

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

3:WTA:jhv  
5750  
10 January 1974

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic  
(2) Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
(3) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 31

Subj: Command Chronology, Period 1 July 1973 through 31 December 1973

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) GruO 5750.1

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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 1973 through 31 December 1973

c. Command and Staff. Commanding Officer

LTCOL W. C. SERVICE III	1 July 1973-11 December 1973
LTCOL J. L. MAVRETIC	12 December 1973-31 December 1973

Executive Officer

MAJ J. P. DAWSON                      1 July 1973-31 December 1973

Operations Officer-MAJ R. T. WARD      1 July 1973-31 July 1973  
                                 MAJ C. J. COWELL      1 August 1973-31 December 1973

Administrative Officer-CAPT J. F. HAVENER 1 July 1973-31 December

Intelligence Officer-1STLT T. J. RASK 1 July 1973-31 December 1973

Logistics Officer-CAPT R. A. EASTMAN 1 July 1973-15 December 1973

                                 CAPT F. L. KRAMER 16 December 1973-31 December 1973

Aviation Safety Officer-1STLT W. C. ROGERS 1 July 1973-27 September 1973

                                 FLT LT J. H. HAINES 28 September 1973-

                                 31 December 1973

Aviation Maintenance Officer-MAJ J. E. MAY 1 July 1973-2 November 1973

                                 CAPT R. SCHROEDER 3 November 1973-

                                 31 December 1973

Flight Surgeon-None Assigned

Sergeant Major-First Sergeant J. URITESCU 1 July 1973-31 December 1973

ENCLOSURE (5)



d. Average Squadron Strength

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
July	31	233
August	29	230
September	30	225
October	28	218
November	28	205
December	28	202

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2. Sequence of Events

a. July-VMFA-251 flight operations: 171 sorties, 266.4 flight hours.

The squadron held a two-day Safety Standdown on 10 and 11 July. During this period both officers and enlisted received training in safety and security.

August-VMFA-251 flight operations: 113 sorties, 230.5 flight hours.

Beginning profile flights in preparation for September TRANSLANT flights in support of Exercise DEEP FURROW.

September-VMFA-251 flight operations: 196 sorties, 356.1 flight hours.

During the first half of September the squadron continued profile flights in preparation for Exercise DEEP FURROW. During the first week of September the squadron held lectures in support of the upcoming deployment. Areas covered were the general exercise, systems briefs and navigation briefs. On 13 and 14 September the squadron held a standdown and continued ground training in support of the upcoming commitment. From 17 to 22 September the squadron deployed to CIGLI AB Turkey and partook in exercise DEEP FURROW, during which 40 close air support and 8 Air defense missions were flown in support of the exercise. TRANSLANT was flown between 27 September and 7 October. One crew was lost in a landing accident at NAF NAPLES, Italy on 27 September, the aircraft involved was augmented from another squadron.

October-VMFA 251 flights operations: 123 sorties, 225.6 flight hours.

The TRANSLANT continued to 7 October. A VMFA-251 aircraft was lost at LAJES AFB due to fuel starvation on 2 October, the crew successfully ejected. On 23 thru 26 October the squadron attended MAWTU lectures on Air to Air and Air to Ground Warfare. During this reporting period 9 Marines qualified on the B course.

November-VMFA-251 flight operations: 167 sorties, 222.3 flight hours.

On 6 and 7 November two aircraft participated in a phase two missile shoot conducted at Cherry Point North Carolina.

ENCLOSURE (5)



December-VMFA-251 flight operations: 152 sorties, 227.3 flight hours.

On 11 December 1973 LTCOL J. L. MAVRETIC relieved LTCOL W. C. SERVICE III as Commanding Officer of MARINE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRON 251. VMFA-251 assumed DET-14 commitment at NAS KEY WEST, Florida on 14 December 1973. During this period VMFA-251 effected an extensive energy conservation effort through a personal awareness of the energy crisis and a cut back in lighting and heating within the squadron area.

### 3. Narrative Summary of Events

a. PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION. During this period, the following promotions were effected:

One Gunnery Sergeant promoted to Master Sergeant.

Two Sergeants promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Sixteen Corporals promoted to Sergeant.

Forty nine Lance Corporals promoted to Corporal.

Nineteen Privates First Class promoted to Lance Corporal.

Two Privates promoted to Private First Class.

Unit Diary error rate was 4.33% during the second half of Fiscal Year 1973.

Eight Meritorious Masts were awarded to squadron personnel during this period.

b. INTELLIGENCE. Squadron aircrews and intelligence personnel received training on a weekly basis. Topics included Foreign Missile Threats, Internal Security and Area Studies. When deployed to NAS KEY WEST, participating aircrews received situation updates from the Joint Air Reconnaissance Control Center. Prior to deploying to CIGLI AB Turkey, in support of DEEP FURROW, the squadron received updates on Southeast Asia.

c. TRAINING/NBC The following basic training was accomplished during the last six months:

20 Marines received Human Relations Training (20 hrs ea.).

104 Marines fired the M-16 for Qualification.

10 Marines fired the .38 caliber pistol.

4 Marines fired the .45 caliber pistol.

21 Marines FAM fired the 12 GA. riot gun.

3 Marines attended NBC school.

56 Marines received NBC training (3hrs ea.).

0 Marines attended NCO leadership school.

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- 22 Marines attended Driver Improvement School
- 7 Marines attended Driver School.
- 0 Marines attended Water Survival School.
- 2 Marines attended Staff NCO school
- 2 Marines attended Embark school.

All squadron personnel received the following training:

2hrs Troop info  
 4hrs EST training  
 12hrs MO training

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

AIM-7	1
MK-76	259
MK-86	17
MK-87	39
MK-106	81
2.75 rockets	122
20mm	568

The above quantities are considerably less than the first half of 1973 due to the squadron's present contingency at NAS KEY WEST and its participation in operation "DEEP FURROW" during September 1973.

e. SPECIAL OPERATIONS

From 17 thru 22 September the squadron deployed to CIGLI AB Turkey to participate in exercise DEEP FURROW. Operations and participation in DEEP FURROW continued there through 26 September during which 40 close air support and 8 air defense missions were flown in support of the exercise. TRANSLANT was flown between 27 September and 7 October. One crew was lost in a landing accident at NAF NAPLES, Italy on 27 September. The aircraft involved was augmented from another squadron. A VMFA-251 aircraft was lost at LAJES AFB due to fuel starvation on 2 October, the crew successfully ejected.

On 6 and 7 November two aircraft participated in a phase two missile shoot conducted at Cherry Point. One AIM-7 was fired with successful results.

On December 14 VMFA-251 assumed the Alert Pad commitment at NAS KEY WEST, Florida, and presently maintains that commitment until 14 January 1974

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