

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251
Marine Aircraft Group 32, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, 1
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

3:RPR:lg1
5750
10 Jan 1969

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: Command Chronology, period 1 July 1968 to 31 December 1968

Ref: (a) MGO 5750.1A W/ch 3
(b) WGO 5750.1 W/ch 1

Encl: (1) Award of Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device;
case of Sergeant Donald L. CHAVIS 2013393 USMC
(2) Award of Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V"; case of Sergeant
Norman L. SIZEMORE 2007151 USMC
(3) 2dMAW msg 231340Z AUG 68 3590 Commanding General's Trophies/
Awards
(4) "Jetstream" article "VMFA-251 Receives Three Awards for Performance"
(5) Letter of appreciation from Headquarters 32nd Air Division (ADC)
of 20 Nov 1968

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 July 1968 to 31 December 1968.

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c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	LtCol E. C. JOHNSON	1 Jul - 31 Dec 1968
Executive Officer	Maj JACOBS	1 Jul - 16 Dec 1968
	Maj HARDING	17 Dec - 31 Dec 1968
Operations Officer	Maj STROMAN	1 Jul - 21 Oct 1968
	Maj WADSWORTH	22 Oct - 31 Dec 1968

Admin Officer	Maj PEDERSON 1stLt GUILLE	1 Jul - 26 Sep 1968 27 Sep - 31 Dec 1968
Intelligence Officer	1stLt NOLEN Capt FRITZ	1 Jul - 26 Aug 1968 27 Aug - 31 Dec 1968
Logistics Officer	Maj MEISSNER Capt SEASE Maj BROWN	1 Jul - 23 Aug 1968 24 Aug - 3 Oct 1968 3 Oct - 31 Dec 1968
Aircraft Maint Officer	Capt WILLIAMS	1 Jul - 31 Dec 1968
Flight Surgeon	Lt OAS	1 Jul - 31 Dec 1968
Sgt Major	SgtMaj BUTLER MGYSgt ROSSI	1 Jul - 15 Sep 1968 16 Sep - 31 Dec 1968

d. Average Squadron Strength

Month	Officers	Enlisted
July 1968	43	341
August 1968	25	345
September 1968	25	368
October 1968	25	372
November 1968	30	388
December 1968	32	384

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

18 Jul 68	Squadron formation and cake cutting ceremony honoring accident free completion of Fiscal Year 1968
10 Aug 68	Sidewinder Shoot conducted in W-157 area
19 Aug 68	Squadron completed 20,000th accident free hour
14 Sep 68-14 Oct 68	VMFA-251 deployed to Key West
9 Oct 68	Bloodmobile visits VMFA-251
10 Oct 68	Flt Lt William A. N. LANE RAF exchange officer reports aboard
16 Oct 68	Navy Achievement Medal awarded to Sergeant Donald L. CHAVIS (See enclosure (1)).
21 Oct 68	Group War conducted; "Operation Turkey"
29 Oct 68	Navy Achievement Medal awarded to Sergeant Norman L. SIZEMORE (See enclosure (2))
31 Oct 68	Winter Service "A" Uniform inspection conducted
	VMFA-251 awarded: (See enclosures (3) and (4))

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- Commanding General's Trophy
- Outstanding Achievement Trophy
- Award from McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation for 20,000 accident free hours in F-4B

20 Nov 68

VMFA-251 receives award from the 32nd Air Division for "Apache Brave" (Air Defense Exercise conducted on 13 Nov 1968) (See enclosure (5))

3. NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF EVENTS

VMFA-251 ended the first half of fiscal year 1969 under the command of LtCol E. C. JOHNSON. The squadron had 19 F-4B aircraft assigned as of 31 December 1968 with 16 aircraft on board. The average number of aircraft assigned for the reporting period was 17. The squadron flew 2,021.9 accident free hours during the reporting period, with a total of 20,958.1 accident free hours. Aircrew training resulted in 20 pilots and 8 NFO's being transferred to WestPac in a combat ready posture. During the same period 58 enlisted men were transferred to WestPac.

On 18 July 1968 LtCol E. C. JOHNSON, commanding Officer of VMFA-251, held a squadron formation and cake cutting ceremony proudly honoring the accident free completion of fiscal year 1968. LtCol JOHNSON expressed his pride in the achievement of such a record and called forth continued performance of the outstanding work of the officers and men of T-Bolt Alley.

On 10 August 1968 VMFA-251 completed its 20,000th accident free hour in the F-4B. According to Captain C. A. BRUMBAUGH, the Aviation Safety Officer, the squadron is the only F-4B squadron with this number of accident free hours. The safety record was confirmed by Major L. A. WHIPPLE, F-4 and RF-4 safety officer, Naval Safety Center, Norfolk.

VMFA-251 deployed a detachment to Key West, Florida on 14 September 1968. This small representation from VMFA-251 did the job and did it well and returned home on 14 October 1968 after a successful deployment.

During the period of 8-9 October 1968 the members of VMFA-251 contributed significantly to the success of the group blood drive.

On 10 October 1968 Flt Lt William A. N. LANE reported for duty with VMFA-251 as part of the officer exchange program with the Royal Air Force. He replaced another RAF officer Flt Lt CARR-WHITE who had just about completed his tour of duty with the USMC.

On 16 October 1968 - Sergeant D. L. CHAVIS was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with a Combat Distinguishing Device for Meritorious Service.

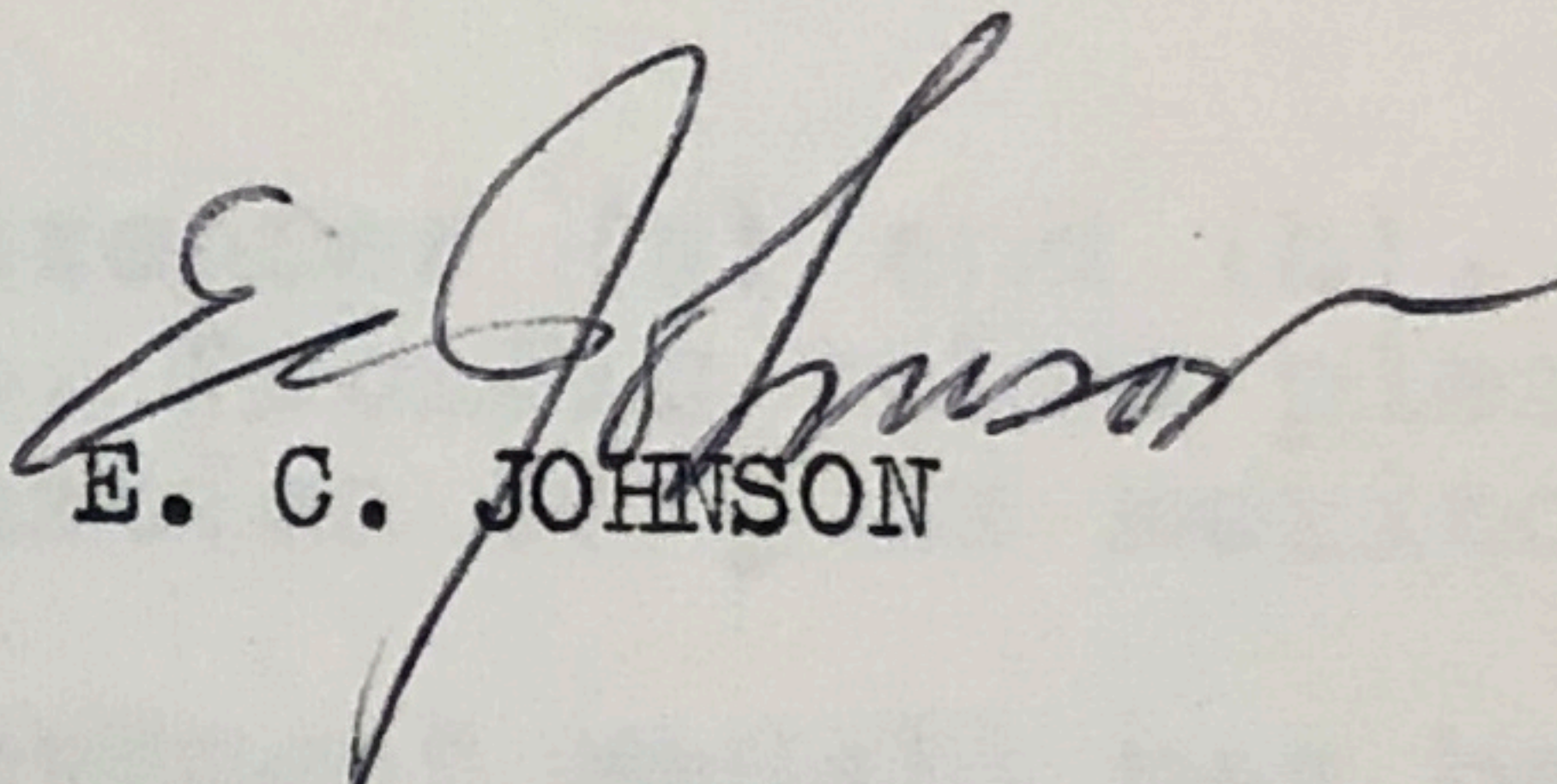
On 21 October 1968 VMFA-251 was assigned the task of providing air superiority and fighter CAP for supporting the attack aircraft in a simulated Group Air Strike on enemy forces approximately 250 miles north of Beaufort. All aircrews and ground personnel were called aboard at midnight and assumed a ready posture by 0400 with four aircraft on a 5 minute alert pad with 6 more aircraft as back ups. The squadron effort was successful and awarded a "well done" by the Group Commander.

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On 29 October 1968 - Sergeant N. L. SIZEMORE was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for meritorious service against insurgent communist forces (Viet Cong) in the Republic of South Vietnam.

On 31 October 1968 - VMFA-251 was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Trophy and the Commanding General's Trophy for outstanding achievement and superior performance of all missions and tasks assigned during the fiscal year of 1968. The completion of fiscal year 1968 marked over 20,000 accident free hours for VMFA-251. In addition to the above mentioned awards VMFA-251 was also presented with a Trophy from the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation in appreciation of the outstanding work accomplished by VMFA-251.

On 13 November 1968 - VMFA-251 conducted an Air Defense Exercise called "Apache Brave" in conjunction with the 32nd Air Division of the USAF. Due to professionalism of the men of 251 the operation was a complete success; warranting the presentation of an award from the 32nd Air Division on 20 November 1968 for our outstanding support of Operation "Apache Brave".


E. C. JOHNSON

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
FPO. SAN FRANCISCO 96610

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7D/mtst

1650

29 Oct 1968

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Sergeant Norman L. SIZEMORE 2007151 USMC
Via: Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant

Subj: Award of the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V"

Ref: (a) SECNAV Msg 192253Z Feb 1965
(b) CINCPACFLT INST 1650. 1__

Encl: (1) Award Citation
(2) Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V"

1. In accordance with the authority delegated by references (a) and (b), the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific takes pleasure in awarding you the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V".

2. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded to you in recognition of your meritorious service in connection with operations against insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

R. O. Atherton

R. O. ATHERTON

By direction

Copy to:
SECNAV (w/1 copy of encl (1))
CMC (Code DGH) (w/1 copy of encl (1)) FOR FILE
CG, 1stMAW (w/2 copies of encl (1))

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COVETED PRIZE -- Major General Marion E. Carl, Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, presents the Commanding General's Trophy to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 at ceremonies aboard this Air Station Oct. 31. Accepting the trophy for the squadron is VMFA-251 Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Johnson.

VMFA -251 Receives Three Awards For Performance

Major General Marion E. Carl, Commanding General of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing, presented Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, with three important and coveted awards, during his visit on Oct. 31.

Accepting the Commanding General's Trophy, the Commanding General's Outstanding Achievement Trophy and the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation Safety Plaque, was Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Johnson, VMFA-251's commanding officer.

The Commanding General's Trophy was presented to VMFA-251, for the squadron with the most outstanding overall performance and for making the most significant contribution to the accomplishment of the mission of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, during the Fiscal

Year 1968. Factors taken into consideration in awarding this trophy include safety records, operational commitments, the A&M inspection, operational readiness, and performance in competitive evaluation exercises.

The squadron was awarded the Commanding General's Outstanding Achievement Award for outstanding achievement and superior performance of all assigned missions and tasks for Fiscal Year 1968. To earn this award, VMFA-251, had to compete with all other squadrons within the 2nd MAW, which have similar missions.

Major General Carl presented the McDonnell Douglas Safety plaque to the squadron, in recognition of more than 20,000 accident free flight hours flown by the Thunderbolts, since acquiring the F-4B Phantom.

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