

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

3:RTW:tds  
5750  
12 January 1973

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)  
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31  
(2) Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic  
Subj: Command Chronology, period 1 July 1972 through 31 December 1972  
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) GruO 5750.1

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 July 1972 through 31 December 1972

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	Lt Col J. C. BYRAM JR.	1 Jul-31	Dec 1972
Executive Officer	Major M. R. MCDONOUGH	1 Jul-31	Dec 1972
Operations Officer	Captain M. S. KELLY	1 Jul-23	Aug 1972
	Captain G. H. ROBINSON	24 Aug-30	Sep 1972
	Major R. T. WARD	1 Oct-31	Dec 1972
Administrative Officer	Captain W. W. MOORE	1 Jul-16	Jul 1972
	Captain R. R. FAUCHER	17 Jul-31	Dec 1972
Intelligence Officer	1st Lt W. B. QUINN	1 Jul-20	Aug 1972
	Captain M. E. CONLEY	21 Aug-31	Dec 1972
Logistics Officer	Flt Lt R. H. LLOYD (RAF)	1 Jul-29	Sep 1972
	Captain B. P. GAUCH	30 Sep-31	Dec 1972
Aviation Safety Officer	Captain J. BRIGADIER	1 Jul-5	Oct 1972

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REF ID: A66033

	Captain R. A. BROWN	6	Oct-31	Dec 1972
Aviation Maintenance	Captain R. E. LEE	1	Jul-30	Jul 1972
Officer	Major J. E. MAY	31	Jul-31	Dec 1972
Flight Surgeon	NONE ASSIGNED	1	Jul-31	Dec 1972
Sergeant Major	Sgt Maj L. G. TUCKER	1	Jul-31	Dec 1972

d. Average Squadron Strength

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
July	40	196
August	41	206
September	44	211
October	42	210
November	43	217
December	39	226

2. Sequence of Events

a. July - VMFA-251 flight operations: 163 Sorties, 268.6 Hours

On 5 July the squadron conducted a one half-day safety stand down. The training included both aircrew and enlisted safety training.

On 31 July Major J. E. MAY relieved Captain R. E. LEE as squadron Aircraft Maintenance Officer.

On 17 July Captain R. R. FAUCHER relieved Captain W. W. MOORE as squadron Administrative Officer.

From 23-27 July the squadron aircrews participated in a Phase II missile shoot on the Cherry Point Missile Range. During the four day shoot, the squadron logged 46.8 hours and flew 23 sorties.

On 27 July the squadron participated in a special one day operation consisting of simulated raids against the USS Guam.

On 28 July the squadron committed four aircraft to CAP/TPQ missions fraggged by the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

b. August - VMFA-251 flight operations: 247 Sorties, 324.4 Hours.

During the first two weeks aircrew training emphasized Phase II and Phase III air to ground ordnance delivery.

On 17 and 18 August the squadron conducted a safety stand down. Training included a brief by the F-4 Analyst of the Naval Safety Center as well as Aviation Medicine, Fuel Planning, and Accident Reporting.

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During the third and fourth weeks of August aircrew training emphasis shifted to Phase III air to air gunnery. This training resulted in 79.1 hours and 80 syllabus credits for the two week period.

On 21 August Captain M. E. CONLEY relieved First Lieutenant W. B. QUINN as squadron Intelligence Officer.

On 24 August Captain G. H. ROBINSON relieved Captain M. S. KELLY as squadron Operations Officer.

c. September - VMFA-251 flight operations: 238 Sorties, 285.0 Hours.

Four squadron aircraft participated in aerial intercept training operations with the USS Albany.

The squadron continued Phase III air to air gunnery training. A total of 86 syllabus credits were earned over a three week period.

On 14 September the squadron deployed to NAS Key West, Fla. with nine aircraft.

Four squadron aircrews underwent MAWTULANT Air Combat Tactics Instructors Course.

Aircrew training emphasized Phase II and III air intercept and air combat maneuvering training.

d. October - VMFA-251 flight operations: 209 Sorties, 270.5 Hours.

One hundred twenty-eight Marines completed FAM firing the M-16A1 rifle.

Two squadron aircrews completed the MAWTULANT Air Combat Tactics Instructors Course.

Aircrew training concentrated on Phase II and III air intercept training.

On 1 October Major R. T. WARD relieved Captain G. H. ROBINSON as squadron Operations Officer.

On 6 October Captain R. A. BROWN relieved Captain J. BRIGADIER as squadron Aviation Safety Officer.

On 14 October the squadron completed the deployment to NAS Key West, Fla. and returned to MCAS Beaufort.

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On returning to MCAS Beaufort, aircrew training concentrated on air to air gunnery in addition to ECM training missions with EB-47 aircraft.

e. November - VMFA-251 flight operations: 229 Sorties, 314.7 Hours.

On 1 November quarterly physical fitness training was conducted.

November commenced with aircrew training emphasizing day air combat maneuvering and night radar intercepts. In addition, the squadron devoted 30.6 flight hours to SATS operations at Bogue Field for a net gain of 15 syllabus credits.

On 9 November the squadron participated in the 20th NORAD Exercise "SNOWTIME".

Day and night Close Air Support training was conducted and ordnance expended consisted of 14 MK-82's, 24 MK-76's, 8 Zuni's, and 9 2.75" Rockets.

During the latter part of November aircrew training was concentrated on Phase II and III air combat maneuvering training in preparation for participation in the USAF Aerospace Defense Command's Air Superiority Tactics Program, "College Dart".

f. December - VMFA-251 flight operations: 176 Sorties, 200.8 Hours.

December commenced with aircrew training efforts directed towards preparation for the "College Dart" exercise at Tyndall AFB during 11-15 December.

From 11-15 December Captains G. H. ROBINSON and W. W. MOORE attended the Fighter Weapons Symposium at NAS Miramar, California.

During the period 11-15 December eight combat ready aircrews and five aircraft were deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla. to participate in "College Dart".

During the "College Dart" program 26 sorties were flown against the F-106 aircraft of the 5th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. A total of 61 Phase III syllabus credits were gained. All 26 "College Dart" training sorties were launched with full operational radar systems and of these 20 were fully operational on recovery.

### 3. Narrative Summary of Events

#### a. Personnel Administration

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During this period, the following promotions were effected:

One Major promoted to Lieutenant Colonel  
Six First Lieutenants promoted to Captain  
One First Sergeant commissioned to Second Lieutenant  
One First Sergeant promoted to Sergeant Major  
Two Staff Sergeants promoted to Gunnery Sergeant  
One Sergeant promoted to Staff Sergeant  
Twenty-eight Corporals promoted to Sergeant  
Seventeen Lance Corporals promoted to Corporal  
Twenty-nine Privates First Class promoted to Lance Corporal  
Two Privates promoted to Private First Class

Unit Diary error rate was 5% during the first half of Fiscal Year 1973.

The following awards were presented to squadron personnel:

Staff Sergeant D. G. GRIFFIN received the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V".

b. Intelligence

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

2.0 hours Aircraft and Vessel Recognition  
3.0 hours Soviet Air Defense Systems  
2.5 hours Cuban Air Order of Battle  
1.5 hours Current Events  
4.0 hours Security  
2.0 hours Electronic Counter Measures  
0.5 hours Authentication and KY-28  
2.0 hours Combat Intelligence  
0.5 hours K51-A Camera

During late September and early October while the squadron was deployed to NAS Key West, Fla., all aircrews received situation update from the Joint Reconnaissance Control Center and complete briefings on the nature of the deployment mission.

c. Training/NBC

Basic training accomplished during the last six months was conducted as follows:

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143 Marines received Human Relations training (20 hrs. each)  
 5 Marines attended Human Relations Instructor School  
 15 Marines fired the .38 caliber pistol  
 24 Marines fired the .45 caliber pistol  
 231 Marines fired the M-16 for qualification  
 138 Marines FAM fired the M-16  
 55 Marines FAM fired the 12 GA. Riot Gun  
 3 Marines attended NBC School  
 17 Marines received NBC training (16 hrs. each)  
 92 Marines received C.O.D. instructions (14 hrs. each)  
 3 Marines attended NCO Leadership School  
 20 Marines attended Driver Improvement School  
 5 Marines attended Driver's School (M151A Jeep)  
 18 Marines attended Firefighting School  
 2 Marines were Swim qualified  
 3 Marines attended USAF Water Survival School  
 1 Marine attended Career Planning School  
 4 Marines attended Staff NCO School  
 All squadron personnel received the following training:  
 Troop Information Program 5 hrs each  
 Essential Subjects Training 6 hrs each  
 Mission Oriented Training 5 hrs each

d. Ordnance

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

AIM-9B Sidewinder Missile	1
AIM-7E Sparrow Missile	1
5.0" Rockets	30
2.75" Rockets	80
MK-82 G. P. Bomb 500 lb.	40
MK-76 Practice Bomb, 25 lb.	200
20MM Cartridge, TP	5793

e. Special Operations

Throughout the reporting period VMFA-251 was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J. C. BYRAM JR. During the six month period the squadron flew 1262 sorties and 1,664.0 flight hours accomplishing 621 syllabus training credits.

During July, eight squadron aircrews participated in a Phase II missile shoot on the Cherry Point Missile Range. In addition, the squadron conducted simulated raids against the USS Guam. The squadron also committed four aircraft to CAP/TPQ missions fraggged by 2d MAW.

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During August the squadron conducted Phase II and III aircrew training in air to ground ordnance delivery and Phase II air to air gunnery.

In the month of September, after participating in air intercept training operations with the USS Albany, the squadron deployed with nine aircraft to NAS Key West, Fla. for operational and training flight operations. The deployment which ended on 14 October 1972, yielded 85 syllabus training credits in 329 sorties and 388.2 hours.

During the month of November 1972 the squadron conducted a diversified aircraft training program. In addition to day air combat maneuvering and night radar intercept missions, the squadron devoted 30.8 flight hours to SATS operations at Bogue Field, N.C. The squadron then participated in the 20th NORAD Exercise "SNOWTIME". Flight operations also included live ordnance Close Air Support Training. As November 1972 drew to a close, flight operations were directed towards preparation for the "College Dart" dissimilar air combat maneuvering training at Tyndall AFB, Fla. during December 1972.

The USAF Aerospace Defense Command's Air Superiority Tactics Training Program, "College Dart", was conducted during the period 11-15 December 1972. VMFA-251 deployed five F-4J aircraft and eight combat qualified aircrews with supporting maintenance personnel. A total of 26 Phase III training sorties were flown against USAF F-106 aircraft of the 5th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. A total of 61 syllabus training credits were gained.

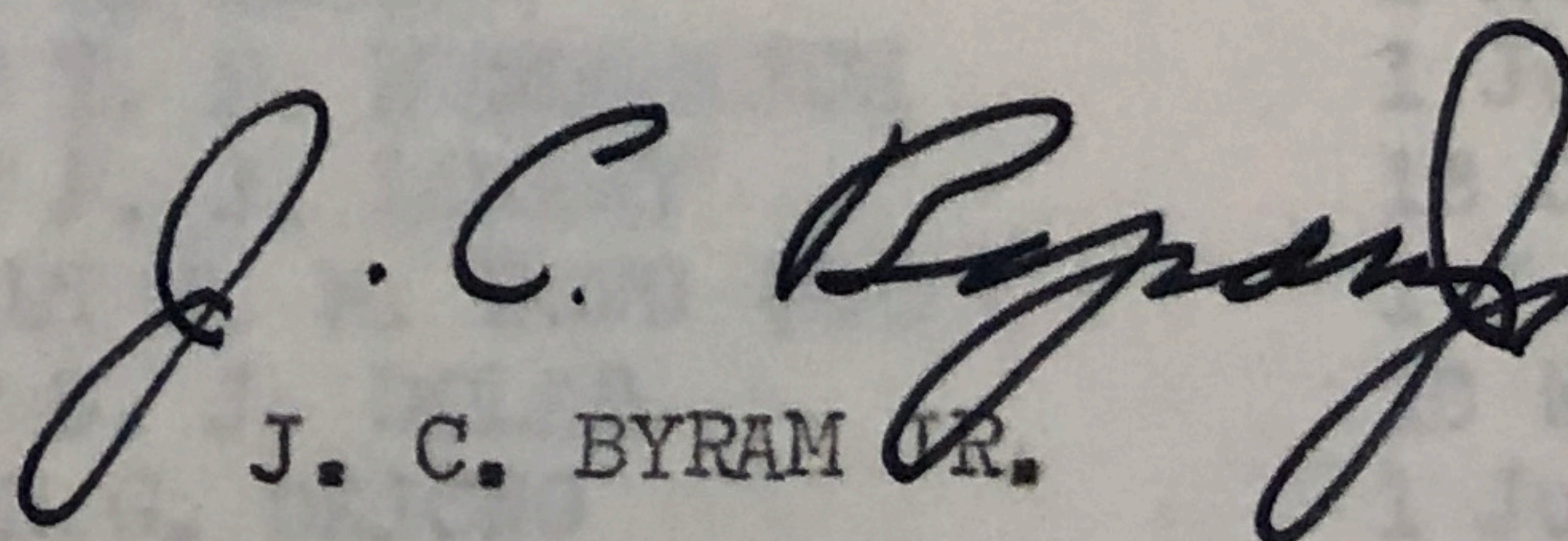
f. Command Visits

BGen O'Donnell, AWC 2d MAW, visited VMFA-251 on 29 November 1972 during the squadron preparation for the "College Dart" Exercise.

BGen O'Donnell, AWC 2d MAW, visited the VMFA-251 Detachment deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla. during the "College Dart" Exercise.

g. Civil Affairs

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

  
J. C. BYRAM JR.

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