

No. 04297-13-67
Copy No. 1 of 2

3:NWG:dwl Cop 5750 03M04667 15 February 1967

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMFA-251 ltr 1:MOR:fam of 25 January 1967

From: Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

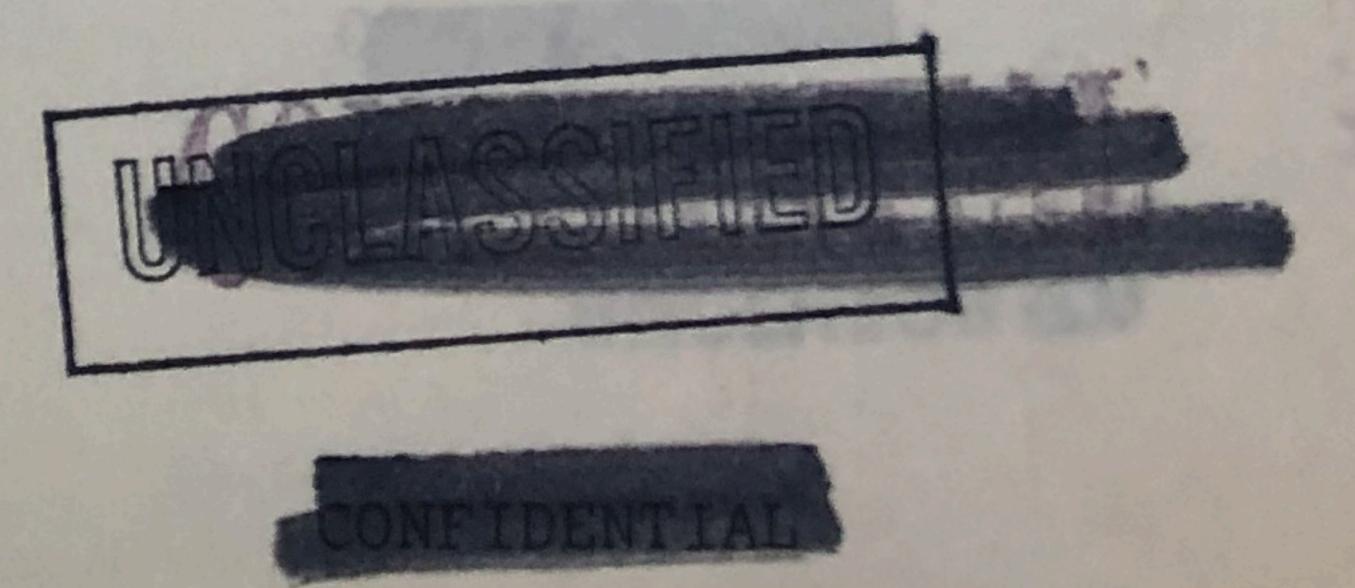
Subj: Command Chronology

- 1. Readdressed and Forwarded.
- 2. This endorsement may be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED when removed from the basic letter.

V. J. GOTTSCHALK Chief of Staff

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10
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HEADQUARTERS Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2dMAW, FMFLant MCAS, Beaufort, South Carolina, 29902

> 5750 03A03367 2 February 1967

2dMAW S&C FILES No. 04297-A-67

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMFA-251 ltr 1: MOR: fam of 25 January 1967

Copy No. 1 of 3

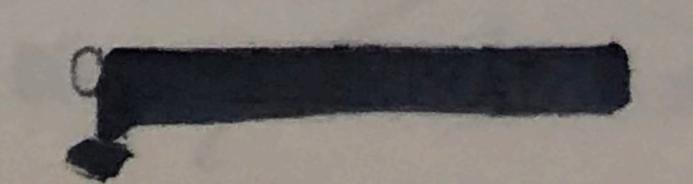
Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 32 From: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D) To:

Command Chronology Subj:

Forwarded.

Copy to: CO, VMFA-251

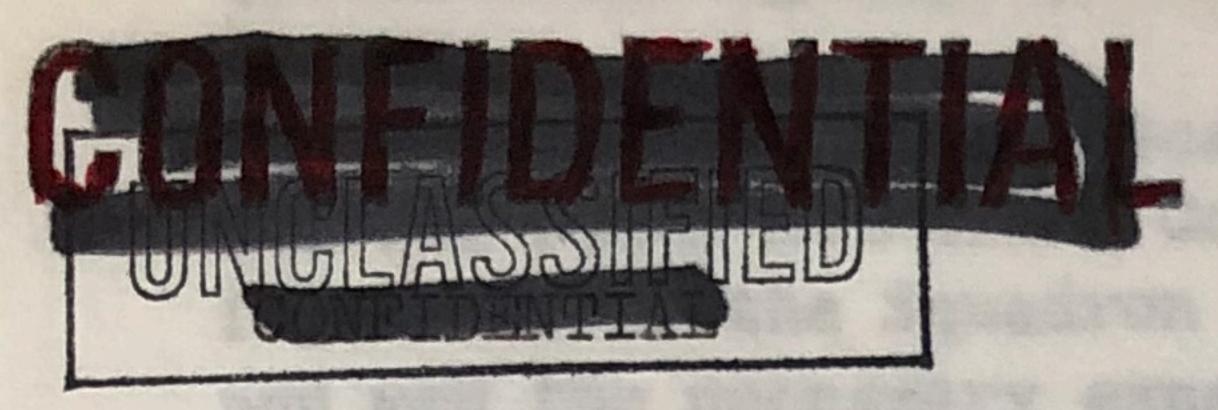
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1:MOR:fam

25 January 1967



Commanding Officer From:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D) To:

(1) Commanding Officer MAG-32 Via:

2) Commanding General 2d Marine Air Wing

(3) Commanding General Fleet Marine Force Atlantic

S&6 VMFA-251 LOG NO: 35-66 COPY NO:

VMFA-251 Command Chronology period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966 (U)

Ref:

an emanall muccess.

(c) CG 2d MAW 191940Z Jan67

Encl: (1) Synopsis of sequential listing of significant events, VMFA-251 period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966.

(2) VMFA-251 Organizational Data, period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966.

(3) Sequential listing of significant events period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966. ent yate nor san during that month. Willi-251 had won the plantes on front

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), VMFA-251 Command Chronology for the period of 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966 is submitted.

2. Enclosures (1) through (3) contain the information and documentation as required.

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Downgraded at three year intervals; Declassified after twelve years; DOD Dir 5200.10.

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HISTORICAL MARINE CORPS

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Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing My Lant Synopsis of Sequential Listing of Significant Events, VMFA-251, Period 1 July 1966 to 31 December 1966.

Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

HELTHO COLDS FIL SERETON

- The following is a synopsis of those significant events listed in enclosure (3). No attempt has been made to include the many and varied minor commitments executed during this period.
- a. VMFA-251 entered fiscal year 1967 under the command of LtCol G. H. Keller, and was based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. The main functions of the Squadron during this reporting period were to provide air crews and men the necessary experience to fully qualify them for overseas duty in a combat envionment. In rough terms aircrews achieve this ready status within seven to eight months time in the Squadron. Of their combat training about 60 % is devoted to air to air tactics and the remainder is used in perfecting air to ground ordnance delivery technique. The Squadron ensured that this all around training provided versatile and experienced air crews to other Marine squadrons deployed overseas.
- b. The July 7th Open House held by VMFA-251 was attended by many of the Squadron members' dependents. On hand to welcome the guests was the Commanding Officer, LtCol G. H. Keller. During their tour of the Squadron area the dependents were shown various demonstrations and movies concerning the F4B "Phantom" jet.
- c. During a formal ceremony on July 14th the Air Station Commanding Officer, Colonel J. L. Warren presented the rotating ground safety plaque to VMFA-251. The plaque is presented monthly to the Squadron which sets the lowest ground accident rate per man during that month. VMFA-251 had won the plaque on four previous months giving them the best ground safety record for the fiscal year.
- d. September 6-19 saw VMFA-251 deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona for practice in technique of air-to-ground ordnance delivery. Average aircrew readiness was increased significantly, and the deployment was considered an overall success.
- e. October 6th brought a Royal Air Force pilot to VMFA-251. Flight Lieutenant Christopher Carr-White, a graduate of the Royal Air Force Academy, was assigned to the Squadron as assistant Operations Officer, and Squadron pilot. He is believed to be the first British Officer to serve at this base in the exchange program.
- f. On November 18th, VMFA-251 witnessed a colorful Change of Command Ceremony. The outgoing skipper, LtCol G. H. Keller, presented the Squadron Colors to the new Commanding Officer, Major L. R. Hawkins. Ceremonies included selections played by the Parris Island Drum and Bugle Corps, and an address by Colonel L. H. Steman, Marine Aircraft Group 32's Commanding Officer.

1. The following is a synopsis of those significant events listed in enclosure (3). No attempt has been made to include the many and varied minor commisments

Symopsis of Sequencial Liscing of Significant Fromes, 1966 to 31 December 1966.

the reporting period. Arriving at Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, the Squadron immediately began work on its three preplanned tasks. The first of these was Project Sparrow Shoot in which the Squadron conducted test firings of the Sparrow missile. Next came the Squadron's participation in LANTFIEX 66 as participation in LANTFIEX 66 as both friendly and aggressor air in a variety of missions. The third task was to accomplish as much normal syllabus training as possible. In all three missions the Squadron was very successful.

MAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS

NAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS

NAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS

LSTLE R. L. BEUTER
CAPT J. R. SPENCER

LSTLE S. R. TONLINSON, JR
LSTLE S. L. BENSON

CAPT C. S. ESTERLINS
NAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS
NAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS
NAJ. C. L. BATTISTONS
NAJ. P. G. BOOZNAS

CAPT N. W. MEREDITH

LSTLE D. L. KAYON
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WIFA-251 LANTELEX-66 POST EXERCISE PEPORT

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On 27 November 1966, VMFA-251 (rein) deployed to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to participate in LANTFIEX-66 as a part of Provisional Marine Aircraft Group Twenty. The post-exercise report which follows is concerned primarily with the period 6 through 9 December when this squadron supported the amphibious landing and subsequent operations ashore. Only brief mention is made of the period 4 and 5 December when VMFA-251 flew a total of 22 sorties in support of Orange Air Forces under CTG 24.3.

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S-1 ADMINISTRATION

Squadron Strength 33 Marine Officers

1 Navy Officer (Flight Surgeon)

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1 PAF Officer (Exchange Pilot) patron intelligence Section

every hop 177 WHFA-251 Enlisted to personnel. Valuable training was

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on 27 Movember 1966, WHEA-251 (realn) deployed to Mayer Michilan

was in the area of flight eres debriefings. These were conducted after

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B. The Pilot/RIO strength could have become a limiting factor in this exercise had the squadron been more heavily committed to sustained day and night operations, Although the T. O. is 26 Fillots/26 RIO's and Manning level is 21 Pilots/21RIO's, this squadron has only 17 as to the cupilots and 13 RIO's assigned, of which 17 Pilots and 11 RIO's participated in the exercise.

Overall the exercise from the intelligence standpoint was valuable to all concerned. Enlisted personnel, especially, gained texperience in the fundamentals of gleaning essential information from the debriating of the flight crows and translating this to a visual map form.

B. . Comments and Recommendation and the little

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Luxuante After an emphibious landing, frequent latelligence summaries giving the state of bettle and position of energy and friendly forces is of great value to the air unit participations in support of the laming assault and subsequent battle. It enables pilots engaged in CAS missions to have a background of information regarding the approximate position and strength of the enemy ground forces. This knowledge makes subsequent sirborns briefing by the PAC on CAS strikes more realistic and is of great training value to pilots on emercises. During Librill no significant information was disconingted.

> DECLASSIFIED Authority NNO 29614

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Summary of Activities erly pleas for this unit's deployment were made from intersection

The biggest project undertaken in the squadron Intelligence Section was in the area of flight crew debriefings. These were conducted after every hop by squadron intelligence personnel. Valuable training was gained by not only intelligence personnel but also by the flight crews themselves on reporting occurrences in an objective and concise manner. The information received from these debriefings was plotted on area maps and condensed into a twice daily intelligence summary submitted to PROVMAG-20 along with one sortie per day for the C-117 from 6 December through December. The G-117 had a primary education of Autocar/MANOCAT.

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Flight crew training was initiated in the use of authenticators and situation reports on the porgress of the problem. Situation maps of the 16th MEB scheme of maneuver were kept for this purpose. to which VEFA 25% was deploying as wall as situation brists on surrounding

The situation maps were a good start to keep the squadron up to date on the progress of the exercise. The only problem encountered with this was that the flow of information from PROVMAG-20 was nearly non-existent as to the current progress of the exercise. Upon the completion of the above plan, the squadron ferried it 7-48's

Overall the exercise from the intelligence standpoint was valuable to all concerned. Enlisted personnel, especially, gained experience in the fundamentals of gleaning essential information from the debriefing of the flight crews and translating this to a visual map form. provided to sorties in support of Orange Air, but flew only 14, 1 sertie

B. Comments and Recommendation

Item: Feedback of Intelligence Information for 251 to provide 100 sorties Aron D-Day through De3 in support of Blue Lir; however, 251 was directed

Comment: After an amphibious landing, frequent intelligence summaries giving the state of battle and position of enemy and friendly forces is of great value to the air unit participations in support of the landing assault and subsequent battle. It enables pilots engaged in CAS missions to have a background of information regarding the approximate position and strength of the enemy ground forces. This knowledge makes subsequent airborne briefing by the FAC on CAS strikes more realistic and is of great training value to pilots on exercises. During LANTFLEX no significant information was disseminated.

Recommendation: That continuing intelligence summaries be built into the problem as an effort to educate all forces as to the progress of the operation. for airhorne radio relay (AUTOCAT/MARCCAT) and this was provided. Also the

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C-117 was sainteined on on on-oall basis when not airborns.

Enclosure (1) Englosure 1/

interested in the use of suchambicators and and condensed into a twice daily intelliseence summary submitted to The information received from these debriefings was plotted on area maps chemselves on reporting courrecces in an objective and concise manuer. gained by not only intelligence personnel but also by the flight grows every hop by equadron intelligence personnel. Valuable training was Male in the area of flight eres debrickings. These were conducted after The Diggest project midnybaken in the squadron intelliations bestien

Strategies and the state of the

III. 3-3 Operations

Planning Phase

Early plans for this unit's deployment were made from information contained in the various operation orders that applied to VMFA-251. Ordnance requests and aircraft configurations were decided upon at this time in order to meet the various tasks that could be assigned to the F-4B including simulated, practice and live ordnance delivery. An examination of the proposed tempo of operations was made to determine the number of personnel required along with types and amount of materiel to support us while deployed. The operation orders called for 125 F-4B sorties to be flown between 4 and 9 December along with one sortie per day for the C-117 from 6 December through 9 December. The C-117 had a primary mission of AUTOCAT/MANOCAT.

Based on the above information the squadron operation order was written and included appropriate inputs from the intelligence section on the area to which VMFA 251 was deploying as well as situation briefs on surrounding areas. The and control six strikes. Manche smat constructes with eirezaft

B. Execution and pillots must learn map reading and target identification.

Upon the completion of the above plan, the squadron ferried 11 F-48's from it's home station to the deployment site.

The first day of the operations had VNFA-251 programmed for 10 sorties and these were scheduled and flown. The following day 251 was directed to provide 15 sorties in support of Orange Air, but flew only 14, 1 sortie being concelled due to aircraft availability.

The PROVMAG-20 operation order called for 251 to provide 100 sorties from D-Day through D+3 in support of Blue Air; however, 251 was directed by FRAG order to fly only 69, of which 64 were launched.

A summary of operations by type mission is as follows:

TYPE MISSION SORTIES SCHEDULED	SORTIES PLOWN
CASTERNAL That will be seployed in future expressors.	22
AIR DEFENSE	36
STRIKE	4

During the same period the C-117 was committed to one mission per day for airborne radio relay (AUTOCAT/MANOCAT) and this was provided. Also the C-117 was maintained on an on-call basis when not airborne.

seriod below thereugh her only one attempt was made to use vill directly. This

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VMFA-251 received a large amount of highly valuable training at the unit level during this exercise. All of the various missions which the F-4B is capable of performing were encountered and all pilots and NFO's learned what operations in a combat environment might be like. Demands were made on aircrew readiness and flexibility and the knowledge gained from these lessons is immeasureable.

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D. Comments and Recommendations

Item 1: Use of Close Air Support Aircraft. TERROLLING THE PARTY TO SEPTICE AT

Comment: On 7 and 8 Dec (D+1 and D+2), out of 24 sorties of Close Air Support aircraft on station, a total of 9 sorties were used for CAS strikes. It is felt that training exercises such as LANTPLEX are invaluable for the training available in coordinating all supporting arms. For close air support this encompasses requirements for FAC's to recommend, coordinate, request and control air strikes. DASC's must marry requirements with aircraft available and pilots must learn map reading and target identification. Finally, close control of the supporting aircraft must be effected.

In training exercises, requirements for air support are normally generated by either actual or constructive simulated aggressors which do not normally require continuing use of aircraft. The result is wasted opportunities to practice the most difficult coordination problem of supporting arms.

Recommendation: That in future training exercises, TACP's be directed to request a minimum amount of Tectical Air Requests regardless of the situation on the ground.

ECH Environment Item 2:

VMPA-251 was tasked to be prepared to operate under a hostile ECH environment. No ECM was employed against airborne radar during the exercise, resulting in losing the opportunity for realistic training.

Recommendation: That ECM be employed in future exercises.

Item 3: Utilization of Autocat/Manocat Aircraft

Comment: During the period D-Day through D+3, a C-117 aircraft was on station for twenty-two hours. This aircraft had the capability for automatic retransmission (AUTOCAT) of radio messages, on UHR and VHF(FM) frequencies In addition, it could manually relay (MANOCAT) messages on UHF, VHF(FM) and HF(USB) frequencies. All of these could be used simultaneously. During the period D-Day through D+2 only one attempt was made to use VHF AUTOCAT. This was unsuccessful due to undertermined reasons. Six FM MANOCAT messages were completed, with numerous non-exercise relays made on HF. On D+3, AUTOCAT was attempted and proved successful.

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James 254 received a large amount of highly valuable training at the walt water and the Paris and Pari

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It was felt that the non-use of this capability was the result of a lack of education. With better dissemination of information regarding the G-117 AUTOCAT/MANOCAT capability, an excellent alternate means of communications would have been available to the MEB.

Recommendation: That, AUTOCAT/MANOCAT aircraft be employed in future operations to be preceded by broad dissemination of its communications capabilities to unit commanders at all levels.

Item 4: Air attacks against transport aircraft

the term of the same same dupport strezers.

Comment: Although PROVMAG-20 Oporder 3-66 directed that no attacks should be made on transport aircraft, the C-117 attached to VMPA-251 for AUTOCAT/MANOCAT missions was repeatedly attacked by Puerto Rico Air National Guard F-86's.

Recommendation: That positive steps are taken to ensure that relevant rules of engagement are brought to the attention of all participants in the air order of battle.

Item 5: Control and Employment of Air Defense Aircraft

Comment: Control of air-defense aircraft was marginal. Repeated occurrences of less of radar contact by controlling agencies resulted in inadequate protection for friendly aircraft. On at least two instances, fighter aircraft were directed to effect their own rendezvous/intercept with no assistance from the controlling agency. This was assumedly the result of inadequate radar coverage of the AAW sector.

Recommendation: That on subsequent operations, provisions for more complete ground radar coverage be provided.

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S-4 HATERIAL AND LOGISTICS

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A. The squadron required ten C-130 aircraft to move from MCAS Beaufort to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads.

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	weight of Total	cargo		· 整点在2000年至	201,960	lbs.
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- B. Support provided by Detachment Six, 2dMAW, was excellent.
 - 21 General Purpose tents (Tent City)
 - 3 4x4 Jeeps, t Ton
 - 2 6x6 Trucks, 22 Ton
 - 4x4 Ambulance, M679
 - 1 6x6 Truck, MJ-2, Ordnance
 - 1 Truck, Stake Bed 22 Ton.

Additionally, certain items of Ground Support Equipment were provided. Without these items and vehicles, the airlift requirements would be more than doubled.

C. Supply Support

- 1. Initial supply of spare parts was provided by a Pack up from MAG-32.
- Support in the field was provided in part by the Aircraft Maintenance Department of Maval Station Roosevelt Roads but primarily by MAG-32 via the MARLOG.
- Refueling of the aircraft was accomplished expeditiously due to the availability of the TAFDS adjacent to the Flight Line.

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RUTAFT MAINTENANCE

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- No major problems were encountered in this area and the squadron was able to maintain a high level of aircraft availability throughout the exercise.
- B. Average Daily Availability for period 4-9 December: Beginning of Flight Operations - 9 Aircraft Secure of Flight Operations - 5 Aircraft

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C. Commit and Recommendations were at the water of

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The transfer of the state of th That teletype economications using the 75 for ships to-ohore use not be ettempted until its success can be assured. As a suitable substitute it is recommended that the use of Cr be preferred to voice. The transmission of classified traffic remains a problem, the solution of which is beyond the espability of this

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- Planning: WMFA-251 communications with PROVMAG-20 were planned to consist of a voice tactical Air Command Net to be activated at 0500 on 5 December and a teletype/crypto admin net to be activated at 0800 on 30 November.
- Execution: Nets were manned as scheduled but communications were marginal to poor. The quality of the admin net signal was not sufficient to permit use of teletype during the afloat phase. During the ashore phase, teletype was generally good except for a total of seven hours when there was a complete breakdown. Approximately three hours were lost due to generator failure in the squadron. During the remaining four hours, the squadron net was in full operation but could not contact PROVMAG 20 for reasons unknown to this unit. TAC net communications were generally good during daylight hours but signal strength was markedly reduced at night. The result was extreme difficulty in passing reports to meet required deadlines. The Naval Teletype System as a backup was inadequate. Delays in the delivery of Priority messages were as much as thirty hours.
 - C. Commendation: Item: Teletype Admin Nets

Comment: During the period control of air was afloat, no teletype was possible due to poor signal quality. Voice radio as a backup resulted in excessive delays in transmission. These problems should continue to exist until existing shipboard equipment is improved. the second secon

Recommendation: THE RESIDENCE OF STREET That teletype communications using TRC-75 for shipto-shore use not be attempted until its success can be assured. As a suitable substitute it is recommended that the use of CW be preferred to voice. The transmission of classified traffic remains a problem, the solution of which is beyond the capability of this command.

Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFlant Marine Corps Air Station

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the major difficulties were assemblaned which had a detrimental offent on maintenance and flight operations during this period. Heintshance suffered due to the time delay inherent in delivering space parts from NAS-32 to 1986. This has time is considered excessive for a normal two weeks deployment. Impositioning of high usage parts at Tune and North Kaland by Navalley soon wealt allowings this problem.

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C. E. KELLINE, JR.

BOME, PHACTICE, MSE, 250 lb. Low Drag, MK-81
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MARRATIVE

The primary purpose of the deployment to MCAS YUMA, ARIZONA was to familiarize the newer aircrews with the various problems and techniques of ordnance delivery and also to further polish those aircrews who were already qualified in accordance with the reguirements of the Training and Readiness Syllabus. The training areas covered were: (1) bomb/rocket patterns for various altitudes and dive angles, (2) terget picture, identification, and tracking, (3) correct use of the conventional ordnance switches, (4) practicing delivery of dummy and live bombs, 2.75° FFAR and Zuni rockets, (5) proper use of the FAB optical sight in day and nite delivery operations, (6) familiarization with delivery of dummy and live ordnance at nite on a raked target and also on rite close air support missions with aircraft flares for indumination and (7) the handling characteristics and take-off technique for a heavily loaded FAB.

All aircrews received the maximum amount of training possible within the limitations of sorties available and the individual state of training.

Two major difficulties were encountered which had a detrimental effect on maintenance and flight operations during this period. Maintenance suffered due to the time delay inherent in delivering spare parts from MAC-32 to Yuma. This lag time is considered excessive for a normal two weeks deployment. Prepositioning of high usage parts at Yuma and North Island by NAVAIRSYSCOM would alleviate this problem.

The second problem area was the scheduling of air transportation for the return to Beaufort. Due to the shortage of C-130's plus the lack of billeting space at Yuma, VMFA-251 had to board the aircraft which ferried VMFA-312 to Yuma, proceed to El Toro and RON before departing for Beaufort the following day. The return schedule actually commenced from Yuma on the morning of the 19th and was completed at Beaufort the evening of the 22nd. This forced cancellation of 45 sorties at Yuma on the 19th and 20th and delayed the resumption of normal flight operations at Beaufort until the following week. This Squadron appreciated the commitments levied on VMCR-252, however his spread out transportation situation caused a serious loss of flight operations to the deploying squadron. The shortage of F4B flight time is already acute without the loss of an additional weeks flying on each deployment.

of targets available and excellent weather at Yuma, much more training was accomplished that could normally be expected at other available deployment bases.

G. H. KELLER, JR.

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251 Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

SUMMARY AND NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS

YUMA DEPLOYMENT 6-19 SEPT 66

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

From: Commanding Officer	
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Airc	eraft Group 32
Subj: Post- Deployment report, Yuma;	tor berrod o-12 pebremper 1200
X/C to MCAS YUMA	71.8
Total 7-17 Sept at MCAS YUMA	281.5
X/C back to MCAS BEAUFORT	41.1
Total Deployment	394.4
Average Flight Hours Per Pilot	19.7
SORTIES	SORTIES
Scheduled 7-17 Sept at MCAS YUMA	228
Completed 7-17 Sept at MCAS YUMA	215
Sorties Completion rate	94%

Sorties Completion rate

94%

Average Pilot Readiness Start Deployment 57%

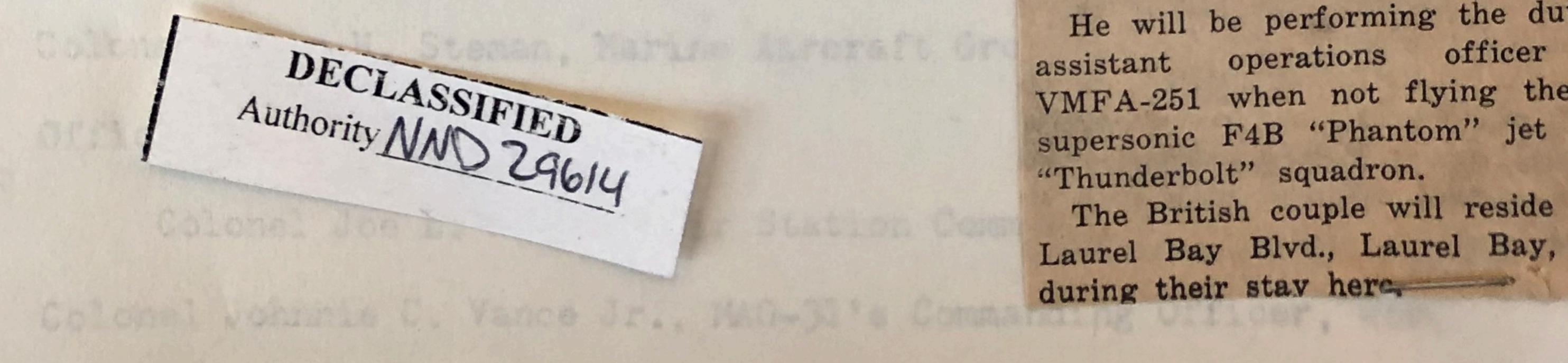
End Deployment 57%

Average RIO Readiness Start Deployment 69% 71%

Syllabus Flights Completed (including syllabus Flights completed enroute to and from YUMA)

PHASE I	PILOTS R	TO's
PHASE II WEAPONS BOMBS/ROCKETS NAPAIM	90 90 92	0 25 3
CAS (Day & Night) Total Pilot	180 Total RIO	10





The colorsul comments as the ball as

RAF Exchange Pilot Joins VMFA-251 For Duty Tour

If Paul Revere was spreading the latest scoop on British troop movements in the Beaufort area, he would have to trade in his horse for a jet to get the news out.

A Royal Air Force pilot, Flight Lieutenant Christopher Carr-White, arrived here from England last week to begin a two-year tour of duty with VMFA-251.

The British officer and his wife, Celia, were officially welcomed aboard the Air Station by his new commanding officer, LtCol Gordon H. Keller Jr.

Flight Lieutenant Carr-White is believed to be the first British officer to serve at this Air Station in the exchange pilot program conducted by the United States and foreign countries.

A native of Lymington, England, Lieutenant Carr-White graduated from the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell, England.

Since then, the Flight Lieutenant, which is equal in rank to a Captain in the Marine Corps, has served at British bases in Germany and Cyprus, plus numerous bases in England.

He will be performing the duties of assistant operations officer with VMFA-251 when not flying the sleek supersonic F4B "Phantom" jet of the "Thunderbolt" squadron.

The British couple will reside at 154 Laurel Bay Blvd., Laurel Bay, S. C.,

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251 Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

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Project Sparred There's and Laborated Sc. Additionally, series C.144 5 1967 tweetning with empleasin on alreto-ground britsense delivery was to be ever-

an informal evoluation to determine the intitation of Commanding Officer From:

Commanding Officer, MAG-32 To:

Post-Deployment Report for Period 26 Nov 66 - 16 Dec 66, submission of

Encl: (1) VMFA-251 Post-Deployment Report

(2) VMFA-251 LANTFLEX Post-Exercise Report (Original Only)

(3) COMLANTFLTWPNRAN INST. P3120.1A (Original Only)

- During the period 26 November to 16 December 1966, VMFA-251 deployed with 11 F4B's and 284 personnel to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The first of three planned tasks was to conduct test firings of Sparrow Missiles in support of Project Sparrow Shoot. The second task was to participate in LANTFLEX 66 as both friendly and aggressor air in a variety of missions. Any available periods not devoted to the above efforts were used to accomplish normal syllabus training.
- 2. Enclosures (1) and (2) constitute a concise review of the entire deployment and an appraisal of the facilities, support, and operating conditions of the deployment base.
- 3. Enclosure (3) contains the latest information on the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range Facilities.
- 4. The deployment was successful and all missions and tasks were accomplished in a satisfactory manner. However, the conclusion that must be drawn from the information presented in enclosure (1) is that NS Roosevelt Roads is not a highly desirable deployment base for Air to Ground Training by F4B to shortage during peak pendets of flying, pilets were annigned to Squadrons.
- This report is declassified upon removal of enclosure (2)

communications. The 13 persons R. HAVKINS courses for approxinstely six days during Larry LEE 66. Only an equipment shorters meantend the requirement to maintain a third not with Man-32. This

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mornal aperating propodures were followed by both the deployed and DECLASSIFIED Authority NNO 29614

C. Another eres where personnel shortages was near exitionl was in

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Tab F

VMFA-251 Naval Station Roosevelt Roads Post-Deployment Report

SANTING ASTURBATE OFFICE SE, SA MERLING ASSOCIATE WANGS TWELDING

Marine Coupe Air Station, Securort, South Careline 29902

VMFA-251's deployment to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico was planned for the period 26 November to 19 December to participate in Project Sparrow Shoot and LANTFLEX 66. Additionally, normal syllabus training with emphasis on air-to-ground ordnance delivery was to be conducted after other commitments had been fulfilled. Coincidental with all operations, an informal evaluation was made to determine the suitability of NS Roosevelt Roads to support normal deployments. Details of the entire deployment are contained in this enclosure with additional details for LANTFLEX 66 participation in enclosure (2). The report follows by Staff Section. Section.

S-1 Administration

电路线 数字片与数数法

- With minor changes throughout the deployment, the squadron maintained an approximate strength of 284 personnel. A breakdown of this figure follows: L. From Sufferention conteined in appearations order from Persons From Profit-20.
 - 33 Marine Officers
 - l Navy Officer (Flight Surgeon)
 - 1 RAF Officer (Exchange Pilot)
 - 177 VMFA-251 Enlisted

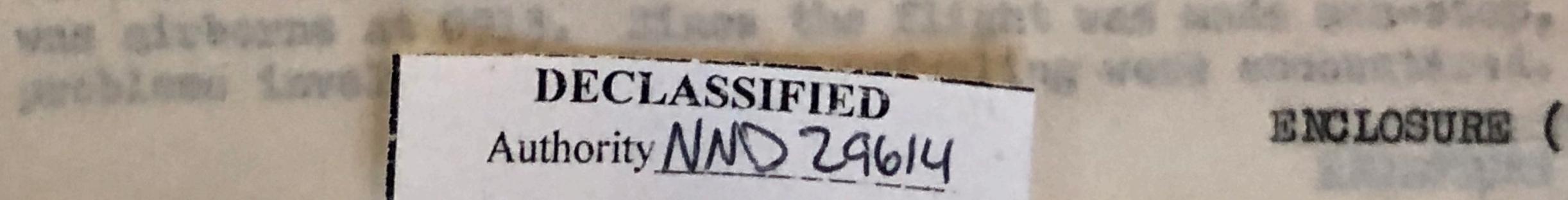
AND LONG LINES

- 17 Enlisted attached from H&MS-32
- 48 Enlisted attached from MABS-32
- 3 Enlisted attached from MWSG-27
- 1 Enlisted attached from MAG-31
- 3 Navy enlisted attached from MABS-32

35 Officers Totals: 249 Enlisted L-2 December Alterrate dakes for Francisch Section Street

- The one element of personnel strength which presented a limiting factor was the number of RIO's available for the deployment. Of 13 assigned, one was hospitalized and one was TAD for F4B NAMO training. The remaining eleven RIO's would have been overcommitted had the LANTFLEX 66 schedule been flown as originally planned. To relieve the shortage during peak periods of flying, pilots were assigned to man the rear cockpit when a RIO was not an absolute requirement for the mission. FE-25 Tennenteen Mr-to-ground ontenned delivery testales-
- Another area where personnel shortages was near critical was in communications. The 13 persons assigned were required to man a tactical net and an administrative net 24 hours-a-day for approximately six days during LANTFLEX 66. Only an equipment shortage negated the requirement to maintain a third net with MAG-32. This would have imposed an unacceptable burden on 13 men.
- Normal operating procedures were followed by both the deployed and rear-echelon units of the S-1 section. No major administrative problems were encountered. THE NAME OF STREET WASHINGTON TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

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Fig. 4-251's deployment to Hevel Station Roomevelt Honds, Puerto Rice was planned for the period 26 Movember to 19 December to participate in Froject Sparrow Shoot and Lampville 66. Additionally, normal syllabus a training with emphasis on six-to-ground ordnamos delivery was to be son-

II. S-2 Intelligence

- A. The major efforts of the S-2 Section were devoted to preparations for and operations during LANTFLEX 66 to include planning, briefing and debriefing of aircrews, and compilation of intelligence summaries. Enclosure (2) contains a more detailed synopsis of S-2 activities during the fleet exercise.
- B. During the deployment the S-2 Section assumed the additional task of Squadron S & C. Incoming classified messages were logged in, disseminated to appropriate personnel, and then filed. Outgoing classified matter was properly stamped, serialized, and entered into the system.

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III. 8-3 Operations

A. Planning by Well-Mills delay decaded with the least of

- 1. From information contained in operations orders from PROVMAG-20, 16thMEB, and ComCarDivTwo, VMFA-251 planned the requirements for participating in LAMTFLEX 66. Concurrently, plans were made to participate in Project Sparrow Shoot and to conduct normal syllabus training as circumstances permitted.
- 2. The following was the chronological plan for the duration of the deployment:

26-27-28 November- Movement to NS Roosevelt Roads.

28 November- Briefing by Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range (AFWR) and Airfield Operations

29-30 November- Primary dates for Project Sparrow Shoot.

1-2 December- Alternate dates for Project Sparrow Shoot.

If not required, then air-to-ground ordnance
delivery training.

3 December- Maintenance Standdown.

4-5 December- LANTFLEX 66, participating as aggressor (ORANGE) air.

6-10 December- LANTFLEX 66, participating as friendly (BLUE) air under command of PROVMAG-20.

11 December- Standdown.

12-16 December- Air-to-ground ordnance delivery training.

17-19 December- Return to MCAS Beaufort.

B. Execution

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNO 29614

1. Movement. Movement to Roosevelt Roads was accomplished expeditiously with all aircraft, transports and fighters, adhering to the scheduled departure times. The eleven F4B's were scheduled to depart in sections starting at 0800 on 27 November and following at 15 minute intervals. The first section took off at 0802 and the last section (the 11th aircraft) was airborne at 0913. Since the flight was made non-stop, no problems involving staging for refueling were encountered.

Briefings. Briefings both for the conduct of Sparrow Shoot and normal operations were held in the AFWR conference room. Briefings were thorough and comprehensive.

maries. Maclounes (2) contains a more detailed cyropole of 2-2

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The and opoundables dustant Labrithma 66 be drained planning, belasting

A. 1230 major officets of the S-2 neother were develor to recement the

sectivities during the fleet exercise.

- Sparrow Shoot. Coordination and supervision of Sparrow Shoot was excellent. The efforts expended by the Second MAW Missile Analysis Team were noteworthy. Problems associated with the exercise were:
 - COMSERVLANT had not authorized the release of missiles for VMFA-251's use which contributed to a one day delay in commencing Sparrow Shoot.
 - Telemetry packs for the missiles had not been sent to Roosevelt Roads. These packs were delivered on 28 November by a special F-4 flight from MCAS Beaufort to Roosevelt Roads by VMFA-312. This delay coupled with the lack of missiles resulted in a one day postponement.
 - One flight was scrubbed because the target launch aircraft did not launch on schedule. This seemed to be the rule rather than the exception and was subsequently countered by the firing aircraft not starting engines until the targets were airborne. Using this procedure, no further problems were encountered.
- LANTFLEX 66. Participation in LANTFLEX 66, though not beneficial in completion of syllabus training flights, did serve to indoctrinate aircrews in support missions which could be demanded of them during tours in combat zones. It also served to provide a common squadron effort in support of the mission assigned WMFA-251. Significant items concerning LANTFLEX 66 are included in enclosure (2). Missions flown in support of LANTFLEX were as follows:

4-5 December (ORANGE AIR)

Sorties	ission		集 是 海西洋
6	Anti-Si	ippi	ing
14	Combat	Air	Patrol
	Testex	5A	

Totals: Sorties - 22; Hours - 35.0

6-10 December (BLUE AIR)

	Sorties	ission
P. P.	23	CAS
	40	TPQ

Totals: Sorties - 70; Hours - 131.7

Additional Flights by C-117 Assigned AUTOCAT/MANOCAT missions (6-9 Dec): 4 Sorties, 25.8 Hours.

normal operations were hold in the area conference room.

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Deployment Support

NS Roosevelt Roads

Sparrow Shoot. Roosevelt Roads facilities to support Sparrow firing is excellent. GCI coverage, communications, operations, and target facilities are geared to support exercises of this nature. The smooth operation of this particular exercise was influenced by the coordination provided by the Second MAW Missile Analysis Team. In future exercises it would be highly desirable to assign coordinating personnel who have participated in similar exercises.

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- Air-to-Air Weapons. Radar surveillance of the operating area is outstanding and available through either AFWR or the Puerto Rican Air National Guard (PRANG). Either agency provides excellent control of intercepts; however, AFWR control may not always be available due to controller commitments during missile firing exercises. No airspace problems were encountered.
- (3) Familiarzation Flights. During the period covered by the deployment, the weather was marginally satisfactory for conducting familiarization flights. Low broken ceilings with frequent showers prevailed for the duration of the deployment. Weather movement was very rapid and difficult to forecast for short periods. The only suitable divert field is Ramey AFB located 90 miles to the Northwest. Additionally, the VFR traffic pattern for Runway 06 (used during the entire deployment) is non-standard requiring a very wide abeam position and approximately a two mile groove. Starting at maximum landing weights a maximum of four approaches were possible.
 - Conventional Air-to-Ground. A complete description of air-to-ground targets is included in enclosure (3). The Culebra target complex is varied and has high potential; however, certain factors make it undesirable for the training of inexperienced aviators. These factors are:
 - Only two targets were marked with concentric rings-(a) Target #14 and Agua Cay. Fungy Bowl and Twin Rocks were nothing more than small rock islets.
 - Target #14 is placed on the side of a hill which

MANUFACTURE AND ADDRESS AND AD

effectively reduces the magnitude of miss distances in elevation.

Target #14 is located in a ship bombardment impact area which is used constantly and therefore not available for aircraft.

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(6-9 Dec); 4 dorettes, 25.8 Eours.

- (d) All spotting of hits is by single line rake using Battery Commander's scope rather than by triangulation resulting in hit information being approximate.
- (e) Approximately one third of the Agua Cay target is not visible from the Observation Post. Hits in that area, when reported, are rough estimates. (TAB A)
- No visible run-in lines are provided. This effectively negates any dive angle information.
- Dive angle is measured by a crude portable device which is highly inaccurate. Only one such device is available and must be transported to the target in use. (TAB A)
- The weather in the target area is typical of that found in tropical/sub-tropical island areas. Scattered-to-broken clouds with bases of 1500 feet and tops of approximately 6000 feet exist throughout the majority of the day. The only period when reasonable visibility of the target could be expected was during the portod from 0900 to 1300.
- teate that the FAA had been contended to (i) The foregoing factors reduce the desirability of the Culebra targets for the basic air-to-ground training of new aviators. During this phase of training, rigid control of runs must be exercised to teach pattern, sight picture, dive angle, speeds, altitudes, etc., in an effort to form a sound background for more advanced work. Aviators who have completed approximately one-third to one-half of the A/G syllabus can put the prevailing conditions at Culebra to good use since all aviators must develop the ability to counter adverse conditions when attacking a target.
 - Advantages inherent in the Culebra complex are:
 - ((1)) Close proximity to the airfield.
 - Little concern of overflight of populated areas with ordnance aboard.

((3)) Air-to-Air intercept airspace is overhead and increases the ability to accomplish dual missions.

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arms whileh is used constantly and therefore not

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- (5) Close Air Support. The use of the Vieques Eastern Impact area for close air support under the control of AFWR Personnel was not satisfactory. No permanent TACP personnel are available to control air strikes. There is a possibility of making liaison with Marine TACP's temporarily based at Vieques for this purpose; however, none were available during the deployment period. Without control of TACP's, the aircrews were not exposed to the proper manner in which a CAS mission is briefed and controlled; nor did they gain important experience in the use of maps to identify targets. The impact area consists of an airfield, SAM site, fuel farm, various vehicles and aircraft which are better suited to interdiction type targets than CAS because of the lack of pinpoint hard targets. For proper training of aircrews in CAS missions, it is necessary to stress the importance of proximity of friendly troops to an exact target such as a bunker or a trench line.
 - (6) TPQ. An Air Support Radar Team from MASS-2 is stationed at Roosevelt Roads and is available for TPQ training. Control is excellent, targets are adequate.
- (7) IFR Procedures. No local IFR departure/recovery is available unless aircrews file a DD-175. No standard radar handoff procedure exists between San Juan Center and Roosevelt Roads GCA. The TACAN approach is an antiquated VOR type pattern which holds aircraft at seven nautical miles in the cone of confusion to penetrate via a teardrop to a TACAN gate. Airfield Operations did indicate that the FAA had been contacted to work out a suitable agreement for local IFR handling.

Summary of Operations

Syllabus Training Flights Completed

SERVICE TO STATE OF THE PARTY O

	Pilots	RIO's	
Phase I Fam, Inst, & Nav	15	1	
Phase II Weapons	18	3	
Bombs & Rockets	24	3	
TPQ	6	0	
CAS	12	5	
Syllabus Flights (X's) Planned for	Deployment		97
Syllabus Flights (X's) Completed		多 包含的2.5 0 0 3	87
Percentage of Planned Training Com	pleted		89.7%

Average Pilot Readiness

nonsibility of making lisison with Marine TACP's temponel are available to control air strikes, There is a Parsonnel was not satisfactory. No permanent TACP personarea for close air support under the control of APAR (5) Close Air Support. The one of the Vieques Eastern Impact

Start Of Deployment End Of Deployment

49%

Average RIO Readiness

Start Of Deployment 75%
End Of Deployment 76%

Flight Time for Deployment (Including flights to and from Roosevelt Roads)

Total Hours - 432.4 Total Sorties - 237 Average Flight Hours per Pilot - 24 Average Flight Hours per RIO - 32 to the summer him them distributions makes made

Ordnance personnel be supplied by Mass-32 to fill this seed.

Romenclature	No. Expen
Bomb, Practice, MK-76 Bomb, Practice, WSF, 250 lb. Bomb, GP, 250 lb. Low Drag, MK-81 Rockets, 2.75" FFAR Rockets, 5.00" Zuni	140 31 178 26

Selected pictures of the Culebra targets are found in Tab A of this enclosure. 的一次,我们们的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种,这种一种的一种的一种,这种种的一种,这种种的一种,这种种的一种,这种种的一种,这种种的一种,这种种的

S-4 Materiel and Logistics

Motor Transport. Motor Transport was adequate but only by careful planning and utilization of equipment. The physical layout of Roosevelt Roads imposes an abnormal transportation requirement. Officer's messing and billeting is approximately eight miles. All transportation had to be supplied by the squadron. Transportation to the enlisted billeting area presented no problem and was mainly filled by a shuttle bus routinely operated for that purpose. Parts requiring maintenance outside of the squadron area required transportation. The squadron was supplied with the following vehicles:

DECLASSIFIED Authority NNO 29614 Truck, Cargo, 2h T. 6x6, H35A1 Truck, & T. 4x4, M30A1 Truck, 2 T. Stakebed

* for use by ordnance

The trucks, & Ton, M38A1 were substituted for the Cerlist M677 and H676 authorized by Wing Order 4040.1B.

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Motor Transport Drivers. Wing Order 4040. 1B requires the deployed squadron to furnish Detachment Six with three (3) Motor Vehicle Operators (MOS 3531). These were supplied from augmentation personnel from MABS-32 as indicated in Section I of this enclosure. Although not specifically stated in WO 4040.18, it was assumed that personnel of this category would be used as drivers for the vehicles assigned the deployed squadron. In actuality, only one of the three drivers were assigned to VMPA-251, the other two being used as determined by the OIC of Detachment Six. Consequently, drivers for five of the six vehicles assigned the squadron had to be furnished from squadron personnel. It is felt that augmentation personnel supplied to Detachment Six should be used in direct support of the deployed squadron and it is recommended that in future deployments the matter be clarified so as to provide for either the augmentation drivers to be used by the deployed squadron or additional personnel be supplied by MABS-32 to fill this need.

C. Buildings and Grounds.

THE OIL DESIGNATIONS

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TARMOR SIG BURETINGS

- 1. General. Space requirements for offices, shops and aircraft maintenance is adequately filled by the tent city. Aircraft maintenance shelter requirements are marginally filled by the strong-back tent nose dock which offers partial protection for one aircraft. The frequency of rain experienced during the deployment requires an additional two shelters suitable for fire control maintenance.
- 2. Latrines. The two field latrines were declared unsanitary by the squadron medical officer on arrival at Roosevelt Roads.

 Assistance was supplied by Detachment Six and Naval Station Public Works to dig two new latrines. Subsequently, the MS Fire Department would not grant permission for periodically burning out the latrines. Chemical sanitation methods were used exclusively. The frequency of rain encountered during the deployment requires that the latrine shelters be improved to provide adequate protection. It is recommended that the shelters be improved and a permanent agreement between Detachment Six and MS Roosevelt Roads be reached in regards to field sanitation.
- 3. Maintenance Equipment. No equipment for police of working areas was available. It is desired that Detachment Six provide the necessary brooms, mops, etc. WO 4040.18 provides for Project 40 funds for maintenance of DET SIX equipment be provided by MWSG-27. It is recommended that these funds include budgeting for cleaning equipment.
- 4. Water Point. No fresh water point is established at the tent city. All fresh water must be hauled in by a M-107 Water Trailer.

D. Materiel. No F4B peculiar supplies are available at MS Roosevelt Roads. All supply support was to be by a Section "B" pack-up of high usage items to be supplied by MAG-32 Group Supply. Additional supply support was to have been direct from MCAS Beaufort utilizing the semi-weekly Markog flight. Supply management at Roosevelt Roads was to have been accomplished by augmenting the squadron with two supply men. This proved to be inadequate and in future similar deployments, three persons will be requested. The parts list for the Section "B" packup was submitted to MAG-32 supply on 8 November 1966. An additional list of tires was requested by Group Supply and was submitted on 15 November. Because of lack of parts only approximately 67% of the requested parts were supplied. The extent of the lack of requested parts was not realized until arrival at Roosevelt Roads since no inventory was supplied with the pack-up. It is recommended that inventories be furnished in future deployments. Difficulty was experienced in receiving follow-up parts from Beaufort on 1 December due to lack of space on the MARIOG aircraft. Additionally, no space was ever available for return of equipment needing repair to Beaufort. Since the supply problem is a continuing one it is necessary for a standard procedure to be adopted which will provide for the blocking of space on MARLOG flights for units deployed to bases serviced by those flights.

an detaining by the the the per Detachment Six, Consequently, drivers

three drivers mere secrigined to VMFA-251, the other two being used

porteonnel of this defeatory would be need as drivers for the vehicles

Although mas appointmently protect in 40 4040.13, it was essented that

permonnel from Mins-32 as indicated in Section I of this enclocure.

Agriculture to Themson Desconment Six with throw (5) Melor Vehicle

assalgmed the doployed squadron. In actuality, only one of the

Operators (see 3537), These vers supplied from sugmentation

Aircraft Maintenance

- Maintenance support for the deployment was planned to consist mainly of organizational maintenance with augmentation personnel from H&MS-32 to provide limited IMA avionics support. Work beyond the IMA capability established at Roosevelt Roads was to have been evacuated to MCAS Beaufort for normal IMA repair. No significant deviations from maintenance plans were made.
- B. Lack of IMA support at Roosevelt Roads and the non-availability of sufficient test equipment in the custody of H&MS-32 resulted in avionics vans equipped for communications navigation and electrical support were obtained on temporary loan from MAG-24. These were in addition to two vans supplied by H&MS-32 for fire control support.
- Problems encountered during the deployment were as follows:
 - 1. Avionics vans received from MAG-24 were turned around from a Yuma deployment in insufficient time for the installed equipment to be adequately checked out. Delivery of the vans was made at Roosevelt Roads which resulted in maintenance delays until the vans could be made operational.
 - 2. No technical library was supplied with the fire control vans obtained from H&MS-32.
 - Short lead time in obtaining all of the maintenance vans resulted in personnel not being familiar with the vans and

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requiring an indoctrination period at the commencement of the deployment. Under ideal conditions it is felt that maintenance crews should have an opportunity to work in vans for a minimum of one week prior to the deployment. This would insure the operational status of the vans, provide needed training, and reduce the maintenance time during the deployment.

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- No 400 cycle power for the avionics vans was initially available. An MMG-1 converter was on hand but not wired. On request Public Works installed commercial power to the MMG-1 which, when activated proved to be faulty and of no use. A 400 cycle converter was obtained from Public Works and used to provide limited power to the van complex. due to lack of muffications porceonded to operate a middle color.
- IMA Avionics parts (bits and pieces) were of insufficient quantity to support an extended deployment. This was in addition to the deficiencies in the section "B" organizational pack-up (Section IV of this enclosure).
 - 6. The following equipment pre-positioned in accordance with WO 4040.1B and required by this squadron was not available in operating condition; because of the period. The unit way that this can be conside.

Quantity	Item
ter merce (1) well be lead to the man	MMG-1 400 cycle converter
2)	5000 psi Air Compressor
(3)	50 gallon LOX trailers

- 7. Pad eyes were not in sufficient quantity or adequately spaced to provide proper tie-down facilities for F4B aircraft.
- Liaison visits to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads Aircraft Maintenance Department revealed that the following Ground Support Equipment is available to support transient units: 工业研究工程性 由200 工作的工程性的信 生的 专员数上的企业的专 (章)。

Quantity
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E. The following limitations exist in Roosevelt Roads AMD capability to support F4B squadrons:

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of one week prior to the deployment. This would insure the

orevs should have an opportunity to work in vana for a minimus

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- No compass rose is located on the airfield.
- AMD welding machine was inoperable due to lack of parts.
- AMD Veri-Drive unit did not have the adapters for F4B CSD and generator.
- 4. AMD has no F4B IMA avionics support.
- Support for transient squadron after 1630 hours is difficult due to lack of sufficient personnel to operate a night crew.
- P. It should be noted that regardless of its limitations, the Roosevelt Roads AMD was helpful and cooperative and willing to assist within its capabilities.
- G. 3 M Reports. A continuing problem exists in the submission of reports required by the 3 M system. Final reports for each month are required to be received by MAG-32 within 24 hours of the termination of the period. The only way that this can be consistently complied with during deployments is schedule a special airlift usually using tactical aircraft. Failure to do this results in non-compliance with existing directives and omission of a squadrons data from monthly analysis. It is recommended that either deployed squadrons be exempted from reports when submission is impractical or that specific recommendation be made to change the existing time frame to one which would be satisfactory for deployed squadrons.
- Communications. MABS-32 communications personnel were attached to provide communications during LANTFIEX 66. Comments concerning communications during LANTFLEX are included in enclosure (2). On termination of LANTFLEX communications were established with MAG-32 headquarters using on-line crypto teletype. This proved to be an excellent means of communications and its use should be considered for similar deployments.

Authority NNO 29614