

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

1:MOR:rlv
5400
17 Jul 1967

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 32
(2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

Subj: VMFA-251 Command Chronology, period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) WgO 5720.1
(c) CG 2dMAW msg 291916Z Jun 67

Encl: (1) Synopsis of sequential listing of significant events, VMFA-251, period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1967
(2) VMFA-251 organizational data, period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1967
(3) Sequential listing of significant events, period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1967

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c), VMFA-251 Command Chronology for the period 1 January 1967 to 30 June 1967 is submitted.
2. Enclosures (1) through (3) contain the information and documentation as required.

L. R. Hawkins
L. R. HAWKINS

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HIST REFERENCE SEC

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Synopsis of Sequential Listing of Significant Events, VMFA-251, period
1 January to 30 June 1967.

1. The following is a synopsis of those significant events listed in enclosure (3).

- a. VMFA-251 ended fiscal year 1967 under the command of Major L. R. HAWKINS and was based at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina. During this reporting period the squadron has continued to stress the training of aircrews and men to provide them the necessary experience to fully qualify them for an overseas combat tour. The squadron has also provided an accelerated ten week training syllabus for five temporarily assigned pilots. An approximate breakdown of the combat training aircrews received is 60% toward air to air tactics and the remainder is used in perfecting air to ground ordnance delivery technique.
- b. At an all hands formation on 16 January, Major L. R. HAWKINS awarded Captain A. P. CUNNINGHAM and Captain C. R. NORRED Air Medals in recognition of their actions while serving in the Republic of South Vietnam.
- c. On 31 January, VMFA-251 participated in the MAG-32 change of command. Four of the "Thunderbolt" aircraft flew in diamond formation across the field in honor of the new and outgoing Group Commanders.
- d. The first day of February began early for the squadron due to participation in AAWEX 1-67. Beginning at 0345 the squadron maintained two manned aircraft in a five minute scramble status. Three scrambles were executed and provided aircrews with a realistic air to air situation.
- e. February sixth saw the "T-Bolts" skipper, Major L. R. HAWKINS, complete the 10,000th accident free hour for the squadron. VMFA-251 is believed to be the first F4-B squadron of all the services to achieve this satisfying safety achievement.
- f. Members of VMFA-251 participated in both Catholic and Protestant Services at the Air Station Chapel on 12 February. The squadron was given special recognition, and the services were well attended by squadron personnel.
- g. On February 18, detachment Alpha of VMFA-251 left for Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. The objective of the deployment was to test types of tactical air landing surfaces to determine which surface was most acceptable for Navy/Marine Corps usage.
- h. During formal ceremonies on 8 March, Major L. R. HAWKINS presented the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" to Captain A. P. CUNNINGHAM for his performance while serving with the First Marine Aircraft Wing.
- i. VMFA-251 was host to a large group of school children from Beaufort Elementary School on March 9. During their tour of the squadron area the visitors were shown various demonstrations and movies concerning the F4-B Phantom Jet.

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ENCLOSURE (3).

The following is a summary of those significant events noted in the report for the period 1 January to 30 June 1967.

j. From 9 April to 30 April the squadron deployed to MCAS Yuma for training in air-to-ground ordnance delivery. Average aircrew readiness was significantly increased, and the deployment was extremely successful.

k. On May 26, twenty-nine fifth graders from Laurel Bay Elementary School were given a tour of the "Thunderbolts" squadron area. On hand to welcome the visitors was the Commanding Officer Major L. R. HAWKINS.

l. The June 16th Open House held by VMFA-251 was attended by many of the squadron member dependents. Static displays of aircraft with various ordnance loads, and movies on the performance of the F4-B held the attention of all the guests. Officer.

UNIT	COMMANDING OFFICER	PERIOD
VMFA-251	Major L. R. HAWKINS	1 January - 30 June 1967

h. Staff Officers.

BILLET	RANK/NAME	PERIOD
VMFA-251 ExecO	Maj C. L. BATTISTONE	1 January - 8 June 1967
	Maj P. G. BOOZMAN	9 June - 30 June 1967
S-1	Capt J. F. SPENCER	1 January - 22 May 1967
	Capt V. P. NOLAN	23 May - 30 June 1967
S-2	1stLt S. L. BENSON	1 January - 19 January 1967
	Capt R. D. YAMMORON III	20 January - 20 June 1967
	Capt H. E. GREENFIELD JR.	21 June - 30 June 1967
S-3	Maj P. G. BOOZMAN	1 January - 8 June 1967
	1stLt C. I. CARWHITE	9 June - 30 June 1967
S-4	Capt H. W. MERRITT	1 January - 9 April 1967
	Capt A. P. CUNNINGHAM	10 April - 22 May 1967
	Capt G. E. FRANKLIN	23 May - 30 June 1967
MaintO	Maj A. P. KIRKICK JR.	1 January - 19 January 1967
	Maj W. A. FERDINAND	20 January - 30 June 1967
1stSgt	1stSgt T. L. BUTLER	1 January - 30 June 1967

4. Average monthly strength during reporting period.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
HA	21*	20*	17*	18*	20*	21*
NFO	19	19	20	21	22	24
AG	8	8	8	8	9	9
ENL	215	225	247	264	298	319

*includes Flight Lieutenant CARWHITE RAF

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Sequential Listing of Significant Events, VMFA-251, Period 1 January to 30 June 1967 with Documentation.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TAB</u>
Jan 16	Air Medal Presentations	A
Jan 31	VMFA-251 Flyby for MAG-32 Change of Command	B
Feb 1	AAWEX 1-67	C
Feb 6	VMFA-251 Flies 10,000th Accident Free Hour	D
Feb 12	VMFA-251 In Church	E
Feb 18 - Mar 2	VMFA-251 Detachment Alpha Deploys to Dyess AFB for tri-service test	F
Mar 8	Navy Commendation Presentation	G
Mar 9	Beaufort Elementary School Tours VMFA-251	H
Apr 9 - 30	VMFA-251 Deploys to MCAS Yuma, Arizona	I
May 26	Laurel Bay Grade School tours VMFA-251	J
Jun 16	Open House at VMFA-251	K

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