

Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant  
Marine Corps Air Station  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

3:TLW:vbp  
5750  
7 January 1972

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code <sup>HD</sup> A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31  
(2) Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFLant  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic

Subj: Command Chronology, 1 July 1971 through 31 December 1971

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A W/CH #1  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) ASO 5750.1A  
(d) GruO 5750.1

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 1971 through 31 December 1971.

Command and Staff

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	1 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 Officer	MAJOR G. DEJONG	1 July-31 Dec 71
Flight Surgeon	LT D. L. TRITCH (USN)	1 July-31 Dec 71
Sergeant Major	SGTMAJ L. PARENT	1 July-13 Dec 71
	1st SGT L. G. TUCKER	14 Dec-31 Dec 71

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614

ENCLOSURE 141



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

\*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 Sec-  
 retary of the Navy Certificate of Commendation.  
 Sergeant A. L. COGSWELL Received Navy Commendation Medal  
 Sergeant C. E. DANN received Commanding General 2d Marine Aircraft  
 Wing letter of Commendation.

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

CAPT T. F. WUNDERLICH  
 CAPT L. W. STEWART  
 CAPT T. L. WILKERSON  
 LT S. W. COOK

LT D. L. BORDERS  
 CAPT J. SEASE  
 LT E. A. HIGHERS  
 LT R. A. HAGERMAN

VMFA-251

Received Commanding General Fleet Marine  
 Force, Atlantic Safety Award.

VMFA-251

Received Letter of Appreciation from  
 VMFAT-201.

VMFA-251

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 NND 29614



b. 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 Reconnaissance 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.

c. Training/NBC

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

- 8 aircrew members attended Air Combat Tactical Maneuvering Course.
- 2 aircrew members attended AN/AG-10 Weapons 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 AN/AG-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.

d. Ordnance

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

AIM-9B Sidewinders	21
A8II MK-4 Gun Pod Ammo	2599
MK-76 Practice Bombs	212
2.75" Rockets	63
AIM-7 Sparrows	22

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614



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.

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 Reconnaissance 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 missiles 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 Second 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.

#### f. 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  
"

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614



LTGEN H. M. ELLWOOD  
HON. B. J. SHILLITO, Assist Secretary of  
Defense  
MAJGEN J. R. BLANFORD  
HON. John H. CHAFFEE, Secretary of the Navy  
WING COM G. G. FARLEY RAF

31 Aug 1971  
9 Sept 1971  
16 Sept 1971  
9 Nov 1971  
15 Nov 1971  
24 Nov 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, and air to air role. Lasting one week the operation provided good night/all weather training for all aircrews.

On 14 September 1971 the squadron detached five aircraft to NAS Key West, Florida for 30 days of operational alert duty. Concurrent with this commitment the squadron accomplished 137 sorties of valuable air intercept training with the Joint Air Reconnaissance 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

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614



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 command of the Commanding General 2d Marine Aircraft Wing. This commitment was still under way as this report is completed.

*R. P. Lee*

R. P. LEE

Distribution: "A"

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614