

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

1:RJC:dtb
5750
12Jul68

Executive Officer

Maj P.M. JACOB

Operations Officer

Maj H.F. STRIMAN

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
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

Subj: Command Chronology, period 1 January to 30 June 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) WgO 5750.1

Encl: (1) "Jetstream" Article "General Simpson Takes First Flight"
(2) "Jetstream" Article "251 Earns Efficiency Award"
(3) CO, MAG-32, ltr of 8Jan68, "Tactical Readiness Award"
(4) CO, MAG-32, ltr of 8Jan68, "Administration Efficiency Award"
(5) CO, VMFA-251, ltr of 29Feb68
(6) Excerpts from COMKWESTFOR 191907Z Feb68(C)
(7) "Jetstream" Article "VMFA-251, MABS 32, Change of Commanders"
(8) CO, VMFA-251, ltr of 9May68
(9) "Jetstream" Article "Marine Fighter Pilot Awarded DFC Here"
(10) Special Assistant for Saving Bond ltr Pers Gc/nk 21Mar68
(11) Special Assistant for Saving Bond ltr Pers Gc/nk 21Mar68
(12) Post Exercise Report of Sparrow III Missile Shoot

1. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

a. Designation/Location

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two Five One, Marine Corps Air
Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

b. Period Covered

1 January to 30 June 1968

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Authority NND 29614

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Maj H.F. STROMAN

1Jan-29Jun 1968

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To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)

1Jan-29Jun 1968

Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 32

(2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing

1Jan-2Jun 1968

(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

Intelligence Officer

Capt B.D. LYNCH

1Jan-29Jun 1968

Subj: Command Chronology, period 1 January to 30 June 1968

Logistic Officer

Maj J.S. LOOP

1Jan-2Apr 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A

Maj H.W. MEISSNER

3Apr-29Jun 1968

(b) WgO 5750.1

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b. Period Covered

1 January to 30 June 1968

Major General Ground R. Simpson, Receives first ride from VMFA-251
in F-4D Phantom.

(Enclosure 1)

VMFA-251 Awarded Group Commander's Tactical Readiness Award and
Administrative Efficiency Award

(Enclosure 2,3,4)

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c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol L.H. HAWKINS LtCol E.C. JOHNSON	1Jan-29Feb 1968 1Mar-29Jun 1968
Executive Officer	Maj P.M. JACOBS	1Jan-29Jun 1968
Operations Officer	Maj H.F. STROMAN	1Jan-29Jun 1968
S-1 OFFICER	Maj R.J. PEDERSON	1Jan-29Jun 1968
Admin Officer	WO G.E. HOFFMAN	1Jan-2Jun 1968
Intelligence Officer	Capt B.D. LYNCH	1Jan-29Jun 1968
Logistic Officer	Maj J.S. LOOP Maj H.W. MEISSNER	1Jan-2Apr 1968 3Apr-29Jun 1968
Flight Surgeon	Lt(MC) POOL UNASSIGNED Lt(MC) OAS	1Jan-31May 1968 1Jun-26Jun 1968 27Jun-29Jun 1968
Aircraft Maint Officer	Maj J.L. PAPPAS Capt T. WILLIAMS	1Jan-25May 1968 26May-29Jun 1968
SgtMaj	SgtMaj T.L. BUTLER	1Jan-29Jun 1968

d. Average Squadron Strength

Month	Officers*	Enlisted
January 1968	58	352
February 1968	53	358
March 1968	50	362
April 1968	49	366
May 1968	43	368
June 1968	36	363

* Includes Flt Lt. Carr-White, R.A.F. Exchange

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

9Jan68 Major General Ormand R. Simpson, Receives first ride from VMFA-251 in F-4B Supersonic Phantom. (Enclosure 1)

12Jan68 VMFA-251 Awarded Group Commander's Tactical Readiness Award and Administrative Efficiency Award. (Enclosure 2,3,4)

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- 30Jan68 VMFA-251 deployed with 24 hour notice to NAS Key West in support of COMFAIRKWEST Air Defense Requirements. (Enclosure (6) and (7))
- 1Mar68 LtCol. E.C. JOHNSON assumes command of VMFA-251. (Enclosure (8))
- 8Apr68 VMFA-251 deployed to Yuma for intensive air to ground training. (Enclosure (9))
- 10May68 Capt D.M. BASSETT received Distinguished Flying Cross for action in Vietnam.
 LCpl C. HONG JR. received Navy Commendation Medal for action in Vietnam.
 WO G.E. HOFFMAN received a Treasury Department Citation for promotion of the Saving Bond Program.
 VMFA-251 awarded Treasury Department recognition of Saving Bond Program. (Enclosure (10), (11), and (12))
- 24May68 VMFA-251 participated in Ship Exercise, Lant Fleet.
- 21Jun68 VMFA-251 conducted Missile Shoot in coordination with MACS 5 at MCAF New River, North Carolina. (Enclosure (13))

3. NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF EVENTS

- a. VMFA-251 ended fiscal year 1968 under the command of LtCol. E.C. JOHNSON. The squadron had 16 F-4B aircraft assigned as of 29Jun68 with 13 aircraft on board. The average number of aircraft assigned for the reporting period was 16. On 25Mar68 the squadron received it's first aircraft from PAR with slotted stabilators/drooped ailerons. The squadron flew 2,954.9 accident free hours between 1 January and 29 June 1968. and ended the fiscal year with 18,936.2 accident free hours. Aircrew training resulted in 9 pilots and 11 RIO's being transferred to WestPac in a combat ready posture. During the same period 71 enlisted men were transferred to WestPac.
- b. On 9 January 1968 VMFA-251 was honored with a visit from Major General Ormand R. SIMPSON, Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. The General received his first ride in a Phantom on a local area fam hop and was provided souvenirs of the flight from VMFA-251 upon completion.

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- TABLE 10001 E.C. JOHNSON 9221003 COMMANDING OFFICER OF VMFA-251 (ENCLOSURE)
- (ENCLOSURE (U) and (A))
- 10001 E.C. JOHNSON 9221003 COMMANDING OFFICER OF VMFA-251 (ENCLOSURE)
- c. On 12 January 1968 VMFA-251 was awarded the MAG-32 Commanding Officer's Quarterly Tactical Readiness Award for overall excellence in increased pilot readiness, scheduled sorties, accident rate and ground safety. The squadron also received the Quarterly Administrative Efficiency Award in recognition of superiority in all administrative functions.
- d. On 29 January 1968 the squadron was directed to deploy six full systems aircraft with aircrews to NAS Key West by 30 January 1968 to assume the Air Defense Commitment under COMFAIRKWEST. Six additional aircraft were to be in place by 2 February 1968. During the three week deployment a round-the-clock hot pad posture was assumed and resulted in 26 practice scramble sorties and 8 actual scramble sorties. In addition 242.3 hr/138 sorties were flown in accomplishing Phase I and II training.
- e. On 1 Mar 1968 LtCol. E.C. JOHNSON relieved LtCol. L.R. HAWKINS as Commanding Officer, VMFA-251 and LtCol. L.R. HAWKINS relieved LtCol. E.C. JOHNSON as Commanding Officer, MABS-32 at a joint Change of Command.
- f. The squadron deployed to MCAS Yuma on 8 April 1968 for an intensive three week air to ground training program. 584.3 hours were flown on 491 sorties during the deployment resulting in 631 syllabus credits being completed. An open house was held for the local Cub Scouts Den also during the deployment.
- g. At a squadron awards formation on 10 May 1968 Col. SCHRIVER, Commanding Officer, MAG-32 awarded Captain D.M. BASSETT the Distinguished Flying Cross. LCpl C. HONG JR. was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious performance of duty while serving with the Casualty Section Headquarters, 3rd Marine Division. WO G.E. HOFFMAN was awarded recognition by the Treasury Department for his performance as squadron Savings Bond Officer and LtCol. E.C. JOHNSON accepted the Treasury Department Recognition for Savings Bond Participation on behalf of his squadron.
- h. VMFA-251 participated in exercises with Naval Forces Atlantic from 8 to 24 May 1968 launching six sorties to aid in the evaluation of the fleet's detection capabilities.

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- i. On 18-21 June 1968 the squadron conducted a Missile Shoot in the W-122 area. The squadron flew 18 sorties and launched 6 Sparrow Missiles at various targets achieving excellent results, including a Boola-Boola direct hit.
- j. In addition the squadron was inspected by the Second Marine Aircraft Wing A&M Inspection team on 17 May 1968 and was judged satisfactory with minor discrepancies.

E. C. Johnson
E. C. JOHNSON

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

3:WFS:lgl
24 June 1968

From: Range Safety Officer
To: Commanding Officer
Via: Operations Officer

Subj: Post-Exercise Report of Sparrow III Missile Shoot

Ref: (a) MAG-32 TAD Orders, 1/1320-5 dated 14 June 1968

Encl: (1) Chronological Events
(2) Mission Result Sheet

1. In accordance with reference (a), this Officer acted as the Range Safety Officer operating with Marine Air Control Squadron 5, located at MCAF, New River, North Carolina during the VMFA-251 Missile Shoot exercise.

2. The Missile Shoot was conducted, 18-21 June 1968, in the W-122 area, lanes A,B,C. Each day had two shooting periods scheduled, 1000-1230 and 1600-1930. Two targets were to be used the AQM-37 launched from an F4B and the TDU-22 towed by an F8E, however, only the TDU-22 target was fired at during the Missile Shooting exercise, see enclosure (1).

3. Marine Air Control Squadron 5 was designated the GCI controlling agency for the Missile Shoot. They employed the TPS-34 and the MPS-22 search radars during the shoot. No automatic control was provided by use of the Marine Tactical Data System (MTDS), rather all control was done in the manual mode. The control provided by the MACS-5 controllers was felt to be excellent on overall basis. It is noted that the controlling provided by GySgt H. P. PAREND was outstanding in all respects. At no time during the Missile Shoot did MACS-5 lose radar/radios which could have had an effect on the shoot itself, see enclosure (2). For any future Missile Shoots, involving control by MACS-5, it is recommended that a Range Safety Officer be sent to the MACS Squadron, for both the safety aspect and also for effective co-ordination and liaison action.

4. Co-ordination during the Missile Shoot presented no problem, in as much as most AUTOVON calls were placed with a very minimum of trouble and delay, in order to keep both VMFA-251 and MACS-5 aware of the up to date situation. MACS-5 was able to co-ordinate with the Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) by means of the HF nets established between MACS and TACC.

5. All safety regulations were enforced and complied with and there were no violations or deviations of these safety regulations to report.

Copy to: MAG-32 (Attn: S-3) (1)
CO, MACS-5 (1)

W. F. SPACE

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ENCLOSURE (12)