

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

3:FWG:bjp
5750
13 July 1981

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)
Subj: Command Chronology; period 1 January 1981 through 30 June 1981
Ref: (a) GruBul 5750 3:LRD:lrd dtd 26 Jun 1981
Encl: (1) Marine Attack Squadron 311 Command Chronology
1. In accordance with reference, enclosure (1) is submitted.


R. L. BARTON
Acting

VMH-311

Jan - June 81

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

Unit Designation: Marine Attack Squadron 311

- a. Reporting Unit Code: 01311
- b. Table of Organization number: M8777R dated 22 February 1980

Period covered: 1 January 1981 to 30 June 1981

b. Subordinate Commanders: None

c. Principal Staff Members:

Executive Officer

Major Hal W. HENDERSON 1 Jan 81 - 31 Mar 81
Major Robert W. HENSLEY 1 Apr 81 - 5 Apr 81
Major Richard L. BARTON 6 Apr 81 - 30 Jun 81

Administrative Officer

Major Daniel D. BRANNON 1 Jan 81 - 2 Apr 81
Major Russel V. DUDLEY 3 Apr 81 - 30 Jun 81

Intelligence Officer

Captain Richard W. CHIGNA 1 Jan 81 - 30 Jun 81

Operations Officer

Major Robert W. HENSLEY 1 Jan 81 - 29 May 81
Major Steven T. BAKKE 30 May 81 - 30 Jun 81

Logistics Officer

Captain Brain L. BEHL 1 Jan 81 - 30 Mar 81
Captain Wayne D. ROBINSON 1 Apr 81 - 30 Jun 81

Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Major Russel J. ENKE 1 Jan 81 - 29 Mar 81
Captain Brain L. BEHL 30 Mar 81 - 30 Jun 81

Staff Historian

Capt Richard W. GHIGNA 1 Jan 81 - 30 Jun 81

Sergeant Major

Sergeant Major Clarence H. PALMER 1 Jan 81 - 30 Jun 81

4. Average Monthly Strength

<u>Month</u>	<u>USMC</u>		<u>NAVY</u>	
	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
January	27	185	0	0
February	27	167	0	0
March	27	161	0	0
April	26	175	0	0
May	25	173	0	0
June	23	171	0	0

5. Equipment

Type: A-4M Skyhawk (McDonnell-Douglas)

Number: On Hand - 18, SDIM - 3, Total - 21

PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Command, Operations, and Training

In the first half of 1981, the Tomcats, continued to maintain a high state of readiness through command flexibility and leadership.

The month of January began with a "Back-in-the-Saddle" safety stand down for both maintenance and operations. Normal flight operations resumed on 7 January. On the 15th and 16th, the Tomcats supported VMA(AW)-121 during their MCCRES exercise. On the 23rd of January, Tomcat assets were used in support of the 7th MAB exercise held at Twenty-Nine Palms, California. The remainder of the month consisted of increased pilot training in the areas of Close Air Support and Raked Range Bombing. Combat Readiness Percentage increased .14 points during the month.

February's flight training syllabus was primarily devoted to Electronic Warfare. Six days of EW range time were scheduled at NAS Fallon, Nevada, along with corresponding bombing ranges to allow for realistic strike training. In all, 11 different aircrews participated. The quality of the ECM training was reduced because of a lack of ECM assets. The remainder of February consisted of day and night CAS, Rake Range Bombing and DEF'TAC with resident F-4 squadrons. The month was highlighted with the execution of Operation UFF'da on the 26th. Using squadron and KC-130 assets from VMGR-352, the Tomcats conducted a successful Alph-Strike in the China Lake complex

The month of March was fairly slow as preparation culminated for the Headquarters Marine Corps, Inspection General, Inspection. The inspection was a success as the Squadron received 3 Outstandings, 12 Excellents, 11 Above Averages, 4 Averages and 1 Below Average. Even so, Tomcat flying events included the requalification of two 7592 MOS pilots; a Close Air Support exercise with (1st Battalion, 4th Marines); calibration of the EW CAS Range (Nellis, CA); and DEF'TAC

participations with 3rd MAW F-4's. Also, the Squadron qualified Maj. S. T. BAKKE and Capt. D. A. JARSTAD as B&R and MARS Phase Instructors for the VMAT-102 replacement pilots due to arrive in April. Squadron CRP decreased by 1.1 percent.

April was again a slow month operationally. The replacement pilots from VMAT-102, MCAS Yuma reported on board and received 16% of the squadron flight time. The squadron was able to optimize most of the remaining time with CAS, IATT and dissimilar DEFTAC sorties. The squadron also participated in a mini-CAX demonstration for the Secretary of the Navy, provided support for IFTC PAC FAC training at TNP, and helped calibrate the EW CAS Range. Also in this month, the Tomcats witnessed the return of a former Tomcat, Maj. Richard L. BARTON Jr. appointed as the squadron Executive Officer. Again, the squadron felt the impact of the shortage of up-status aircraft with a CRP decrease of 1.4%.

May saw the Tomcats getting off on the right claw. Even with the continuation of the VMAT-102 replacement pilot training, aircraft availability increased by a more aggressive maintenance effort and better parts supply. The total flight hours of 440.1 for the month was well diversified in all types of training. Highlights were DEFTAC support of all the tenant F-4 squadrons, support of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines MCCRESS and a two week EW CAS Pretest training for two pilots at Nellis AFB. A new Commanding Officer checked aboard in May, LtCol Herbert G. ROSER. LtCol ROSER, an ex-Tomcat, present each officer with an informal patch. The patch reemphasized safety, flight operations and esprit de corps. A patch is enclosed in Part IV.

June surpassed May in quality flight time. A total of 516.8 hours were flown by the Tomcats. The VMAT-102 replacement pilots continued to be trained but the squadron found time for its own mini combined strike supported by F-4's and a KC-130. The strike was planned and carried out at a China Lake target and then the EW range. Night flights were the order of business for a week and numerous DEFTAC missions were flown for ACTI buildups. The Tomcats also found time to support 11 other units for CAS, TPQ, and DEFTAC. Capt Mark D. BROWN and 1stLt Michael J. LYDEN were STAN/Qualified as Bomb and Rocket Instructors. Four VMAT-102 Replacement Pilots trained with the Tomcats.

Personnel and Administration

Although the Squadron continues to function below T/O, most recently there have been an increase in personnel and as a direct result, an increase in performance and efficiency throughout the Squadron.

Promotions

To PFC	3
To LCPL	4
To CPL	20
To SGT	8
To CAPT	5

Officers Joined

<u>Grade</u>	<u>MOS</u>
1 LTCOL	7501
3 MAJ	7501
1 1STLT	7500
1 2NDLT	3060

Officers Dropped

<u>Grade</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1 LTCOL	7501	Intra-Wing
1 MAJ	7501	Intra-Group
2 MAJ	7501	FCS
1 MAJ	7501	Intra-Wing
1 1STLT	3070	FCS
1 2NDLT	3060	FCS

January through June was a busy time for TAD for the Tomcats. During the six month period 12 officers went to formal schools such as Electronic Warfare School, FAC School, SERE School, CSSP School, NSO School and Aviation Safety School.

Medical

No Significant activities

Logistics/Supply

No Significant activities

Civic Action

The Navy Relief Drive during May and June had 100% Tomcat participation. The Squadron donated over \$3800 by selling Tomcat tee shirts and manning a concession at the Annual MCAS El Toro, Air Show, selling raffle tickets and participating in a softball tournament. 1stLt Daniel A. EUBANK was high Keyman in the Group with \$3000 collected.

In June the squadron co-sponsored the annual MCAS El Toro Leatherneck Marathon. More than 60% of the squadron volunteered their time on Saturday, 6 June to man the aid stations along the 26 plus mile course. In addition, the Commanding Officer participated and completed the run.

Over the past six months the Tomcats have hosted tours of the Squadron area. Some of the groups to visit have been a Marine JROTC from the state of Washington, Orange County Day Camp, East Asian Pacific Journalists and the AAPP News Bureau from the Netherlands.

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

15 - 16 January 1981	CAS in support of VMA(AW)-121 MCCRESS
23 January 1981	Participation in 7th MAB exercise at 29 Palms
26 February 1981	CAS Strike with air refueling at China Lake
3 March 1981	Calibration of EW CAS Range at Nellis AFB
5 March 1981	CAS Strike in support of 1/4 MAR
1 April 1981	Mini-CAX demonstration for the Secretary of Navy at 29 Palms
2 - 16 May 1981	EW CAS Pretest at Nellis AFB
7 May 1981	Squadron Change of Command
20 May 1981	CAS Strike at 29 Palms in support of LFTCPAC
2 June 1981	CAS Strike in R-2301 in support of HMM-164 MCCRESS
24 Jun 1981	EW CAS Strike at China Lake

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Informal squadron patch presented to the officers by LtCol. ROSER on his assumption of command. The patch is a Black and White Tomcat standing up on a red background with black lettering and a gold border. The lettering reads "SCREW WITH THE TOMCATS, YOU GET THE CLAW!".

(NOTE: original patch held in Reference Section)