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ORIGINAL

Prov MAG-39
S&C # 647-68

HEADQUARTERS
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific
FPO San Francisco, 96602

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5750
15 Nov 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 1-31 October 1968; submission of

Ref: (a) WgO 5750.1C

Encl: (1) Command Chronology for Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
(2) Command Chronology for Provisional Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 39
(3) Command Chronology for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161
(4) Command Chronology for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262
(5) Command Chronology for Marine Observation Squadron 6
(6) Command Chronology for Marine Air Traffic Control Unit 62
(7) Command Chronology for Marine Air Traffic Control Unit 62 Detachment "A"

PROV MAG 39 Filed Sep

1. In accordance with instructions contained in reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted herewith.

CMD CHRON

W. SIENKO

1st MAW S&C No.	Copy No.
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PROVISIONAL MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 39

Command Chronology

1 October 1968 to 31 October 1968

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Staff

a. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39

(1)	Col.	Walter SIENKO	1-31 Oct 68	C.O.
(2)	LtCol.	Louis A. GULLING	1-31 Oct 68	X.O.
(3)	Capt.	Lawrence E. TANKSLEY	1-31 Oct 68	S-1/Adjutant
(4)	Maj.	John A. HATHAWAY	1-31 Oct 68	S-2
(5)	Maj.	Charles E. CANNON	1-31 Oct 68	S-3
(6)	Maj.	David G. WORKMON	1-31 Oct 68	S-4
(7)	Maj.	Robert N. SIMPSON	1-31 Oct 68	Avn Safety O
(8)	LCdr.	Rodney R. SCHEER	1-31 Oct 68	Chaplain
(9)	Lt.	Gordon F. KELLOG	1-31 Oct 68	Flight Surgeon

b. Provisional Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 39

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (2)

c. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (3)

d. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (4)

e. Marine Observation Squadron 6

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (5)

f. Marine Air Traffic Control Unit 62

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (6)

g. Marine Air Traffic Control Unit 62, Datachment "A"

(1) See page (1) of enclosure (1) to enclosure (7)

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2. Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Fleet Marine Force Pacific, FPO San Francisco, 96602
Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam
1-31 October 1968

3. Average Monthly Strength

Marine Officers	207	Marine Enlisted	1140
Navy Officers	5	Navy Enlisted	15

4. Important Visitors:

Major General Charles J. QUILTER, Commanding General 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of October, the aircraft of Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 flew in support of the Third Marine Division and the U.S. Army in operations Scotland II and Lancaster II.

The Group's resources were used in troop lifts, resupply, recon team insertions and extractions, Med-evac, VIP missions and command and control missions. In these roles, there were 5548.7 flight hours logged.

Monsoon weather conditions curtailed flight activities during the month and dropped 30.55 inches of rain on Quang Tri. Weather conditions necessitated the rebuilding of many bunkers, including the refinishing and waterproofing of the Group COC bunker.

PART III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Chronological Sequence of Events

1 October 1968. The month's flight operations got under way by logging 237.6 flight hours in support of the Third Marine Division. Of significance was a night time battalion troop lift involving 12 CH-46's and 2 UH-1E gunships. The lift was additionally covered by a flareship from VMGR-152.

2 October 1968. Light small arms fire was taken by the CH-46's of HMM-161 during a recon insert. There were no hits received as the huey gunbirds of VMO-6 provided aircover.

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3 October 1968. MAG-39 aircraft logged 184.7 flight hours in troop lifts which carried 1984 passengers, and various other missions in support of the Third Marine Division.

4 October 1968. The CH-46's of HMM-161 along with huey gunbirds of VMO-6 supported U.S. Army personnel with a troop lift of 281 soldiers.

5 October 1968. The Second Battlion Fourth Marines was lifted from LZ Vandergrift to the Lang Vei area south of Khe Sanh in a sweep where friendly forces had not previously been. ProvMAG-39 used 23 transport helicopters, 4 UH-1E gunbirds plus the O-1's of VMO-6 in a completely successful troop lift into an unsecure area.

6 October 1968. A troop lift utilizing 20 transport aircraft and 4 UH-1E gunbirds of ProvMAG-39 was conducted in the Scotland II TAOR. An O-1C was shot down but quick reaction on the part of other VMO-6 personnel saved the pilot and the AO, while a transport CH-46 carried the aircraft back to Quang Tri.

7 October 1968. Recon inserts were the highlight of the day for HMM-262. Capt. B.B. COLE took heavy auto matic weapons fire on the insertion of two different recon teams. On the first insertion, the team was on the ground when the CH-46 took fire lifting out. The covering UH-1E guns were forced to depart the area with mechanical trouble, leaving an OV-10 to cover the transports. Capt. COLE recognized the necessity of an immediate extraction and was successful. The second team received fire and was charged as the helicopter landed; returning fire, the aircrew and recon team provided enough suppressive fire to enable the aircraft to escape without sustaining any hits.

8 October 1968. Aircraft of ProvMAG-39 flew 219.1 flight hours in 789 sorties in support of the Third Marine Division.

9 October 1968. Troop lifts of some 835 Marines were completed by 4 CH-46's from HMM-262 and covered by 2 UH-1E gunbirds from VMO-6.

10 October 1968. ProvMAG-39 aircraft flew 215.4 flight hours, carrying 1497 passengers and 96.3 tons of cargo. There were 16 Med-evac missions to evacuate 8 emergency, 32 priority and 9 routine patients. Weather conditions delayed flight operations until 0900.

11 October 1968. Recon extractions under fire were the highlights of the day. Close coordination between the CH-46's of HMM-161 and the huey gunbirds of VMO-6 was responsible for their successful completion.

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12 October 1968. Weather prohibited almost all flight operations of other than an emergency nature. VMO-6 and HMM-161 coordinated to make a hot emergency extract of a Third Marine Division recon team.

13 October 1968. Weather conditions held the Group to 104.7 flight hours.

14 October 1968. Weather again held the Group on the deck, allowing 4 emergency missions for 7.1 flight hours.

15 October 1968. Emergency Med-evacs and emergency resupply missions accounted for 116.7 flight hours in marginal weather. There were 129 Med-evacs evacuated to medical facilities.

16 October 1968. In support of Operation Lancaster II, the crews and aircraft of ProvMAG-39 coordinated in a 1347 man tactical troop lift without the benefit of fixed wing support. The UH-1E gunbirds of VMO-6 proved to be sufficient.

17 October 1968. Monsoon weather conditions held flight operations to 142.9 flight hours, on troop lifts, resupply and Med-evac missions. On a Med-evac mission in mountainous terrain, the CH-46 Med-evac aircraft went inadvertently IFR and crashed. The wreckage was not located until the next day due to weather.

18 October 1968. An O-1 aircraft of VMO-6 located the downed CH-46 and directed recovery units into the area. There were no survivors.

19 October 1968. Helicopter and fixed wing observation support for Third Marine Division by ProvMAG-39 was again limited by monsoon weather conditions.

20 October 1968. The O-1's of VMO-6 took advantage of a break in the weather to direct fixed wing attacks on NVA artillery near the DMZ. One CH-46 of HMM-262 received battle damage on a recon team insertion though none of the crew or team were wounded.

21 October 1968. There were 122.1 flight hours logged as the aircraft of ProvMAG-39 continued to support the Third Marine Division.

22 October 1968. The O-1's of VMO-6 again controlled several flights of fixed wing jets on NVA arty and rocket positions that were shelling Dong Ha.

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23 October 1968. A troop lift of 842 men involving 8 CH-46's and 2 UH-1E gunships into the Khe Sanh area was completed without incident.

24 October 1968. Troop lifts carrying 2245 men accounted for most of the resources of ProvMAG-39. Additionally there were 23 Med-evac missions flown which carried 12 emergency, 7 priority and 75 routine Med-evacs.

25 October 1968. VMO-6 was able to attack NVA units near the DMZ with two flights of UH-1E gunbirds. One aircraft received a round through the window, wounding the co-pilot slightly.

26 October 1968. In addition to the Third Marine Division, the U.S. Army units in the Scotland II TAOR required an emergency resupply while in contact with NVA. The aircraft and crews of ProvMAG-39 logged 243.3 flight hours, carrying 2476 troops.

27 October 1968. The CH-46's of HMM-262 were scrambled for an emergency recon team extraction. Working with VMO-6 for support, Capt. HERBERG went into the LZ and successfully extracted the team under fire as the Huey gunbirds fired suppressive fire.

28 October 1968. A night recon team extraction highlighted the day as the gunships of VMO-6, coordinated the flareships and the transport helicopters in a successful hot extraction.

29 October 1968. Resupply and troop lift missions, Med-evac, VIP, escort and VR hops accounted for 179.7 flight hours logged by the aircraft of ProvMAG-39.

30 October 1968. Support of Third Marine Division units in the Scotland II and Lancaster II TAOR's logged 196.2 flight hours for ProvMAG-39.

31 October 1968. With monsoon weather conditions present, ProvMAG-39 flew 167.8 flight hours to close out the month with 5548.7 flight hours for the month.

1. Personnel. No critical shortages exist.

2. Administration. Administration continues to be hampered by shortage of office equipment and materials.

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3. Awards. The following award recommendations have been submitted during this period:

a. Silver Star - 2

b. DFC - 5

c. Bronze Star - 8

d. Air Medal - 10 Single Mission 638 Strike/Flight

e. Navy Commendation - 12

f. Navy Achievement - 4

4. Casualties

a. Hostile:	KIA:	7	WIA:	3
b. Non-Hostile:	DAI:	0	OTHER:	5

5. Moral/Welfare Programs

a. Special Services has moved the old "Starlight Theater" indoors to the Staff NCO mess to allow their own movie since the enlisted men's club has a movie as well as the officer's club.

b. A special services amphitheator is presently under construction.

c. Sandbagged blastwalling of perimeter defense bunkers as well as the O'Club and COC bunker have been completed.

6. Statistical Analysis. The Chaplain reports the following statistical catogories as he functions in his various roles of Priest, Educator, Counselor, and Civic Action Officer.

(1) Sunday Celebrations:

	Number	Attendance	Communed
Chaplain Scheer (Lutheran)	6	133	62
Chaplain Klapps (Roman Catholic)	4	108	93
Chaplain Boreczky (Roman Catholic)	4	100	83
Chaplain Dodson (Baptist)	1	42	0
Total	15	383	238

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		Number	Attendance
(2)	Weekday/Holy Day/Memorial Services:		
	CAP Units	3	15
	Memorial Services	2	351
(3)	Education:		
	Religious Discussion Group	4	33
	Religious Information	3	5
(4)	Pastoral Counseling and Therapy:		
	Religious	5	
	Pre-Marital	4	
	Domestic Conflicts	9	
	Character Disorder	6	
	Psychoneurotic	3	
	Transfer-Discharge	5	
	Miscellaneous	9	
	Above individuals seen in therapy more than one time.		
	Total Professional Counseling cases for October 1968	57	
	Red Cross	8	
	Hospital Visits	3	

7. Civic Affairs. Twelve Civic Affairs trips were made in the ProvMAG-39 Civic Action Area of Responsibility. 131 persons from the Group composed the teams implementing Personal Response and Civic Action Projects. 2 Dent-Caps were conducted by Dr. J.T. CURTISS. The Dentist treated 14 patients with 5 extractions. Med-Cap was conducted by Dr. G. KELLOG in 2 trips to AN MO Hamlet with 142 patients treated. English Language classes were started at the TRIEU PHONG Hamlet by 1stLt. J.A. PROMBO and 1stLt. K. SCHAGAT from HMM-161. The following material assistance was rendered to the Vietnamese:

School Supplies - 3 boxes (assorted) 600 sheets of colored paper.
Soap - 680 bars
Food - 30 lbs. (assorted), 10 cases of "C" rations, 36 cans of hash, 2 cases of apples.
Milk - 10 lbs.
Clothes - 160 lbs.
Medical Supplies - 48 packs @ 100 per pack of applicators. 100 Plastic bottles
Gauze - 20 Bolts, 1600 yds., 59 packs

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8. Intelligence

a. Enemy initiated incidents or offensive activity remained at a very low level throughout the month. Lack of contact or evidence of the enemy unit presence seemed to indicate that major NVA units North and West of Highway #9 had withdrawn to Laos and NVN. NVA and Main Force VC units also withdrew deep into their "secret zones" and refused contact while refitting and resupplying. Enemy action against ProvMAG-39 was limited to ground fire against Group aircraft. This was the second consecutive month Quang Tri Airfield was not targeted by enemy rocketeers. Ground to air fire statistics:

Incidents	No. Aircraft Hit	WIA (Minor)	KIA
34	9	3	1

b. Agent reports and captured documents indicate that the enemy was shifting his emphasis to political rather than military victory. A stepped-up campaign to increase the number of hamlet and village "Revolutionary Committees" and spread support of the "National Liberation Front" presaged a possible referendum resulting from the Paris Peace Talks. ProvMAG-39 maintained a close liaison with the GVN Phoenix/Phung Hoang (VC Infrastructure Neutralization) campaign in Quang Tri Province, monitoring this new emphasis to win the people.

9. Air Operations

a. October Totals

Sorties	Hours	Pax	Cargo
18,105	5548.7	43,835	1853.5

Med-evacs	Med-evac Missions
2727	566

10. Medical Department. The following statistics represents the activity of the Medical Department during the month of October 1968.

(a)	Total patients seen at sick call:	954
(b)	Total number of inpatients:	0
(c)	Total number of physical examinations:	101
(d)	Total immunizations:	814

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