Vandegrift Combat Base. Several shrapnel holes in the aircraft were discovered on post flight.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Personnel

- a. Transfers to HMM-262 - officers 6, enlisted 21
- b. Transfers from HMM-262 - officers 3, enlisted 13
- c. Promotions to present rank:

Capt. Francis E. VERBANIC	23 February 1969
SSgt Donald B. JACOBS	6 February 1969
Sgt Wendell L. JAMES	15 February 1969
Cpl Alan C. KOVICH	12 February 1969
Cpl Gregory A. FURCHIE	23 February 1969
LCpl Raymond E. MOSSER	23 February 1969

2. Awards

- a. Air Medal (Strike/flight Award)

ANDERSON, Ralph C.	1stLt	22 February 1969
BOYACK, William K.	1stLt	"
COLLINS, James D.	1stLt	"
DOSS, Paul W.	1stLt	"
MALINOWICZ, Richard Pl	1stLt	"
MOTTARD, Dean L.	1stLt	"
SHEPHERD, Carl S.	1stLt	"
TOLLS, Ray L.	1stLt	"
TRIGGANT, Robert E.	1stLt	"
VERBANIC, Francis E.	1stLt	"

- b. Combat Aircrew Wings

ADAMS, Randall F.	Cpl	20 February 1969
AELERS, Donald B.	LCpl	"
BECKWITH, Glen E.	LCpl	"
BOWEN, Tommy R.	Cpl	"
BROUSSARD, Robert D.	Pfc	"
EMERY, Marvin L.	Cpl	"
HANDELITH, William G.	Sgt	"
RAND, Randy W.	LCpl	27 February 1969

3. Casualties

CANADA, Ray G.	Capt.	WIA	10 February 1969
MCGUFFY, Thomas L.	1stLt	WIA (E)	"
RICHARDSON, Jack L.	SSgt	WIA	26 February 1969
HOFFMAN, James J.	CySgt	WIA	"

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