

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

3:MRN:rlc
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5 March 1969
APR

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

Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 March 1969 to 31 March 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).

J. A. Wells, Jr.
J. A. WELLS, JR.

HMM-262

CMD CHRON

HMM 262 S&C 067-69
C10F8

MAR 1969

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

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. Organization Data

a. Commanding Officer	Albert N. ALLEN James A. WELLS, JR.	LtCol LtCol	1-23 Mar 24-31 Mar
b. Executive Officer	Leo J. IHLLI	Major	1-25 Mar
c. Operations Officer	Donald S. WAUNCH Marvin R. NELSON	Major Major	1-19 Mar 20-31 Mar
d. Logistics Officer	Raymond G. PINSON Dayle O. MCGAHA	Major Major	1-19 Mar 20-31 Mar
e. Personnel Officer	Donald J. MESKIN	Major	1-31 Mar
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Harvey E. BRITT	Major	1-31 Mar
g. Intelligence Officer	Richard P. EVANS	1stLt	1-31 Mar
h. Maintenance Officer	Marvin R. NELSON Raymond G. PINSON	Major Major	1-19 Mar 20-31 Mar
i. Sergeant Major	Alexander J. SONCRANT	1stSgt	1-31 Mar

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
Daang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 March 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength of SquadronNaval Aviators

45

Air/Ground Officers

3

Enlisted

155

Naval Officers

1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

None

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

HMM-262 flew a total of 1131.1 flight hours, the majority of which were in support of the Third Marine Division. The squadron evacuated a total of 893 med-evacs as follows: 140 emergency, 202 priority, and 551 routine.

A breakdown of significant operations and operational highlights follows:

	<u>NO. OF SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>
Dewey Canyon	982	263.5	1484	93.2
Maine Crag	1121	252.4	2483	149.2
Purple Martin	667	171.0	1822	70.6

Monsoon weather curtailed operations during the entire period. During intermittent periods of good weather maximum support was provided to supported units.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

5 March 1969

Major L. J. IHLE and his wingman 1stLt J. D. COLLINS launched at dawn to extract Third Marine Division Recon Team "Dock Leaf". The team was under attack by an unknown size enemy force and had suffered three KIAs and three WIAs out of the twelve team members. Major IHLE and Lt. COLLINS climbed IFR with radar vectors to VFR on top and proceeded to LZ Argonne at XD675572 where the team was surrounded. With support of two UH-1E gunships, Major IHLE entered the zone. Enemy grenades were received and with three emergency med-evacs and one KIA aboard, Major IHLE was forced to depart. After additional suppressive fire by the gunships Lt. COLLINS entered the zone to extract the remaining team members. His aircraft sustained fragment hits in the aft blades from grenade explosions. Intense enemy small arms fire was directed at the aircraft during departure, but Lt. COLLINS completed the extract with only minor damage. Both pilots returned the team members to Quang Tri by GCA's and successfully completed the mission.

5 March 1969

First Lieutenant R. N. HARVEY and his wingman 1stLt T. E. WILLIAMS launched on an emergency resupply to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines' position at XD982642. As the lead aircraft approached and departed the zone, small arms and mortar fire was directed at them. After Lt. WILLIAMS had dropped his load the aircraft was hit by intense automatic weapons fire, and it subsequently burst into flames. The pilot quickly maneuvered the burning aircraft to LZ Mack at XD967616, which was presently being assaulted by U. S. Marines. The crew evacuated the burning aircraft in the midst of the fire fight, and were picked up near by. All five of the crew suffered

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burns, three went to the hospital ship and two with only minor injuries were returned to Quang Tri. The aircraft has not been recovered from the zone.

7 March 1969

First Lieutenant D. L. MOTTARD was directed to transport TFDS components from YD216175 to YD185136. While unloading the internal load an explosion of unknown origin burst the aircraft into flames. The aircraft was destroyed by the fire and Marines in the zone had to aid the crew in escaping the burning aircraft. Four of the crew members received severe burns and were med-evaced.

8 March 1969

HMM-262 launched eight aircraft to transport elements of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and 2nd ARVN's totaling 670 combat troops, on a tactical troop lift. LtCol A. W. ALLEN led aircraft commanded by Capt. R. G. CANADA, Major D. O. MCGAHA, Major D. J. MESKIN, Major D. S. WAUNGH, Capt. D. L. WHITE, Major L. J. IHLLI, and 1stLt R. W. HARVEY. The troops were picked up at YD187135, YD164106, XD969617, XD928437, YD216038, and Vandegrift Combat Base and dropped at XD875575, XD928437, and XD928437. The lift was covered by two OV-10's and two UH-1E gunships. Enemy recoilless rifles, mortars, and automatic weapon fire was received at YD216038 and YD214039. HMM-262 aircraft continued the mission, and with 5.7 hours per crew the mission was completed without injury to personnel or damage to aircraft.

10 March 1969

HMM-262 extracted 114 ARVN Special Forces troops from a zone within LAOS at YD163003. Major D. S. WAUNGH led seven other aircraft commanded by Major D. J. MESKIN, Major D. O. MCGAHA, 1stLt R. P. EVANS, Major M. R. NELSON, 1stLt J. C. O'CONNOR, 1stLt R. L. BARTON, and 1stLt N. J. LEMOINE. Though small arms fire was directed at the flight and a grenade damaged 1stLt EVANS' aircraft, the mission was completed. Cover and escort was provided by OV-10's and UH-1E gunships with fixed wing on station.

15 March 1969

First Lieutenant J. C. O'CONNOR led a section of HMM-262 aircraft on a recon mission and successfully inserted and extracted ten teams. Approximately one half hour after inserting recon team "Amanda" into XD789239, the team came under attack from enemy forces. With the team surrounded, 1stLt O'CONNOR, covered by two UH-1E gunships, commenced his approach. Two OV-10's were striking known enemy positions only 100 meters from the team. With his .50 caliber machine guns firing, Lt. O'CONNOR successfully extracted "Amanda", and though enemy fire was directed at the aircraft he evaded any damage to the aircraft or injury to personnel. The rescued recon team was then taken to Third Division Recon at Quang Tri.

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17 March 1969

Major H. E. BRITT was requested to perform an emergency extract of 3rd Marine Division Recon Team "Early Flower", which was in contact with enemy forces. Covered by UH-1E gunships and with OV-10's on station, Major BRITT entered the zone. As the team boarded with one friendly WIA, the aircraft came under small arms fire. With minor damage to the aircraft, but no injury to personnel, Major BRITT returned the team to Quang Tri.

18 March 1969

Major H. E. BRITT led aircraft commanded by 1stLt J. C. O'CONNOR, Major L. J. IHLI, 1stLt T. W. DRAPER, Major D. J. MESKAM, Capt. D. L. WHITE, Major R. G. PINSON, and 1stLt R. P. EVANS on a tactical troop lift to pull out the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines and elements of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines from YD244044 and YD252080 and take them to Vandegrift Combat Base. HM-262 crews averaged 5.9 flight hours to lift only 204 troops as the mission was extremely over-fragged with transport helicopters. One division expended a full fuel load waiting to pick up their second load of troops, and had to return empty to Vandegrift. Though mortars, small arms and automatic weapons fire was received, the mission was completed as darkness approached. Major BRITT's aircraft received minor damage from enemy fire twice, and was temporarily down mid-way through the lift. With fixed wing strikes and cover from UH-1E gunships, OV-10's and U. S. Army Cobras the mission was completed without further mishap, and Operation Dewey Canyon terminated.

26 March 1969

Major R. G. PINSON led aircraft commanded by 1stLt R. P. EVANS, Major L. J. IHLI, 1stLt J. A. WILEY, 1stLt R. J. TOMLIN, 1stLt W. J. LEMONE, Major H. E. BRITT, 1stLt G. E. WARREN, and Capt. D. L. WHITE on a tactical troop lift of 780 combat troops. Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines were lifted from XD913587 to XD826616. Elements of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines were lifted from XD834230 and XD798228 to XD844218. An assault of 197 combat troops from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines was conducted from XD839260 to XD931123. The entire troop lift was completed without mishap.

27 March 1969

HM-262 had three aircraft on separate missions receive battle damage in the same zone, YD057587. Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines at this position requested 1stLt R. L. BARTON, Med-evac lead, to hoist emergency med-evacs out of the zone. As the hoist was lowered intense automatic weapons opened up. The enemy fire damaged hydraulic and electrical systems and forced Lt. BARTON to land 2000 meters away on Route 9 Highway. Later 1stLt J. C. O'CONNOR attempted to deliver an emergency resupply of water to Echo Company. Enemy fire damaged a fuel cell and one engine and forced Lt. O'CONNOR to return the load to Vandegrift. At twilight 1stLt G. E. WARREN was able to resupply Echo Company with water and hoist ten med-evacs before enemy mortars exploded and forced him to leave the zone. Lt. WARREN's aft blades were later discovered to have been damaged by mortar fragments.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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- a. Transfers to HMM-262 - officers 5, enlisted 7
- b. Transfers from HMM-262 - officers 10, enlisted 11
- c. Promotions to present rank:

Sgt Randall F. ADAMS	19 March 1969
Sgt Stuart W. ALEXANDER	19 March 1969
Sgt John H. BILLINGTON	19 March 1969
Sgt John CARBONE	19 March 1969
Sgt Edward CUELLAR	19 March 1969
Sgt Roy J. DRUEC	19 March 1969
Sgt Robert L. FRENCH	19 March 1969
Sgt C. V. HILL, Jr.	19 March 1969
Sgt Joseph KENNEDY	19 March 1969
Sgt William B. MANNING	19 March 1969
Sgt Howard D. PETERS, Jr.	19 March 1969
Sgt Patrick A. TOOMEY	19 March 1969
Sgt Kenneth H. SCHLOTT	19 March 1969
Sgt Charles D. ZIMMERMAN	19 March 1969

2. Awardsa. Purple Heart

MAKAREWICZ, Richard P.	1stLt	7 March 1969
WILLIAMS, Thomas E.	1stLt	7 March 1969
SEALEY, Roger L.	LCpl	10 March 1969

b. Combat Aircrew Wings

LEVANDOWSKI, Gary D.	LCpl	9 March 1969
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3. Casualties

MAKAREWICZ, Richard P.	1stLt	WIA (E)	5 March 1969
MOTTARD, Dean L.	1stLt	WIA (E)	7 March 1969
SHEPHERD, Carl S.	1stLt	WIA (E)	7 March 1969
WILLIAMS, Thomas E.	1stLt	WIA (E)	5 March 1969
AGUON, Peter T.	Cpl	WIA	27 March 1969
DUSEBERG, Arnold E.	Cpl	WIA (E)	30 March 1969
SEALEY, Roger L.	LCpl	WIA	7 March 1969

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