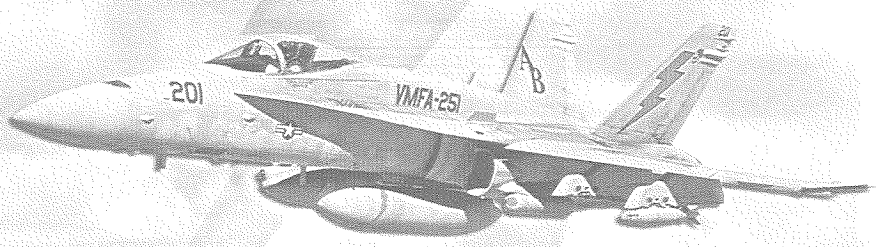


Marine Fighter Attack Squadron

251



**Change of Command
Ceremony
Friday 9 May 2008**



COMMANDING OFFICER OF TROOPS

Major Massett

SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Fenton

ADJUTANT

Captain Northam

PARADE STAFF

Captain Bolen

Captain Dorazio

Chief Warrant Officer Two Alejandre

Staff Sergeant Edgell

Staff Sergeant Huston

Staff Sergeant Hamilton

Staff Sergeant Natchke

PLATOON COMMANDERS

First Lieutenant Greenfield

First Lieutenant Moore

NARRATOR

Captain Brooks

COLOR GUARD

Sergeant Nagel

Corporal Santos

Corporal Slingerland

Lance Corporal Zook

Parris Island Band

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Invocation

Sound Attention

Adjutant's Call

Manual of Arms

Report

Publish the Order

Officer Center

Transfer of Squadron Colors

National Anthem

Award Presentation

Remarks

Reception following the ceremony at the MCAS Officer's Club

COMMANDING OFFICERS

CO, MAG-31

Colonel G. W. Brinegar

CO, MALS-31

Lieutenant Colonel C. M. Dunne

CO, VMFA-115

Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Ehlert

CO, VMFA-122

Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Douds

CO, VMFA(AW)-224

Lieutenant Colonel B. R. Clatterbuck

CO, VMFA-312

Lieutenant Colonel R. L. Rauenhorst

CO, VMFA(AW)-533

Lieutenant Colonel J. Farnam



Lieutenant Colonel Peter D. Ponte
United States Marine Corps

Born in April 1963, LtCol Ponte is a native of New Britain, CT. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in September 1982 and following recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC completed his MOS training as a rifleman in April 1983. After tours in Charlie and Hotel companies, 25th Marines he attended Auburn University, earning his BSME and commission in March 1988. After completing the basic school 2ndLt Ponte reported to NAS Pensacola, FL for initial flight school training, then to NAS Beeville, TX for intermediate and advanced jet training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1991 and subsequently underwent tactical air control party training at LFTCLANT, NAB Little Creek VA.

In April 1991 he reported to VFA-125 at NAS Lemoore, CA for training as an F/A-18 replacement pilot. Upon completion of FRS training, 1stLt Ponte reported to MAG-31, MCAS Beaufort, SC in January of 1992 where he was further assigned to VMFA-251. During his tour with the "Thunderbolts" he was promoted to captain and completed deployments to the Western Pacific and Aviano AB, Italy where he flew in support of Operations DENY FLIGHT and PROVIDE PROMISE. While with the squadron he held the billets of Schedules Officer, Embarkation Officer, Logistics Officer, Powerline Division Officer, and Quality Assurance Officer.

Leaving the "T-bolts" during work-ups with CVW-1 aboard USS AMERICA (CV-66), Capt Ponte was reassigned in April 1995 to Battalion Landing Team 2/6, 26th MEU(SOC), MCB Camp Lejeune, NC. While with BLT 2/6 he deployed on USS WASP (LHD-1) and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD-41) to the Mediterranean

and Adriatic as part of LF6F and NATO/IFOR and served as the mechanized company forward air controller, heliborne TRAP coordinator, and commander of a joint training detachment with the Italian San Marco Battalion.

Upon his return to CONUS in February 1996, Capt Ponte reported back to MAG-31 where he was subsequently assigned to VMFA-122. During his tour with the "Crusaders" he completed two more deployments to WESTPAC, was promoted to major and held the billets of Quality Assurance Officer, Pilot Training Officer, Assistant Maintenance Officer, and Maintenance Officer.

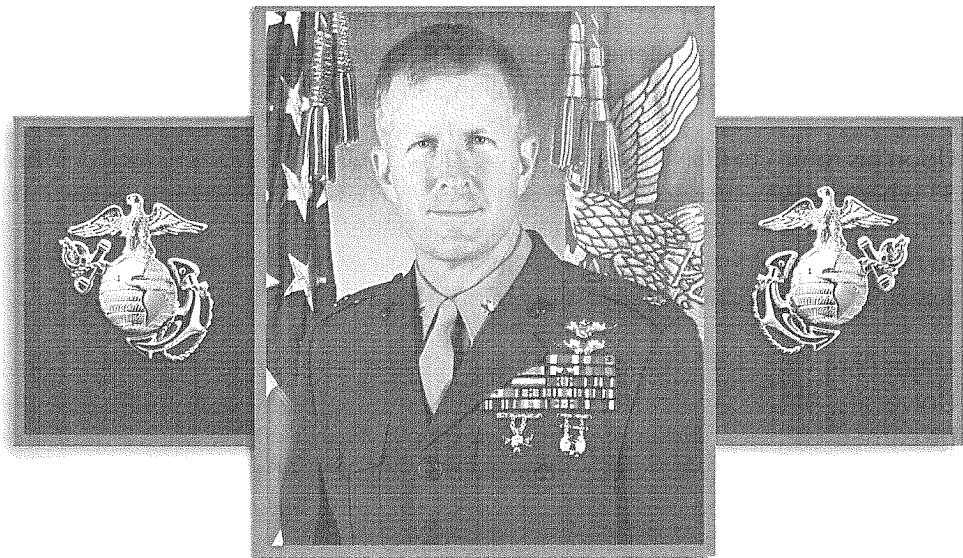
Major Ponte left the "Crusaders" in July 1999 and reported to the Marine Corps University, MCCDC Quantico, VA for USMC Command and Staff College where he earned a Master of Military Science degree in May 2000. He was subsequently assigned to the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, VA as the Fighter Engineering Class Desk Officer in charge of F-14 and F/A-18 retrofits and depot maintenance requirements.

In June 2003 Major Ponte reported to VFA-106 at NAS Oceana, VA for F/A-18 refresher training. He reported to MAG-31 in September 2003 where he was further assigned to the "Silver Eagles" of VMFA-115 for duties as the Executive Officer. While with the squadron he was promoted to his current rank and deployed to the Persian Gulf with CVW-3 aboard USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In June 2005 he was reassigned to the MAG-31 staff where he served as Executive Officer, Personnel Support Detachment Commander, and Operations Officer.

In July 2006 he was reassigned to the Commander, Naval Air Forces Staff in Norfolk. In August 2007 he received orders back to MAG-31 and was subsequently assigned to the Commanding General 2D MAW(FWD) staff as the Director of Safety and Standardization, deploying to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. He returned to MAG-31 in December 2007.

LtCol Ponte's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Air Medal with gold star and 3rd Strike/Flight, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards. He is married to the former Ms. Amy Harris, also of New Britain, CT. They have four children; Patrick, Colleen, Alexandra, and Analise.





Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Orr
United States Marine Corps

LtCol Michael Orr was born in Jacksonville, FL on 5 April 1966. He was commissioned via the Platoon Leaders Course in 1988 following graduation from McGill University where he earned a BA in Economics. Upon completion of the Basic School, he was assigned to Naval Flight Officer training at NAS Pensacola, Florida. After completing training, he was designated a Naval Flight Officer in June 1990. 1stLt Orr was assigned to VA-128 at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington for training in the A-6 Intruder.

1stLt Orr reported to MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina in 1991 for duty with VMA-224, where he served as adjutant and deployed to the Western Pacific in 1991. While in the Western Pacific, he was selected for transition training and reported to NAS Whiting Field, FL in 1992 for duty as a Student Naval Aviator. After completing Intermediate and Advanced Flight training at NAS Kingsville, TX, Capt Orr was designated a Naval Aviator on 24 June 1994. Capt Orr completed his F/A-18 training at VFA-125 in NAS Lemoore, CA in June 1995.

Capt Orr reported to MCAS Beaufort, SC for duty with VMFA(AW)-224 and served as NATOPS officer and Quality Assurance Officer. While with VMFA(AW)-224, Capt Orr completed two deployments to Aviano, Italy for contingency operations over Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operations DENY FLIGHT, PROVIDE COMFORT, and DECISIVE EDGE. In June 1997, Major Orr transferred to VMFA-122 and served as Director, Safety and Standardization and Operations Officer, making one WESTPAC deployment.

In June 1999, Major reported to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan for duty with VMFA-212.

While with the Lancers, Major Orr served as Operations Officer, participating in several Pacific area exercises including COPE TIGER, COPE NORTH, and SOUTHERN FRONTIER. In Sept 2000, Major Orr reported to MAG-12 for duty as Current Operations Officer. In May 2001, Major Orr returned to VMFA-212 and served as Operations Officer. While with the Lancers, Major Orr deployed to Al Jaber, Kuwait and flew combat sorties in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

In July 2002, Major Orr reported to Camp Lejeune, NC for duty with the II Marine Expeditionary Force as Aviation Plans Officer for the G-3. In January 2003, Major Orr made a combat deployment to Kuwait and Iraq with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade as part of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Following his return to the U.S. in 2003, Major Orr served as Pacific Area Plans Officer for II MEF. In August 2005, LtCol Orr reported to MCAS Beaufort, SC for duty as Executive Officer of VMFA-251. In July 2006, LtCol Orr assumed command of the Thunderbolts.

During his tour as Commanding Officer, LtCol Orr completed two combat deployments with Carrier Air Wing ONE aboard the USS Enterprise and a forward deployment to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The Thunderbolts flew in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, earning the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award in 2006 and 2007.

LtCol Orr has over 3500 flight hours with 2700 hours in the F/A-18. LtCol Orr's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with the numeral five, three Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. LtCol Orr is married to Kasey Miller from Merced, CA. They have three children: Margaret, Caroline, and Jack.





Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251

LINEAGE

1941—1945

ACTIVATED 1 DECEMBER 1941 AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AS MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON 251

AND ASSIGNED TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 21, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE

DETACHED DURING APRIL 1942 FROM MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 21

DEPLOYED DURING JUNE 1942 TO ESPIRITU SANTO, NEW HEBRIDES

REASSIGNED DURING AUGUST 1942 TO THE 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

GUADALCANAL

SOUTHERN SOLOMONS

NORTHERN SOLOMONS

SANTA CRUZ

LUZON

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

RELOCATED DURING MAY-JULY 1943 TO MOJAVE, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE BASE DEFENSE AIRCRAFT GROUP 44

RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1943 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO

MARINE BASE DEFENSE AIRCRAFT GROUP 41, MARINE FLEET AIR, WEST COAST
DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH 1944 TO ESPIRITU SANTO, NEW HEBRIDES, AND REASSIGNED TO THE

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE

REASSIGNED DURING OCTOBER 1944 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 14

REDESIGNATED 1 FEBRUARY 1945 AS MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON 251

DEACTIVATED 1 JUNE 1945 AT SAMAR, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

1946—1956

REACTIVATED 1 JULY 1946 AT GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN, AS MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON 251,

U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

1946—1956

REACTIVATED 1 JULY 1946 AT GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN, AS MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON 251,

U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

REDESIGNATED 1 DECEMBER 1946 AS MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON 251
MOBILIZED FOR ACTIVE DUTY 1 MARCH 1951
RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1951 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND ASSIGNED TO MA-
RINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13,
AIR, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
REDESIGNATED 26 APRIL 1951 AS MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251
REASSIGNED DURING JANUARY 1952 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15
DEPLOYED DURING JUNE 1953 TO PYONGTAEK, KOREA, AND REASSIGNED TO MA-
RINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12,
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE
PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR, JULY 1953, OPERATING FROM
WESTERN FRONT
PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE, JULY
1953— JANUARY 1956
REDEPLOYED DURING JANUARY 1956 TO IWAKUNI, JAPAN
1957— 1970
RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1957 TO MIAMI, FLORIDA, AND REASSIGNED TO MARINE
AIRCRAFT GROUP 31,
AIR, FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC
REDESIGNATED 20 APRIL 1957 AS MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON 251
RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1958 TO EL TORO, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 33, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
DEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER 1959 TO ATSUGI, JAPAN, AND REASSIGNED TO MA-
RINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 11,
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, AIR, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
RELOCATED DURING JANUARY 1961 TO BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND REAS-
SIGNED
TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 32, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING,
AIR, FLEET MARINE FORCE, ATLANTIC
DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST-OCTOBER 1961 TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
REDESIGNATED 1 NOVEMBER 1964 AS MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251
1971 — 2003
REASSIGNED DURING MARCH 1971 TO MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31
PARTICIPATED IN THE UNIT DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM BETWEEN THE 1ST MARINE
AIRCRAFT WING,
IWAKUNI, JAPAN, AND THE 20 MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CARO-
LINA,
DURING THE 1970s, 1980s, AND EARLY 1990s
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, JANUARY-APRIL 1994,
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1995, DECEMBER 1995, AND JANUARY 1996
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQ, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
1995,
NOVEMBER 1997— APRIL 1998, AND NOVEMBER 1999— FEBRUARY 2000
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AFGHANISTAN,
OCTOBER 2001 — MARCH 2002
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, IRAQ
FEBRUARY 2003 — MAY 2003



Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251

HONORS AWARDED

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II
GUADALCANAL - 1942

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREA - 1953

1997-1998

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

1983 - 1986

1987 - 1989

1995 - 1996

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

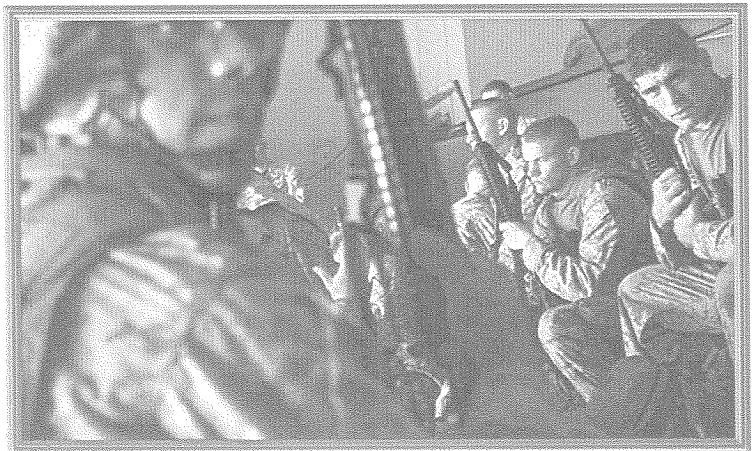
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH THREE BRONZE STARS

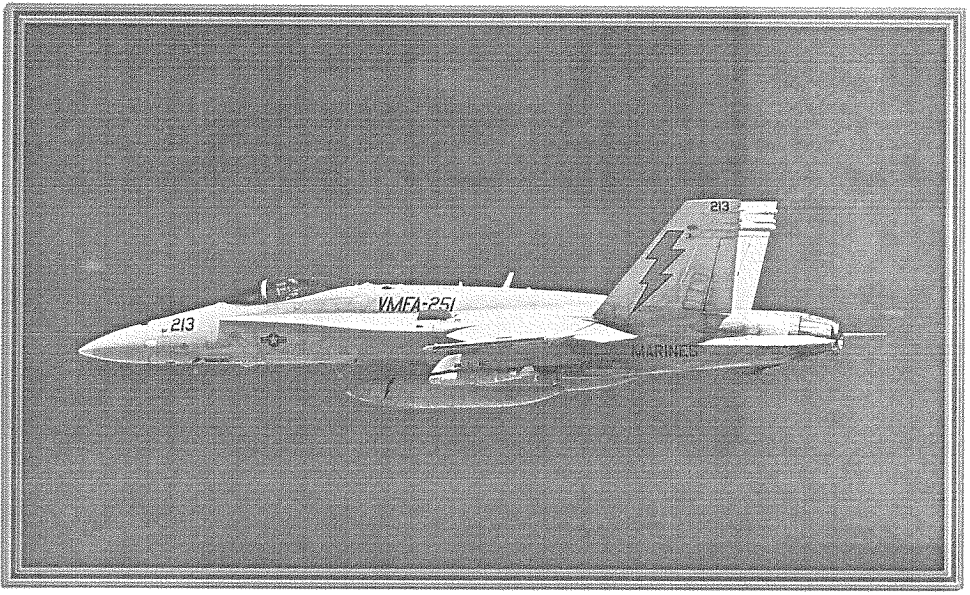
MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

PHILIPPINE LIBERATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER





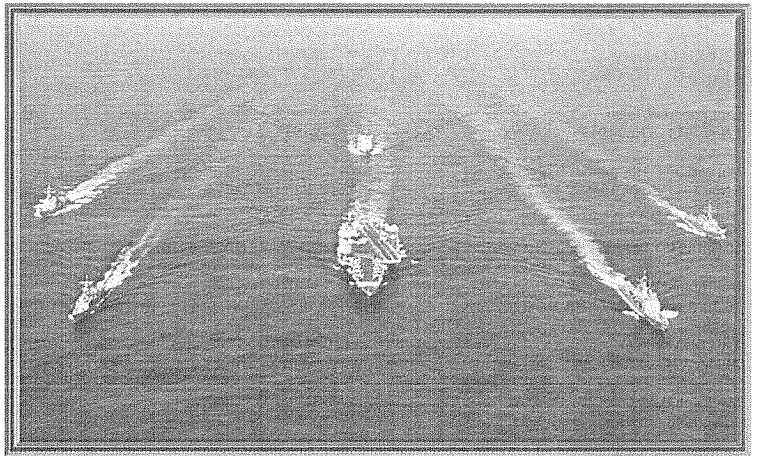
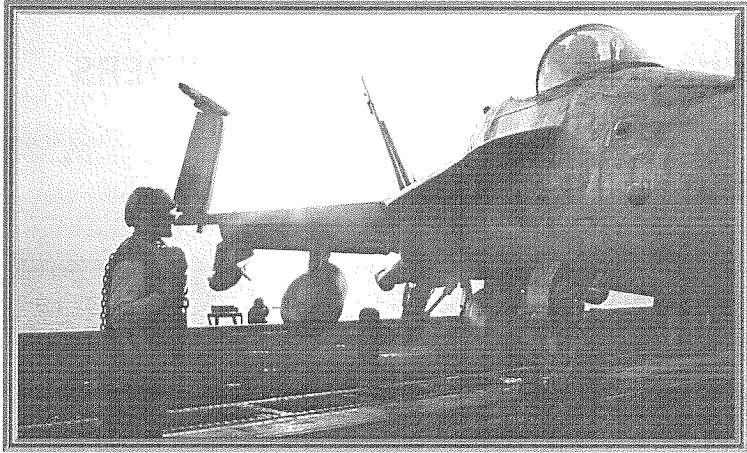
"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

- Teddy Roosevelt



THUNDERBOLT SQUADRON COMMANDERS

Capt Elliot E. Bard 1 Dec 1941 - 11 Dec 1941	LtCol Rufus D. Sams, Jr. 16 Oct 1953 - 9 Dec 1953	LtCol R. P. Lee 31 Jul 1971 - 23 Jun 1972
Maj John N. Hart 12 Dec 1941 - 29 Oct 1942	LtCol Frank R. Porter, Jr. 10 Dec 1953 - 5 Jun 1954	LtCol J. C. Byram, Jr. 24 Jun 1972 - 30 Apr 1973
LtCol Charles H. Hayes 30 Oct 1942 - 30 Nov 1942	LtCol John D. Noble 6 Jun 1954 - 12 Jul 1954	LtCol J.C. Service III 1 May 1973 - 11 Dec 1973
Capt Ralph Yeaman 1 Dec 1942 - 7 Dec 1942	Maj Thomas B Wood 13 Jul 1954 - 21 Nov 1954	LtCol J. L. Mavretic 12 Dec 1973 - 31 Jan 1975
Maj William R. Campbell 8 Dec 1942 - 10 Dec 1942	LtCol Robert J. Holm 22 Nov 1954 - 21 Sep 1955	LtCol G. E. Walsh 31 Jan 1975 - 31 Dec 1975
Maj Joseph N. Renner 11 Dec 1942 - 12 Mar 1943	Lt Col Joseph F. Quilty, Jr. 22 Sep 1955 - 21 Mar 1956	LtCol J. B. Wuertzt 1 Jan 1976 - 1 Apr 1977
Capt Claude H. Welch 13 Mar 1943 - 21 May 1943	LtCol Fred J. Frazer 22 Mar 1956 - 19 Oct 1956	LtCol M. W. Allinder, Jr. 2 Apr 1977 - 12 Jul 1978
Capt Michael R. Yunck 22 May 1943 - 3 Jun 1943	LtCol Elmer P. Thompson, Jr. 20 Oct 1956 - 20 Apr 1957	LtCol F. J. Schober 12 Jul 1978 - 15 Jun 1979
Maj Carl M. Longley 4 Jun 1943 - 31 Oct 1943	Capt Paul S. French 21 Apr 1957 - 15 May 1957	LtCol P.J. Jones 15 Jun 1979 - 5 Jun 1980
Capt Robert W. Teller 1 Nov 1943 - 5 Nov 1943	LtCol Harold G Schlindinger 16 May 1957 - 5 Oct 1957	LtCol D. A. Richwine 5 Jun 1980 - 30 Jun 1981
Maj William C. Humberd 6 Nov 1943 - 9 Feb 1945	LtCol Wiley A. Green 6 Oct 1957 - 28 Apr 1958	LtCol N. G. Kerr 30 Jun 1981 - 12 Aug 1982
Maj William Bacheler 10 Feb 1945 - 14 Apr 1945	LtCol Thomas J. Saxon, Jr. 29 Apr 1958 - 23 Jun 1958	LtCol G. L. Elsten 12 Aug 1982 - 27 Jan 1984
Maj Thomas W. Furlow 16 Apr 1945 - 20 May 1945	LtCol Albert L. Clark 24 Jun 1958 - 31 Dec 1960	LtCol D. L. Doyle 27 Jan 1984 - 13 Dec 1985
1stLt Glen Keithley 21 May 1945 - 1 Jun 1945	LtCol Ernest E. Poor 1 Jan 1961 - 24 Sept 1962	LtCol Thomas L. Wilkerson 13 Dec 1985 - 3 Jul 1987
Maj Ralph G. McCormick 1 July 1946 - 30 Nov 1946	Maj Darold D. Parrish 25 Sep 1962 - 2 Dec 1962	LtCol Robert A. Maddocks, Jr. 3 Jul 1987 - 2 Jun 1989
Maj William A. Carlton 1 Dec 1946 - 31 Dec 1946	LtCol Kenny C. Palmer 3 Dec 1962 - 6 Jan 1964	LtCol Richard W. Walker 2 Jun 1989 - 17 May 1991
Maj Donald P. Troyer 1 Jan 1951 - 25 Feb 1951	LtCol Robert D. Slay 7 Jan 1964 - 13 Nov 1964	LtCol Norman Schlaich 17 May 1991 - 30 July 1993
Capt Earl C. Miles 1 Mar 1951 - 23 Apr 1951	LtCol Arthur O. Schmagel 14 Nov 1964 - 1 Sep 1965	LtCol Robert E. Schmidle, Jr. 30 July 1993 - 27 Jan 1995
LtCol Gregory J. Weissenberger 24 Apr 1951 - 11 May 1951	Maj Darrel Bjorklund 2 Sep 1965 - 31 Jan 1966	LtCol Colin D. Lampard 27 Jan 1995 - 26 Jul 1996
LtCol Philip L. Crawford 12 May 1951 - 5 Dec 1951	LtCol Gordon H. Keller, Jr. 1 Feb 1966 - 18 Nov 1966	LtCol Anthony W. Valentino 26 Jul 1996 - 12 Jun 1998
LtCol Joe L. Warren 6 Dec 1951 - 6 Jan 1952	Maj Lawrence R. Hawkins 19 Nov 1966 - 29 Feb 1968	LtCol D. P. Yurovich 12 Jun 1998 - 18 May 2000
LtCol Arthur M. Moran 7 Jan 1952 - 31 May 1952	Lt Col Edward C. Johnson 1 Mar 1968 - 18 Apr 1969	LtCol Raymond C. Damm 18 May 2000 - 6 Jun 2002
Maj Clarence H. Moore 1 Jun 1952 - 6 Nov 1952	LtCol R. O. Lawrence 19 Apr 1969 - 31 Aug 1970	LtCol Thomas S. Clark III 6 Jun 2002 - 30 Jul 2004
LtCol Sumner H. Whitten 7 Nov 1952 - 14 Feb 1953	LtCol R. Plant 1 Sep 1970 - 8 Mar 1971	LtCol John M. Jansen 30 Jul 2004 - 3 Jul 2006
LtCol Harold A. Harwood 15 Feb 1953 - 15 Oct 1953	Maj J. M. Mead 9 Mar 1971 - 31 Jul 1971	LtCol Michael R. Orr 3 July 2006 - 9 May 2008



FLAG ETIQUETTE

The United States Marine Corps has long established a tradition of rendering proper honors to the Flag with ceremony and decorum. If this is your first visit to a military installation, we would like to acquaint you with the "Flag Etiquette" observed at this Marine Corps Air Station. The following points of etiquette are set forth for your information.

When the American Flag is passing in a parade or in a review, respect should be given at the moment the Flag passes by.

When covered, gentlemen render respect by standing, facing the Flag, removing the headdress with their right hand and holding it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Otherwise, gentlemen should stand, face the Flag, and place their right hand over the heart. Ladies stand, face the Flag, and place their right hand over their heart.

At the first note of the National Anthem, all persons should render respect in the same manner as mentioned above in respect to our Flag. They should remain at this position until the last note of the Anthem.

When honors are being rendered to the Flag, or while it is passing in a parade or review, smoking, talking, taking pictures or any noisy or boisterous action on the part of anyone is considered improper and disrespectful.

