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5750  
10 July 1974

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 Chronnology, period of 1 January 1974 through  
30 June 1974  
Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1D  
(b) WgO 5750.1A  
(c) GruO 5750.1  
Encl: (1) Squadron Functional Nucleus, General Diagram  
(2) Squadron Functional Nucleus, Detailed Diagram

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 1974 through 30 June 1974.

c. Command and Staff

Commanding Officer	LTCOL J. L. MAVRETIC	1 Jan-30 Jun 74
Executive Officer	MAJOR J. P. DAWSON	1 Jan-31 May 74
Operations Officer	MAJOR C. J. COWELL	1 Jan-10 Jun 74
	CAPT N. G. G. KERR	11 Jun-30 Jun 74
Administrative Officer	CAPT J. F. HAVENER	1 Jan-5 Feb 74
	CAPT G. MAIN	6 Feb-14 May 74
	CAPT R. W. CHAMBLISS	15 May-30 Jun 74
Intelligence Officer	1STLT T. J. RASK	1 Jan-6 Jun 74
	CAPT S. L. RICHARDS	7 Jun-30 Jun 74
Logistics Officer	CAPT P. L. KRANKER	1 Jan-21 Jan 74
	MAJOR H. F. SHARP	22 Jan-30 Jun 74
Aviation Safety Officer	FLTLT J. H. HAINES	1 Jan-30 Jun 74
Maintenance Officer	CAPT R. K. SCHROEDER	1 Jan-30 Jun 74
Flight Surgeon	NOT ASSIGNED	
Sergeant Major	FIRST SGT J. URITESCU	1 Jan-30 Jun 74

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
January	41	197
February	43	190
March	30	180
April	29	178
May	28	165
June	28	165

## 2. Sequence of Events

a. January VMFA-251 flight operations were 188 sorties and 271.6 flight hours.

On the first of January, the "Thunderbolts" were mid-way through a thirty day deployment to NAS KEY WEST, Florida in support of "Detachment 14". The deployed aircraft were responsible for almost half of the Squadron's hours and sorties for the month.

All members of the Squadron returned to Beaufort on 14 January at which time a safety stand-down was conducted. Following the two day safety stand-down, Squadron members and their wives assembled in the station theater to become acquainted with the new Commanding Officer and his family. Future operations were discussed and the various facilities and services available to the Squadron's families were described to all those present. This was the initiation of a continuing Thunderbolt program entitled "Family Fam".

During the month the Squadron effected an extensive energy conservation program stressing personal awareness of the energy crisis and a cut back in the lighting and heating within the squadron area.

b. February VMFA-251 flight operations were 135 sorties and 181.5 flight hours.

Squadron organization, aviation safety and aircrew training were highlighted in an innovative manner this month. Royal Air Force Flight Lieutenant Jack HAINES, the Squadron's Aviation Safety Officer, discussed aircrew safety with the officer's wives on 14 February. Home life and its importance in aviation safety were stressed.

The Commanding Officer, LTCOL J. L. MAVRETIC, reorganized VMFA-251 into a "functional nucleus" organization on a trial basis. In the new structure the Squadron has six departments, each having well-defined responsibilities which, when interfaced, cover the entire spectrum of squadron activities. Enclosures (1) and (2) diagram this test organization.

On 27 and 28 February the Squadron served as friendly

forces in Angkor Wat, a 20th NORAD exercise.



Portions of a Sony Videotape recording/playback systems were purchased and delivered to the squadron during the latter part of the month. This equipment is one element in an overall scheme to enhance squadron aircrew training by providing a more logical and systematic approach, using available media to build professional Marine fighter pilots.

c. March VMFA-251 flight operations were 159 sorties and 183.3 flight hours.

On 15 March, five aircrewman were designated Air Combat Tactics Instructors after successfully completing a week long training syllabus conducted by instructors from MAWTULant.

On 29 March, Major BRATON of MAWTULant briefed squadron aircrews in preparation for the May missile firing exercise.

d. April VMFA-251 flight operations were 200 sorties and 282.5 flight hours.

Captain N. G. G. KERR and Captain W. W. MOORE, pilot and RIO Training Officers respectively, visited VF-124 at Miramar, California and the American Airlines Flight Academy at Dallas, Texas. At VF-124, Grumman Aerospace representatives and Navy training personnel demonstrated their educational techniques in training aircrewmen to employ the F-14. At Dallas, Captains KERR and MOORE saw the already proven American Airlines systems approach to aircrew training. Invaluable knowledge was gained in the area of educational media employment as it applies to U. S. Marine Corps F-4 aircrew training.

Squadron operations and training during the month emphasized air refueling using H&MS-31 TA-4F aircraft and preparation for the May missile firex.

The Naval Safety Center conducted a safety survey of the Squadron on 16 and 17 April.

Representatives from "Approach" magazine visited the Squadron at the end of the month, gathering information for a proposed article on the Thunderbolt's systems approach to aircrew training.

e. May VMFA-251 flight operations were 142 sorties and 254.6 flight hours.

The firex was conducted off the North Carolina coast from 13 to 17 May and was controlled by MACS-6. Twenty-five sorties were flown and six air-to-air missiles were expended.

During the month the Squadron began planning for Operation Parrow 74 as well as the June Detachment 14 commitment at NAS



Field, North Carolina in support of Exercise Solid Shield. The Squadron rapidly responded, committing four aircraft, crews and the necessary maintenance personnel. Flight operations were conducted from MCALF Bogue Field through 6 June.

On 29 May, Captain R. G. DWYER and his RIO, First Lieutenant D. VAN ESSELSTYN experienced a simultaneous aircraft hydraulic and pneumatics system failure while on a mission in support of Exercise Solid Shield. They were diverted to Charleston Air Force Base for a none arrested landing on foam. The MCAS Beaufort Search and Rescue helicopter rendered immediate assistance, transporting an Air Group LSO and the Squadron Training Officer to Charleston prior to Captain DWYER's emergency landing. A completely successful wheels-up landing was skillfully executed on a foamed runway under LSO control resulting in only minimal damage to the aircraft. The crew received messages of congratulations from the Commanding Generals of FMFLant and the Second Marine Aircraft Wing.

f. June VMFA-251 flight operations were 127 sorties and 202.6 flight hours.

VMFA-251 continued to fly missions in support of Exercise Solid Shield from MCALF Bogue Field. All aircraft returned to Beaufort on 6 June. The Squadron flew a total of 19 fighter support missions and over 64 flight hours during the exercise.

On 14 June the Squadron assumed the 30 day alert pad "Detachment 14" commitment at NAS Key West, Florida. During the deployment, aircrews gained proficiency in day and night intercepts and over-water navigation.

During the month planning continued in preparation for the Squadron's participation in Exercise Deep Furrow 74.

### 3. Narrative Summary of Events

a. Personnel/Administration. During this period the following promotions were effected:

- (1) One First Lieutenant to Captain
- (1) One Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant
- (1) One Warrant Officer Three to First Lieutenant
- (1) One Warrant Officer Two to First Lieutenant
- (1) One Sergeant to Staff Sergeant
- (11) Corporals to Sergeants
- (21) Lance Corporals to Corporals
- (15) Fifteen Privates First Class to Lance Corporals
- (6) Six Privates to Privates First Class

b. Intelligence. Squadron aircrews and intelligence personnel received training on a weekly basis. Topics included foreign missile threats; foreign aircraft capabilities, tactics, and methods of recognition; internal security and area studies, with



While deployed to NAS Key West, aircrews received situation up-dates from the Joint Air Reconnaissance Control Center.

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

72	Marines received 20 hours of Human Relations Training Phase I
38	Marines received 40 hours of Human Relations Training Phase II
23	Marines fired the M-16 rifle*
13	Marines fired the .38 caliber pistol
20	Marines fired the .45 caliber pistol
23	Marines fired the 12Ga Riot/gun for familiarization
2	Marines attended 32 hours of NBC School
8	Marines attended NBC training
39	Marines attended Driver Improvement School
2	Marines attended Driver School
3	Marines attended Water Survival School
2	Marines attended Staff NCO School
2	Marines attended Embarkation School

\* No rifle range quotas for the "B" course have been available to this squadron for the reporting period.

All Squadron personnel received the following training:

Five hours of troop information lectures.

Fifteen hours of Essential Military Subjects training.

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

AIM-7 Sparrow missiles	6
AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles	7
MK-76 practice bombs	34
MK-87 practice bombs	20
2.75 rockets	48

e. Special Operations.

From 1 January to 14 January the Squadron deployed aircraft to NAS Key West, Florida in support of Detachment 14. Numerous syllabus credits were earned by aircrews in the air intercept syllabus.

On 27 and 28 February VMFA-251 served as the friendly fighter forces in the 20th NORAD Exercise Amalgam Mute. Night intercept training was accomplished.

A Phase II missile firex was conducted from 13 to 17 May off the North Carolina coast. Twenty-five sorties were flown and 11 AIM-7 missiles were expended. Radar control was provided by