

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251
Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

3:WWM:wpp
5750
11 July 1973

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31
(2) Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic
Subj: Command Chronology, period 1 January 1973 through 30 June 1973
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D
(b) WgO 5750.1A
(c) GruO 5750.1

1. Organizational Data

a. Designation/Location. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two Five One, Marine Aircraft Group Three One, Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902.

b. Period Covered. 1 January 1973 through 30 June 1973.

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	Lt.Col. J. C. BYRAM JR.	1Jan-30Apr73
	Lt.Col. W. C. SERVICE III	1May-30Jun73
Executive Officer	Major M. R. MCDONOUGH	1Jan-31May73
	Major J. P. DAWSON	1Jun-30Jun73
Operations Officer	Major R. T. WARD	1Jan-30Jun73
Administrative Officer	Captain R. R. FAUCHER	1Jan-25Feb73
	Captain J. F. HAVENER	26Feb-30Jun73
Intelligence Officer	Captain M. E. CONLEY	1Jan-31Jan73
	1stLt J. J. RODDY	1Feb-12Jun73
	1stLt T. J. RASK	13Jun73-30Jun73
Logistics Officer	Captain B. P. GAUCH	1Jan-12Jun73
	Captain R. A. EASTMAN	13Jun-30Jun73
Aviation Safety Officer	Captain R. A. BROWN	1Jan73-31Jan73
	1stLt W. C. ROGERS	1Feb-30Jun73
Aviation Maintenance Officer	Major J. E. MAY	1Jan-30Jun73
Flight Surgeon	NONE ASSIGNED DURING THIS PERIOD.	
Sergeant Major	Sgt/Maj L. G. TUCKER	1Jan-30Apr73
	GySgt J. URITESCU	1May-30Jun73

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ENCLOSURE (5)

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12 July 1973

d. Average Squadron Strength

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
January	38	227
February	40	230
March	39	234
April	38	237
May	36	234
June	36	231

2. Sequence of Events

a. January - VMFA-251 flight operations: 247 sorties, 331.8 hours.

During the week of 15-20 January, one MAWTULANT Crew was aboard to conduct an Air Combat Tactics Instructor's Course. Two aircrews were qualified as Tactics Instructors.

The squadron conducted a Safety Stand Down on 15-16 January. During the stand down both Officers and Enlisted men received training in Safety and Security.

On 31 January VMFA-251 assumed the Alert Pad commitment at NAS Key West, Florida.

b. February - VMFA-251 flight operations: 272 sorties, 389.4 hours.

MAWTULANT instructors conducted a Refresher Tactical Conventional Weapons Delivery review for the squadron on 5 and 6 February.

The Commanding Officer, Operations Officer and S-4 Officer attended a planning conference on 14 February at MCAS New River. The Executive Officer departed Beaufort on 14 February to observe VMFA-451's missile shoot.

The squadron continued its alert commitment at NAS Key West throughout the month of February.

c. March - VMFA-251 flight operations: 277 sorties, 415.8 hours.

On 1 March VMFA-251 concluded its deployment at NAS Key West and returned to MCAS Beaufort.

Aircrew training emphasized Phase II and III intercepts in preparation for the May missile shoot at N. S. Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

On 19 March, squadron representatives attended a predeployment conference at N. S. Roosevelt Roads, P. R.

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One aircraft and aircrew participated in the MATCAL project at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland from 19-23 March.

VMFA-251 began flight operations in support of Exercise Exotic Dancer VI. Squadron personnel also readied 12 aircraft for deployment to MCALF Bogue Field, N. C. for Exercise Exotic Dancer VI.

d. April - VMFA-251 flight operations: 265 sorties, 387.7 hours.

On 1 April 1973 the squadron deployed to MCALF Bogue Field, N. C. for Exercise Exotic Dancer VI with 12 F4J aircraft. Aircrews became proficient in SATS operations as well as conducting air intercept and close air support missions in support of Exercise Exotic Dancer VI. All 12 aircraft returned to Beaufort on 8 April.

Two Pilots and two Radar Intercept Officers completed the Air Combat Tactics Instructors Course during the week of 16 April.

Aircrew training continued with Phase II and III intercepts. Special Emphasis was placed on preparation for the Phase II missile shoot at N. S. Roosevelt Roads.

On 30 April LtCol W. C. SERVICE III relieved LtCol J. C. BYRAM, Jr. as the Commanding Officer of VMFA-251.

e. May - VMFA-251 flight operations: 289 sorties, 427.8 hours.

VMFA-251 deployed to N. S. Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico with all 15 F4J aircraft utilizing inflight refueling provided by VMGR-252.

From 7 to 11 May, VMFA-251 conducted a Phase II missile shoot, firing 12 AIM-7D's and 12 AIM-9B's.

From 12 to 15 May, Air to Ground operations were conducted for Phase II and III aircrew training. VMO-1 supported the squadron in a TAC(A) role.

On 23 May the squadron returned to MCAS Beaufort.

f. June - VMFA-251 flight operations: 138 sorties, 207.1 hours.

VMFA-251 continued preparation for the Second Marine Aircraft Wing A & M Inspection.

Aircrew training consisted of Phase II and III air intercept sorties and Phase II air to ground work.

On 20 June three aircraft participated as friendly forces interceptors, working under the control of the 21st NORAD for Operation AMALGAM ARROW.

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3. Narrative Summary of Events

a. Personnel/Administration

During this period, the following promotions were effected:

- One Sergeant promoted to Staff Sergeant
- Nine Corporals promoted to Sergeant
- Six Lance Corporals promoted to Corporal
- 25 Privates First Class promoted to Lance Corporal
- Nine Privates promoted to Private First Class.

Unit Diary error rate was 8% during the first half of Fiscal Year 1973.

The following awards were presented to squadron personnel:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
W. D. ANDERSON	CAPT.	Republic of Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry
R. W. JACOBS	1stLt	" " " " " " " "
P. A. LYND	1stLt	" " " " " " " "
T. J. RASK	1stLt	" " " " " " " "
W. D. ANDERSON	CAPT.	Air Medals
J. E. RICE	CAPT.	" "
R. W. JACOBS	1stLt	" "
P. A. LYND	1stLt	" "
T. J. RASK	1stLt	" "
J. A. ANDREINE	SGT.	Navy-Marine Corps Medal

36 Meritorious Masts were awarded to squadron personnel during this period.

b. Intelligence

Squadron aircrews and intelligence personnel received training on a weekly basis. Topics included Foreign Missile Threats, Internal Security and Area Studies. When deployed to NAS KEY west, participating aircrews received situation updates from the Joint Air Reconnaissance Control Center. The squadron aircrews also received updates on South-east Asia AOB from the MAG-31 intelligence team. Prior to deploying to N. S. Roosevelt Roads, P. R. aircrews again received pertinent updates on the Caribbean situation. In all, squadron aircrews received over 25 hours of Intelligence Training.

c. Training/NBC

The following basic training was accomplished during the last six months.

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- 50 Marines received Human Relations training (20 HRS EA.)
 - 134 Marines fired the M-16 for qualification
 - 32 Marines fired the .38 caliber pistol
 - 23 Marines fired the .45 caliber pistol
 - 8 Marines FAM fired the 12 GA. riot gun
 - 5 Marines attended NBC School
 - 21 Marines received NBC training (5 HRS EA.)
 - 5 Marines attended NCO Leadership School
 - 22 Marines attended Driver Improvement School
 - 8 Marines attended Driver's School (M151A Jeep)
 - Marines attended Water Survival School
 - 3 Marines Attended Staff NCO School
- All squadron personnel received the following training:
- Troop Information Program 5 hours each
 - Essential Subjects Training 6 hours each
 - Mission Oriented Training 2 hours each

d. Ordnance

The following is a list of munitions expended during the reporting period:

AIM-9B Sidewinder Missiles	12
AIM-7D Sparrow Missiles	12
MK-76 Practice Bombs	295
MK-86 Practice Bombs	100
MK-87 Practice Bombs	12
MK-106 Practice Bombs	307
MK-81 Bombs	196
MK-82 Bombs	194
MK-77 Fire Bombs	145
2.75" Rockets	196
5.00" Rockets	166
20mm Rounds	2320

e. Special Operations

During the period of 31 January to 1 March 1973, VMFA-251 deployed a detachment of aircraft to NAS Key West, Florida for the Alert Pad Commitment. Operational and training flights were conducted with a total of 14 day and 49 night sorties flown. Training flights conducted were launched as practice alert missions, adding realism and enhancing the training accomplished.

VMFA-251 participated in Exercise Exotic Dancer VI from 29 March through 7 April 1973. The squadron flew 126 sorties for a total of 229.7 hours. Missions consisted of six beach strafes, 109 combat air patrols, 10 close air supports, and one SATS demonstrations. Two successful Data Link 4A sorties were flown with MACS-6 control. Initially, sorties were

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flown from MCAS Beaufort. On 1 April the squadron deployed to MCALF Bogue Field, North Carolina with 12 F4J aircraft and associated support gear and personnel. Operations were conducted for the remainder of the exercise from the SATS facilities at Bogue Field. All aircraft returned to MCAS Beaufort on 8 April 1973.

The squadron deployed to N. S. Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico on 4 and 5 May 1973. Aircraft which departed on 4 May were able to accomplish in-flight refueling with a VMGR-252 tanker aircraft. On 5 May the KC-130 tanker was down for mechanical problems and the remaining F4J's flew to N. S. Roosevelt Roads via NAS Key West, Florida. By the evening of 5 May all 15 squadron aircraft were in place at N. S. Roosevelt Roads.

From 7 to 11 May VMFA-251 conducted a Phase II missile firing exercise on the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range. During the five day exercise the squadron flew 47 sorties and logged 62.7 flight hours. Eight pilots and seven RIO's were qualified during the shoot. Twelve AIM-7 and twelve AIM-9 air to air missiles were expended along with three BQM-34A targets.

During the period of 12-19 May, Phase II and Phase III air to ground practice and live ordnance training was conducted in the Culebra and Vieques Target Complexes. The squadron flew 96 day and 20 night sorties and logged 137.8 flight hours. Seventy-six pilot and 27 RIO syllabus credits were earned. Detachment VMO-1 provided TAC(A) support throughout the period of air to ground training. VMFA-251 returned to MCAS Beaufort on 23 May.

During the month of June aircrew training concentrated on Phase II and III air intercepts and air to ground training. Three squadron aircraft participated in Exercise AMALGAM ARROW on the night of 20 June. The aircraft were utilized as friendly forces interceptors under the control of the 21st NORAD.

f. Command Visits

Lt.Gen. AXTELL, CG FMFLANT and MGen. MILLER, CG 2d MAW visited VMFA-251 on 21 March 1973.

BGen. O'DONNELL, AWC, 2d MAW visited VMFA-251 on 24 April 1973 during the squadron preparation for the Phase II Sparrow Missile firing exercise to be conducted at N. S. Roosevelt Roads, P. R. during May 1973.

g. Civil Affairs. VMFA-251 was active in civil affairs during this period by sponsoring a baseball team in the local little league.

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