



**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:RBC:tk

5750

11 Jan 1984

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 (S-3)  
 (2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina 28533 (SC-103)  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia 23511

Subj: Command Chronology; period 1 July 1983 through 31 December 1983

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1E

SECTION I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Unit Designation

- a. Reporting Unit Code: 01251
- b. Table of Organization Number: 8849N

2. Period Covered and Location

- a. 1 July 1983 through 31 December 1983
- b. Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29904

3. Personnel Information

a. Commanding Officer

LtCol G. L. ELSTEN	1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983
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b. Executive Officer

LtCol D. L. DOYLE	1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983
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c. Administrative Officer

Major B. F. RAMEY	1 July 1983 - 21 November 1983
Capt J. R. KENNEY	22 November 1983 - 31 December 1983

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VMF A-051

921-10083

d. Intelligence Officer

Capt J. M. COOKE 1 July 1983 - 22 September 1983  
Capt J. D. FROMULARO 23 September 1983 - 31 December 1983

e. Operations Officer

Major J. M. GAUTREUX 1 July 1983 - 21 November 1983  
Major B. F. RAMEY 22 November 1983 - 31 December 1983

f. Logistics Officer

Capt R. J. LEVESQUE 1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983

g. Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Major E. A. DANIELS 1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983

h. Safety Manager

Capt W. F. PRATT 1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983

i. Staff Historian

Capt J. R. HEDGES 1 July 1983 - 10 July 1983  
Capt R. B. CLARK 11 July 1983 - 31 December 1983

j. Sergeant Major

1stSgt D. E. RIPLEY 1 July 1983 - 31 December 1983

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
July 1983	31	235
August 1983	30	235
September 1983	32	233
October 1983	33	231
November 1983	33	229
December 1983	33	224

5. Equipment

<u>Month</u>	<u>Type</u>
July 1983	11 F-4S
August 1983	11 F-4S
September 1983	10 F-4S
October 1983	11 F-4S
November 1983	10 F-4S
December 1983	12 F-4S

SECTION II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Command, Operations and Training

The Thunderbolts commenced the second half of the calendar year going through an ACT(I) build-up and certification for Capt HOLMES and Lt WHITE. While this was going on the majority of the squadron was preparing to deploy for the last Mini-Dart Exercise at Tyndall AFB. On 31 July 5 aircraft departed MCAS Beaufort for Tyndall AFB, Florida.

August brought about a myriad of events. The main emphasis through the 12th of the month was on the Mini-Dart Exercise. This was a very successful deployment with invaluable experience being gained by the squadron's first tour aircrews. The use of the TACTS Range in particular was very useful. The 16th and 17th of the month saw VMFA-251 conducting night air refueling operations with VMGR-252. This was accomplished while utilizing VMAQ-2 for extensive ECM training. The month was completed with VMFA-251 participating in AAWEX 5-83.

Although flight time was extremely limited during September due to the shortage of funds, VMFA-251 still deployed 5 aircraft to MCAS Cherry Point to participate in DDS. Air-to-air training was accomplished while utilizing the Oceana TACTS Range. The Thunderbolts were able to successfully engage A-6's, TA-4's, A-4's, and F-5's in Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM). The main emphasis during September was put on ground training due to the limited flight hour funds. Leadership training, troop information, NBC, PFT and pistol range were all covered. The end of the month saw Capt PRATT leave for WTI.

All attention focused on the Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP) at NAS Oceana, Virginia for the month of October. Due to the influx of new pilots and the last week of the FFARP being dedicated for MCCRES, a "FFARP" weekend was held at MCAS Beaufort prior to the squadron's departure for NAS Oceana. This alleviated the need to fly the 1v1 hops at Oceana allowing the squadron to proceed directly into the section work. The 1v1 weekend proved to be invaluable completing 27 F-4S sorties while the VF-43 aggressors passed along a wealth of information. On 12 October the advance party departed with two aircraft for Oceana. The following day 8 more aircraft and the main body arrived at Oceana. Classes were held on 14 October covering everything from spins to multi-bogey engagements. The rest of the month was an eye-opening experience for both young and experienced Thunderbolts alike, facing many difficult scenarios while being outnumbered by at least 2 to 1.

The first week of November saw VMFA-251 still at NAS Oceana completing FFARP and an air-to-air MCCRES. For the MCCRES

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a wide range of AWI's were flown including ECM. Various ACM sorties were flown ranging in complexity from 2V1 thru 2V4. Bogies consisted of TA-4's, A-4's, F-5's and F-14's. the overall training brought about a CRP increase of 3.66. Eight out of fifteen pilots completed the FFARP syllabus as well as 8 out of 11 RIO's. Two additional aircrews were within 1 hop of completing the course. In addition, all squadron pilots and 7 RIO's received a spin hop. The Thunderbolts faired well on the MCCRES receiving a 98% on the AWI portion and 87% on the ACM portion. The efforts of the Aircraft Maintenance Department were particularly noteworthy during this time period. Tasked with providing aircraft to meet a 14-16 sortie requirement per day, the maintenance personnel worked long arduous hours ensuring that the Thunderbolts accomplished the mission with the finest machines available. The squadron came home on the 5th of the month while our newest WTI, Capt PRATT returned from Yuma, AZ. The rest of the month consisted of completing ground training and continuing routine ops.

December started off with VMFA-251 participating in AAWEX 1-84. Throughout the month aircrews were sent to Fort Ripley MN to go thru cold weather training. The middle of the month saw the beginning of the ACT(I) build-up for Capt FARRA and Lt LARSEN.

### SECTION III

#### SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

<u>July 1983</u>	VMFA-251 flew 250 sorties/302.5 hours
21	Capt HOLMES/Lt WHITE completed ACT(I) certification
31	5 A/C deployed to Tyndall AFB
<u>August 1983</u>	VMFA-251 flew 239 sorties/312.5 hours
1-12	5 A/C participated in a mini det at Tyndall AFB
16-17	VMFA-251 conducted night tanking with VMGR-252 and ECM training with VMAQ-2.
22-24	TPQ and air refueling missions were conducted at Cherry point, NC.
23-25	AAWEX 5-83 conducted with VMFA-251 participating as the orange air force.
<u>September 1983</u>	VMFA-251 flew 77 sorties/84.2 hours
10-17	VMFA-251 deployed 5 A/C to Cherry Point for DDS while utilizing the Oceana TACTS range.
19	Capt PRATT departed for WTI.

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October 1983

- VMFA-251 flew 245 sorties/253.8 hours.
- 7-9 VMFA-251 flew air-to-air against F-5's from VF-43 in preparation for FFARP (Fleet Fighter Readiness Program)
- 13-31 VMFA-251 deployed to NAS Oceana for FFARP/MCCRES evaluation.

November 1983

- VMFA-251 flew 229 sorties/304.1 hours
- 1-5 VMFA-251 still deployed to NAS Oceana continuing the FFARP/MCCRES evaluation.
- 7 CAPT PRATT returns from WTI with 1 A/C.
- 19-20 All squadron personnel briefed on cold weather in preparation for Exercise Teamwork 1-84.

December 1983

- VMFA-251 flew 196 sorties/293.4 hours.
- 7 VMFA-251 participated in AAWEX 1-84.
- 6,7,12,13 Cold WX training for EX Teamwork.
- 16 Initiated ACT(I) build-up for Capt FARRA and Lt LARSEN.

  
D. L. DOYLE  
By direction

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