

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 6
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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Ser #03A15669
5 June 1969
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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the period 1-31 May 1969 (U)
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.4
(b) GruO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Part I; Organizational Data
(2) Part II; Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights
(3) Part III; Significant Events

1. In compliance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) through (3) are herewith submitted.

B. D. Bouldin
B. D. BOULDIN

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Ser. # - 929-69
Date - 8 June 69
Copy 4 of 12*

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5750
 Ser #03A15669
 5 June 1969
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Part I: Organizational Data

1. Commanding Officer and Staff with inclusive dates:

Commanding Officer:	LtCol B. D. BOULDIN	1-31 May 1969
Executive Officer:	Major A. K. CHARLTON	1-31 May 1969
Operations Officers:	Major A. S. PIPER	1-31 May 1969
Intelligence Officers:	Major C. R. BLEDSOE	1-31 May 1969
Administrative Officers:	Major T. A. WICKENBERRY	1-31 May 1969
Logistics Officer:	Major J. F. GOLDEN Major J. T. HAGAN	1-28 May 1969 29-31 May 1969

2. Unit Location with inclusive dates:

Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam 1-31 May 1969

3. Average Monthly Squadron Strength:

<u>MARINE OFFICERS</u>	<u>MARINE ENLISTED</u>	<u>NAVAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAVAL ENLISTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
51	254	1	0	306

5750
 Ser #03A15669
 5 June 1969
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

Part II: Narrative Summary of Significant Highlights

1 May 1969. Recon team Coconut Candy was extracted under emergency conditions after they observed heavy enemy movement around their position. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 coordinated the extract by Phoenix 1 while 98-8 suppressed fire and 97-6 marked the enemy locations.

During the generally quiet day WFO-8 aircraft expended only 290 rockets and 17,300 rounds on the enemy.

2 May 1969. After the mid-air collision of Phoenix 2 and Chatterbox 93-2, Seaworthy 99-5 coordinated the SAR efforts and escorted transports on several round trips between Vandergrift and the site of the downed CH-46D.

Seaworthy OV-10's and O-1's controlled 14 airstrikes which accounted for 7 KBA's and destroyed 28 bunkers, 6 .50CAL positions and 1 mortar pit. Five secondary explosions were also observed.

3 May 1969. Seaworthy 99-3 and 98-2 escorted Cattlecall resupply transports into "O" 1/3's zone in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area. Two .50CAL guns engaged the Seaworthy UH-1H and the transports as they approached the zone. 99-3 and 98-2 immediately began to suppress the enemy fire while 97-2 called for and controlled the "Strikeback" and other fixed wing airstrikes on the gun positions resulting in one gun probably destroyed and five (5) bunkers destroyed. Throughout the day other Seaworthy OV-10's and O-1's conducted visual reconnaissance, artillery, and TAC(A) missions in support of Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE.

4 May 1969. Convoy escort was again a major mission today flown by both O-1's and OV-10's; constant overhead surveillance decreases the ambush threat. Seaworthy S & Y escorted Cattlecall medevac to 3/4, where they evacuated a total of 14 emergency medevacs. 3/4 had been in heavy contact and SW-20 ran 3 flights of fixed wing in support of the troops breaking contact. Other Seaworthy aircraft teamed up in the emergency extract of recon teams Harbor Queen and Elk River. Both teams had made contact and through the suppressive fire of SW OV-10's and gunships both were successfully extracted. SW-32, an O-1, controlled fixed wing flights in support of the recon team Elk River, further contributing to the success of the mission.

5 May 1969. The recon package completed 11 inserts and 2 routine and one emergency extract. Seaworthy 20 and 4 controlled airstrikes in support of the surrounded team Lucky Punch and Cattlecall transports made the extract.

In the VIRGINIA RIDGE area Seaworthy O-1's and AO's controlled naval gunfire and airstrikes destroying a .50CAL position and several bunkers with

Enclosure (2)

Page 1 of 6

CONFIDENTIAL

5750
 Ser #03A15669
 5 June 1969
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

numerous secondary explosions.

Seaworthy UH-1E's launched at 1945H and escorted Chatterbox medevac transports on an emergency mission in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area aided by the flares of Crossbill 834.

6 May 1969. Seaworthy 7 came to the aid of recon team Isherwood, delivering suppressive fire until the team broke contact with NVA troops. Seaworthy 37 and his AO, Noonwatch Hotel, failed to return to base in the late afternoon. SAR was initiated and continued after dark with no results. Operations were hampered in the afternoon by thunderstorms in the Western part of Northern I Corps.

7 May 1969. Recon team Air-minded had heavy movement and had suffered 2 KIA and 2 MIA. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 coordinated the extract which was completed by Phoenix 1 & 2.

Seaworthy 98-5 suppressed a SOCIAL site which had fired upon Chatterbox. 98-4 controlled airstrikes on the site obtaining several secondary explosions.

VMO-6 OV-10's and O-1's were joined by VMO-2 OV-10's in the extensive SAR efforts for Seaworthy 37. Results were again negative.

8 May 1969. Seaworthy 99-4 and 98-3 were escorting Cattlecall medevac into a hovering LZ when the transports received an RPG hit and was forced to make a precautionary landing. The Seaworthy aircraft organized rescue operations for the Cattlecall crew.

Seaworthy OV-10's provided fire suppression while 97-7 was controlling 7 flights of fixed wing along the Northwestern DMZ. Several NVA KBA's resulted.

SAR for Seaworthy 37 continued to be fruitless.

9 May 1969. Although the 3rd Marine Division TAOB was generally quiet, Seaworthy 98-16 and his AO controlled the first 8" howitzer battery on a suspected enemy position in the DMZ, killing three enemy. Seaworthy 97-3, on a visual reconnaissance of the DMZ, spotted a rocket position South of the Ben Hai. After controlling artillery fire on the target, the position was destroyed.

The recon package successfully completed 5 inserts and 7 extracts but recon team Constitution was shot out of both its zones. The SAR effort continued with no sightings of the downed crew or aircraft. Other VMO-6 missions included convoy escorts and extensive visual reconnaissance.

10 May 1969. As Operation APACHE SNOW kicked off, Seaworthy 98-1 and his AO located approximately 40 NVA on a trail Southwest of FSB Cunningham. Controlling Hellborne 212 on the enemy, 20 KBAs were obtained.

In support of recon team Elk Hunter, Seaworthy 97-6 controlled two airstrikes near the Lao Bao prison destroying two trucks. Elk Hunter later came into contact with an NVA force and 97-6 ran one flight of air on the enemy before being relieved by 98-9. Seaworthy 98-9 controlled 5 airstrikes and OV-10 suppressive fire as the team was extracted. The team confirmed 13 KBAs as a result of the airstrikes.

Enclosure (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

5750
 Ser #03A15669
 5 June 1969
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

11 May 1969. While conducting visual reconnaissance of an area from which Dustlight Golf had received automatic weapons fire, Seaworthy 98-5's crew observed 7 to 9 NVA with packs, helmets, and camouflaged with foliage. The enemy was engaged with 4.2" mortars, 60mm mortars, and OV-10 suppressive fire with unknown results. Later, Seaworthy 98-7 adjusted artillery on enemy troops in the open in the same area, again with unknown results. The recon package inserted team Belmont Tone but was required to execute an emergency extraction of that team later. During the extraction Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 received fire and suppressed it so that Phoenix 1 & 2 were able to complete the extract.

The majority of VMO-6 support was in the form of visual reconnaissance, armed escort, and recon support today.

12 May 1969. While controlling a troop lift for 3/4, Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 controlled an airstrike on an enemy position receiving multiple secondary explosions.

Squadron OV-10 and O-1 crews accounted for aircraft positions, mortar positions, and numerous bunkers destroyed.

13 May 1969. Seaworthy 98-2 coordinated the pick up of medevacs after the ammunition dump at IZ Erskine was destroyed by a fire. 97-8 conducted a visual reconnaissance for 1/9 who had troops in contact near the Laotian border and then adjusted a TPG mission under an overcast in support of 1/9.

14 May 1969. Seaworthy 99-5 and 98-5 conducted an uneventful troop lift which had been zipped earlier in the day. 98-5's suppressive fire during the lift accounted for 2 KBA's. Elsewhere 98-11 controlled an airstrike on a .50CAL position, destroying it.

15 May 1969. During the extract of recon team Ida Mae, Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 received intense enemy fire. The UH-1E's suppressed the enemy allowing Cattlecall 5 & 6 to make the extract. After the team was out, 98-7 controlled 3 airstrikes on the area knocking out 7 bunkers and 4 weapons positions and observing 1 secondary explosion.

Seaworthy O-1 crews conducted extensive artillery and convoy escort missions.

16 May 1969. Seaworthy 97-6 and his AO observed NVA troops near bunkers in the APACHE SHOW area and controlled an artillery mission on them. 98-13 relieved 97-6 and controlled two airstrikes on the target in marginal weather with good coverage.

The recon package completed the emergency extract of Marshall Hall at XD205152. Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 and 98-3, -6 and -8 provided cover for the extract aircraft and controlled airstrikes on the area after the extraction resulting in one large secondary explosion.

S150
 Ser #03415669
 5 June 1969
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

17 May 1969. All scheduled recon tasks were completed today but teams American Beauty and Drake Pool had to be extracted on an emergency basis due to enemy contact. Drake Pool had suffered 2 KIA and 1 WIA but its extract was smoothly coordinated by Seaworthy 99-13 & 14 and 98-13 & 15 with excellent close air support by Hellborne flights 291 & 295.

18 May 1969. Seaworthy 97-1 controlled Lovebug 160 on an enemy position destroying 1 bunker with a large secondary explosion. 98-6 was credited with 3 KBAs after suppressing enemy fire in support of a troop lift.

The UH-1E piloted by LtCol BOULDIN and Major GOLDEN developed tail rotor difficulties while just West of Cam Lo. While executing autorotation the crew was forced to crash land to avoid hitting a group of Vietnamese children.

CONFIDENTIAL

19 May 1969. Operation CADDO CREEK kicked off with Seaworthy 97-2 and 98-5 controlling airstrikes and artillery prep fires on LZ Enterprise. The troop lift was escorted without incident by 99-3 & 4.

After recon team Lucky Punch was shot out of its primary and alternate zones, Seaworthy 98-3 controlled Hellborne 463 on the zone as 99-1 & 2 suppressed enemy fire. As a result there were 8 bunkers and 2 .50CAL positions destroyed with 1 KBA.

20 May 1969. The night mortar/rocket watch continued and watched Quang Tri base receive 2 rounds on the East and 10 rounds on the West side.

Seaworthy 98-8's crew discovered an APC, a generator, and a supply storage area. 98-8 was relieved by 98-9 who controlled 6 flights of fixed wing on the target to destroy the APC, damage the generator, kill 3 enemy, and obtain 26 secondary explosions.

21 May 1969. An RVN troop lift was coordinated by Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 who suppressed sporadic enemy fire throughout the lift. The zone preparation had been controlled by 98-5 with 14 flights of fixed wing.

Seaworthy 97-13 controlled Hellborne 847 on a suspected NV assembly area and received 2 large secondary explosions.

22 May 1969. The troop lift scheduled for today had to be cancelled due to mortar rounds impacting in the pick up zone. Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 suppressed the enemy fire while 97-6 controlled airstrikes on the suspected mortar positions.

98-11 destroyed a bulldozer and damaged 6 trucks and 1 bulldozer in the APACHE SNOW area when he controlled 2 airstrikes on the camouflaged vehicles.

All three types of VMO-6 aircraft participated in the successful emergency extract of recon team Lucky Punch.

51
 Ser #03A15669
 5 June 1969
 Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

23 May 1969. During the generally quiet day, numerous visual reconnaissance missions were performed. In the area South of APACHE SNOW Seaworthy 98-2 spotted trucks and 2 large storage hootches then marked the targets for Playboy who was to control airstrikes on them. 97-2 controlled 2 airstrikes on mortar positions and supply caches in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area getting 3 secondary explosions and 2 secondary fires.

24 May 1969. Only 44 sorties and 27.5 hours were flown due to poor weather. The only ordnance expended was the marking rockets used by Seaworthy 97-10 and 98-15 on bunkers and mortar positions.

25 May 1969. The recon package completed all tasks except for one insert which was incomplete due to transport difficulties.

Seaworthy 97-3 controlled Ringneck 001 on a mortar position in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area destroying 1 mortar position, a .50CAL position and 8 bunkers. 98-1 and 98-13 controlled airstrikes in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area accounting for 4 KBA, 5 bunkers destroyed, a secondary explosion and 75 meters of trench destroyed.

26 May 1969. When two recon teams were shot out of their zones, Seaworthy 99-1 & 2 teamed up with 98-3 & 6 to suppress fire. This effort resulted in 4 KBA and 10 bunkers destroyed.

On a routine convoy escort the crew of Seaworthy 97-5 observed 4 NVA on a trail. Employing airstrikes, artillery and naval gunfire, they killed 3 NVA and destroyed 6 bunkers.

27 May 1969. Poor weather cut VMO-6 down to 22 sorties and 42.9 hours today.

Seaworthy O-1's were active in the VIRGINIA RIDGE area conducting visual reconnaissance and strikes against active mortar positions.

Recon team Sky Merchant had movement and contact and suffered 2 WIA. Their emergency extract was performed by Chatterbox 7 who was covered by suppressive fire of Seaworthy 98-12, 99-5 & 6, and Scarface 13 and 48.

28 May 1969. A troop lift for 9th Marines was conducted by 99-3 & 4 without incident in the APACHE SNOW area. Seaworthy's recon package effected the emergency extract of team Ida May. They were aided by Seaworthy 98-11 & 13.

29 May 1969. Seaworthy 97-11 ran several flights of air in support of Early Flower, a recon team, while SW 99-1 & 2 effected an emergency extract. The extract bird was Cattlecall 5. Cattlecall 5 remained in a very hot zone for a long period of time to allow the team to move to the only possible landing site and even that site was extremely poor. The superb shooting of OV-10's and UH-1E's permitted a successful extract without any bird being hit. Without the volume of accurate suppressive fire delivered by SW 4 & 13 and 99-1 & 2 and the superior flying ability of Cattlecall 5 the extract would have surely commanded a high price in lives and machinery.

As Seaworthy 98-17 was conducting visual reconnaissance Southwest of Khe Sanh, the aircraft was hit by enemy fire, began to burn, and the crew ejected. The crew, Captain MORGAN and 1st Lt. MORIARITY, were picked up by Cattlecall 7 and returned to Quang Tri in excellent condition.

Enclosure (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

Ser #03A15669

5 June 1969

Copy of

CONFIDENTIAL

30 May 1969. Today VMO-6 surpassed its monthly flight time record, set only last month.

No recon package was used but the UH-1E's launched four sections and accumulated 31 sorties. Squadron O-1's conducted visual reconnaissance for all 3 regiments in addition to convoy escorts.

Several Seaworthy OV-10's controlled airstrikes in support of "M" 3/9 in contact South of Ca Lu.

31 May 1969. Today VMO-6 set a new monthly flight time record of 3,191.7 hours in spite of the fact that the pace for the last 3 days of the month was slowed due to weather.

Seaworthy 99-3 & 4 conducted an uneventful troop lift and 97-2 controlled naval gunfire and airstrikes on troops and bunkers in the Eastern DMZ. Results were 2 enemy killed by naval gunfire, 13 bunkers destroyed, 3 secondary explosions, and 4 rockets uncovered.

Ser #03A15669

5 June 1969

Copy of

Part III: Significant Events

1. On 18 May the UH-1E piloted by LtCol BOULDIN and Major GOLDEN developed tail rotor difficulties and while executing autorotation the crew was forced to crash land to avoid hitting a group of Vietnamese children.

On 29 May Seaworthy 98-17 was conducting visual reconnaissance Southwest of Khe Sanh, the aircraft was hit by enemy fire, began to burn, and the crew ejected. The crew, Captain MORGAN and 1st Lt. MORLARTY, were picked up by Cattlecall 7 and returned to Quang Tri in excellent condition.

On 30 May VMO-6 broke last month's flight time record and had accumulated 3091.7 hours, a new record, by the end of the month.

2. The following officers were welcomed aboard during May:

Major J. A. BRANDON	1/Lt. D. G. RAY
Major L. M. DUKE Jr.	1/Lt. T. D. SEDER
Major J. T. HAGAN III	1/Lt. T. P. WILBUR
Major R. L. THOMPSON	2/Lt. S. E. KIRWAN
LCDR J. F. LYONS	

3. The following promotions were effected during May:

TO SERGEANT

T. E. ACKERS	E. F. GRAVES
D. R. BAUD	D. C. LARDNER

TO CORPORAL

J. F. CONNELL IV
J. K. SPARKS
S. C. STANDING-SOLDIER

TO LANCE CORPORAL

P. B. CAULFIELD
W. J. YEAGER

TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

C. A. BENNETT

4. VMO-6 said farwell to the following officers during May:

Major J. F. GOLDEN	1/Lt. J. H. LAWRENCE
Major G. C. PSAROS	1/Lt. J. J. SULLIVAN
Capt. K. E. TAYLOR	1/Lt. J. E. WARD
1P(MC) R. A. FERGUSON	

Enclosure (3)