

MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251  
Marine Aircraft Group 31, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFlant  
Marine Corps Air Station  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

3:MSK:vbp  
5750  
11 July 1972

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)  
Via: Commanding Officer; Marine Aircraft Group 31  
Commanding General; 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing  
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic  
Subj: Command Chronology, period 1 January 1972 through 30 June 1972  
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1C  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) GruO 5750.1

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614

1. Organizational Data

a. Designation/Location

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron Two-Five-One, Marine Aircraft Group Three-One, Second Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina 29902.

b. Period Covered

1 January 1972 through 30 June 1972

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	Lt Col R. P. LEE	1 Jan-23 June 1972
	Major J. C. BYRAM JR.	24 June-30 June 1972
Executive Officer	Major W. T. MCFALL	1 Jan-24 Jan 1972
	Major M. R. MCDONOUGH	25 Jan-30 June 1972
Operations Officer	Capt T. L. WILKERSON	1 Jan-9 June 1972
	Capt M. S. KELLY	10 June-30 June 1972
Administration Officer	Capt R. DINKEL	1 Jan-13 Feb 1972
	Capt W. W. MOORE JR.	14 Feb-30 June 1972
Intelligence Officer	Capt P. J. LOWERY	1 Jan-2 Jan 1972
	1st Lt W. B. QUINN	3 Jan-30 June 1972
Aviation Safety Officer	Capt D. J. DOLAN	1 Jan-23 Jan 1972
	Capt J. BRIGADIER	24 Jan-30 June 1972
Aviation Maintenance Officer	Major G. DEJONG	1 Jan-29 Feb 1972
	Major W. T. MCFALL	1 Mar-30 Apr 1972
	Capt R. E. LEE	1 May-30 June 1972
Flight Surgeon	Lt D. L. TRITCH (USN)	1 Jan-31 May 1972
	NONE ASSIGNED	1 June-30 June 1972



d. Average Squadron Strength

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
January	41	177
February	40	165
March	38	168
April	39	170
May	42	188
June	41	190

2. Sequence of Events

a. January - VMFA-251 flight operations: 207 Sorties, 297.3 Hours.

The squadron continued participation in operation "Blue Ax".

Six aircraft and six aircrews deployed for one week to Tyndall AFB to participate in "College Dart".

Major M. R. MCDONOUGH relieved Major W. T. MCFALL as squadron Executive Officer.

Capt J. BRIGADIER relieved Capt D. J. DOLAN as squadron Safety Officer.

Squadron assumed DET-14 at NAS, Key West, Florida.

b. February - VMFA-251 flight operations: 243 Sorties, 392.1 Hours.

Squadron relieved of DET-14 duties.

Continued aircrew ground training concentrating on the air to air and air combat maneuvering role of the F-4J.

c. March - VMFA-251 flight operations: 231 Sorties, 357.6 Hours.

Maj W. T. MCFALL relieved Maj G. DEJONG as squadron Maintenance Officer.

The squadron assumed hot pad duties at NAS, Key West with ten aircraft deployed.

Squadron aircrews received air to ground ordnance delivery training during the last two weeks of March.

d. April - VMFA-251 flight operations: 279 Sorties, 366.9 Hours.

During the final weeks of the deployment, training was shifted to air to air and air combat maneuvering.

The squadron returned from NAS, Key West.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614



e. May - VMFA-251 flight operations: 184 Sorties, 251.1 Hours.

Eight aircrews participated in a Phase II Missile Shoot at the Cherry Point Missile Range.

Capt R. E. LEE Jr. relieved Major W. T. MCFALL as squadron Maintenance Officer.

MAWTULANT conducted ACT (I) course for four aircrews.

f. June - VMFA-251 flight operations: 224 Sorties, 264.5 Hours.

Major J. C. BYRAM relieved Lt Col R. P. LEE as Squadron Commanding Officer.

Squadron aircrews were selected for "College Dart" participation.

Training emphasis was aimed at readying crews for aerial combat with the F-106.

Capt M. S. KELLY relieved Capt T. L. WILKERSON as squadron Operations Officer.

One week deployment of five aircraft and four aircrews to Tyndall AFB for the second round of "College Dart".

### 3. Narrative Summary of Events

#### a. Personnel/Administration

During this period, the following promotions were effected:

Three First Lieutenants promoted to Captain.

One CWO-2 promoted to CWO-3.

Seventeen CPL's promoted to Sergeant.

Sixteen LCPL's promoted to CPL.

Eleven PFC's promoted to LCPL.

One PVT promoted to PFC.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614

Unit Diary error rate was 7% second half of Fiscal Year 1972.

The following awards were presented to squadron personnel:

Capt J. BRIGADIER received the Navy Commendation Award with Combat "V".

Lt R. R. FAUCHER received Letter of Commendation from George E. SCHAFER Brig Gen USAF, MC.

SSGT R. R. ROSS received Certificate of Commendation.

CPL T. A. TORRES received Letter of Appreciation.

CPL R. V. ANDERSON and LCPL M. E. STAFFORD received Certificate of Appreciation.

LCPL R. J. DALTON received numeral 4 to four Strike/Flight Air Medals.  
Squadron awarded 13 Meritorious Masts.



During the past 6 months, squadron aircrews have received more than 20 hours of training in Intelligence and related fields, including:

- 2 hours on Cuban defense system.
- 2 hours on Soviet tail warning devices.
- 1 hour on Soviet air operations in the Mediterranean.
- 1 hour on Soviet naval operations in the Mediterranean.
- 3 hours on enemy ECM threats and friendly countermeasures.
- 2 hours on Soviet surface to air missile systems.
- 2 hours on Land Navigation.
- 1 hour on the capabilities and limitations of the MIG-19 and 21.
- 1 hour on targeting and aerial imagery.
- 2 hours on current events.
- 2 hours on area studies.

During February and May while the squadron was deployed to Key West, all aircrews received a situation update from the Joint Air Reconnaissance Control Center and complete briefings on the nature of the deployment mission.

During the last week in May, the S-2 Department actively participated in Exercise Exotic Dancer. In that week, daily INTSUM Reports and Spot reports were submitted on intelligence matters.

c. Training/NBC

Training devoted 5 hours to the Troop Information Program, 1 hour to mission oriented training, 4 hours to NBC defense and 3 hours to essential subjects training. Other schools and quotas completed are as follows:

- 2 officers attended Aviation Maintenance Officer School.
- 2 officers attended Military Justice School.
- 4 officers attended Water Survival School.
- 2 officers attended Tropical Survival School.
- 2 officers attended SERE School.
- 4 personnel attended 3M School.
- 1 Marine attended Corrosion Control School.
- 3 personnel attended Quality Assurance School.
- 1 Marine attended NCO Leadership School.
- 2 personnel attended SNCO School.
- 2 personnel attended Human Relations Instructor School.
- 1 Marine attended F-4 Airframes School.
- 1 Marine attended AN/AJB-7 School.
- 20 personnel attended Driver Improvement School.
- 38 personnel qualified with the pistol.
- 18 personnel qualified on the known distance rifle course.
- 60 personnel qualified on the "B" Rifle Course.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614

d. Ordnance

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



AIM-9 Sidewinder  
MK-76 Practice Bombs

3  
184

e. Special Operations

VMFA-251 began the reporting period under the command of Lt Col R..P. LEE. During the six month period the squadron flew 1,368 sorties and 1,929.5 hours accomplishing 598 syllabus training credits.

During the month of January 1972, VMFA-251 continued its participation as aggressors in the Second Marine Aircraft Wing and Second Marine Division command post exercise "Blue Ax". Between 1 January and the conclusion of the operation on 7 January, 23 sorties and 46.9 hours were flown in support of the exercise.

Training emphasis shifted to air combat maneuvering during the second week in January in preparation for "College Dart" - 1972. "College Dart" is a joint service exercise in air combat tactics sponsored by the Air Defense Command, USAF. The squadron deployed six aircraft and six aircrews to Tyndall Air Force Base between 17 January and 22 January. Aircrews competed against the F-106 aircraft from the 318th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in two-vs-two, four-vs-four and fighter escort missions. The experiences derived from "College Dart" proved to be invaluable as the assets within the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing cannot support this type of training.

On 24 January 1972, Major M. R. MCDONOUGH relieved Major W. T. MCFALL as squadron Executive Officer.

Squadron personnel departed for a deployment to NAS, Key West on 25 January. Six aircraft and rotation of aircrews provided excellent utilization of resources and maximized syllabus training. The deployment, which ended on 14 February 1972, yielded 117 syllabus training credits in 144 sorties and 248.6 hours.

On 14 March 1972, the squadron again assumed hot pad duties at NAS, Key West with ten aircraft. Five aircraft were committed to alert duties and the remainder were utilized for extensive aircrew training. Air combat maneuvering continued to have a high priority as two-vs-one and two-vs-two sorties were flown against the A-4M's of VMA-324. During the deployment, two weeks were devoted to air to ground ordnance delivery on the Avon Park target complex. The squadron flew 320 sorties, 450 hours and accomplished 168 training credits during the month long deployment.

On 19 April 1972 at 0200, a Marine Aircraft Group 31 rapid recall exercise was initiated. Within two hours, the squadron was at 100% strength. Five hours after notification, eight aircraft were launched. In all 16 sorties and 23.3 hours were flown during the simulated contingency.

Eight aircrews participated in a Phase II missile shoot on the Cherry Point Missile Range between 1 and 5 May 1972. Five aircrews were qualified during the shoot. A total of 5 Sparrow and 3 Sidewinder.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614



missiles were fired at the MQM-74 target drone.

Between 8-12 May 1972 the squadron hosted aircrews from Marine Air Weapons Training Unit, Atlantic for an air combat tactics instruction course. The evaluation included knowledge of Tactical Manual procedures, briefing and debriefing and airborne instruction. As a result of this course, four aircrews were designated Air Combat Tactics Instructors.

On 23 June 1972, Major J. C. BYRAM JR. relieved Lt Col R. P. LEE as Commanding Officer.

Between 25-30 June four aircraft and five aircrews were deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida for the second round of "College Dart". This advanced training with dissimilar aircraft is invaluable in the air combat environment. During the deployment squadron aircrews recorded 45 Phase III training credits.

f. Command Visits

During this reporting period, there have been no visits by either General Officers or civilian dignitaries.

g. Civil Affairs

VMFA-251 conducted numerous tours for Beaufort area school children. These tours included films on Naval Aviation, demonstrations of survival equipment and aircraft static displays.

missiles were fired at the MQM-74 target drone.

Between 8-12 May 1972 the squadron hosted aircrews from Marine Air Weapons Training Unit, Atlantic for an air combat tactics instruction course. The evaluation included knowledge of Tactical Manual procedures, briefing and debriefing and airborne instruction. As a result of this course, four aircrews were designated Air Combat Tactics Instructors.

On 23 June 1972, Major J. C. BYRAM JR. relieved Lt Col R. P. LEE as Commanding Officer.

Between 25-30 June four aircraft and five aircrews were deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida for the second round of "College Dart". This advanced training with dissimilar aircraft is invaluable in the air combat environment. During the deployment squadron aircrews recorded 45 Phase III training credits.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 29614

f. Command Visits

During this reporting period, there have been no visits by either General Officers or civilian dignitaries.

g. Civil Affairs

VMFA-251 conducted numerous tours for Beaufort area school children. These tours included films on Naval Aviation, demonstrations of survival equipment and aircraft static displays.

ENCLOSURE (5)