



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31
2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, ATLANTIC
MCAS, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3:DJH:jrm
5750
12 Jul 1982

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD), Headquarters
Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. 20380
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31
(Attn: S-3)
(2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet
Marine Force, Atlantic, Marine Corps Air Station,
Cherry Point, North Carolina 28533 (Attn: SC-103)
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic,
Norfolk, Virginia 23511
Subj: Command Chronology; period of 1 January 1982 through 30
June 1982
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1E
(b) WgO 5750.1B
(c) GruO 5750.1C

1. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

a. Designation and Location

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29904

b. Period Covered

1 January 1982 through 30 June 1982

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol N. G. G. KERR 1 January - 30 June 1982
Executive Officer	Major H. L. LOGAN 1 January - 30 June 1982
Operations Officer	Major J. M. GAUTREAU 1 January - 30 June 1982
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major J. E. DAUBERT 1 January - 30 June 1982

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Intelligence Officer	Capt C. G. MUMFORD 1 January - 26 January 1982
	Capt C. A. NUTLEY 27 January - 30 June 1982
Administration Officer	Major W. A. PEPPER 1 January - 30 June 1982
Logistics Officer	Capt N. P. MAMMARELLA 1 January - 30 June 1982
Safety Manager	Capt J. N. SUMMERLIN 1 January - 30 June 1982
Sergeant Major	SgtMaj D. WASHINGTON 1 January - 11 February 1982
	SgtMaj C. N. DORSEY 12 February - 30 June 1982

d. Average Monthly Squadron Strength

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
January	27	210
February	26	215
March	27	227
April	27	234
May	26	238
June	27	243

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

a. January

- (1) VMFA-251 flew 294.4 hours/189 sorties.
- (2) 11 January, 6 aircraft deployed to NAS Roosevelt Roads, P. R. for Missile Exercise (Missilex) 1-82, returning on 12 January.
- (3) 15 January, 2 aircraft deployed to NAS Roosevelt Roads, P. R. for Missilex 1-82, returning on 16 January.
- (4) 18 January, 2 aircraft deployed to NAS Roosevelt Roads, P. R. for Missilex 1-82, returning on 19 January.

b. February

- (1) VMFA-251 flew 234.9 hours/211 sorties.

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(2) 13 February, the squadron deployed to NAS Oceana, Virginia to participate in the Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP).

(3) Anti-Air Warfare Exercise (AAWEX) 1-82.

c. March

(1) VMFA-251 flew 303.2 hours/160 sorties.

(2) 5 March, the squadron completed retrograde from NAS Oceana.

(3) Aviation Element Exercise (AVELEX) 2-82.

d. April

(1) VMFA-251 flew 358.1 hours/138 sorties.

(2) 1 - 26 April, the Thunderbolts deployed to NS Keflavik, Iceland, to participate in Exercise "Essential Warrior".

e. May

(1) VMFA-251 flew 301.2 hours/214 sorties.

(2) 10-- 13 May, the squadron Maintenance Department received an annual COMNAVAIRLANT (CNAL) inspection.

f. June

(1) VMFA-251 flew 135.8 hours/109 sorties.

(2) 1 - 30 June, squadron aircraft and crews were on alert for CINCLANTFLT contingency "Sopwith Camel".

(3) 1 - 4 June, the squadron conducted block training.

3. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

a. The squadron began the reporting period preparing for and participating in Missile Exercise (Missilex) 1-82 at NAS Roosevelt Roads, P. R.. An initial six plane detachment was launched on 11 January and returned to MCAS Beaufort on 12 January. A unique, highly successful concept of operations was employed during the exercise wherein squadron aircraft departed Beaufort, tanked en-route, and "shot on arrival" once on the range. Before the exercise terminated, four additional aircraft completed the evolution, resulting in a total of six successful AIM-7 launches and seven AIM-9 launches against target drones.

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b. February's operational activities focused on Air Combat training in preparation for the squadron deployment to the Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP) at NAS Oceana, Va.. On 13 February, the squadron deployed 10 aircraft and 164 personnel to NAS Oceana. During the remainder of the month, flight operations were dedicated to ACM tactics training against U. S. Navy F-5, A-4, and F-14 aggressor aircraft. The efforts of the squadron Aircraft Maintenance Department were particularly noteworthy as maintenance personnel were often required to work in unseasonably cold, rainy weather and unheated maintenance spaces.

c. On 6 March, the retrograde from Oceana to MCAS Beaufort was completed. During the FFARP deployment, ten out of twelve crews completed the evaluated syllabus and a total of 104 Air Combat sorties were flown. The remainder of the month's local flight operations focused on All Weather Intercepts and Air Refueling in preparation for the squadron's April deployment to Iceland. A USAF KC-135 aircraft deployed to MCAS Beaufort from 15 to 23 March to qualify all squadron aircrew for the TransLant and deployment operations.

d. On 1 April, eight squadron aircraft and two airborne spares departed Beaufort, flying non-stop via strategic tanker to NS Keflavik, Iceland for Exercise "Essential Warrior". By 2 April, all aircraft, equipment, and personnel were in place and ready to commence flight operations. During the exercise, VMFA-251 replaced the USAF 57th Fighter Intercept Squadron and assumed the responsibility of ensuring the integrity of Icelandic airspace. In addition to flying local All Weather Intercept and Aerial Refueling training sorties, the squadron maintained a minimum of two aircraft with aircrew on the 24 hour "Hot Pad". During the exercise, the squadron scrambled off the hot pad twenty-four times and intercepted a total of six Soviet Bear D/F aircraft. On return of the 57th FIS to Iceland on 24 April, VMFA-251 was relieved of "Hot Pad" responsibilities and commenced retrograde operations. The squadron aircraft departed Iceland with KC-135 tanker support on 26 April and flew non-stop, a 7.8 hour sortie, to MCAS Beaufort.

e. Local flight operations in May consisted of a mix of all required syllabus sorties with the emphasis being placed upon qualifying new aircrew. During 10 - 13 May, the squadron's maintenance department underwent an annual inspection by COMNAVAIRLANT (CNAL), receiving an overall grade of "Outstanding". AAWEX 2-82 was held on 13-14 May during which flight operations were conducted under simulated NBC conditions which added to the realism and training received. A total of fifteen sorties were flown.

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f. June was ushered in with the squadron Block Training program from 1 - 4 June, during which all annual training requirements, e.g. pistol range, EST, PFT, were satisfied. Operationally in addition to normal training sorties, the squadron stood CINC-LANTFLT contingency "Sopwith Camel". The majority of June's flight operations concentrated on Low Level and Air-to-Ground tactics in preparation for the squadron's deployment to Patrick AFB. However on 18 June all flight operations and the Patrick deployment were cancelled by higher authority.

g. Throughout the reporting period, the Thunderbolts demonstrated their ability to perform both offensive and defensive air warfare.


Norman G. G. KERR

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