

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31  
2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, ATLANTIC  
MCAS, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902

1:WPL:eas  
5750  
11 Jan 1979

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 July 1978 to 31 December 1978  
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D  
(b) WgO 5750.1B  
(c) GruO 5750.1A  
Encl: (1) CG, 2ndMAW A&M Inspection Results  
(2) Commandant's Efficiency Trophy Certificate  
(3) Association of Old Crows, Certificate of Merit - Electronic Warfare

1. Organizational Data

a. Designation and Location

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251  
Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan  
1 July 1978 through 9 July 1978

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251  
Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902  
10 July 1978 through 31 December 1978

b. Period Covered

1 July 1978 through 31 December 1978

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	LTCOL M. W. ALLINDER, JR. 1 July - 17 July 1978
	LTCOL F. J. SCHOBBER 18 July - 31 Dec 1978
Executive Officer	MAJOR C. J. COWELL 1 July - 9 July 1978
	MAJOR E. A. SAUNDERS 10 July - 12 July 1978
	MAJOR A. FITCH III 13 July - 31 Dec 1978

ENCLOSURE (5)

VMFA - 251

Jan - Dec 78

## 2. Sequence of Events

### a. July

(1) VMFA-251 flew 25 sorties totalling 33.5 hours, of which 15.9 hours were devoted to all weather intercept training.

(2) 1 July - Major Leonard R. FUCHS Jr. nominated for Robert Guy ROBINSON award for distinguished performance as a Naval Flight Officer during period 1 July 1977-30 Jun 1978.

(3) 1 July - Gunnery Sergeant Jesse D. J. MASSEY recommended for certificate of commendation for outstanding performance of duty during period 20 Jul 1977-10 Jul 1978.

(4) 1 July - Staff Sergeant Robert J. EASTER recommended for Navy Achievement Medal for outstanding professional achievement during period 10 Jul 1977-1 Jul 1978.

(5) 1 July - VMFA-251 nominated for Commandant's Efficiency Trophy for outstanding performance during period 1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978. Received - see enclosure (2).

(6) 1 July-9 July - VMFA-251 turned over airplanes, buildings and material at MCAS Iwakuni to advance party of VMFA-122 in preparation for arrival of main body on 9 July. Extensive efforts made to prepare 26,000 lbs of essential Squadron equipment to be embarked to MCAS Beaufort.

(7) 10 July-12 July - VMFA-251 arrived MCAS Beaufort via MAC C-141 after one year deployment to WestPac.

(8) 18 July - LtCol Myrl W. ALLINDER Jr. relinquished command of VMFA-251 to LtCol Frederick J. SCHOBBER.

### b. August

(1) VMFA-251 flew 168 sorties totalling 222.6 hours, of which 122 sorties for 158.3 hours were all weather intercepts, and 13 sorties for 17 hours were basic aircraft maneuvering training.

(2) VMFA-251 conducted 11.0 hours of aircrew training.

(3) 14 August - FltLt R. W. D. TROTTER attended weapons and tactics instructor course 2-78 to lecture on the problems of NATO on the central front.

(4) 14 August-24 August - VMFA-251 participated in MAG-31 operation Night Owl flying a total of 61 sorties for 84.5 hours, of which 33 sorties for 46.4 hours were flown at night.

(5) 31 August - Sergeant Horace L. ROWE nominated for certificate of commendation for outstanding performance of duty during period Apr 1976-Sep 1978.

ENCLOSURE (5)

(6) 31 August - Corporal Mark S. FERRIS nominated for certificate of commendation for outstanding performance of duty during period Jul 1977-Sep 1978.

c. September

(1) VMFA-251 flew 185 sorties totalling 269.4 hours, of which 98 sorties for 147.7 hours were ground attack, 31 sorties for 34.6 hours were all weather intercepts, 19 sorties for 19.1 hours were basic aircraft maneuvering, 27.7 hours were flown at night, and 45.6 hours actual instrument conditions.

(2) VMFA-251 conducted 5.2 hours of aircrew training.

(3) 8 September-14 September - VMFA-251 provided an aircraft and a RIO, to take the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 2ndMAW, Col. H. D. BRADSHAW to visit both WTI 2/78 at MCAS Yuma and exercise Red Flag at Nellis AFB.

(4) 25 September - 1stLt W. R. PHILLIPS and 1stLt C. BRAMMER deployed with VMFA-451 to Pt. Mugu, Ca. to take part in a missile shoot, and successfully fired an AIM-7 missile on 27 Sep.

(5) 25 September-29 September - VMFA-251 conducted quarterly PFT.

(6) 30 September - Corporals J. ABNEY and M. D. BERUBE received good conduct medals.

d. October

(1) VMFA-251 flew 249 sorties totalling 262.4 hours, of which 200 sorties for 200.2 hours were fighter weapons, 25 sorties for 31.0 hours were all weather intercepts, 13 sorties for 18.9 hours were ground attack and 11 sorties for 12.3 hours were devoted to other training areas.

(2) VMFA-251 conducted 3.7 hours of aircrew training.

(3) 3 October - VMFA-251 flew CAS missions on the G-10 and BT-3 impact areas in support of the 2nd Marine Division.

(4) 16 October-20 October - LtCol SCHOBBER, Maj FITCH, and 1stLt MARTINLJOHNI completed the air combat tactics instructor course.

(5) 20 October - VMFA-251 awarded certificate of merit for 1978 for outstanding participation in electronic warfare from the association of Old Crows. See enclosure (3).

(6) 24 October - LtCol SCHOBBER, Capt CALDERON, 1stLt ETTER and CWO-4 MASSEY successfully flew low altitude tactics instructor certification flights.

(7) 27 October - Sergeant H. L. ROWE and Corporal G. J. JOHNSTON were awarded good conduct medals.

**ENCLOSURE (5)**

Administrative Officer	CAPT E. J. PERROTT 1 July - 9 July 1978 LT R. C. LARSEN 10 July - 9 Aug 1978 CAPT C. C. SENN 10 Aug - 31 Dec 1978
Intelligence Officer	CAPT J. R. SNOWDEN 1 July - 9 July 1978 CAPT W. P. LANNERT 26 Aug - 31 Dec 1978
Operations Officer	MAJOR D. L. DOYLE 1 July - 9 July 1978 MAJOR E. A. SAUNDERS 13 July - 31 Dec 1978
Logistics Officer	CAPT R. A. KLEHM 1 July - 9 July 1978 CAPT J. P. ETTER 10 July - 31 Dec 1978
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	MAJOR O. E. HAY 1 July - 9 July 1978 MAJOR W. F. MEGONIGAL 18 July - 31 Dec 1978
Sergeant Major	1STSGT J. M. BARATKA 1 July - 9 July 1978 MSGT W. F. MENDENHALL 10 July - 13 Oct 1978 SGTMAJ D. WASHINGTON 14 July - 31 Dec 1978

d. Average Monthly Squadron Strength

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
1 - 9 July	25	187
10 July - 13 August	8	12
14 - 31 August	19	151
September	20	174
October	22	203
November	22	210
December	24	206

On 10 July 1978, all personnel of VMFA 251 were transferred to MAG 31, MCAS BFT. The Squadron remained at essentially Cadre strength until 14 August when Marines from 251 returned from leave and were reassigned to 251.

ENCLOSURE (5)

e. November

(1) VMFA-251 flew 187 sorties totalling 300 hours, of which 91 sorties for 167.4 hours were all weather intercepts, 55 sorties for 67.6 hours were BAM/fighter weapons, 10 sorties for 22.5 hours were fighter attack escort, 4 sorties for 7.0 hours were ground attack, and 27 sorties for 35.5 hours were other training areas.

(2) VMFA-251 conducted 7.3 hours of aircrew training.

(3) 1 November-3 November - VMFA-251 flew advanced fighter weapons sorties at MCAS Beaufort and MCAS Cherry Point in support of VMA-542's ACT(I) program.

(4) 5 November-9 November - VMFA-251 hosted an EA-6B from VMAQ-2 to conduct ECCM training with KC-130 air refueling support.

(5) 13 November - Capt J. R. SNOWDEN returned from NPGS Monterey, CA. after successfully completing the Aviation Safety Officers course.

(6) 14 November - The Naval Warfare Publications Library and Classified Material Control Center received a Noteworthy from 2ndMAW A&M Inspection Team.

(7) 15 November - 1stLts MARTHILJOHNI and HILL took part in a SATS demonstration at MCALF Bouge Field, N. C. for a congressional staff visit.

(8) 15 November-17 November - VMFA-251 participated in AVELEX 4-78, a 2ndMAW exercise designed to exercise all the combat elements of a MAF.

(9) 16 November - The following officers received awards for accident free flying:

Capt J. R. SNOWDEN - 1000 hours  
CWO-4 A. W. MASSEY - 2000 hours  
Maj E. A. SAUNDERS - 3000 hours

(10) 20 November - VMFA-251 provided 2 aircraft for CAS missions in support of the 2nd Marine Division in the G-10 impact area.

(11) 29 November - Staff Sergeant Francisco DOPORTO Jr. recommended for Navy Achievement Medal for outstanding professional achievement during the period 1 Jul 1978-1 Nov 1978

(12) 30 November - The Squadron conducted a full day safety standown, which included a safety survey of all departments and comprehensive safety and NATOPS lectures.

(13) Good conduct medals were awarded to Corporals J. L. SCHAFFER, R. R. BECKFORD, J.D. DAVIS, and K. A. LEONARD.

**ENCLOSURE (5)**

f. December

(1) VMFA-251 flew 173 sorties totalling 252.7 hours, of which 154.9 hours were ground attack, 39.2 hours were all weather intercepts, 18.0 hours were fighter weapons and 40.6 hours were devoted to other training areas.

(2) VMFA-251 conducted 2.0 hours of aircrew training.

(3) 4 December-8 December - All functions of the Squadron were inspected by the 2ndMAW A&M Inspection Team except S-1, Maintenance and Embarkation with the following areas receiving Noteworthy's:

Intelligence  
Counterintelligence  
Security Management  
Operations Administration/FREDS  
Leadership/Equal Opportunity  
PFT  
Facilities  
Barracks

ENCLOSURE (5)

### 3. Narrative Summary

On 1 July 1978 VMFA 251 was concluding its 12 month WESTPAC tour in Iwakuni, Japan and was absorbed in retrograde operations. 251s commitment was being assumed by VMFA 122 from Beaufort, S. C. and 251 was returning to Beaufort to train with MAG 31.

By 1 July, 251s personnel strength was reduced to 25 officers and 187 enlisted Marines through a program of early leave in conjunction with deployment retrogradation. At the same time, 251 transferred 12 F4J aircraft to the Advance Party of VMFA 122 in Iwakuni, Japan and accepted 8 F4Js from 122 in Beaufort, S. C. The majority of the squadron's personnel and all squadron property were transported to the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S. C. via MAC C-141 aircraft from 10-12 July. Upon their return, all personnel were reassigned to MAG 31 and left for a well deserved leave period. Subsequently 8 officers and 12 enlisted Marines were assigned to maintain squadron functions and effect the rebuilding of the Thunderbolts.

Not without great effort, the squadron began operations and flew 25 sorties totalling 33.5 hours in July. From August to November, 251 accepted 8 F4J aircraft from VMFA 312 and transferred the original 8 122 aircraft to the Naval Air Rework Facilities for rework. 251 received 2 F4S aircraft from NARF North Island, CA. with 1590 radars in December. In all, during this 6 month period, 251 maintained aircraft with 3 different radar configurations.

In August, MAG 31 reassigned 25% of the original officers and 79% of the original 251 enlisted personnel to 251. With that action and other assignments, squadron strength reached 19 officers and 151 enlisted Marines on 14 August. That month, 251 flew 168 sorties totalling 222.6 hours to maintain aircrew combat skills and achieved readiness in accordance with CMC desires.

Subsequently, 251 flew 1084.5 hours generated by 794 sorties. During this September through December period, the squadron participated in Exercise Avelex 4-78 and as well, hosted an EA6B and a variety of dissimilar adversary aircraft including A4Ms, AV8As, and F15s. This period was highlighted by 251s participation in the Second Marine Aircraft Wing's annual A&M inspection. The Thunderbolts emerged number One in MAG 31 with many Noteworthy grades, as reflected in enclosure (1).

Preparations for the Holiday Season provided time for reflection and an assessment of our Esprit De Corps. Time was set aside for the important activities of comradery and family involvement in squadron activities, especially after a year in WESTPAC. These activities culminated in the annual squadron Christmas Party.

In summary, this reporting period was an extremely productive one. The Thunderbolts' ongoing combat readiness oriented training program continues to be its hallmark.

  
F. J. SCHOBBER

ENCLOSURE (5)

FUNCTIONAL AREA INSPECTION CHECKLIST COVER SHEET  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
Administrative and Materiel Inspection Checklist

G-2/Intelligence  
(Functional Area)

UNIT VMFA-251 INSPECTOR Capt. Carl FISCHER DATE 7 Dec 1978  
1stLt Laura BUCKER

---GRADE ASSIGNED---

XXX Noteworthy      \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory      \_\_\_\_\_ No Grade Assigned  
\_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory w/discrepancies      \_\_\_\_\_ Unsatisfactory

NOTE: All MAJOR and UNSATISFACTORY discrepancies will be indicated by an asterisk (\*).

-Inspector's Comments-

Most noteworthy and well-organized Intelligence seen in 2dMAW in 2 years of inspecting.

Capt. Carl FISCHER  
Signature

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge

1. You are requested to review this A&M Inspection checklist and forward a letter via the appropriate commander to the Commanding General (SC-32) indicating action taken or pending to correct each major discrepancy/unsatisfactory area, marked by an asterisk (\*).
2. These letters shall be signed personally by the unit commander, and forwarded within ten working days. Their consolidation at the group level is unnecessary; however, group commander comments are encouraged.

*R. H. Schultz*  
R. H. SCHULTZ  
Chief of Staff

ENCLOSURE (1)

FUNCTIONAL AREA INSPECTION CHECKLIST COVER SHEET  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
Administrative and Materiel Inspection Checklist

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE  
AND THE INFORMATION SECURITY PROGRAM  
(Functional Area)

1st Lt. ESREY  
UNIT VMFA-251 INSPECTOR Sgt. BECKER DATE 7 Dec. 1978

--GRADE ASSIGNED--

XXX Noteworthy                      \_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory                      \_\_\_\_\_ No Grade Assigned  
\_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory w/discrepancies                      \_\_\_\_\_ Unsatisfactory

NOTE: All MAJOR and UNSATISFACTORY discrepancies will be indicated by an asterisk (\*).

-Inspector's Comments-

*The S-2 Officer and NCOIC are extremely conscientious individuals. Their attitude on Counterintelligence and the Information Security Program have had a positive effect on the Squadron as a whole. The XO (Security Manager) monitors and advises continually on the Information Security Program.*

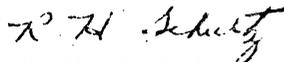


J. J. ESREY  
Signature

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge

1. You are requested to review this A&M Inspection checklist and forward a letter via the appropriate commander to the Commanding General (SC-32) indicating action taken or pending to correct each major discrepancy/unsatisfactory area, marked by an asterisk (\*).
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R. H. SCHULTZ  
Chief of Staff

ENCLOSURE (1)

REV. 2-76

CLASSIFIED MATERIAL CONTROL OFFICER INSPECTOR CHECKLIST

FOR

UNIT VMFA-251 INSPECTOR CWO-4 TAYLOR DATE 14 Nov 1978

- GRADE ASSIGNED -

XXX SATISFACTORY SATISFACTORY W/DISCREPANCIES UNSATISFACTORY

-COMMENTS-

1. CHCC - Noteworthy.
2. NWPL - Noteworthy.

ENCLOSURE (1)

2D MM 5041/9 (7-77)

FUNCTIONAL AREA INSPECTION CHECKLIST COVER SHEET  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
Administrative and Materiel Inspection Checklist

OPS ADMIN/FREDS  
(Functional Area)

UNIT VMFA-251 INSPECTOR CYSGT WEBBER DATE 4 DEC 78

---GRADE ASSIGNED---

XXXX Noteworthy               Satisfactory               No Grade Assigned  
         Satisfactory w/discrepancies               Unsatisfactory

NOTE: ALL MAJOR and UNSATISFACTORY discrepancies will be indicated by an asterisk (\*).

-Inspector's Comments-

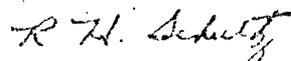
THE OPS ADMIN/FREDS SECTION OF VMFA-251 IS WELL ORGANIZED AND MANAGED. RECORDS REFLECT DAILY ATTENTION TO DUTY. IT IS CONSIDERED A PRIVILEGE BY THIS INSPECTOR FOR HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT AN OPS ADMIN/FREDS SECTION THAT PREVAILED SUCH A HIGH QUALITY OF PROFESSIONALISM AND PRIDE IN THEIR WORK.

  
Signature

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge

1. You are requested to review this A&M Inspection checklist and forward a letter via the appropriate commander to the Commanding General (SC-32) indicating action taken or pending to correct each major discrepancy/unsatisfactory area, marked by an asterisk (\*).
2. These letters shall be signed personally by the unit commander, and forwarded within ten working days. Their consolidation at the group level is unnecessary; however, group commander comments are encouraged.

  
R. H. SCHULTZ  
Chief of Staff

ENCLOSURE (1)

FUNCTIONAL AREA INSPECTION CHECKLIST COVER SHEET  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
Administrative and Material Inspection Checklist

PFT

(Functional Area)

UNIT VMFA 251 INSPECTOR Capt P. H. COOVERT DATE 5 DEC 78

--GRADE ASSIGNED--

XXX Noteworthy               Satisfactory               No Grade Assigned  
         Satisfactory w/discrepancies               Unsatisfactory

NOTE: All MAJOR and UNSATISFACTORY discrepancies will be indicated by an asterisk (\*).

-Inspector's Comments-

1. Organization. The participants were all accounted for, on time and of like uniform. The briefings on all events were read aloud, clear and from the order. All demonstrations were performed correctly and participants were shown improper methods of executing the movements. Command interest extremely healthy, as was command presence. It was obvious that LT TED spent many hours in preparation. He should be commended for a job well done.
2. Conduct. All events ran smoothly, on time and in a very well organized manner. The monitors displayed interest, instructional abilities and encouragement to those being evaluated.
3. Individual. All evaluatees reflected a high morale, enthusiasm, honesty and a high degree of comradery.

P. H. Coover  
Signature  
P. H. COOVERT

(OVER)

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge

1. You are requested to review this A&M Inspection checklist and forward a letter via the appropriate commander to the Commanding General (SC-32) indicating action taken or pending to correct each major discrepancy/unsatisfactory area, marked by an asterisk (\*).
2. These letters shall be signed personally by the unit commander, and forwarded within ten working days. Their consolidation at the group level is unnecessary; however, group commander comments are encouraged.

R. H. Schultz  
R. H. SCHULTZ  
Chief of Staff

ENCLOSURE (1)

FUNCTIONAL AREA INSPECTION CHECKLIST COVER SHEET  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
Administrative and Materiel Inspection Checklist

Leadership/Equal Opportunity  
(Functional Area)

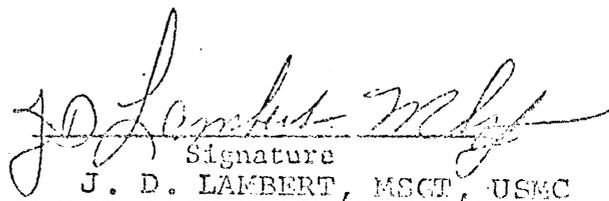
UNIT VMFA 251 INSPECTOR MSgt J. D. LAMBERT DATE 5Dec78

--GRADE ASSIGNED--

XXX Noteworthy               Satisfactory               No Grade Assigned  
         Satisfactory w/discrepancies               Unsatisfactory

NOTE: All MAJOR and UNSATISFACTORY discrepancies will be indicated by an asterisk (\*).

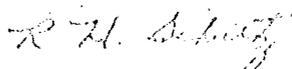
--Inspector's Comments--

  
Signature  
J. D. LAMBERT, MSCT, USMC

MEMORANDUM

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge

1. You are requested to review this ASM Inspection checklist and forward a letter via the appropriate commander to the Commanding General (SC-32) indicating action taken or pending to correct each major discrepancy/unsatisfactory area, marked by an asterisk (\*).
2. These letters shall be signed personally by the unit commander, and forwarded within ten working days. Their consolidation at the group level is unnecessary; however, group commander comments are encouraged.

  
R. H. SCHULTZ  
Chief of Staff

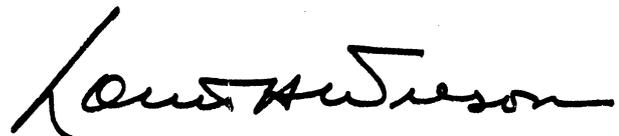
The Commandant of the Marine Corps takes pleasure in presenting the COMMANDANT'S AVIATION EFFICIENCY TROPHY to

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON TWO FIVE ONE

for dedication, initiative, and overall excellence in the performance of its assigned mission during the period 1 July 1977 through 30 June 1978 as set forth in the following

CITATION:

Commencing with a highly successful TransPac, through a myriad of exercises from Fortress Lightning in the tropics to Cope Strikes in the Korean winter, and culminating with a most productive Operation Team Spirit, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two Five One (VMFA-251) has unequivocally established itself as the most professional, versatile, spirited and efficient Marine Aviation Squadron of 1978. VMFA-251 displayed outstanding combat readiness during Operation Exercise Readiness Check ALLIGATOR, a no-notice full recall and mount-out, in which the Squadron, within eight hours, completed preparations for embarkation, loaded aircraft, briefed aircrews and were prepared to launch. VMFA-251 ended the last five months of the period as a leader in aircraft readiness with a full systems capable rate three times the MAG average from the previous year. This achievement proved that the F4-J can be maintained in WestPac. As a leader in professionalism, VMFA-251 combined many of the lessons learned in Aviation Safety over the years into a "systems" approach by creating an "S-5", the Professional Performance and Standards Department. The effectiveness of this Department was proven as 3,276 flight hours were flown with no aircraft or ground accidents. Congratulations are sincerely extended for these accomplishments and the officers and men of VMFA-251 can be justifiably proud. The superior achievements of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two Five One are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

ENCLOSURE (2)

# Association of Old Crows

2300 Ninth Street, South, Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22204 (703) 920-1600



T  
1650  
SQUADRON FILE COPY

20 October 1978

	ROUTE	INITIALS
CC	3	
ExecD	2	A
AdminD	1	S
CO		
INFO		
INFO		
INFO		
SGT. MAJ.		
ASO.		
FILE	3	

Marine Fighter Attach SQ 251  
LCDR W. Allinder,  
Commanding Officer  
MAG 31 II MAW  
Beaufort, SC 29902

Dear Commander Allinder:

Your unit was selected as one of the Association of Old Crows' Unit Certificate of Merit for 1978 for outstanding participation in Electronic Warfare. These awards are usually presented as "certificates", however, I am in the process of changing this to engraved plaques. The plaques are presently being engraved and will be finished in about two weeks.

Thank you for your patience.

Very truly yours,

ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS

Mary Blackman  
Executive Secretary

ENCLOSURE (3)