

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:BJK: 11
5750

31 June

[REDACTED] Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1) through (7)

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: G-3)
Subj: Command Chronology (U)
Ref: (a) WgO 5750.10

- Encl: ✓(1) MAG-36 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(2) HEMS-36 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(3) MABS-36 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(4) HEM-265 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(5) HEM-362 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(6) HEM-367 Command Chronology May 1969
 - ✓(7) HEM-462 Command Chronology May 1969
- Filed*
sep

MAG-36

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted for the month of May 1969.

H. J. Blaha
H. J. BLAHA

CMD CHON

MAG-36 S&O Files

1st MAW S&O No.	Copy No.
2235-69	1

690517
copy 1 of 6

DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]

MAY 1969

PART I
Organizational Data

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

MAG-36

CO	1 - 15 May	COL	BRUCE J. MATHESON
CO	16 - 31 May	LTCOL	HERBERT J. BIAHA
XO	1 - 15 May	LTCOL	HERBERT J. BIAHA
XO	16 - 31 May	LTCOL	RALPH THUESEN
ABJ	1 - 31 May	CAPT	THOMAS R. PRESTON
S-1	1 - 31 May	MAJ	FRED E. LACEY
S-2	1 - 31 May	CAPT	GUY R. HANSEN
S-3	1 - 31 May	LTCOL	MERLIN V. STATZER
S-4	1 - 31 May	MAJ	KENNETH P. PALMER
GSO	1 - 31 May	LTCOL	OLIVER R. BARRITT
Spl ServO	1 - 31 May	CAPT	RAYMOND C. PARKER
Fiscal O	1 - 31 May	CAPT	THOMAS W. LONGSWORTH
Chaplain	1 - 31 May	LCDR	BASIL H. STRUTHERS
DisbO	1 - 31 May	CAPT	JACK S. WESTBROOK
Flt Sur	1 - 31 May	LCDR	DAVID D. PARKER
MTO	1 - 31 May	LSTLT	RICHARD H. DITTMAN
EmbO	1 - 31 May	CWO-2	JOSEPH J. KOCINSKI
OrdO	1 - 31 May	CWO-2	RAYMOND F. GOLON
AMO	1 - 31 May	MAJ	CHARLES A. CAREY
CommO	1 - 31 May	CAPT	LUIS A. JUAREZ
CivActO	1 - 5 May	LSTLT	THEODORE C. ROBINSON III
CivActO	6 - 31 May	LSTLT	GARY G. SNEAD
ASO	1 - 31 May	MAJ	JAMES D. STRICKLAND
NATOPS O	1 - 31 May	CAPT	DAVID E. COX
LegalO	1 - 31 May	CAPT	THOMAS R. PRESTON
SgtMaj	1 - 31 May	SGTMAJ	JAMES R. SKINNER

HMMS-36

CO	1 - 31 May	LTCOL	JAMES B. BELL
XO	1 - 31 May	MAJ	CHESTER L. WHIPPLE
OpsO	1 - 31 May	MAJ	JOHN C. ELY

MABS-36

CO	1 - 15 May	LTCOL	RONDELL K. WOOD
CO	16 - 31 May	LTCOL	RONALD E. NELSON
XO	1 - 31 May	MAJ	WILLIAM J. SHRINER
AirField	1 - 31 May	MAJ	EDWIN W. LOCKARD
Ops O			

MATCU-68

OIC	1 - 31 May	CAPT	WILLIAM E. McCOLLUM
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HMM-164

CO 1 - 3 May
 XO 1 - 3 May
 OpsO 1 - 3 May

LTCOL
 MAJ
 MAJ

RICHARD T. TRUNDY
 ALBERT F. RIBBECK
 ROBERT D. FOWNER

**HMM-265

CO 1 - 15 May
 CO 16 - 31 May
 XO 1 - 15 May
 XO 16 - 31 May
 OpsO 1 - 31 May

LTCOL
 LTCOL
 LTCOL
 MAJ
 MAJ

RALPH THUESEN
 ROBERT L. GRAY JR.
 ROBERT L. GRAY JR.
 GEORGE M. SHIFFLER JR.
 JOHN L. MACFARLANE

***HMM-362

CO 25 - 31 May
 XO 25 - 31 May
 OpsO 25 - 31 May

LTCOL
 MAJ
 MAJ

JACK E. SCHLARP
 BILLY G. WILKISON
 GEORGE E. PRATT

HMM-367

CO 1 - 31 May
 XO 1 - 31 May
 OpsO 1 - 10 May
 OpsO 14 - 31 May

LTCOL
 MAJ
 MAJ
 MAJ

BOBBY R. WILKINSON
 HOWARD D. GRESS
 THOMAS B. HILL
 JOHN M. COYKENDALL

HMM-462

CO 1 - 15 May
 CO 16 - 31 May
 XO 1 - 31 May
 OpsO 1 - 31 May

LTCOL
 LTCOL
 MAJ
 MAJ

RONALD E. NELSON
 RONDELL K. WOOD
 JACK MAXWELL
 JOHN A. HELLRIEGEL

- * HMM-164 (SIF Bravo) Backloaded to USS Valley Forge on 3 May 1969.
- ** HMM-265 to ADCON 9th MAB 26 May 1969. OPCON remained with MAG-36.
- *** HMM-362 Reported ADCON and OPCON MAG-36 on 25 May 1969.

2. Task organization and unit location.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
MAG-36	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
H&MS-36	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
MABS-36	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
MATEU-68	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
HMM-164	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 3 May
HMM-265	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
HMM-362	HUE/PHU BAI	25 - 31 May
HML-367	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May
HMI-462	HUE/PHU BAI	1 - 31 May

Enclosure (1)

3. Average Monthly Strength

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MAROFF</u>	<u>MARENL</u>	<u>NAVOFF</u>	<u>NAVENL</u>
M&MS-36	50	397	0	0
MABS-36	17	540	3	19
MATEU-68	10	59	0	0
HMM-265	47	184	1	0
HML-367	44	156	1	0
HMI-462	37	161	1	0
TOTAL	<u>205</u>	<u>1497</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>19</u>

4. Important Visitors to MAG-36

a. 2 May: BrigGen W. J. WEINSTEIN, USMCR. He visited MAG-36 to observe Group operations and supporting activities and was briefed by the CO, MAG-36 and his staff. A tour of squadron areas followed the briefing.

b. 2 May: Col T. C. SHANAHAN, USMC, III MAF Engineer, made informal orientation visit accompanied by Capt A. W. WALTON, USN, 32nd NCR.

c. 13 May: BrigGen Ralph H. SPANJER, USMC, Asst 1st MAF Commander. He was briefed by the CO, MAG-36 and his staff and presided at the dedication of the new MAG-36 dispensary building.

d. 15 May: LtGen R. E. STILLWELL, USA, CG XXIV Corps; MajGen C. J. QUILTER, USMC, CG, 1st MAF; MajGen C. B. DRAKE, USMC, Dep CG XXIV Corps; MajGen NGO QUANG TRUONG, ARVN, CG, 1st ARVN DIV; BrigGen J. A. FEELEY Jr, USMC, CG, FLC; BrigGen A. R. BOLLING Jr, USA, C/S XXIV Corps; BrigGen A. G. PIXTON, USA, CG, XXIV Corps Arty; Col E. S. FRIS, USMC, CO, MAG-18; Col E. A. PARSELL, USMC, CO, PMAG-39; Col W. SIENKO, USMC, Asst G-3, 1st MAF; Capt R. E. TROWER, USN, chaplain, 1st MAF; Col C. N. LE TELLIER, USA XXIV Corps Engineers; Capt A. W. WALTON, USN, CO, 32nd NCR; NGO SI DINH, Thuy Phu Village Chief; and PHAM QUOC NGO, Hue/Phu Bai Air Field Manager. They were distinguished guests at the MAG-36 change of Command in which Col Bruce J. MATHESON relinquished command of Marine Aircraft Group 36 to LtCol H. J. BLANA.

e. 28 May: BrigGen R. H. SPANJER; He conferred with the CO, MAG-36.

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. During this period, MAG-36 participated in the following operations providing support to III MAF, U. S. ARMY, Republic of Vietnam Forces, and Republic of Korea Marine Corps:

Prairie Fire	Oklahoma Hills
Herkimer Mountain	Purple Martin
Virginia Ridge	Victory Dragon XI
Apache Snow	Maine Crag
Cameron Falls	

2. Operational Highlights

a. During the month of May, MAG-36 provided a daily average of seven CH-46A, four CH-53A and four UH-1E aircraft to augment PMAG-39, in support of the 3rd Marine Division. In addition, two UH-1E aircraft were provided in support of "Prairie Fire". Also, on five different occasions a section of UH-1E aircraft were provided to augment MAG-16 in support of ROK Marines, and on ten different occasions a section of CH-46A aircraft were provided to augment MAG-16. During the last six days of the month an average of seven UH-34D aircraft were provided to augment MAG-16 and PMAG-39.

b. On 3 May, a UH-1E aircraft from HML-367 crashed while taking off from Vandegrift Combat Base, causing substantial damage to the aircraft. There were no injuries to the crew.

c. On 9 May, a CH-53A aircraft from HML-462 crashed while landing on Hill 950 resulting in strike damage to the aircraft. Twenty-eight passengers escaped uninjured and two passengers received major injuries. The crew escaped without injury.

d. On 12 May, a CH-46A aircraft from HMM-265 crashed and burned while taking off from the 1st MAF landing zone. The aircraft received strike damage. All passengers and crew escaped uninjured.

e. On 17 May, a CH-53A aircraft from HML-462 experienced an explosion in the port engine while flying at 8000 feet. The explosion damaged the aircraft control systems and the aircraft crashed while landing on a dirt road. The aircraft received substantial damage, but the crew escaped uninjured.

f. On 27 May, a CH-46A aircraft from HMM-265 received substantial damage when an aft rotor blade chopped through the top of the fuselage during turnup on the USS Iwo Jima. The crew escaped injury.

g. In addition to the above mishaps, two UH-1E aircraft from HML-367 received strike damage when they were intentionally dropped by CH-53A TAR aircraft. One was dropped on 12 May because the rotor tie downs broke allowing the rotor blade to turn, striking the lifting aircraft. On 15 May the other was dropped because of violent oscillations caused by improper rigging and the TAR aircraft's exceeding load speed.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Air Operations

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

(1) Flight Hours	4,714.2
(2) Sorties	14,261

Enclosures (1)

(3) Passengers Carried 18,907
 (4) Tons of Cargo Carried 5,388.8
 (5) Medical Evacuees Carried 3,174

* Above figures do not include C-117D statistics which were 21.8 flight hours, and 10 sorties with no passengers or cargo carried.

2. Intelligence

a. Enemy action

(1) The only rocket attack during the month occurred on 9 May on the XXIV Corps side of Phu Bai Combat Base, resulting in 23 WIA and minor damage to several buildings.

(2) During the month there was no evidence of any change in the enemy's disposition or composition in the Phu Bai area. However there was an increase in the number of terrorist activities in the local villages surrounding Phu Bai. Further, there was an increase in the number of sniper incidents along route 547 both north and south of the base. Road and rail interdiction, rice collection and terrorism appeared to be the enemy's main objective during this period.

b. Intensity of fire received by grid zones:

AT - 10 FI/ 0 hit	ED - 46 FI/ 4 hits
BT - 2 FI/ 0 hit	XD - 42 FI/ 2 hits
Classified coord. - 13 FI/ 0 hit	

c. Incident Statistics:

Fire incidents = 113 (total)
 Aircraft hit - 6
 Fire incidents to hours flown = 1 X 41.7 hours
 Hit incidents to hours flown - 1 X 785.7 hours
 Hit incidents to fire incidents 1 X 18.8

d. Aircraft statistics:

Forced to land - 8
 Recovered - 7
 Destroyed - 1

e. Enemy Killed By Air (KBA)

KBA (Confirmed) = 19
 KBA (Probable) = 0

Enclosure (1)

3. Logistics

a. The Tactical Airfield Fuel Dispensing System (TAFDS) performed smoothly again this month. The peak day for fuel dispensed was 6 May 1969 with 10,254 gallons of 115/145 AvGas and 20,841 gallons of JP-4. Total fuel dispensed for the month was 155,862 gallons of 115/145 AvGas and 684,016 gallons of JP-4.

b. Principal H&MS-36 Maintenance Section activities during the month were:

- (1) Processed or repaired
 - (a) 39 Engines
 - (b) 10 Transmissions
 - (c) 2 Rotor heads
 - (d) 10 Tail rotors
 - (e) 74 Miscellaneous dynamic components
- (2) Aircraft received ----- 1
- (3) Aircraft transferred ----- 9
- (4) Aircraft enroute to PAR ----- 1
- (5) Aircraft received for battle damage repair ----- 6
- (6) Aircraft received for IMA rowork ----- 15
- (7) Aircraft completed repair and rowork ----- 20
- (8) Test Stand, T-53 returned from Rehab, Operational ---- 1

c. Base Development

(1) The dispensary and dental facility was dedicated by BrigGen R. H. SPANJER on 13 May.

(2) Construction of the handball court is progressing with completion date estimated 20 June.

(3) The ceiling of the EM Club has been lowered and installation of three ten-ton air conditioners is expected by late June. A delay was experienced in delivery of the air conditioners.

(4) Rematting of the SLF area has not progressed since last month. Shortage of Sea Bee labor was the reason given. One month's work remains to complete this project. ARMCO revetments have been completed.

(5) The ready ammo storage area is still incomplete due to a shortage of Sea Bee labor. Two month's work remains.

(6) Construction of a second perimeter watch tower was completed on 17 May by Public Works.

(7) Construction of a drainage system around the mess hall was completed on 19 May by Public Works.

(8) A bridge over the culvert by the EM Club was completed on 19 May by Public Works.

(9) The vehicle parking area by the Officers' Club was filled, graded and treated with perta prime. Work was done by Public Works.

(10) The grounds in front of the Chapel were sodded and a directory was constructed by Vietnamese labor.

(11) Public Works constructed additional covered storage by the Marine Corps Property Warehouse.

(12) Public Works has started construction of a tennis court with completion expected in late June.

4. Administration

a. Officer and enlisted strength remained constant during May.

b. With the arrival of HMM-362 on 26 May both the M/L and O/H strength of the Group increased slightly.

c. The Provisional Rifle Company experienced a continuing build-up of permanent personnel during May with 14 Marines of occupational field O3 reporting for duty. The number of aviation personnel augmenting the Provisional Rifle Company was reduced accordingly.

d. The Civic Action Section reports completion of the cement wash platform, dock, and irrigation well in THUY PHU Village.

e. The MAG-36-Civic Action Section brought 60 children from THUY PHU Village to the MAG-36 Enlisted Club for a movie and refreshments.

f. The training sessions for the Vietnamese doctor and nurse are now conducted in the MAG-36 dispensary. MED-CAPS are being held twice weekly. DENT-CAPS were started in THUY PHU Village and are very successful. Several DENT-CAPS have been conducted in a Hue orphanage.

g. Casualties for May included:

	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USMC	0	30
Hospitalizing injuries, non-hostile, USN	0	0
WIA	0	1
KIA	0	0
MIA	0	0
Killed, non-hostile, USMC	0	1
Killed, non-hostile, USN	0	0

h. Weekly visits to hospitalized Marines at 22nd Surgical Hospital Phu Bai, and the 85th Evacuation Hospital, Phu Bai, were made by senior officers of the Group.

5. Inspections

a. A pre-rotation inspection of HMM-265 was conducted on 23 May 1969 by the MAG-36 Inspection Team.

6. Off-Duty Education. MAG-36 off-duty education program participation remained constant during the month of May.

a. The following high school courses were offered during the month:

C 151 General Math	14 Students
E 100 Ninth Grade English	11 Students
D 300 Bookkeeping and Accounting	8 Students
USAFI College Preparatory English	1 Student

b. The following college level courses were offered during the month at the XXIV Corps Education Center at Phu Bai Combat Base.

USAFI General Psychology	5 Students
USAFI Personnel Management	1 Student
University of Maryland (Far East) Russian II	1 Student

7. Chaplains Services

a. During the month of May, the assigned Chaplains conducted Divine Services for personnel of the Protestant and Catholic faiths. Divine Services were available for Letter Day Saint personnel at the 26th Support Group Chapel and for Jewish personnel at the XXIV Corps Chapel.

b. The Catholic Chaplain conducted Divine Services for PMAG-39 and MCB-40 each Sunday of the month and for MCB-40 each Wednesday evening. The Catholic Chaplain also conducted Masses for some CAG units during the month. Hospital visits were made to MAG-36 personnel at the 85th Evacuation Hospital.

c. A total of 70 services were conducted aboard MAG-36 compound with 931 in attendance. There were also four religious films shown with a total attendance of 275.

d. A memorial service was held for LCpl Stephen L. UPTON, USMC from HML-367.

e. In addition to their primary duties, the MAG-36 Chaplains maintained contact with their Vietnamese counterparts. Visits were made and assistance given to the American Nuns, Christian Brothers and Catholic Orphanage in Hue, and the refugee village in Phu Luong. Chaplain Civic Action gifts for the month consisted of 100 assorted books, 1 set of encyclopedias, 80 lbs of assorted foodstuffs, 50 lbs of toys, three and a half truckloads (6X6) of scrap wood, seven truckloads of fill dirt, 10 cases of meat, one water pump and miscellaneous school supplies (paper, pencils, erasers, etc.).

f. The Chaplains arranged three tours of Hue during the month with a total of 62 men participating.

8. Special Services

a. The following noteworthy Special Services events were conducted during May 1969:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
15 May 1969	Pussy Cat A Go Go Show	Amphitheater
1 - 31 May 1969	Intramural Softball	Total of 48 games played. H&MS-36 Maintenance leads Western Division. 173rd Petroleum Company, USA, leading Eastern Division.
1 - 31 May 1969	Tai Kwon Do Lessons	Total of 27 lessons were taught to MAG-36 personnel by Korean 1st Lt Kim Oung.

b. Construction projects and status of each is reflected below:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>Amphitheater</u>	Projection Booth nearly complete, theatre siding and stage facing complete. Stage entrance curtains installed, dressing table built in dressing room, additional earth-fill staged for enlargement of seating area.
<u>Hobbyshop</u>	Work request for extension of existing building disapproved due to material shortage.

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>Fifty Mile Club</u>	Nine Certificates of Completion awarded during the month of May.
<u>Grass Hut</u>	Partially collapsed by wind storm. Plans in motion to repair.
<u>Library</u>	Breezeway painted, average of 20 books checked out daily.
<u>Street Signs</u>	Street signs utilizing names of MAG-36 KIA's placed along each major street on base.

9. Communications

- a. The Communications Center processed 4,621 incoming messages and 1,177 outgoing for a total of 5,798 messages during the month of May.
- b. The Radio Section removed the remote unit from Melo Air Freight as it is no longer required. Three personnel from the Radio Section attended and completed the generator course held by the Utilities Section.
- c. The Radio Repair Section installed headsets on the VRC-77 radio equipment in a crash crew vehicle.
- d. The Wire Section relocated telephones in the new dispensary. The Wire Section also replaced old wire in the HAMS-36, IMM-462, and IMM-265 areas with new WD-1/TT wire. Group Supply was rewired using 2,500 feet of 12 pair cable, and installation of the TOM-20 (telecall) inter-communications system was completed.

10. Base Defense

- a. 2ndLt H. H. DEARING replaced 1stLt D. E. BELATTI as Executive Officer of the Provisional Rifle Company on 25 May 1969. Lt BELATTI was returned to an aviation billet in IMM-265.
- b. During May the company joined one officer and fourteen enlisted, while transferring one officer. All newly joined personnel conducted familiarization firing of organic weapons (M-16, M-79, M-60).
- c. There were no fire incidents during the month of May. Activity outside the perimeter increased during the month. There was one incident of the perimeter wire being cut and sightings of activity increased. Day and night patrols saturated the area and there was contact on one occasion. No casualties resulted from the contact.
- d. Ground operations included 170 hours of night patrols, 20 hours of day patrols, 450 hours of work improving the perimeter defense position.