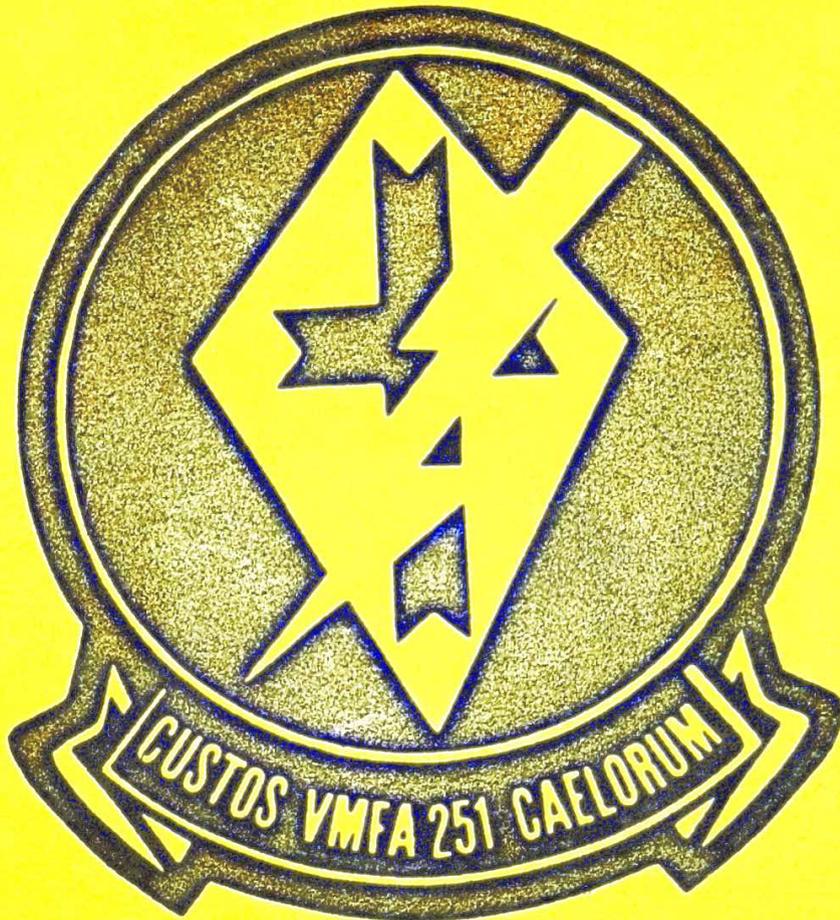


F/A-18 STANDUP CEREMONY



MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 251

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY 25 AUGUST 1986

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1000

CG AND HONORED GUESTS SEATED

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND BAND CONCERT BEGINS

1015

SOUND ATTENTION

MARCH ON THE COLORS

INVOCATION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PRESENTATION OF THE VMFA-251 BATTLE COLORS

HONOR'S FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

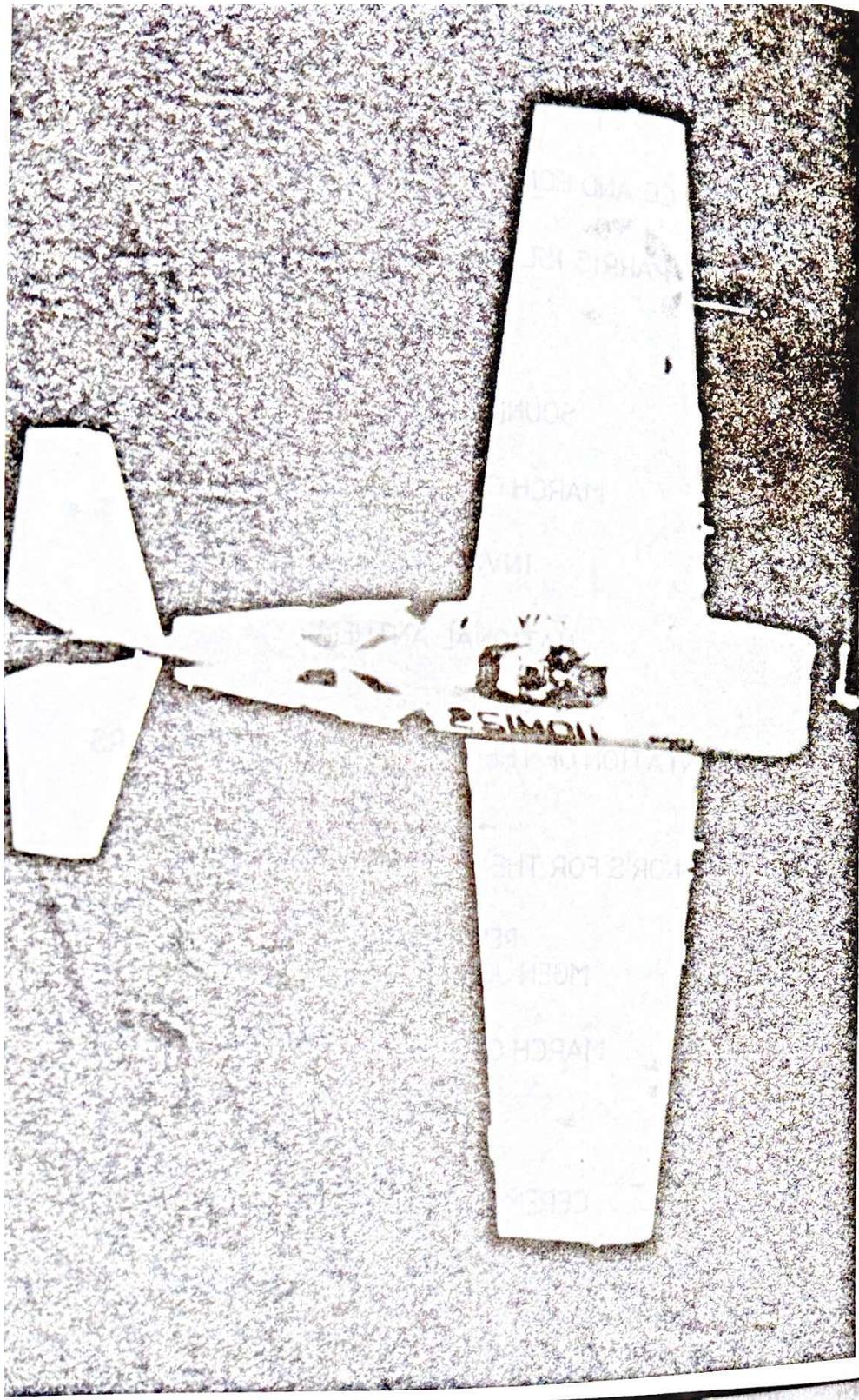
REMARKS BY
MGEN JOHN R. DAILEY

MARCH OFF THE COLORS

1035

CEREMONY CONCLUDED

REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE HANGAR



GRUMMAN F-4F "WILDCAT"

VMFA-251 was activated 1 December 1941 at North Island, California as VM0-251 flying the Grumman F-4F "Wildcat".

During World War II the squadron participated in the South Pacific Campaigns at Guadalcanal, Southern Solomons, Northern Solomons, Santa Cruz, Luzon, and the Southern Philippines.



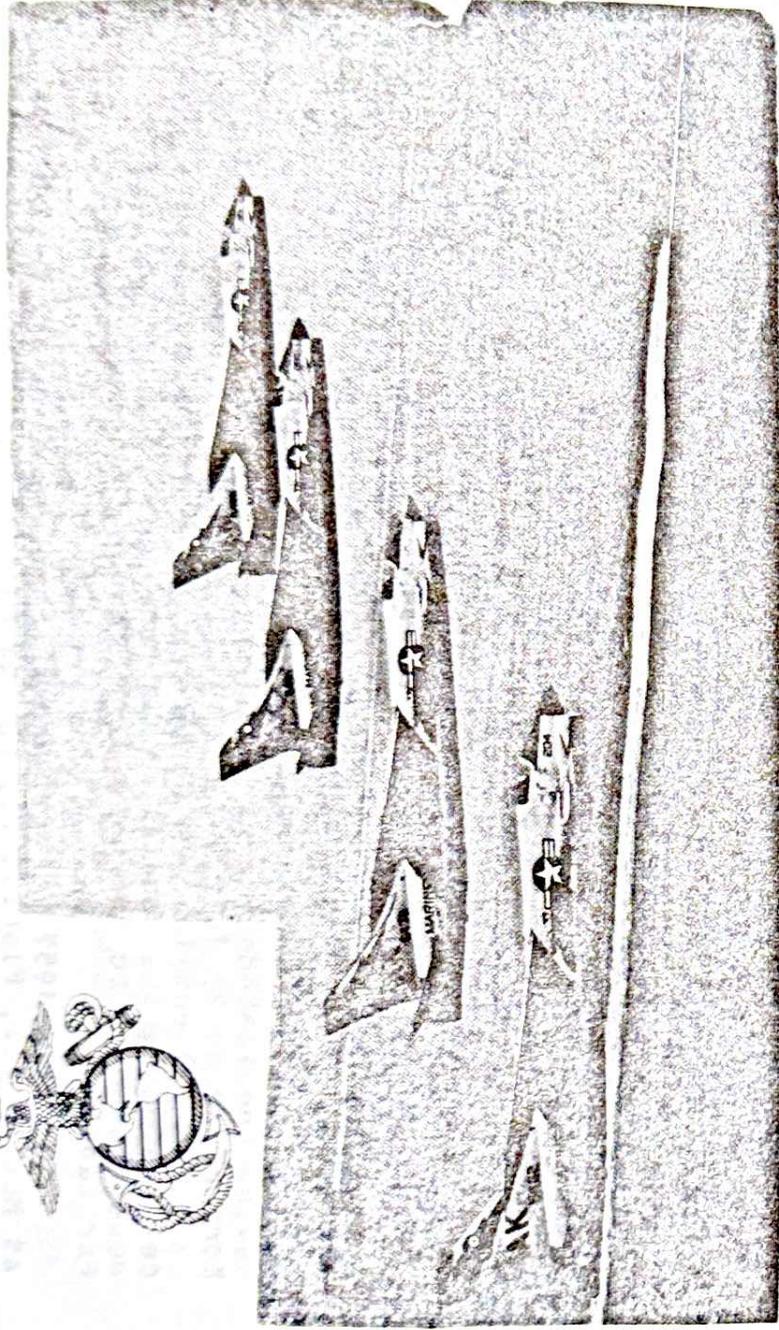
AD-4B 'CORSAIR'

F-4U 'CORSAIR'

During late 1944, VM0-251 transitioned to the F-4U Corsair, and was redesignated VMF-251 in February 1945.

VMF-251 continued operations in the South Pacific until 1 May 1945 when it flew its last combat mission of World War II while supporting clean up operations at Leyte. On 1 June 1945 VMF-251 was deactivated at Samar, Philippines Islands.

Thirteen months later (1 July 1946) VMF-251 was reactivated at Grosse Isle, Michigan as a Ready Reserve Squadron.



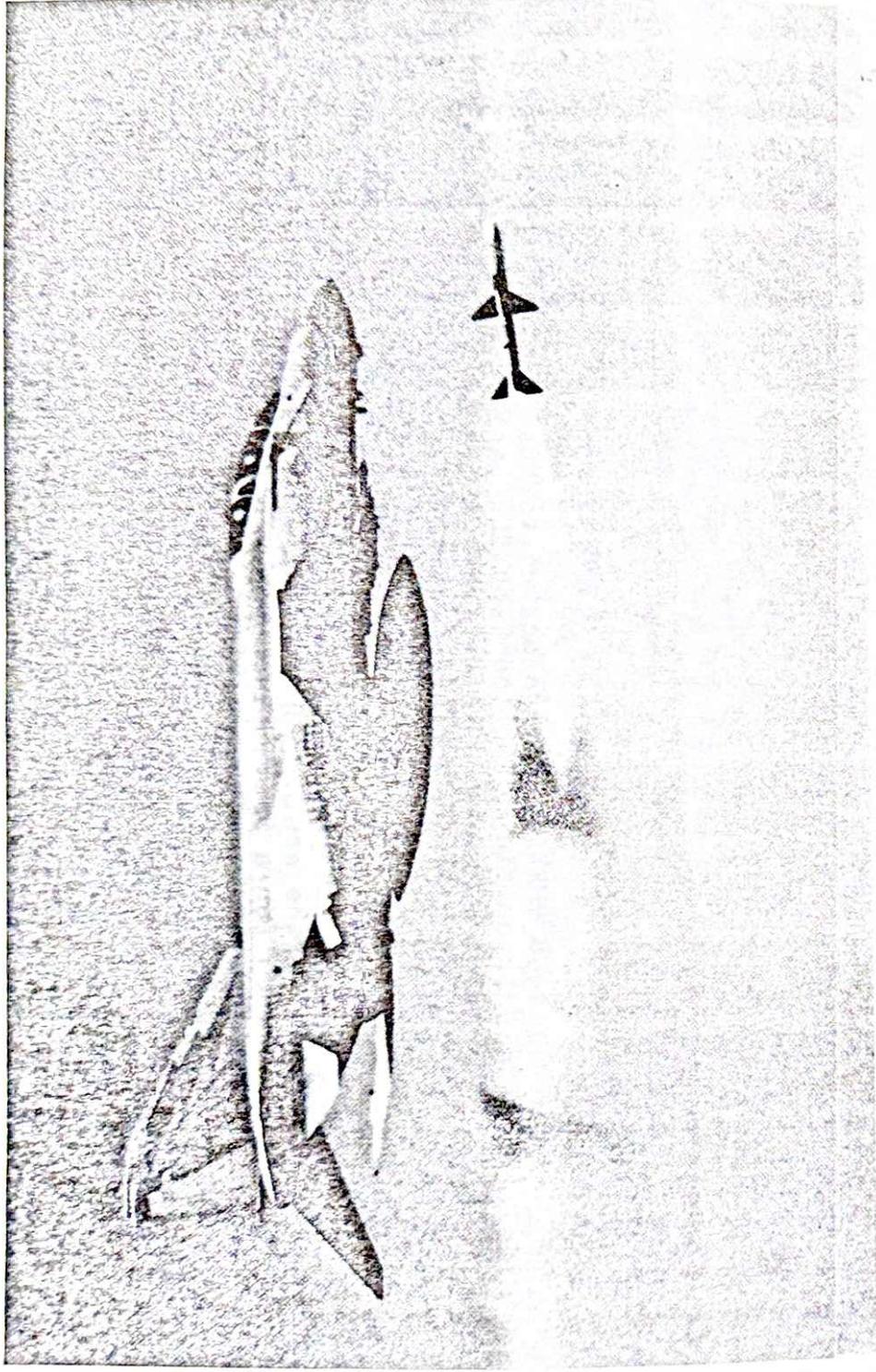
F-8U "CRUSADER"

In April 1958 VMF-251 was relocated to MCAS El Toro, California and transitioned to the F-8U "Crusader".

After two tours to the Far East VMF-251 was relocated to MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina in January 1961 which has been its home station ever since.

Most notably from January to August 1962 VMF-251 was the first Marine F-8 squadron to day/night carrier qual while deployed to the Med as part of CAG-10 aboard the USS Shangri-la (CVA-38). During the cruise VMF-251 set the record for flight time in one month for a Sixth Fleet based F-8 squadron by flying over 500 hours.

During July 1963 VMF-251 received the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Commanding General's Award, by winning the overall competition and first place awards in air-to-air gunnery and sidewinder missiles.



F-4S 'PHANTOM'

The squadron received its present designation of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 on 31 October 1964 becoming the first Marine squadron in the Second Marine Aircraft Wing to transition to the F-4 Phantom II.

Throughout the years since 1964, VMFA-251 has served as a fully combat capable advanced training squadron providing MAG-31 aircrews and maintenance personnel with the necessary experience to fully qualify them for overseas duty in a combat environment.

Winner of the Robert M. HANSON Award in 1969 as the "Most Outstanding Marine Fighter Squadron of the Year", VMFA-251 also received the CNO Safety Award and became the first Marine F-4 Squadron to exceed 25,000 accident free flight hours.

Awarded the Commandants Aviation Efficiency Trophy in 1978 as the "Most Outstanding Marine Squadron of the Year" VMFA-251 was recognized for superior performance during its one year deployment to WestPac (July 77-July 78) and an outstanding training program as the first Marine squadron to transition to the newest version of the Phantom, the F-4S.

VMFA-251 flew its last Phantom in November 1985; 21 years and over 85,000 flight hours after it received its first Phantom.

C.O. OF TROOPS

MAJ W.G. BOWDEN

PLATOON STAFF

CAPT K.C. MUNLEY

CAPT D.H. PEELER

SSGT R.S. ABRAMS

SSGT J.J. KROHN

COLOR GUARD

SGT T.D. CHARBONEAU

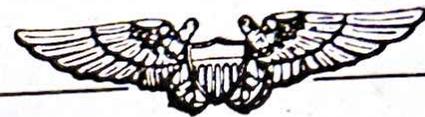
SGT P.H. YOYANOVICH

CPL S.A. MATTINGLY

LCPL R.L. JOHNSON

NARRATOR

CAPT M.A. DRAPER



HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered
wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling
mirth
Of sun-split clouds-wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the windswept heights with
easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face
of God.

-John Gillespie Magee, Jr.



