



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31

2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, ATLANTIC

MCAS, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-6127

5750  
S-3/mdr  
2 Feb 1987

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251  
 To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDH-4), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. 20380  
 Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31 (S-3), 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina 29904  
 (2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina 28533  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia 23511

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 1 JULY 1986 TO 31 DECEMBER 1986

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1F  
 (b) WgO 5750.1E  
 (c) GruO 5750.1D

1. In accordance with references (a) through (c), the Command Chronology is submitted.

SECTION I

Unit Designation

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

Period Covered and Location

1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986 at MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina 29904

Personnel Information

- a. Commanding Officer LtCol Thomas L. Wilkerson  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986
- b. Executive Officer Maj Michael R. Humberd  
1 July 1986 - 1 August 1986  
Maj William G. Bowdon III  
22 August 1986 - 31 December 1986
- c. Administrative Officer Capt William R. Phillips  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986

VMFA-251

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- d. Intelligence Officer                      SSgt Randolph J. Abrams  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986
- e. Operations Officer                        Major Daniel A. Driscoll Jr.  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986
- f. Logistics Officer                         1stLt Kurt K. Hirata  
1 July 1986 - 25 August 1986  
Capt David H. Peeler  
25 August 1986 - 31 December 1986
- g. Aircraft Maintenance Officer        Maj Barney J. Fisher  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986
- h. Safety Manager                         Capt Mark A. Draper  
1 July 1986 - 15 September 1986  
Capt Bruce C. Isaacson  
16 September 1986 - 31 December 1986
- i. Staff Historian                         Major Richard J. Packard  
1 July 1986 - 31 December
- j. Sergeant Major                         SgtMaj Robert C. Martin  
1 July 1986 - 31 December 1986

verage Monthly Strength:

	<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
	<u>Officer/Enlisted</u>		<u>Officer/Enlisted</u>	
July 1986	16	243	1	3
August 1986	17	227	1	3
September 1986	16	253	1	2
October 1986	19	257	1	2
November 1986	21	272	1	2
December 1986	20	264	1	2

quipment

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>
July 1986	8	F/A-18A
August 1986	10	F/A-18A
September 1986	10	F/A-18A
October 1986	10	F/A-18A
November 1986	10	F/A-18A
December 1986	10	F/A-18A

## SECTION 2

### Command, Operations, and Training

In July 1986, VMFA-251 commenced flight operations with the F/A-18 Hornet for the first time. During formal ceremonies on 25 August 1986, with MGen John R. Dailey, CG 2d MAW, as the Honored Guest, the squadron officially "stood up" as the sixth F/A-18 squadron in the Marine Corps.

In September 1986, VMFA-251 deployed to Nellis AFB, Nevada to participate in OACM. This deployment brought the first 12 squadron pilots up to currency in the Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) environment.

In October 1986, the squadron sent two pilots and three aircraft to Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Class 1-87, supported Operation "Quick Thrust" (a 9th Air Force exercise) for one week, and supported a MAG-31 Air-to-Air Warfare Exercise for one week.

During November 1986, six pilots were sent to four different schools (AIM-7 Sparrow School, EW/Harm School, TOPGUN CO's Course, and TOPGUN 1-87), while seven pilots worked up locally for re-certification by MAWTS-1 as Air Combat Training Instructors. During this same period VMFA-251 participated in a Combined Arms Operation (CAO-87) and prepared for two major inspections (the CG 2d MAW's A&M Inspection and the CNAL Maintenance Inspection) upcoming in December.

In December 1986, the squadron began the month with a missile shoot at NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; firing four AIM-7 and two AIM-9 missiles and certifying six squadron aircraft as air-to-air capable. The CNAL Maintenance Inspection revealed that VMFA-251 had a very solid Maintenance Department and the A&M Inspection Team rated the squadron "excellent" overall, with the "Thunderbolt" Drill Platoon being named the "best" in the Wing for 1986.

### Personnel and Administration

Other than the four pilots we are still short, personnel have stabilized since "stand up". The Administration Section prepared for and successfully completed the CG 2d MAW's A&M Inspection with overall excellent ratings.

### Legal Action

The Commanding Officer, VMFA-251 is the Special Courts Martial Convening Authority for the squadron. As such, he directed the following Legal proceedings during the period 1 July 1986 to 31 December 1986:

Special Courts Martials: 0  
Summary Courts Martials: 0  
  
Non-Judicial Punishment: 7

JAG Manual Investigations: 0

Admin Discharges: 3

#### Medical

Our Flight Surgeon has become an integral part of the squadron, by teaching classes on Flight Physiology and maintaining the squadron's pilots medically prepared to deploy.

#### Logistics/Supply

The S-4 Department completed the renovation of squadron working spaces. All the F/A-18 support gear has been received although we are still short two aircraft of the 12 we rate.

#### Civic Action

Throughout the last six months, the squadron conducted numerous tours of the squadron area and static displays of squadron aircraft. These tours were given to local business and school groups; visiting educators from various Marine Corps Districts, and ROTC units as well as active duty Marine Corps personnel. In October, VMFA-251 sponsored a special visit by World War II Ace and Medal of Honor recipient, Joe Foss, to MAG-31 aircrews. The squadron also sponsored the children of a local needy family with Christmas gifts.

SECTION 3

July 1986	VMFA-251 flew 92 sorties/118.4 flight hours
1-31 July 1986	Continued F/A-18 Transition Training
4 July 1986	Uniform Inspection
August 1986	VMFA-251 flew 100 sorties/123.6 flight hours
1-24 August 1986	Continued F/A-18 Transition Training
4-7 August 1986	Pistol Range
18-21 August 1986	Rifle Range
25 August 1986	F/A-18 Stand Up Ceremony
September 1986	VMFA-251 flew 191 sorties/276.0 flight hours
6-14 September 1986	OACM Deployment to Nellis AFB, NV
15-19 September 1986	Rifle Range
23-26 September 1986	Swim Quals
October 1986	VMFA-251 flew 282 sorties/426.0 flight hours
6-10 October 1986	Rifle/Pistol Range
20 October 1986	TOPGUN 1-87 started (2 pilots/3 aircraft)
20 October 1986	PFT
20-24 October 1986	Operation "Quick Thrust"
27-30 October 1986	Pistol Range
November 1986	VMFA-251 flew 271 sorties/413.6 flight hours

12-14 November 1986	ACT(I) Re-Certification of 7 pilots
12-14 November 1986	Pre-A&M Courtesy Inspection
12-14 November 1986	Pistol Range
17-21 November 1986	CAO-87
19 November 1986	Gas Chamber Exercise
21 November 1986	TOPGUN 1-87 returns
December 1986	VMFA-251 flew 252 sorties/404.7 flight hours
3-6 December 1986	AAMEX 1-87 at NAS Roosevelt Rds, PR. Fired 4 AIM-7 and 2 AIM-9 missiles from 6 aircraft
5 December 1986	Squadron PFT
8-10 December 1986	CNAL Maintenance Inspection
15-19 December	CG 2d MAW A&M Inspection

SECTION 4

Item 1.....OACM After Action Report  
Item 2.....A&M Inspection Results

  
THOMAS L. WILKERSON



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31  
2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, ATLANTIC  
MCAS, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-6127

3000  
S-3  
22 Sep 86

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31

Subj: OVERLAND ACM (OACM) DETACHMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT

Ref: (a) MAG-31 TEEP  
(b) VMFA-251 OPLAN 1-86

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the subject report is submitted.

PART I - COMMANDERS COMMENTS

1. The detachment was successful. We tested our aircraft, our pilots, and our maintenance Marines. More importantly, for the first time we tested our squadron capability to deploy to and operate from a distant airfield. The squadron is on schedule to achieve full operational readiness.

2. The OACM program is an exceptional training evolution; its impact upon our pilot training program was out of all proportion to numbers of sorties and X's in the block. MAG-31 should make detachments like this one a regular part of the TEEP for all squadrons.

PART II - STATISTICAL DATA

1. Detachment General Information:

- a. Deployment Site: Nellis AFB, Nevada
- b. Dates: 6 - 14 September 1986
- c. Number of Aircraft: Eight (8) F/A-18
- d. Number of Personnel: 15 Officers/17 SNCO's/40 Enlisted
- e. Training Objectives: Fighter-Weapons training in the 1v1/2v2 arena against USAF F5/F4 adversaries.

2. Flight Hours:

- a. Total: 154.5
- b. Day: 72.4
- c. Night: 31.3
- d. Inst: 36.8
- e. Ferry: 82.1

Subj: OVERLAND ACM (OACM) DETACHMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT

3. Sorties:

(a) Air-to-Air 33 BFM / 8 DACT (2v2)

(b) Aerial Refueling 23

(c) CNX (WX, Maint, Ops) 0

PART III - PROBLEM AREAS/LESSONS LEARNED

1. Administration

(a) Item: S-1 NCO as part of the Detachment.

Discussion: An NCO from S-1 deployed with the detachment, despite a very limited number of authorized troop spaces. He was invaluable, coordinating all travel, TAD pay, and orders endorsements.

Recommendation: That future detachments always have at least one (1) S-1 NCO.

2. Intelligence: None.

3. Operations:

(a) Item: Nellis AFB Training

Discussion: The quality and quantity of training available at Nellis AFB is well documented. We were unable to handle daily requests from F-15/F-16 squadrons for mutually beneficial DACT training, because of our 4477th TES OACM program participation and limited OPTAR. Had there been more FHP and an additional week at Nellis we could have accomplished some extremely valuable cross-training with the Nellis F-15/F-16 community. Since it costs a fixed amount to deploy a squadron to Nellis, you should consider sending a squadron for a 2-3 week period.

Recommendation: That future OACM deployments be lengthened to 2 weeks to gain maximum available training at Nellis AFB for TAD dollars invested.

(b) Item: KC-130 Support

Discussion: VMGR-252 KC-130 support was superb. The tanker saved several sorties which might otherwise have been lost due to weather and Bandit availability. "Otis 06" provided two much-needed "Parts Runs" during the week as well as trail maintenance for both the deployment and re-deployment phases.

Recommendation: Always include a KC-130 on the OACM detachments. The flexibility it allows both in maintenance and operational support is outstanding.

Subj: OVERLAND ACM (OACM) DETACHMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT

4. Logistics:

(a) Item: Nellis AFB Logistics Support

Discussion: Logistics support to us by Nellis AFB was superb. We had superior accommodations for all Officers, SNCO's and enlisted Marines; we were given enough vehicles to cover every transportation need. We had excellent support equipment, hangar facilities and aircraft parking. All this happened because there were no major exercises (e.g. Red Flag) in progress while we were there.

Recommendation: Attempt to schedule OACM Detachments when Red Flag is not present. It's worth the effort.

5. Maintenance: None.

  
THOMAS L. WILKERSON

CY 86  
WING INTERNAL INSPECTION RESULTS  
MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251

005	SAVINGS BONDS	CX
020	REQUEST MAST	E
030	MORALE	E
040	CAREER PLANNING	A
050	CASUALTY MATTERS	E
060	GENERAL ADMIN	A
070	PERSONNEL ADMIN	AA
080	JUMPS/MMS	A
090	LEGAL ADMIN	E
120	PERSONNEL AFFAIRS	AA
130	GROUND SAFETY	AA
140	SAFE DRIVING	E
190	EQUAL OPPORTUNITY	CX
200	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	CX
210	ABSENTEE VOTING	CX
211	SPECIAL SERVICES	CX
240	INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT	E
250	INTELLIGENCE	E
260	COUNTER INTELLIGENCE	E
270	SECURITY OF CLASS INFO	AA
271	CMCC	E
290	OFFICER UNIFORM	E
300	STAFF UNIFORM INSPECTION	AA
310	PERSONNEL INSPECTION	AA
320	DRILL	O
330	CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT	A
340	PFT	A
350	WEIGHT CONTROL	A
360	MARKSMANSHIP	E
380	TRAINING MANAGEMENT	AA
390	MCI	E
395	OPERATIONS	AA
396	FREDS	A
410	EDUCATION	A
420	COLOR GUARD	A
460	HISTORICAL	E
500	MEDICAL	E
510	DENTAL	E
530	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	A
550	EMBARKATION	E
640	NWPL	E
670	BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	AA
700	FOOD SERVICE	AA
766	INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE	CX
850	AIRCREW TRAINING	CX
870	AVIATION SAFETY	E
970	UNITREP	AA

O = Outstanding  
E = Excellent  
AA = Above Average  
A = Average

BA = Below Average  
U = Unsatisfactory  
TBA = To be announced  
CX = Cancelled

5750  
7 Jul 1986

2 June 1986	EST Testing
13 June 1986	First F/A-18 Arrives at VMFA-251
16 June 1986	Six Pilots Return From F/A-18 Transition Training
16-20 June 1986	Rifle Range
17 June 1986	Second F/A-18 Arrives at VMFA-251
18 June 1986	Commanding Officer Flies First Local VMFA-251 F/A-18 Sortie at MCAS Beaufort
25 June 1986	Third F/A-18 Arrives at VMFA-251
27 June 1986	Fourth F/A-18 Arrives at VMFA-251

  
Thomas L. WILKERSON