



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251  
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF, PACIFIC  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96603

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
S-3  
3 Jan 92

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251,  
MAG-12, 1st MAW, FMF, Pacific, Unit 82364, FPO AE 09503-9266

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 12 (S-3),  
1st MAW, FMF, Pacific, Unit 37150, FPO AP 96603-7150  
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFAC,  
FPO San Francisco, CA, 96603-8701

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1F  
(b) ForO P5750.1G  
(c) WgO 5750.1H

1. In accordance with reference. The Command Chronology is submitted.

**SECTION 1**

**Command Designation**

- a. Reporting Unit Code: 01251
- b. Table of Organization: 8851

**Period Covered and Location**

- a. 15 July 1991 - 21 July 1991 Pacific Transit
- b. 22 July 1991 - 9 August 1991 at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
- c. 10 August 1991 - 2 September 1991 at Curtin AB, Australia
- d. 3 September 1991 - 4 October 1991 at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
- e. 5 October 1991 - 14 November 1991 at Kadena AB Okinawa, Japan
- f. 15 November 1991 - 15 December 1991 at Osan AB, ROK
- g. 16 December 1991 - 31 December at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

**Personnel Information**

- a. Commanding Officer LtCol Norman G. SCHLAICH  
15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
- b. Executive Officer Maj Martin S. MACY  
15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991

ENCLOSURE (9)

UMA 251

15 Jul-Dec 91

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

c. Administrative Officer	Maj Robert S. WALSH 15 July 1991 - 1 October 1991
	Maj David L. WALLENBURN 2 October 1991 - 31 December 1991
d. Intelligence Officer	SSgt William E. CAUTHORN 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
e. Operations Officer	Maj Thomas G. BOODRY 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
f. Logistics Officer	Capt Douglas A. DENN 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
g. Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Maj David L. WALLENBURN 15 July 1991 - 1 October 1991
	Maj Robert S. WALSH 2 October 1991 - 31 December 1991
h. Director of Safety and Standardization	Capt Paul H. SUPCHAK 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
i. Historical Officer	Capt Eric HEIDHAUSEN 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991
j. Sergeant Major	SgtMaj Gary L. WEAVER 15 July 1991 - 31 December 1991

Average Monthly Strength

	USMC	USN
	Officer/Enlisted	Officer/Enlisted
July 1991	22/159	1/2
August 1991	22/159	1/2
September 1991	22/159	1/2
October 1991	22/159	1/2
November 1991	22/159	1/2
December 1991	22/159	1/2

Equipment

	Number	Type
July 1991	12	F/A-18A
August 1991	12	F/A-18A

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

October 1991	12	F/A-18A
November 1991	11	F/A-18A
December 1991	12	F/A-18A

## SECTION 2

### Command, Operations, Training

During this five and one half month period the squadron conducted a variety of training missions. Three, month-long deployments away from MCAS Iwakuni, Japan allowed the Thunderbolts to focus on specific mission areas that yielded an increase in overall combat readiness and familiarity with First MAF contingencies. The opportunity to deploy provided much needed adversary support and air-to-ground ranges.

July training included the Transpac to MCAS Iwakuni and normal operations in and around local training areas.

During August the squadron flew six aircraft to Australia to participate in Exercise Pitch Black. Missions were long range, night strikes requiring in-flight refueling and detailed planning. The strikes were integrated with A-6E, EA-6B, KC-130, A-4, KC-707 and Australian F/A-18 aircraft. Pilot skills and comfort with night missions, large package strikes, EMCON procedures and escort tactics, improved substantially.

In September the squadron returned to MCAS Iwakuni and concentrated on all-weather intercepts, low levels, and some 1 versus 1 air combat. This prepared the Thunderbolts for an air-to-air deployment to Kadena AB, Okinawa. Radar equipped adversaries from the 18th TFW (F-15 Eagles) proved to be a valuable asset. Training was conducted using a building block approach that started with basic 1 versus 1 and progressed to complicated 4 versus unknown numbers of adversaries. The deployment led to innovative tactics on a division level and improved pilot's radar proficiency and Radar Homing and Warning (RHAW) gear employment. Pilots finished the deployment with over 90% of the air-to-air missions in the Training and Readiness manual completed.

From Kadena the squadron moved directly to Osan AB, ROK and concentrated on air-to-ground missions. Training began with circular bombing patterns, radar navigation sorties with HARM, Walleye and Flirs onboard, and progressed to pop-up tactics in close air support scenarios. Pilots became comfortable performing complicated CAS missions in a sophisticated ground-threat arena using smart weapons and associated sensors. The deployment provided pilots with over 80% of the air-to-ground missions in the Training and Readiness manual.

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

Finally in December the squadron returned to MCAS Iwakuni and began preparing aircraft for transfer. The advance party departed for MCAS Beaufort and began accepting aircraft.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

None.

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 15 July 1991 through 31 December 1991.

General Court Martials	0
Special Court Martials	0
Summary Court Martials	0
Non-Judicial Punishments	6
JAG Manual Investigations	1

MEDICAL

None.

LOGISTICS/SUPPLY

None.

CIVIC ACTION

During this period the squadron participated in various Japanese/American airshows as noted in section 3.

SECTION 3

<u>July 1991</u>	Squadron flew 99 sorties/ 307.8 flight hours
15 July 1991	Squadron TRANSPAC of eleven aircraft begins
21 July 1991	Squadron arrives at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
25 July 1991	Local flight operations begin
<u>August 1991</u>	Squadron flew 209 sorties/402.6 flight hours
7 August 1991	Pilots FAM fire the 9MM pistol in preparation for exercise Pitch Black

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

9 August 1991 Squadron deploys to Curtin, Australia for Pitch Black

9-31 August 1991 Local operations at MCAS Iwakuni. Continue to fly reduced hours during Pitch Black

17 August 1991 Three pilots participate in ULCHI Focus Lens at Seoul and Osan AB, Korea

September 1991 Squadron flew 213 sorties/325.4 flight hours

7 September 1991 Participated in Misawa, AB airshow  
Aircraft leave Curtin, Australia for MCAS Iwakuni

10-12 September 1991 DACT with JASDEF F-15's from Tsuiki, Japan

22 September 1991 Participated in MCAS Iwakuni Friendship Day

23-24 September 1991 DACT with F-14's from NAS Atsugi, Japan

October 1991 Squadron flew 338 sorties/400.4 flight hours

1 October 1991 Began 1V1 work-ups for upcoming Kadena deployment

4 October 1991 Squadron deployed to Kadena AB, Okinawa

4-30 October 1991 Conducted DACT with 18th TFW

5 October 1991 Participated in MCAS Futenma airshow

14 October 1991 Conducted Squadron Physical Fitness Test

November 1991 Squadron flew 347 sorties/440.4 flight hours

6-15 November 1991 Conducted DACT with 18th TFW

1-15 November 1991 Began section lead qualifications for Capt Jansen and Capt McBride

10 November 1991 Participated in Tsuiki Airshow, Japan

15 November 1991 Re-deployed from Kadena AB to Osan AB, Korea

22-26 November 1991 1st MAW Safety Natops Inspection

December 1991 Squadron flew 265 sorties/405.2 flight hours

2-6 December 1991 Two aircraft, three pilots deploy to Kadena AB, Okinawa for exercise Beachcrest 91

Subj: VMFA-251 COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR 15 JULY 1991 TO 31 DECEMBER 1991

- 5 December 1991            Section lead qualification for Capt Jansen and Capt McBride
- 15 December 1991        Squadron returns to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
- 16-31 December 1991    Maintenance prepares aircraft for transfer to VMFA-115 in January 1992

Section 4

- Item 1 ..... TRANSPAC LOI
- Item 2 ..... TRANSPAC After Action
- Item 3 ..... Exercise Pitch Black After Action inputs
- Item 4 ..... Kadena Deployment LOI
- Item 5 ..... Kadena After Action
- Item 6 ..... Osan Deployment LOI
- Item 7 ..... Osan After Action

  
N. G. SCHLAICH