

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

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15 June 1968

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: AC of S, G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology (U)
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

- Encl: ✓(1) MAG-36 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(2) H&MS-36 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(3) MABS-36 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(4) HMI-165 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(5) HMM-362 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(6) HMI-363 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(7) HMI-364 Command Chronology May 68
- ✓(8) HML-367 Command Chronology May 68

*Filed
sep*

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

Bruce J. Matheson
BRUCE J. MATHESON

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))

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MAG-36 S&C Files
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MAG-36

CMD CHRON

MAY 1968

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Commanders and Staff of MAG-36 and attached Squadrons.

MAG-36

CO	1-31 May	COL	Bruce J. MATHESON
XO	1-31 May	LtCol	Richard W. CLINE
ADJ	1-31 May	Capt	Richard K. SANDERS
S-1	1-31 May	Major	Joseph R. SALES
S-2	1-31 May	Capt	Charles R. LOYD
S-3	1-31 May	LtCol	Glenn R. HUNTER
S-4	1-31 May	Major	James R. PARSONS
GSO	1-31 May	Major	"D" "C" MICKEY
FISCAL	1-2 May	Capt	Charles H. BILTIMIER
FISCAL	3-31 May	Capt	James E. MORGAN
CHAPLAIN	1-31 May	LCDR	James W. ROBINSON
DISB O	1-31 May	LstLt	Arney M. JOHNSON Jr.
FLT SUR	1-28 May	Lt(USN)	Richard P. WAGNER
FLT SUR	29-31 May	Lt(USN)	Richard F. ROMFH
MTO	1-31 May	1stLt.	Billy B. LANE
EMB O	1-31 May	1stLt	Fred DAVIDSON
ORD O	1-31 May	1stLt.	Benjamin J. STRICKLEY
AMO	1-31 May	Major	Donald A. IVES
COMM O	1-31 May	Capt	Phillip R. MORRIS
CIV ACT O	1-8 May	Major	James A. MILLER
CIV ACT O	9-31 May	Capt	Gordon W. SMITH
ASO	1-31 May	Major	James W. WARNER
NATOPS	1-31 May	Capt	Robert C. MOORE
LEGAL O	1-31 May	Capt	Richard K. SANDERS
SGT MAJ	1-31 May	SgtMaj	Charles A. KINGAN

H&MS-36

CO	1-31 May	LtCol	George L. PATRICK
XO	1-31 May	Major	Weldon R. MUNTIER

MABS-36

CO	1-31 May	LtCol	William D. WATSON
XO	1-31 May	Major	Timothy J. CRONIN Jr.
FEO	1-31 May	Major	James L. LANGFORD
OIC, MATCU-68	1-31 May	Capt	William C. JOINER

HMM-165

CO	1-31 May	LtCol	Elvyn E. HAGEDORN
XO	1-31 May	Major	James E. PRATHER
OpsO	1-31 May	Major	David SAYES

ENCLOSURE (1)
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HMM-362

CO	19-31 May	Major	W. H. SHAUER
XO	19-31 May	Major	E. A. HOUSE
OpsO	19-31 May	Captain	C. S. CHAMPION

HMM-363

CO	1-31 May	Major	DuWayne W. HOFFERT
XO	1-31 May	Major	James L. HARRISON
OpsO	1-31 May	Major	Tom J. FALESKI

HMM-364

CO	1-31 May	LtCol	Joseph R. DOBERATZ Jr.
XO	1-31 May	Major	Harold B. ROTH Jr.
OpsO	1-31 May	Major	Horace S. LOWREY Jr.

HML-367

CO	1-31 May	LtCol	Robert KING Jr.
XO	1-20 May	Major	Charles R. ENSLEY
XO	21-31 May	Major	Arthur A. DITTMER
OpsO	1-20 May	Major	Arthur A. DITTMER
OpsO	21-31 May	Major	Fred L. GATZ

2. Task Organization and Unit Location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	Phu Bai	1-31 May
H&MS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 May
MABS-36	Phu Bai	1-31 May
MATCU-68	Phu Bai	1-31 May
HMM-165	Phu Bai	1-31 May
HMM-362	Phu Bai	19-31 May
HMM-363	Phu Bai	1-31 May
HMM-364	Phu Bai	1-31 May
HML-367	Phu Bai	1-31 May

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	49	526	0	0
MABS-36	16	555	2	26
MATCU-68	8	61	0	0
HMM-165	48	170	1	0
HMM-363	43	168	1	0
HMM-364	49	175	1	0
HML-367	42	163	1	0

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MAR OFF</u>	<u>MAR ENL</u>	<u>NAV OFF</u>	<u>NAV ENL</u>
MAG-36				
TOTALS	255	1818	6	26
19-31 May				
HMM-362	37	130	1	1

4. Important Visitors to MAG-36.

a. On 1 May 1968, Colonel Bruce J. MATHESON, USMC, succeeded Colonel Frank E. WILSON, USMC, as Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group Thirty-Six. Present for the Change-of-Command were Major General N. J. ANDERSON, USMC, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Brigadier General J. M. McLAUGHLIN, USMC, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray. Major General ANDERSON returned on 26 May 1968 to inspect damage to the MAG-36 complex as a result of a mortar attack earlier the same day.

b. Brigadier General H. W. HISE, USMC, Assistant Wing Commander, visited MAG-36 on 1 May 1968. The purpose of his visit was to discuss base operations and developments with the OIC, Phu Bai Air Base, Lieutenant Colonel E. H. WINCHESTER, USMC, and the MAG-36 (S-4), Major J. R. PARSONS, USMC. On 22 May 1968, Brigadier General H. W. HISE, USMC, again spent most of the day at the Phu Bai Air Base. He met with MAG-36 representatives to discuss air base development.

c. On 3 May 1968, Brigadier General G. D. WEBSTER, USMC, then Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, visited MAG-36. Following a meeting with the Commanding Officer, MAG-36, formal briefings were presented by the S-1, S-2, S-3, and S-4. Brigadier General WEBSTER returned on 27 May to inspect the damage resulting from the mortar attack of 26 May 1968.

d. On 25 May 1968, Brigadier General H. S. HILL, USMC, Assistant Wing Commander, visited the Commanding Officer of MAG-36. A formal briefing was presented by the S-1, S-2, S-3, and S-4.

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During the reporting period MAG-36 provided support to:
 - a. III MAF
 - b. I Corps Republic of Vietnam Forces
 - c. U. S. Army
 - d. U. S. Air Force
 - e. U. S. Navy River Boat Patrol (Game Warden)

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2. Missions flown by MAG-36 included strikes, medical evacuations, reconnaissance insertions and extractions, troop and logistic movements, search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, aircraft and boat escort, administrative, courier and VIP flights.

3. MAG-36 supported the following operations during the month of May:

MAMALUKE THRUST
HOUSTON
SCOTLAND II
LANCASTER
TENNESSEE GROVE
SAMURAI V

ALIEN BROOK
CARENTAN II
DELAWARE/LAMSON 216
AUBURN
NAPOLEON/SALINE

4. Operational Highlights.

a. The MAG-36 COC Bunker was completed and activated on 5 May 1968.

b. Major BUCHANAN, recently assigned as the 5th Marine Regiment Air Liaison Officer, visited MAG-36 (S-3) on 7 May 1968 and briefed on a company operation to commence the following day. With Lieutenant Colonel HUNTER as the HC(A), three (3) UH-1E gunships and four CH-46 transports conducted the helicopterborne assault of "D" Company, 1/5 on 8 May 1968. Nine (9) hours later a retrograde lift of the same unit was completed.

c. On 9 May 1968, Captain PEARCE, (HMM-165, MAG-36), organized a successful recovery of two bodies from a downed aircraft in the vicinity of YD 557044. Although the bodies are believed to be individuals originally with this Command, positive identification is pending.

d. Six (6) CH-46 transports and two (2) gunships supported the emergency helicopter/fixed wing extraction of personnel and equipment from the Special Forces Camp at Kham Duc on 12 May 1968.

e. With Lieutenant Colonel HUNTER as HC(A), MAG-36 supported the helicopterborne assault of a 5th Marine task force on 8 May 1968. A retrograde movement was accomplished the same day.

f. On 8 May 1968, MAG-36 received an emergency medical evacuation mission for "M" Company, 3/5 at AT 867906; a site of about 2700 feet elevation. The mission was completed on 13 May 1968, through the unified efforts of the U. S. Army, Air Force and Marine air units. Because of intense enemy anti-aircraft fire, initial attempts at hoist operations were stymied. UH-34 aircraft then dropped explosives and C-4 through the canopy for enlarging the existing zone. At 1700 on 12 May the first helicopter, an Army UH-1H, was successful in lifting out the first evacuees. A Marine CH-46 crashed in the zone on the subsequent attempt. During the night, Air Force Jolly Green helicopters lifted out fourteen medevacs. On 13 May, Marine CH-46 helicopters completed the mission. Total MAG-36 casualties for the effort were two (2) flight crew members wounded and seven (7) aircraft hit by enemy ground fire during the mission.

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g. On 11 May 1968, MAG-36 supported the helicopterborne assault of two (2) companies (-) from the 27th Marines and one (1) company (-) of Popular Forces in a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of YD928260.

h. During the early evening hours of 11 May 1968, two (2) friendly artillery rounds airburst in the vicinity of the MABS-36 utility shops. One (1) building received minor shrapnel damage.

i. Liaison was made with 101st Airborne Division on 16 May 1968 to lay plans for the investigation of an old MAG-36 CH-46 crash site. On 18 May 1968, Major OSMONDSON, two (2) graves registration personnel and an Army security force visited the site of the crash to search for the bodies of Captain MONTAGUE and First Lieutenant ARCHER. Results were negative.

j. Between 0230 and 0250 on 26 May 1968, the MAG-36 complex received approximately fifty-two (52) rounds of 82MM mortar. MAG-36 casualties were three (3) KIA and thirty-one (31) WIA. Thirty-two (32) helicopters were damaged. Direct hits on one (1) SATS hanger and one (1) Butler building resulted in damage to aircraft and other material located therein. The Airborne General Illumination System (AGIL), under evaluation by MAG-36, received extensive shrapnel damage, however, it has been repaired.

k. The Junglebouy Navigational Beacon was received during the month. The tactical squadrons have been briefed on its use and evaluation is programmed for June 1968.

l. MAG-36 took operational control of HMM-362 on 19 May 1968. The squadron, normally assigned to SLE Alpha, was sent ashore when the USS Iwo Jima went to Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, for replacement by the USS Princeton. During the ensuing period until 31 May 1968, the squadron amassed a total of 518.5 flight hours, 1744 sorties, carried 1478 passengers, hauled 27.5 tons of cargo and evacuated 259 battle casualties.

m. During the month of May 1968, fourteen (14) downed aircraft of MAG-36 required and received external lifting.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Air Operations. MAG-36 accomplished the following during May (Includes support by HMM-362 from 19-31 May 1968):

a. Flight Hours -	5484.2
b. Sorties -	15,034
c. Passengers -	17,321
d. Tons of Cargo -	870.3
e. Medical Evacuees -	1,969

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2. Intelligence

a. A SERE brief was presented to the MAG-36 personnel by the Wing SERE Officer on 13 May.

b. To keep personnel informed of the enemy situation, the MAG-36 S-2 presents three briefings per week for the MAG-36 staff, a briefing each Thursday evening for the enlisted personnel and daily briefs for the squadron intelligence personnel.

c. Enemy activity during the month of May was noteworthy in the Phu Bai TAOR. The enemy continued to engage friendly troops when he so desired and to break contact when he was hard pressed. His use of mortars against the base continued. The last attack by fire came on the morning of 26 May when approximately 52 mortar rounds impacted in the MAG-36 area. There are indications of an enemy buildup to the south of the Phu-Bai Combat Base, however, enemy mission or plans are unknown. There is an increase in the number of enemy personnel turning themselves in to friendly forces, while, large quantities of weapons and rice continue to be captured. Fire incidents directed against helicopters continue at a normal rate; however, the enemy has increased the use of mortars against aircraft on the ground in landing zones.

d. Grid areas in which intense enemy anti-aircraft fire was directed against MAG-36 helicopters:

YD 2263	6	Incidents	2	Hits
YD 5623	5	"		
YD 8919	4	"	1	Hit
XD 8041	4	"		
AT 8260	4	"	2	Hits
AT 9554	4	"	2	Hits

e. Fire Incidents	136
Aircraft Hit	25
Holes	121
Forced to Land	9
Recovered	8
Destroyed	1
Enemy Killed By Air (Confirmed)	8

f. Fire Incidents to Hours Flown	1/40.3 Hrs
Hit Incidents to Hours Flown	1/219.3 Hrs
Hit Incidents to Fire Incidents	1/ 5.5

3. Logistics

a. During the month of May, electrical power, surfaced roads and support vehicles remained in critical short supply. MABS-36 has completed its move to the north side of the airfield and is now at full operating capacity.

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b. Aviation fuel presented no problems this month. The peak day for fuel was 41,243 gallons issued; 23,245 JP-4 and 17,998 of 115/145.

c. Base development projects completed during the month were noteworthy.

(1) The SMCO club, the NCO club, the Ground Support building and the Tactical Air Crew quarters were completed.

(2) Many new heads were constructed and positioned throughout the camp area.

(3) The Armco Revetments are under construction.

(4) With the Deep-Water well functioning, MABS-36 is able to produce, filter and treat water at approximately 35,00 gallons per day. Present storage capability is 14,000 gallons plus four (4), 3,000 gallon shower towers. Three out of the four shower towers are now being filled with treated, potable water, and no shortage has been reported.

4. Personnel

a. HML-367 exchanged two (2) pilots with the 1st Cavalry Division for a period of 30 days. Captain HOFFMAN departed 2 May 1968 and 1stLt. BICKIE departed on 16 May 1968. Two (2) U. S. Army pilots, 1stLt. P. SCHOCH and 1stLt. R. LANE are currently attached to MAG-36 flying with HML-367.

b. Casualties for May 1968:

		<u>Air</u>		<u>Ground</u>	
		<u>Off</u>	<u>En</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>En</u>
WIA (Hostile)	60	16	11	0	33
KIA (Hostile)	4	1	0	0	3
WIA (Non-Hostile)	10	0	0	0	10
KIA (Non-Hostile)	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>74</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>46</u>

c. Total enlisted on-hand strength continues to remain slightly above manning level, however shortages still exist in certain fields. Among these are Intelligence (0221), Drivers (3531) and primarily Guards (8151).

d. Aviation Ground Officer strength has been very near manning level, but like the enlisted, shortages exist in certain fields. Among these are Intelligence Officers (0202), Administration Officers (0130) and the logistics field (0402-0430).

e. Pilot on-hand strength remains below manning level with a sizeable shortage of experienced, second tour aviators. Average pilot strength was 83% of manning level.

7.

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a. During the month of May the assigned Chaplains provided Divine Services for personnel of Protestant and Catholic faiths. LCDR J. W. ROBINSON, CHC, USNR was absent from the command the first four days of the month on R&R. Lt. B. J. WALKER, CHC USNR was transferred on 7 May to MAG-16 and Lt. William KLAPPS, CHC, USNR reported to the group on 9 May as his replacement.

b. The Chaplains, insofar as possible, interview every new man reporting to MAG-36. The Catholic Chaplain has recently begun the practice of sending a letter to the family of every man of Catholic faith reporting aboard MAG-36.

c. The Chaplains' Ministry and allied activities are reflected in the following figures:

DIVINE SERVICES FOR MAG-36						
	Sunday	Att.	Weekday	Att.	Tot. Ser.	Tot. Att.
Protestant	8	296	6	40	14	336
Catholic	8	421	25	277	33	698
DIVINE SERVICES FOR OTHER UNITS						
Protestant	5	30	6	35	11	65
Catholic	1	75	10	70	11	145
Bible Study						
Protestant			6		6	50
Memorial Services						
Protestant					1	115
Joint Protestant Catholic					1	20
Lectures						
Indoctrination					4	85
Moral Guidance					3	90

d. The Chaplains of MAG-36, in addition to their primary duties, also contributed of their time to maintain contact with their Vietnamese counterparts and to assist in carrying on Civic Action Programs. This is possible through the financial resources provided by chapel funds, donations from churches in the U.S. and private donations both local and stateside.

e. All of the clothing and most of the food listed below were furnished through the generosity of individuals and organizations in the U. S. All the other items were purchased from funds contributed by personnel of MAG-36:

(1) Catholic Orphanage at Kim Loung

25,340 piasters (\$130.00)
1,420 pounds of used clothing
1,500 pounds of food

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(2) St. Peters Orphanage

20 pounds of candy
 30 pounds of clothing
 12 dozen pencils
 Misc. treats for the children

(3) Protestant Church Phu-Loung

90,960 piasters (\$770.73)
 30 gallons of white paint (\$75.78)
 43 window panes (\$129.80)
 132 pounds of food
 500 pounds of clothing
 10 pounds of soap

(4) Widows and children in Hue

2370 piasters (\$20.00)
 50 pounds of food
 10 pounds of soap

Total Piasters - 108,670 (Equivalent Approximately \$921.00)

(5) Summary of Material contributed

Food	1682 pounds
Clothing	2250 pounds
Candy	70 pounds
Pencils	12 pounds
Paint	30 pounds (\$75.78)
Windows	43 panes (\$129.80)

6. Safety and NATOPS

a. A general inspection of MAG-36 Aviation Safety and NATOPS was conducted on 18 May 1968. The Command was praised for having a dynamic Safety and NATOPS program, and a grade of "Satisfactory" was assigned.

b. Accidents for the month:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TYPE A/C</u>
Direct Enemy Action	3	A	CH-46 (3)
Operational	1	C	CH-46 (1)

7. Civic Action

a. Seven (7) MEDCAPS were conducted in the MAG-36 assigned areas.

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b. On 6 May 1968, an eight-man Vietnamese Armed Propaganda Team from Hue operated in the MAG-36 Civic Action AOA for a period of two weeks. Valuable information on enemy activity in the MAG-36 Civic Action AOA was gained, and several enemy weapons were recovered.

c. The Civic Action Officer was informed that during the month fourteen (14) civilians from the MAG-36 Civic Action Target Villages were kidnapped by the enemy.

d. MAG-36 sponsored a guest lecture by Commander SCHNEIDER, III MAF Personal Response Project Officer, on 10 May 1968. The following day, the 1st MAF Personal Response School was held for personnel of MAG-36.

e. Materials for construction of a rice storage area and a local hospital were transported to the village of Thuy Phu. The rice storage area is 95% complete and hospital construction is 50% complete. All labor was furnished by villagers.

8. Informational Services.

a. During May, Major P. M. HEIMAN, USMC, HML-367, logged his 1000th combat mission as he neared the end of his second tour in Vietnam.

b. On 4 May 1968, Corporal James W. JARVIS, a crew chief from HMM-165 earned the nick name "The Doctor" when he delivered a Vietnamese baby while airborne during a medical evacuation mission.

9. Ground Safety. The monthly Ground Safety Council meeting was held on 8 May 1968. On 22 May 1968, MAG-36 was presented the 1st MAF third quarter Ground Safety Award.

10. Special Services.

a. The construction of a picnic area at the "Pond" commenced 15 May 1968. Recreational facilities will consist of a volley-ball court, picnic tables with thatched roofs, a boat dock with two row boats and barbecue pits.

b. On 18 May 1968, an Australian USO-type show performed for a large crowd at the Phu Bai open-air theater.

c. The Intramural Basketball League commenced play on 21 May 1968 with all units participating.

d. In a Slow-Pitch Softball tournament held at the 1st MAF headquarters on the 25th and 26th of May 1968, MAG-36 won the championship by successful employment of a Group all-star team.