

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Marine Attack Squadron 311
Marine Aircraft Group 13
3d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
MCAS El Toro (Santa Ana) California 92709

3:DAJ:wal
5750
11 JUL 1980

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology for the period of 1 January 1980 to 30 June 1980 (Report Symbol 3d MAW-5750-1)
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1D
(b) FMFPac 5750.8C
(c) WgO 5750.2
(d) GrpO P3710.1A
Encl: (1) VMA-311 Command Chronology 1 January 1980 to 30 June 1980
1. In accordance with references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.


M. F. WILLIAMSON

VMA-311

Jan - June 80

5750
11 JUL 1980

Command Chronology
1 January 1980 to 30 June 1980

Index

Part I
Part II
Part III

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
NARRATIVE SUMMARY
SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT
EVENTS

11 JUL 1980

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DesignationCOMMANDER

Marine Attack Squadron 311

Lieutenant Colonel
Thomas L. HAMPTON
1 January 1980 -
13 June 1980Lieutenant Colonel
Monroe F. WILLIAMSON
13 June 1980 -
30 June 1980SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONEATTACHED UNITS: NONE2. Location

1 January 1980 - 30 June 1980 MCAS El Toro, California

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer

Major Timothy G. DINEEN
1 January 1980 - 30 June
1980

Operations Officer

Major Warren T. FROMMELT
1 January 1980 - 30 June
1980

Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Major Hal W. HENDERSON
1 January 1980 - 30 June
1980

Sergeant Major

First Sergeant Leslie C.
COVEY 1 January 1980 -
30 June 19804. Average Monthly StrengthUSMC

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
January	23	200
February	22	178
March	22	165
April	22	152
May	20	153
June	19	150

11 JUL 1980

PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the first six months of 1980 the trends established during the last half of 1979 continued. Although there was much work to be done with the limited number of Aircrews on hand, the "Tomcats" continued the high standards set by their predecessors.

In January the "Tomcats" participated in VMA-214's Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation System (MCCRES) evaluation, and worked coordinated F-4/F-15 defensive tactics (DEFTAC) exercises at NAS Miramar. A climax was reached at the end of the month with "Operation Canyon Creek". This combined 40-aircraft strike entailed an 1100 NM strike into the Hill AFB Utah Test Training Range (UTTR) in a complex Deep Air Support (DAS) scenario.

During February the Squadron met with USAF F-15's at Fairchild AFB and F-16's at Hill AFB in DEFTAC exercises. A successful Shrike shoot at China Lake and providing support for VMFA-112's deployment at MCAS Yuma rounded out this eventful month.

March proved a strong test for the Squadron. VMA-311 was tasked with supporting Gallant Eagle 80; the only A-4 attack squadron in the massive ten-day coordinated Air Force and Army exercise at Fort Irwin. The 7501 MOS training of one pilot was completed. The Squadron was very busy in preparation for re-certification as a nuclear-capable squadron, and the "Tomcats" did exceptionally well in the culmination of this training in the Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection (NWAI) on 24 March. In addition to preparing for the NWAI, a five-plane Air Combat Tactics Instructor (ACTI) detachment was sent to MCAS Yuma during this period. The remainder of the month found VMA-311 receiving a Naval Safety Center Safety Survey, firing a live AGM-45 Shrike, supporting VMA-214's "Operation Pinnacle Peak", and participating with Air National Guard A-7's in DEFTAC maneuvers at Kirtland AFB.

Although anticipating a rather quiet month in April, the "Tomcats" kept up a high operational pace. The 7501 MOS training of two pilots was completed. April also found VMA-311 participating in North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) exercises, a MAG-13 bombing COMPEX, Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) 1-80, and DEFTAC with Canadian F-5's. Warm-up smoke missions were also being conducted for the upcoming Combined Arms Exercises (CAX) in May.

During the first weeks of May, VMA-311 provided support for CAX's 4-80 and 5-80. The missions were primarily the delivery of smoke, with some live ordnance sorties. A special operations exercise at Nellis AFB and DEFTAC exercises with USAF F-15's at Luke AFB followed shortly thereafter.

11 JUL 1980

On May 26 the Squadron left for MCAS Yuma for its first deployment in 1980. With limited ranges where delivery of high explosive ordnance could be utilized, the "Tomcats" ran many creative missions utilizing practice ordnance in combination with support from other squadrons.

In the first week of June, while still on the Yuma deployment, the Squadron underwent a MCCRES evaluation with outstanding results. After returning from Yuma, chemical spray tank evaluation missions continued at the US Army Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. June 13 saw a change of command, as LtCol M. F. WILLIAMSON relieved LtCol T. L. HAMPTON. One week later, a Wing Administration and Maintenance (A&M) Inspection took place, and the "Tomcats" did quite well despite the shortage of personnel on hand.

Over the reporting period VMA-311 conducted extensive electronic warfare training in the Echo Range at China Lake. With the mini-strikes conducted in the type environment the Squadron is anticipating, the training was excellent.

Overall from 1 January to 30 June 1980, VMA-311 flew 2330.1 hours and 1478 sorties. VMA-311 has flown 11,011.8 accident-free hours covering a 27 month period.

11 JUL 1980

PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

14 January 1980 - 17 January 1980	VMA-214 MCCRES; 2 instructors, 2 aircraft at MCAS Yuma
19 January 1980	Squadron participates in USAF/ USN DEFTAC exercise with F-15's/ F-4's at NAS Miramar
31 January 1980	"Operation Canyon Creek" (40- aircraft DAS strike)
5 February 1980 - 8 February 1980	Squadron participates in USAF DEFTAC exercise with F-16's, Hill AFB
14 February 1980 - 15 February 1980	DEFTAC exercise with F-15's, Fair- child AFB, 3 aircraft
16 February 1980	AGM-45 Shrike shoot
20 February 1980 - 23 February 1980	Support VMFA-112 deployment at MCAS Yuma
7 March 1980 - 13 March 1980	Gallant Eagle 80; CAS, EW, aerial refueling exercises
8 March 1980	AGM-45 Shrike shoot
18 March 1980 - 23 March 1980	ACTI Det, MCAS Yuma, 2 instruc- tors, 3 students, 5 aircraft
18 March 1980	Naval Safety Center Safety Survey
24 March 1980	NWAI (Nuclear re-certification)
24 March 1980 - 25 March 1980	DEFTAC Exercise with ANG A-7's at Kirtland AFB
26 March 1980	Operation "Pinnacle Peak" (DAS strike for VMA-214)
1 April 1980 - 3 April 1980	PHIBLEX 1-80, 2 aircraft
15 April 1980	Chemical spray evaluation, Dugway Proving Grounds, 2 air- craft

5750

11 JUL 1980

15 April 1980	NORAD exercise, 4 aircraft
16 April 1980	MAG-13 COMPEX
17 April 1980	MAG-13 Field Meet
22 April 1980 - 30 April 1980	CAX warm-up, 2 aircraft
2 May 1980 - 5 May 1980	CAX 4-80, 6 aircraft (4 smoke, 2 CAS)
18 May 1980 - 22 May 1980	CAX 5-80, 4 smoke aircraft per day, 2 CAS per day
22 May 1980	Chemical spray evaluation, Dugway Proving Grounds, 2 aircraft
26 May 1980 - 9 June 1980	Squadron deploys with 12 aircraft to MCAS Yuma; USAF F-15 DEFTAC ex- ercise, Luke AFB
5 June 1980 - 8 June 1980	Squadron MCCRES Evaluation
23 June 1980 - 27 June 1980	Wing A & M Inspection
23 June 1980 - 27 June 1980	USAF F-15 DEFTAC exercise, Luke AFB