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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF Pacific
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

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7 AUG 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 (Attn: S-3)

Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 July 1969 to 31 July 1969

Ref: (a) GruO 5750.1B

Encl: (1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

2. This letter becomes UNCLASSIFIED upon removal of enclosure (1).

D. J. Meskan
D. J. MESKAN

HMM 262 S&C 0161-69
C 1 OF 7

HMM-262

CMD CHRON

July 1969

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MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 JULY 1969 to 31 JULY 1969

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. ORGANIZATION DATA

a. Commanding Officer	James A. WELLS, Jr.	LTCOL	1-8 July
	Donald J. MESKAN	MAJOR	9-31 July
b. Executive Officer	Marvin R. NELSON	MAJOR	1-8 July
	Howard M. WHITFIELD	MAJOR	9-31 July
c. Operations Officer	Marvin R. NELSON	MAJOR	1-8 July
	Simon F. STOVER	CAPT	9-31 July
d. Logistics Officer	Lester R. GROSE	CAPT	1-31 July
e. Personnel Officer	Donald J. MESKAN	MAJOR	1-8 July
	Paul W. DOSS	1/LT	9-31 July
f. Aviation Safety Officer	Howard M. WHITFIELD	MAJOR	1-8 July
	Donald V. ESMOND	1/LT	9-31 July
g. Intelligence Officer	Charles L. STORY	1/LT	1-31 July
h. Maintenance Officer	Raymond G. PINSON	MAJOR	1-31 July
i. Sergeant Major	Alexander J. SONCRANT	1stSgt	1-17 July
	Gene D. PALMER	MGySgt	18-31 July

2. Task Organization and Unit Location

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 262
Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing,
FMF Pacific, FPO San Francisco, California 96602
Quang Tri Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, 1-31 July 1969

3. Average Monthly Strength of Squadron

Naval Aviators	Air/Ground Officers
39	3
Enlisted	**Naval Officers**
152	1

4. Important Visitors to the Squadron

None

ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

HMM-262 flew a total of 1037.3 flight hours, the majority of which were in support of III MARINE DIVISION & III MAF. The squadron evacuated a total of 592 med-evacs as follows: 69 emergency, 165 priority and 358 routine.

The following is a breakdown on the work completed by the squadron during July including significant operational highlights.

	NO. OF SORTIES	HOURS FLOWN	TROOPS LIFTED	TONS OF CARGO
UTAH MESA	258	70.5	717	27.7
VIRGINIA RIDGE	351	67.3	399	79.5
HERRIMER MT.	762	183.2	1878	120.5
ARLINGTON CANYON	670	128.2	884	139.8
DOBBS CREST	2	.5		
IROQUIS GROVE	49	14.6	31	16.5
WILLIAMS GLADE	143	77.1	118	35.0
IDAHO CANYON	468	100.4	491	76.7
GEORGIA TAR	510	92.9	1520	77.4
KENTUCKY JUMPER	24	5.0	107	
III MAR DIV & III MAF	960	297.4	2178	59.2
TOTALS	4197	1037.3	8323	632.3

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

2 JULY

Chatterbox Med-Evac launched at 1400 from Vandergrift Combat Base to pick up some emergency med-evacs for Showcase Golf-2 in the AD9463 grid. As the med-evac bird was setting down it came under intense small arms fire and was forced to make an emergency landing at A-4. Med-evac chase went into A-4 and picked up the crew and brought them back to Quang Tri. The small arms fire hit one of the gunners in the leg along with disabling the bird. The aircraft was later recovered and brought back to Quang Tri.

8 JULY

Chatterbox 93-1 and 93-2 launched at 0700 to perform resupply out of Vandergrift Combat Base. The turbulance was so bad and extreme that it created undue hazard for the aircraft and the mission was cancelled after three hours of flying.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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12 JULY

Chatterbox 93-11 & 93-12 launched to the YD195483 for a night emergency extract of the recon team Peepsight. The extract was completed and Chatterbox 93-11 was again called to extract Leaque Leader, another recon team. Chatterbox 93-11 completed these extractions with no incidents although both teams had been in contact just prior to the extraction.

18 JULY

While Chatterbox Med-Evac was making a pickup in the YD135750 grid, it came under severe small arms fire and was forced to land at A-4 for repairs. The oil line was replaced to the aft transmission and the aircraft was flown back to Quang Tri. No injury to personnel was incurred.

31 JULY

Chatterbox Med-Evac and chase launched on an emergency med-evac in the YD065684. Mortars had been received in the zone prior to the attempted med-evac. Seaworthy guns worked the area over and the med-evac decided to attempt going in. Once in the zone the causalties were taken aboard and med-evac lifted out. At about 75 feet, a RPG round struck the aircraft causing severe damage to the controls and the aircraft. The aircraft was landed near the ground unit and the med-evacs aboard were removed along with the injured crew members. One gunner was killed, another was severely wounded resulting in the loss of his right arm. The Crew Chief received shrapnel wounds in and about the eyes resulting in the possible loss of sight in one eye. The corpsman had minor facial lacerations and both the pilot and co-pilot received some shrapnel wounds in the arms. The crew stayed the rest of the night with the ground unit and was evacuated the next morning.

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PART III

1. Personnel

a. Transfer to HMM-262 - Officers 6, enlisted 12

b. Transfer from HMM-262 - Officers 6, enlisted 15

c. Promotions to present rank: GySgt LAFRENIERE, A. E. 7 Jul 69
Cpl NEWCOMB, C. E.III 18 Jul 69
LCpl POTTENGER, G. A. 30 Jul 69

2. Awards

PINSON, Raymond G.	Maj	Distinquished Flying Cross	9Jul69
"	"	Combat Action Ribbon	12Jul69
WHITE, David L.	Capt	Purple Heart	9Jul69
BOYACK, William K.	1stLt	Combat Action Ribbon	12Jul69
BRAVARD, Stephen D.	"	Purple Heart	9Jul69
DAU, James E.	"	Bronze Star for Air Medal	4Jul69
STACKHOUSE, Gary E.	"	Bronze Star	9Jul69
STORY, Charles L.	"	Purple Heart	9Jul69
WILLIAMS, Ronald G.	GySgt	1st Air Medal	18Jul69
RICHARDS, Jack, L.	SSgt	Gold Star in leiu of 2nd Purple Heart	9Jul69
STEVENSON, Robert W.	"	Combat Aircrew Wings 1st Air Medal	18Jul69
BILLINGTON, John H.	Sgt	"	18Jul69
DRNEC, Roy J.	"	"	18Jul69
BAILEY, Curtis	Cpl	Purple Heart	9Jul69
NEWCOMB, Cecil E. III	"	Combat Action Ribbon	12Jul69
BAISLEY, Jon B.	LCpl	1st Air Medal	18Jul69
HOLLER, Gregory J.	"	"	18Jul69
JONES, Thomas F.	"	"	18Jul69
KUTTNER, Michael R.	"	"	18Jul69
KREPPS, Frank D.	"	"	18Jul69
MATLOCK, Larry W.	"	"	18Jul69
SEALY, Roger L.	"	"	18Jul69
STOUT, Henry A. III	"	"	18Jul69
STRONG, Richard M.	"	"	18Jul69
WILKINS, Charles A.	"	Purple Heart	9Jul69
WRIGHT, Reginald L.	Pvt	1st Air Medal	18Jul69

ENCLOSURE (1)

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3. Causualties

VANLIERUP, Frederick Pl	LCpl	WIA 2Jul69
ANDERSON, Ralph C.	1stLt	WIA 31Jul69
WOOD, Marion G.	1stLt	WIA 31Jul69
ORNDORFF, Edward L.	LCpl	WIA 31Jul69
WILKINS, Charles A.	LCpl	WIA 31Jul69
SHELTON, James E.	Pfc	KIA 31Jul69
MILLER, Daniel D.	HM2	WIA 31Jul69

4. Reenlistments

GySgt LAWRENCE A. CHOY 29Jul69

5. Safety. Listed below are the aircraft accidents/incidents for the month of July 1969.

Ground Accidents.....0
Ground Accidents - Due to enemy action.....1
Air Accidents - Operational.....0

Air Incidents - Operational.....6
Air Accidents - Due to Enemy Action.....3
Air Incidents - Due to Enemy Action.....4
Injury to Personnel.....1 ALPHA
6 FOXTROT

6. Intelligence

The month of July showed a continued marked decrease in enemy anti-aircraft fire incidents. The reporting period (1-31 July 1969) consisted of a slight increase in sorties accompanied by only half the fire-incidents total of the previous month (1-20June 1969).

MONTH	SORTIES	FIRE INCIDENTS	NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT RECEIVING BATTLE DAMAGE	% OF FIRE PER SORTIE
JULY	4197	9	3	0.213
JUNE	4177	19	4	0.454
MAY	4533	47	9	1.036

The areas receiving the largest volume of fire incidents were:

(1) Helicopter Valley are - YD0666-0662-1062-1066 (This includes the same threat area for the previous two months. This month 3-SA and 9-AW incidents occurred in this area)

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(2) Loathernock Square

a. West of Con Thien YD0570-0567-1170-1167 (This threat area is new and included 4-50 Cal., 6-AW, 3-SA and 2-RPG incidents)

b. Northeast of Con Thien YD1375-1371-1571-1575 (This threat area included 2-50 Cal., 5-AW, and 1-SA incident.

(3) Along Route #9 XD8741-8535-9141-9239-8531 (This threat area included 6-AW and 4-SA incidents. Pattern indicates that an enemy unit moved from West to East along Route #9 between the 20 July 1969 and 22 July 1969).

(4) Song Cam River area North XD8467-8462-9662-9667 (This threat area, three months of continuous anti-aircraft incidents, including during July 1969, 12*AW, 3-50 Cal., 2-SA and 2-Mortar incidents).

Threat Areas Dropped:

(1) Utah Mesa area along Route #9 XD7740-7734-8634-8640.

(2) Along the Da Krong River YD0137-0135-0335-0337.

There was a total of 9 fire incidents resulting in 3 aircraft receiving battle damge and a total of 18 hits. There was a total of three aircraft forced to land, resulting in one strike aircraft and 7 causalties (1 KIA, 6 WIA). Total July fire incidents consisted of the following types of fire:

July 69	June 69
3 Small arms	15 Small arms
2 Automatic Weapons	9 Automatic Weapons
2 .30 Caliber	21 .30 Caliber
0 .50 Caliber	2 .50 Caliber
6 Mortar	3 Mortar
0 Gernade	0 Gernade
1 RPG	3 RPG
0 Airburst	0 Airburst

The S-2 presented a weekly summary four times this month, this briefing is an overall operational summary of the weeks intelligence, and prediction for the upcoming week based on analysis of enemy activity. This briefing has become a part of the weekly AOM's held by the squadron commander.

A total of three gunners schools were completed and 53 hours of intelligence training was accomplished. There was a total of 4 SERE classes held, with all new crew members attending.

Significant events during the reporting period were:

(1) On 31 July 1969, enemy antiair activity against one of our aircraft included a co-ordinated attack by fire (60MM Mort against the HLZ YD065684 and RPG-2 against the aircraft).

ENCLOSURE (1)

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The enemy was situated in a bomb-crater outside the HLZ and the mortar was located beyond this crater. The mortar pinned down the HLZ, so that it was impossible for the aircraft to return to the HLZ, while the RPG fire concentrated on the aircraft leaving the zone.

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