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29 January 1982

**Administration Officer**

Major J. M. GAUTREAUX  
1 July - 15 November 1981

1/Lt P. C. MACKINNON  
16 November - 15 December 1981

Major W. A. PEPPER  
16 December - 31 December 1981

**Logistics Officer**

1/Lt W. R. CHONIN  
1 July - 2 August 1981

Capt N. P. MAMMARELLA  
3 August - 31 December 1981

**Aircraft Maintenance Officer**

Major J. E. DAUBERT  
1 July - 31 December 1981

**Sergeant Major**

SgtMaj D. WASHINGTON  
1 July - 31 December 1981

d. Average Monthly Squadron Strength

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
July	25	197
August	26	198
September	26	200
October	26	200
November	27	205
December	26	205

2. Sequence of Events

a. July

(1) VMFA-251 flew 268.4 hours/186 sorties.

(2) 11 July, Capt J. R. HEDGES and 1/Lt T. L. HAMILTON departed for MCAS, Yuma, Arizona to participate in the Weapons Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) 2-81.

(3) 19 July, 2 aircraft and a Maintenance detachment depart for MCAS, Yuma, Arizona, in support of WTI 2-81.

b. August

(1) VMFA-251 flew 248.0 hours/198 sorties.

(2) 6 August, 1 aircraft returns from MCAS, Yuma, Arizona.

(3) 17-19 August, LtCol N. G. G. KERR and Major B. E. POLEY attend the WTI 2-81 Commander's Orientation Course.

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- (4) 21 August, Capt HEDGES and Lt HAMILTON return from KCAS Team as designated VTI's.
- (5) 23 August, the VTI Maintenance Detachment arrives at MCAS Beaufort.
- (6) 24-28 August, the squadron participates in the 9th Air Force Exercise, "Gulak Thrust" 2-81.
- (7) 25 August - 3 September, LtCol N. G. G. KERR attends the Command Safety Course at the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California.

c. September

- (1) VMDA-251 flew 328.2 hours/197 sorties.
- (2) 1-30 September, squadron aircraft and crews on alert for CINCLANTFLT contingency "Soywith Camel".
- (3) 15 September, 3 aircraft, 2 aircrew, and support personnel detach to Nellis AFB for Electronic Warfare/Close Air Support (EW/CAS) trials.
- (4) 22-24 September, the squadron participated in COMPTWINGONE Exercise, "Seabat" 4-81.

d. October

- (1) VMDA-251 flew 260.6 hours/176 sorties.
- (2) 10 October, EW/CAS trials detachment returns. A total of 169.9 hours/92 sorties were flown in support of this test.
- (3) 12-16 October, the squadron participated in a Commanding General's 2d MAW directed Operational Test and Evaluation (OPTEVAL)/Safety Standdown.
- (4) 20-22 October, the squadron flew 28 sorties in support of Anti Air Warfare Exercise (AAWEK) 7-81.
- (5) 25 October, VMDA-251 Maintenance Department is graded "Overall Excellent" by the 2d MAW AAM Inspection team.

e. November

- (1) VMDA-251 flew 241.5 hours/178 sorties.
- (2) 1-30 November, squadron aircraft and crews assume alert for CINCLANTFLT contingency "Soywith Camel".

f. December

- (1) VMDA-251 flew 248.9 hours/202 sorties.

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(2) 30 November - 7 December, Capt's C. G. MUMFORD and J. K. YOUNG successfully completed the Air Combat Tactics Instructor (ACT(I)) evaluation conducted by MAWTS-1 personnel.

(3) 1 December, 2d MAW A&M inspection teams inspect VMFA-251 Operations, Intelligence, and Safety/NATOPS, which received grades of "satisfactory overall" with noteworthy areas.

(4) 9-12 December, all hands participated in Aviation Element Exercise (AVELEX) 1-82.

(5) 15-17 December, the squadron participated in COMFITWINGONE Exercise, "SeaBat" 1-82.

(6) 23 December, the Thunderbolts and their families exchanged Christmas greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year at a party held in the squadron hangar.

### 3. Narrative Summary

a. The squadron began the period with a Change of Command Ceremony on 30 June as LtCol N. G. G. KERR relieved LtCol D. A. RICHWINE as the Thunderbolt Commander. Although personnel turbulence during this period was minimized, the arrival of five replacement pilots from VMFAT-101 impacted heavily on squadron operations. As a result, emphasis was placed on getting these replacement pilots combat ready and on training in support of the squadron Training Exercise Employment Plan (TEEP).

b. On 11 July, Capt HEDGES and Lt HAMILTON went to MCAS, Yuma for WTI 2-81. They were followed on 19 July by two squadron aircraft and the Maintenance Support Detachment.

c. August's operational activities focused on All Weather Intercepts and preparing the new replacement pilots for the Fighter Weapons syllabus. On 17 August, LtCol KERR and Major POLEY departed for MCAS, Yuma to attend the WTI 2-81 Commander's Orientation Course. Having successfully completed the WTI course, Capt HEDGES and Lt HAMILTON returned home on 21 August. The retrograde from MCAS, Yuma was complete on 23 August with the return of the Maintenance detachment. The following week LtCol KERR attended the Command Safety Course at the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California. From 24-28 August, Fighter Escort and CAP sorties were flown in conjunction with "Quick Thrust" 2-81, an exercise sponsored by the Ninth Air Force.

d. Throughout the month of September, the squadron was on alert for CINC-LANTFLT contingency, "Sopwith Camel". During the week of 12-16 September, the squadron detached one aircraft and crew to NAS, Lemoore, California as part of a MAG-31 detachment for overland ACM training. During Exercise "SeaBat" 4-81, held between 22-24 September, Electronic Warfare training was conducted. Concurrently, the squadron Maintenance Department stood an A&M inspection conducted by 2d MAW, resulting in a final grade of "overall excellent". The focal

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point of operational activities was at Nellis AFB from 15 September through 10 October during the conduct of the Electronic Warfare/Close Air Support (EW/CAS) trials. The squadron supported these trials with three aircraft, two crews, and a twenty-four man Maintenance Support Detachment. The 169.9 hours and 92 sorties compiled by Thunderbolt aircraft at EW/CAS was indicative of the "can do" spirit of VMFA-251 Maintenance personnel.

e. October was highlighted by an Operational Test and Evaluation (OPEVAL)/Safety Standdown from the 12th through the 16th. During this Wing-wide OPEVAL, the focus was on the basics. In addition to the aircrews receiving lectures on standardization and basic airmanship, all officers attended briefs by Major General K. A. SMITH, Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and Col J. M. MEAD, Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31. Immediately following the OPEVAL, the MAG conducted Anti-Air Warfare Exercise (AANEX) 7-81. The "T-Bolts" flew 28 Air Defense sorties, 4 more than was fragged, during this 3 day exercise.

f. In November, VMFA-251 began earnestly preparing for a February, 1982 deployment to NAS, Oceana, Virginia for the Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP). Emphasizing initial MOS qualification for five replacement pilots and preparing Capt's MUMFORD and YOUNG for certification as Air Combat Tactics Instructors (ACT(I)), the squadron flew 80 Fighter Weapons sorties. In addition, the squadron was again on alert for "Sopwith Camel".

g. December was ushered in by an inspection of the squadron's Operations, Intelligence, and Safety/NATOPS Departments by the 2d MAW A&M inspection team. Operationally, the month commenced with the ACT(I) certification by MAVES-1 Instructors of Capt's MUMFORD and YOUNG. The 2d MAW sponsored AVELEX 1-82, on 9-12 December, required all-hands participation to accomplish VMFA-251's mission. During the first phase of the operation, the Thunderbolts played an integral role in the defense of Beaufort against an air threat. On 12 December, the squadron spearheaded a mass strike, composed of all MAG-31 air assets, against the headquarters of the Commanding General, 2d MAW. The parting shot to 1981 was Exercise "SeaBat 1-82, conducted during 15-17 December. Participating on a limited basis, the squadron flew 10 sorties and received valuable training in Electronic Warfare.

h. Throughout this period, the Thunderbolts remained ready to perform its primary role of offensive and defensive air warfare.

Norman G. G. KERR