# DESTRO REGUET the squadron conducted Phase II and III officies Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

training in air to ground ordnance delivery and Chase Treated to the

3:TLW: Vbp 5750 7 January 1972

From: Commanding Officer

To:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code 403D)

Via: (1) Commanding Officer; Marine Aircraft Group 31

Commanding General; 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant

Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

Command Chronology, 1 July 1971 through 31 December 1971

(a) MCO 5750: 2K W/CH #1 Ref:

(b) WgO 5750:1A

(c) ASO 5750, 1A

(d) Gru0 5750,1

# Organizational Data

## a. Designation/Location

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two-Five-One, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carelina 29902.

### Period Covered

1 July 1971 through 31 December 1971.

Commanding Officer	MAJOR J. M. MEAD	1 July-30 July 71
	LTCOL R. P. LEE	31 July-31 Dec 71
Executive Officer	MAJOR W. T. MCFALL	I July-31 Dec 71
Operations Officer	CAPT L. W. STEWART (USAF)	1 July-22 Aug 71
	MAJOR M. W. MEREDITH	23 Aug-19 Nov 71
	CAPT L. W. STEWART (USAF)	20 Nov-12 Dec 71
	CAPT T. L. WILKERSON	13 Dec-31 Dec 71
Administrative Officer	CAPT R. E. DAHART	1 July-31 July 71
	CAPT R. DINKEL	1 Aug-31 Dec 71
Intelligence Officer	CAPT T. F. WUNDERLICH	1 July-12 Dec 71
	CAPT P. J. LOWERY	13 Dec-31 Dec 71
Aviation Safety Officer	FLT LT T. M. BOND (RAF)	1 July-19 Nov 71
	CAPT D. J. DOLAN	20 Nov-31 Dec 71
Aviation Maintenance	MAJOR. G. DEJONG	1 July-31 Dec 71
Officer		
Flight Surgeon	LT D. L. TRITCH (USN)	1 July-31 Dec 71
Sergeant Major	SGTMAJ I., PARENT	1 July-13 Dec 71
	1st SGT L. G. TUCKER	14 Deca31 Dec 71

Month	Officers	*Enlisted
JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER	43 42 42 47 47 44	248 236 199 207 204 198

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\*DOES NOT INCLUDE PERSONNEL AUGMENTED TO INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY

Average Category "A" Personnel: Officers 54%

#### 2. Sequence of Events

## a. Personnel/Administration

During this period, the following promotions were effected

One First Lieutenant promoted to Captain
Twenty-nine CPLs promoted to Sergeant
Twenty LCPLs promoted to CPL
Two PFC's promoted to LCPL
Two PVT's promoted to PFC

Unit Diary error rate was 9% 1st half Fiscal Year 1972
The following awards were presented to squadron personnel:

LTCOL R. P. LEE Received the Legion of Merit for service in combat in the Republic of Viet Nam.

CAPT P. J. LOWERY Received Distinguished Flying Cross and Secretary of the Navy Certificate of Commendation.

Sergeant A. L. COGSWELL Received Navy Commendation Medal

Sergeant C. E. DANN received Commanding General 2d Marine Lircraft
Wing letter of Commendation.

Following Officers received Squadron Commanding Officer's Commendation Letter for excellence in Phase II missile shoot.

CAPT T. F. WUNDERLICH

CAPT L. W. STEWART

CAPT T. L. WILKERSON

LT E. A. HIGHERS

LT S. W. COOK

LT R. A. HAGERMAN

VMFA-251

VMFA-251

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Received Commanding General Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic Safety Award.
Received Letter of Appreciation from VMFAT-201.
Received Letter of Commendation from Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic for being top fighter squadron in Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic for 2d consecutive year.

DECLASSIFIED Authority NNO 29614

ENCLOSURE (4)

## Intelligence

Squadron aircrews and intelligence personnel received extensive training on a weekly basis. Topics included foreign missile threats, internal security and area studies. Continuing programs in aircraft and ship recognition involving all aircrews culminated in squadron recognition drills. When deployed to NAS Key West participating aircrews received a situation update brief from the Joint Air Reconnaisance Control Center. Most important to squadron interests were the timely area studies series conducted as situations flared in diverse parts of the world. These studies provided in depth looks at the military posture of the combatant nations; background, capabilities, resources and leadership. They also covered contingency plans and possible roles our unit could play if ordered to the specific area. In all squadron aircrews received in excess of 30 hours intelligence training.

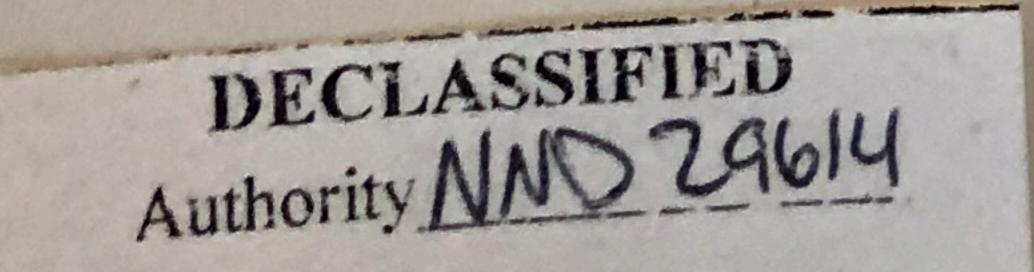
### Training/NBC

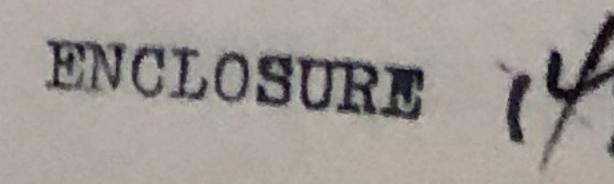
In the past six month 24 hours were devoted to individual basic training, 16 hours to techinical training and 24 hours to group required training. In addition:

- 8 aircrew members attended hir Combat Tactical Maneuvering Course.
- 2 aircrew members attended AN/AWG-10 Waapons System Naval Aviation Maintenance Orientation Course.
- 1 officer attended Naval Justice School.
- 6 aircrew members attended Tactical Conventional Weapons Delivery School.
- 1 officer attended the Safety Officer's Staff Orientation Course.
- 10 personnel attended the 3M Worker School.
- 3 personnel attended the 3M Supervisors Course.
- 1 person attended Nuclear Weapons Handling.
- 13 personnel attended HWG-10 Organization Maintenance School.
- 21 personnel attended A-4 Nuclear Weapons Loading.
- 1 person attended F-4J Electrical System Organizational Maintenance.
- 3 personnel attended Corrosion Control School.
- 2 personnel attended F-4B/J Egress and Environmental Control System.
- 2 personnel attended the Airframes Maintenance Course.
- 5 personnel attended NCO Leadership School.
- 22 personnel attended Driver Improvement School.

The following is a list of munitions expended during the reporting period:

AIM 9B Sidewinders	21
ASII MK-4 Gun Pod Ammo	2599
MK-76 Practice Bombs	212
2.75" Rockets	63
AIM-7 Sparrows	22





Commencing 1 September 1971, VMFA-251 participated in MAG-31 Exercise "Night Hawk", an annual training operation testing the mission readiness of aircrews and aircraft in both the air to ground and air to air role. Lasting one week, the operation provided good night/all weather training for all aircrews.

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and ship recognition involving all aircreve onladended in secondario

fraining on a weekly benis, Topics included foreign adsaile throats,

Internal security and crea studies, Continuing programs in circlet

During the period 14 September through 14 October 1971, VMFA-251 assumed Detachment 14, NAS Key West under control of Commander Key West Forces. With only two aircraft committed to alert status of the five aircraft assigned to the detachment, air operations were conducted daily for advanced interceptor training. Alert aircraft "scrambled" at least once daily under Joint Air Reconnaisance Control Center Procedures. While detached these aircraft flew a total of 137 sorties in 30 days.

On 22 October 1971, the squadron deployed to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for a Phase II missile shoot. The operation, lasting until 3 November 1971, tested aircrew training and weapons system reliability. Each aircraft was required to intercept the jet-powered Firebee drone on radar and fire a Sparrow missile at it in the forward quarter. Then the crew had to visually identify the drone and engage it from the rear quarter to fire the Sidewinder missile. Telemetering devices monitored missile flight path to determine kill probability against the drone. Adding interest to the problem, the drone would commence evasive maneuvering at a separation of eight miles. In all the squadron fired 18 Sparrow and 19 Sidewinder missles in this environment providing excellent training for all participants in the exercise.

On 18 December 1971 the squadron was tasked to provide aircraft for a classified detachment on short notice testing our readiness posture and response capability. Within 48 hours 4 fully weapons capable aircraft were loaded and on line with four other fully capable aircraft as back-ups. All squadron aircraft on detachment were retrograded on 28 December 1971 and VMFA-251 now stands alert posture for the detachment as directed by MAG-31.

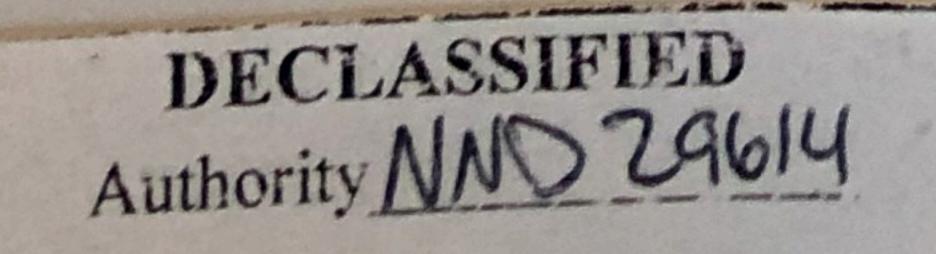
Commencing 27 December 1971, VMFA-251 participated as aggressor aircraft in an air/ground command post exercise with other units of Secand Marine Aircraft Wing and Second Marine Division code named Blue Ax. Emphasis in the exercise was on close air support during amphibious operations. As of this writing squadron aircraft have flown 15 sorties in support of Blue Ax totaling almost 40 hours flight time.

# Command Visits

The following visiting general officers and civilian dignitaries were briefed on the . dates specified concerning VMFA-251 readiness posture and crew combat training procedures.

> LTGEN E. E. ANDERSON MAJGEN G. C. AXTELL MAJGEN C. T. HAGAN

28 July 1971 26 Aug 1971



#### g. Civil Affairs

On 13 September 1971, Senator James WADDELL presented LTCOL R. P LEE, Commanding Officer, VMFA-251 with the Sea Islander Human Relations Award 1971 for the squadron's voluntary clean-up project at Robert Smalls Elementary School, Beaufort, South Carolina. Senator WADDELL cited the squadron saying "Your volunteer assumption of a much-needed project is a good example of what we mean by excellent community spirit."

#### 3. Narrative Summary of Events

VMFA-251 began the period under the command of MAJOR J. M. MEAD. The squadron flew 2073.3 hours accomplishing 892 syllabus credits. A smooth transition from F-4B to F-4J aircraft was operationally completed during the period.

On 30 July 1971 LTCOL R. P. LEE relieved MAJOR J. M. MEAD as Commanding Officer.

The squadron embarked on a heavy air combat maneuvering syllabus. MAWTULANT qualified three aircrew teams as instructors and participated themselves in extensive two on one/two on two training flights against TA-4F/A-4M aircraft.

Commencing 1 September 1971, VMFA-251 participated in MAG-31 exercise "Night Hawk", an annual training operation testing the mission readiness of aircrews and aircraft in both the air to ground air to air role. Lasting one week the operation provided good night/all weather training for all aircrews.

Om 14 September 1971 the squadron detached five aircraft to NAS Key West, Florida for 30 days of operational alert duty. Concurrent with this committment the squadron accomplished 137 sorties of valuable air intercept training with the Joint Air Reconnaisance Control Center located at NAS Key West.

On 22 October 1971, one week after returning from detachment at NAS Key West the squadron deployed as a unit to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for a Phase II missile shoot. 18 Sparrow and 19 Sidewinder missiles were fired on target as VMFA-251 became the first Marine Fighter Squadron to complete a Phase II missile exercise. By 8 November 1971 the squadron was back home at MCAS Beaufort,

On 18 November 1971 the squadron was designated by the Marine Aircraft Group 31 Commanding Officer, Colonel N. B. MCCRARY, to represent the Marine Corps in the Air Defense Command "College Dart" program commencing

training was accelerated in preparation for that event.

On 13 December, Sergeant Major L. PARENT was relieved as squadron Sergeant Major by First Sergeant L. G. TUCKER.

18 December 1971, VMFA-251 committed four combat ready aircraft to a MAG-31 operational alert with four others on lesser alert status. By 23 December 1971 all squadron aircraft and crews were retrograded to MCAS Beaufort under alert posture as directed by MAG-31

25 to 31 December 1971, VMFA-251 contributed 15 sorties and 40 hours of flight time in support of air/ground command post exercise code named "Blue Ax" under comman of the Commanding General 2d Marine Aircraft Wing. This committment was still under way as this report is completed.

R. P. LEE

Distribution: "A"

