

HEADQUARTERS
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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12 January 1969

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, (Attn: AC of S G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) MAG-36 Command Chronology December 1968
(2) HAMS-36 Command Chronology December 1968
(3) MAB-36 Command Chronology December 1968
(4) HMT-265 Command Chronology December 1968
(5) HMM-363 Command Chronology December 1968
(6) HMM-364 Command Chronology December 1968
(7) HML-367 Command Chronology December 1968
(8) HMM-462 Command Chronology December 1968

Filed
Sep

MAG-36

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (8) are submitted for the month of December 1968.

Bruce J. Matheson
BRUCE J. MATHESON

CMD CHRON

Copy to:

CG, 1st MAW (Copy 1 through 4)
CG, 1st MAW (Copy 5 less enclosures (2) through (8))
S-3 Files (Copy 6)
S&C Files (Copy 7 less enclosures (2) through (8))

DOWN GRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

MAG-36 S&C Files

690031
69222A
Copy 1 of 1

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
161-69	1

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commander and Staff of MAG-36 and attached squadrons.

MAG-36

CO	1-31 December	Col	Bruce J. MATHESON
XO	1-31 December	LtCol	Herbert J. BLAHA
ABJ	1-31 December	Capt	Thomas R. PRESTON
S-1	1-31 December	Maj	F. E. LACEY
S-2	1-31 December	1stLt	G. R. HANSEN
S-3	1-31 December	LtCol	R. J. EDWARDS
S-4	1-31 December	Maj	K. P. PALMER
GSO	1-31 December	Capt	J. J. PAIGE
SPL SER O	1-31 December	Capt	R. C. PARKER
FISCAL O	1-31 December	Capt	W. F. PERCIVAL
CHAPLAIN	1-31 December	Lt (USN)	E. E. KEELE
DISB O	1-31 December	1stLt	J. E. RACHAL
FLTSUR	1-31 December	Lt (USN)	B. L. VANZANT
INFO	1-31 December	1stLt	B. B. LANE
EMB O	1-31 December	1stLt	J. W. SHAFFER
ORD O	1-31 December	CWO-2	R. F. GOLON
AMO	1-31 December	Maj	D. A. IVES
COM O	1-31 December	1stLt	L. A. JUAREZ
AV ACT O	1-31 December	Capt	T. D. OWENS
MO	1-31 December	Maj	D. P. HANSEN
MAJOPS O	1-8 December	Maj	D. P. HANSEN
MAJOPS O	9-31 December	Capt	B. A. SMITH
LEGAL O	1-31 December	Capt	T. R. PRESTON
SGT MAJ	1-31 December	Sgt Maj	J. R. SKINNER

HMS-36

CO	1-8 December	LtCol	R. THUESEN
CO	9-31 December	LtCol	J. B. BELL
XO	1-31 December	Capt	G. W. HUBBELL

MARS-36

CO	1-31 December	LtCol	D. W. WRIGHT
XO	1-31 December	Maj	E. J. CHESLA Jr.
CEO	1-31 December	Maj	J. L. LANGFORD
OIC MATCU68	1-31 December	Capt	W. E. McCOLLUM

HMM-265

CO	1-8 December	LtCol	R. L. YANKE
CO	9-31 December	LtCol	R. THUESEN
XO	1-31 December	Maj	R. W. CREIGHTON
OPS O	1-31 December	Maj	G. G. EVANS

ENCLOSURE (1)
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HMM-363*

CO	1-31 December	Maj	T. J. CRONIN, Jr.
XO	1-31 December	Maj	H. F. SAEGER
OPS O	1-31 December	Maj	T. J. FALESKIE

HML-364**

CO	1-9 December	LtCol	M. V. STATZER
XO	1-9 December	Maj	E. W. GRAHAM
OPS O	1-9 December	Maj	G. H. GROSSFUSS

HML-367

CO	1-31 December	LtCol	R. L. ROBINSON
XO	1-8 December	LtCol	J. B. BELL
XO	9-31 December	Maj	H. D. GRESS
OPS O	1-31 December	Maj	W. J. GASH

HMH-462

CO	1-31 December	LtCol	R. E. NELSON
XO	1-31 December	Maj	D. H. ANDERSON
OPS O	1-31 December	Maj	C. L. WHIPPLE

* HMM-363 was ADCON to 9th MAB, OPCON MAG-36 during the period 1-7 December.
The squadron was ADCON and OPCON to MAG-36 during the period 8-31 December.

1. H-364 was transferred to MAG-16 on 10 December 1968.

2. Task organization and unit location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	Phu Bai	1-31 December
H&MS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 December
MABS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 December
MATCU-68	Phu Bai	1-31 December
HMM-265	Phu Bai	1-31 December
HMM-363	Phu Bai	1-31 December
HMM-364	Phu Bai	1-9 December
HML-367	Phu Bai	1-31 December
HMH-462	Phu Bai	1-31 December

3. Average monthly strength.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MAR OFF</u>	<u>MAR ENL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV ENL</u>
H&MS-36	44	429	0	0
MABS-36	17	517	3	19
MATCU-68	8	70	0	0

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HMM-265	50	159	1	0
HMM-363	47	150	1	0
HMM-364	48	151	1	0
HML-367	42	146	1	0
HMH-462	51	169	1	0
MAG-36				
TOTALS	307	1791	8	19

4. Important Visitors to MAG-36.

a. On 9 December and 31 December, MAG-36 was visited by MajGen C. J. QUIETER, 1st MAF Commander. He attended a combined Awards and Change of Command Ceremony on 9 December where he presented 1 Distinguished Flying Cross, 4 Single Mission Air Medals, 1 Navy Commendation Medal and 9 Purple Hearts. LtCol J. B. BELL relieved LtCol R. THUESEN as CO, HEMS-36 and LtCol THUESEN relieved LtCol R. L. YANKE as CO, HMM-265. On 31 December he attended an Awards Ceremony and presented 2 Navy Commendation Medals, 3 Single Mission Air Medals and 1 Purple Heart. He later attended an update briefing by Commanding Officer, MAG-36 and staff. The 1st MAF Band participated at both functions.

b. On 3 December, MAG-36 was visited by MajGen L. H. SCHWEITER, U.S. Army, Chief of Staff, XXIV Corps and BrigGen A. R. BOLLING Jr., U.S. Army, CG, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. BrigGen BOLLING is scheduled to relieve MajGen SCHWEITER on 20 January 1969. They were briefed by the Executive Officer, MAG-36.

c. On 31 December, MAG-36 was visited by MajGen C. B. DRAKE, USMC, Deputy Commanding General, XXIV Corps. He visited all MAG-36 clubs on the New Year's Eve occasion.

d. On 30 December, MAG-36 was visited by BrigGen H. W. HISE, Asst 1st MAF Commander. His visit was in connection with a 1st MAF aircraft accident prevention and safety study. He interviewed 11 MAG-36 pilots.

e. On 27 December, MAG-36 was visited by Col W. L. MACQUARRIE, CO, MAG-16. His aircraft had experienced an engine malfunction and was repaired that night by HEMS-36. HMM-265 provided return transportation to MAG-16.

f. On 10 December, MAG-36 was visited by Capt J. G. CHUDZINSKI, USN, 1st MAF Dental Officer. He visited the MAG-36 Dental Facilities and was escorted to other Phu Bai base facilities by the MAG-36 Dental Officer.

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During this reporting period, MAG-36 provided support to:

a. III MAF

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- b. U.S. Army
- c. Republic of Vietnam Forces
- d. Republic of Korea Marine Corps

2. Missions flown by MAG-36 included strikes, medical evacuations, reconnaissance insertions and extractions, aircraft escort, tactical aircraft recovery, administrative, courier, flare delivery, MARLOG, and VIP flights. Both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft were utilized.

3. MAG-36 supported the following operations:

PRAIRIE FIRE	HENDERSON HILL
HEADLE RIVER	NAPOLEON/SALINE II
SCOTLAND II	KENTUCKY
DAWSON RIVER	TAYLOR COMMON

4. A Pre-Rotation Inspection of HMM-364 was conducted on 6 December with satisfactory results.

5. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

a. An average of 20 aircraft per day were utilized to augment PMAG-39 at Quang Tri and MAG-16 at Marble Mountain. In addition, beginning on 5 December, a detachment of 2 UH-34 aircraft was maintained at Chu Lai for SAR. On 14 December, 6 UH-1E (Slick) aircraft of HML-367 with crews and maintenance personnel were detached to Quang Tri, OPCON PMAG-39, ADCON MAG-36.

b. On 7 December, a Sikorsky team, comprised of Mr. C. W. BROWN, Mr. R. C. STARKEY, Mr. G. S. DEMETRIO and Mr. R. H. RESERVE arrived for project TOW. Kits were brought for installation on 4 CH-53 aircraft to provide an 18,000 pound tow capability. Two maintenance crews were trained on installation procedures. Two pilots and crewmen were trained to conduct a basic TOW mission. Parts of the kits were missing; however, two aircraft are now equipped for limited TOW operations. There was no reel provided for extension or retraction of the TOW cable but the operation can be conducted by externally lifting the cable to and from the operating site. The team departed MAG-36 on 16 December.

c. On 10 December, HMM-364 was transferred to MAG-16. Three CH-46's were externally lifted by U.S. Army CH-54 to Marble Mountain. Two CH-53's were provided by HMM-462 at Phu Bai and 2 were provided by HMM-463 at Marble Mountain to lift personnel, supplies and equipment. The remaining HMM-364 aircraft were flown to Marble Mountain with personnel, supplies and equipment.

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d. Evaluation for aerial delivery of cargo by CH-46 continued during December. Three test drop flights have been flown with a total of 17 internal and 3 external drops accomplished. The evaluation is incomplete, but data indicate that CH-46 delivery of internal loads by means of delay and zero delay paratroops is operationally feasible under visual conditions. Radar is not available at Hue/Phu Bai for IFR evaluation and work continues on external delivery.

e. A UH-34 from HMM-363 crashed at YD 771587 on 2 December during an attempted wave-off from a high elevation landing zone. The aircraft struck trees and descended into a heavily wooded area. The aircraft received strike damage and was subsequently destroyed with explosives. Three crewmembers received major injury and one crewmember received minor injury.

f. A CH-46 from HMM-265 crashed at BT 0114588 on 7 December as a result of enemy action. The aircraft received substantial damage and 4 crewmembers received minor injury. The aircraft was externally lifted to Marble Mountain on 8 December.

g. A UH-46 from HMM-265 received minor damage with no injuries to personnel during taxi at Marble Mountain on 14 December. The aircraft began a violent shaking which resulted in damage to both rotor heads. A failure of rotor dampers is suspected.

h. Two CH-53's from HMM-462 received minor damage with no injuries to personnel during a taxi accident at Hue/Phu Bai on 21 December. The main rotor blades of the taxiing aircraft struck the tail rotor of a parked aircraft.

i. A UH-1E from HMM-367 received limited damage with no injuries to personnel on 21 December when a fuel truck at An Hoa backed into its horizontal stabilizer.

j. A UH-1E from HMM-367 received substantial damage with no injuries to personnel at Hue/Phu Bai on 28 December when the tail rotor failed during air taxi.

k. A CH-46 from HMM-265 received limited damage on 29 December while being towed by tractor into a revetment. The port stub wing struck the revetment.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. AIR OPERATIONS

a. MAG-36 accomplished the following during the month of December:

(1) Flight Hours	5,687.8
(2) Sorties	17,872

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(3) Passengers Carried	27,359
(4) Tons of Cargo Carried	6,687.8
(5) Medical Evacuees Carried	452

2. INTELLIGENCE

a. There was no incoming fire received during December, however, enemy activity, locally as well as throughout the Province, has increased sharply. Contacts by ARVN and Army units to the North and South of the Phu Bai Base Perimeter have increased on a weekly basis over the past 4 weeks and have required a maximum readiness on the part of the MAG-36 Provisional Rifle Company which mans the MAG-36 sector of the perimeter. Indications of an enemy offensive in the Hua/Phu Bai area are more prevalent now than at any time since Tet. Whether the enemy is capable of launching a new Tet - type offensive in this area is questionable; however, the possibility is not discounted.

b. Intensity of Fire received by grid zones.

AT = 23FI/08HITS	XD = 06FI/0HIT
BT = 26FI/05HITS	ZC = 05FI/01HIT
YD = 12FI/0HIT	ZD = 01FI/0HIT

c. Incident Statistics:

Fire incidents - 73 (total)

Aircraft hit - 14

Fire incidents to hours flown - 1 x 77.9 hours

Hit incidents to hours flown - 1 x 406.2 hours

Hit incidents to fire incidents - 1 x 5.2 (19.4%)

d. Aircraft Statistics:

Forced to land - 2

Recovered - 1

Destroyed - 1

e. Enemy Killed by Air (KBA):

KBA (Confirmed) - 10

KBA (Probable) - 0

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3. LOGISTICS

a. The dispensing of aviation fuel proceeded very smoothly this month. The peak day for fuel was 3 December 1968 when 21,008 gallons of JP-4 and 8,237 gallons of 115/145 were issued for a total of 29,245 gallons. Total fuel issued for the month was 586,884 gallons of JP-4 and 116,608 gallons of 115/145.

b. Principal HEMS-36 Maintenance Section activities during the month were:

- (1) Processed or repaired
 - (a) 72 engines
 - (b) 3 transmissions
 - (c) 21 rotor heads
 - (d) 33 tail rotor assemblies
 - (e) 142 miscellaneous dynamic components
- (2) Aircraft transferred - - 0
- (3) Aircraft received - - 3 CH-46A COSA
- (4) Aircraft for battle repairs:
 - (a) Received - 2
 - (b) Repairs completed - 5

c. Base Development.

(1) Matting of the MAG-36 parking apron is now complete, with the exception of the HML-367 parking apron. Soil cement of the large drainage culvert in that area had to be reworked which delayed completion. Repair of matting on the HML-367 flight line has not been started. Armco revetments will be built on that line after new matting has been laid.

(2) Improvement of the roads in the MAG-36 area continues.

(3) Cement sidewalks have been poured by the Seabees in the area of the Tactical Air Crew Quarters.

(4) Construction continued throughout the month on the MAG-36 Chapel. Shorter overhead frames have replaced the original frames which were removed when it was determined that their height made the building unsafe.

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(5) Construction continued throughout the month on two mess facility support buildings and they should be completed during January.

(6) The new Officers' Club is approximately 85% completed.

(7) On 15 December Seabees began construction on a new MABS-36 Maintenance Building.

(8) Work was started on 29 December on a new Medical Dispensary Building.

4. ADMINISTRATION

a. The aviator population of MAG-36 continued to decrease during December with a loss of 25; 8 joined. The enlisted strength showed a slight decrease.

b. As a result of an investigation completed by CID during November, 17 Marines were charged with possession and/or use of marijuana. Ten Marines were tried by Special Court Martial and found guilty, 2 Marines were tried by Summary Court Martial and found guilty, 1 Marine was found guilty at Office Hours and 1 Marine was released for lack of evidence. Three cases remain to be tried by Special Court Martial.

c. The Civic Action Officer reports that in Thuy Phu, work has progressed on the building of an addition to the Dispensary which MAG-36 built earlier in the year. This is completely a self-help labor project with about 70% of the materials being furnished by MAG-36 and 30% by the village.

d. Ten homes were lost due to fire in Phu Luong and the MABS Civic Action Officer was quick to respond with food, clothing, and building materials.

e. A significant amount of Civic Action effort was devoted to planning and organizing Christmas festivities. HMM-462 held two Christmas parties, one at the Phu Luong School and one at Kim Long Orphanage. HML-367 held a party at the orphanage in Thuy Luong and MABS 36 held a party at the refugee camp in Thuy Luong. HMM-265 visited the sick children at Hue Central Hospital on Christmas Day. Five other Vietnamese parties were supported by MAG-36 which brought distribution totals to 3,500 toys, 425 pounds of food, 500 pounds of clothing, and 200 pounds of soap. The Christmas festivities were a great success.

f. During December the MEDCAP team visited Thuy Phu 9 times and treated 160 people. The Medical Department assisted the CAP Corpsman in the village by providing supplies and by maintaining liaison with other medical facilities to acquire needed supplies.

g. MAG-36 participated in a XXIV Corps sponsored Civic Action project designated "Operation Tractor". \$236.10 was contributed towards the purchase of 2 tractors, 1 each for Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces.

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h. On 28 and 29 December, Vietnamese civilians were permitted to police family graves and tombs in the MAG-36 sector of the Phu Bai Base Defense Command. Army and Marine escorts and patrols were provided for security measures.

i. Casualties for December included:

	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USMC	1	21
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USN	1	0
MIA	5	3
KIA	0	0
MIA	0	0
Killed, non-hostile, USMC	0	0
Killed, non-hostile, USN	0	0

5. CHAPLAIN SERVICES

a. During the month of December, the assigned Chaplains conducted 23 Protestant and Roman Catholic Divine Services with 649 personnel in attendance. The Roman Catholic Chaplain was on Special Leave from 6 December 1968 to 31 December 1968. Transportation to FLSG-A Chapel was provided by FLSG-A for personnel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Jewish Services were also available at the XXIV Corps Chapel.

b. The Catholic Chaplain conducted Divine Services for several CAP units during the first week of the month as well as Divine Services at PMAG-39 and MCB-133. CAPs visited were: HOTEL 2, 3, 4 and 5; ALPHA 2 and 3. An Army Chaplain from 22nd Surgical Hospital provided Divine Services for Roman Catholics beginning Sunday 8 December through the remainder of the month.

c. A Protestant Candlelight Service was held on 24 December and transportation was provided for personnel of the Roman Catholic faith to attend Midnight Mass at FLSG-A.

d. Dr. Billy Graham conducted a religious service at Phu Bai on 22 December and transportation was provided to the XXIV Corps Amphitheater. Approximately 150 MAG-36 personnel attended the service.

e. During the week of 15 - 20 December, special religious services were held at XXIV Corps Chapel by Reverend Lewis MEYERS, missionary at Da Nang. A total of 60 MAG-36 personnel attended those services.

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f. MARS calls were poor during the month due to atmospheric conditions. Improvement was noted near the end of the month and is expected to continue.

g. Work continues on construction of new facilities. The basketball court has been completed. Surface preparation and forms construction are in progress for the hobby shop, amphitheater and handball court.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Renovation of the Communication Center as indicated in the November Command Chronology was completed on 5 December 1968.

b. The Communication Center processed 7,423 messages for the month of December, which is approximately 700 below average.

c. The Radio Section moved the TSC-15 radio van to a more suitable location (between the Sergeants' and Staff NCO Clubs) and installed a duplex antenna for transmitting and receiving.

d. The Radio Repair Section installed 2 VRC-77 single channel radios in the MAG-36 crash crew vehicles.

8. BASE DEFENSE

a. MAG-36 continued to provide security for ALPHA sector of the Phu Bai Combat Base defensive perimeter. Sixteen permanent personnel augmented by 86 Marines from the tactical squadrons make up the MAG-36 Provisional Rifle Company.

b. On 1 December, Captain Malcolm R. MASSIE, USMC, relieved Captain Wesley J. FRITH, USMC, as Commander of the MAG-36 Provisional Rifle Company.

c. On 10 December, ALPHA Sector was alerted by MAG-36 S-2 that a Viet Cong sapper company was operating in the vicinity of the perimeter. Reaction platoons were mustered and response was excellent, however some personnel were unsure of their sectors of responsibility. Platoon commanders and the Rifle Company Commander have corrected this situation.

d. A practice alert of the MAG-36 Phu Bai General Reserve was held on 16 December. Weaknesses noted during November's alert have been corrected.

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ENCLOSURE (1)