

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:STB:wk  
5750  
16 JAN 1982

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Attn: S-3)  
Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 July 1981 to 31 December 1981  
Ref: (a) MCO 5750.1E  
(b) FMFPacO 5750.8C  
(c) WgO 5750.2A  
(d) GruO 5750.1H

Encl: (1) VMA-311 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (d), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
H. G. ROSER

VMA-311

Jul-Dec 81

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 July 1981 to 31 December 1981

INDEX

PART I	ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
PART II	NARRATIVE SUMMARY
PART III	SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
PART IV	SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

PART I

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation Commander  
Marine Attack Squadron 311 Lieutenant Colonel H. Gary  
ROSER  
1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981

SUBORDINATE UNITS: NONE

ATTACHED UNITS: NONE

2. Location  
1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981 MCAS El Toro  
Santa Ana, Ca.

3. Staff Officers

Executive Officer	Major Richard L. BARTON 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Administrative Officer	Major Russell V. DUDLEY 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Intelligence Officer	Captain Richard W. GHIGNA 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Operations Officer	Major Steven T. BAKKE 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Logistics Officer	Captain Wayne D. ROBINSON 1 July 1981 - 23 October 1981  Captain Michael J. LYDEN 23 October 1981 - 31 December 1981
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	Major Thomas R. CARSTENS 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Staff Historian	Captain Richard W. GHIGNA 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981
Sergeant Major	Sergeant Major Clarence H. PALMER 1 July 1981 - 31 December 1981

ENCLOSURE (1)

#### 4. Average Monthly Strength

##### USMC

<u>Month</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
July	25	177
August	25	179
September	27	180
October	29	181
November	30	185
December	30	188

##### Equipment

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

Number: On hand 16 SDLM 3 Total 19

#### PART II

##### NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The second half of 1981 saw the "Tomcats" achieve new standards of excellence in readiness and safety. Despite a significant increase in the number of new pilots on board, the quality of training and tactical proficiency excelled throughout the six month period.

The month of July was busy for the "Tomcats" with the squadron flying 528.1 hours, exceeding the monthly projection by 78.1 hours. Support varied from contained CAS missions with VMA(AW)-242 to TPQ missions with MASS-3, both at Camp Pendleton. Training played a key role during the month with three pilots completing ACTI training, one attending the WTI syllabus at MCAS Yuma, and two replacement pilots from VMAT-102 receiving 8 training sorties. Highpoint of the month was the extremely successful DEFTAC/deployment to Luke AFB, Arizona for training with the F-15's. A mutual appreciation for the capabilities of both aircraft was gained by all participants. Back at El Toro, practice nuclear loads were conducted in preparation for the squadron NTPI scheduled for August.

For the third consecutive month, August saw the squadron break the 500 hour mark. During this month the "Tomcats" completed an NTPI, a squadron COMPEX and DAS strikes to NAS Fallon, Nevada, and the NWC China Lake complex in California. The latter involved working with a USAF AWACS aircraft. Additionally, two replacement pilots from VMAT-102 received 12 training sorties at El Toro. Returning from Yuma, Captain D. A. JARSTAD became the latest "Tomcat" WTI. Various support missions at Camp Pendleton, Chocolate Mountains and Twentynine Palms rounded out the month for a total of 539.4 hours.

ENCLOSURE (1)

A milestone was reached in September when the squadron accumulated the highest monthly flight hour total for the year with 553.6 hours. Diversity characterized the nature of the missions flown, from simulated smoke missions at Camp Pendleton to a mock attack on the USS ENGLAND with VMFA-531's "Ghost Flag" exercise. At Nellis AFB the "Tomcats" helped kick off the first EWCAS record trials with 2 pilots, 12 maintenance personnel and 5 Skyhawks. The deployment was to explore the effectiveness of current doctrine in the modern electronic battlefield. The squadron flew support for LFTCPAC at Twentynine Palms and ended up the month conducting two live Shrike firings and a DAS strike to NAS Fallon.

The high tempo of operations continued into October with another month of over 500 hours flown. The pilots at EWCAS returned with valuable lessons to pass on to their fellow "Tomcats". The 189.9 hours flown on the 5 Nellis aircraft in less than a month was indicative of the high pace of operations during this period. At El Toro a similar pace saw the squadron launch a 33 plane inter-service strike to NAS Fallon, named Tripoli Thunder. Participation in the Kernel Usher PHIBLEX at Camp Pendleton and LFTCPAC CAS missions at Twentynine Palms wrapped up the highlights for the month of October.

The majority of the squadron's effort in November was devoted to the 12 plane 2 week deployment to NAS Fallon, Nevada. Twenty-five squadron pilots flew 333.8 hours completing 399 syllabus X's. New pilots to the squadron benefited greatly from the variety of sorties flown, from CAS, DAS and air refueling to DEFTAC, LATT and raked range bombing. Unique to the deployment was the inclusion of an 81mm mortar section from 2d Battalion, 9th Marines accompanying a ground FAC from VMFA-314. Additional support included New Mexico Air National Guard A-7's, USAF A-10's, a Navy KA-3 and Marine Corps OA-4M's, F-4's, KC-130's and reserve A-4's. The deployment was quite successful and provided invaluable training for all concerned.

Local flying dominated the month of December with CAS, spray and TPQ missions flown at Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton. The number of pilots on board had increased to twenty-seven, by the end of the year.

ENCLOSURE (1)

Personnel and Administration

The squadron experienced an increase in personnel over the past few months especially in the number of aviators on board. Wise use of the available assets will be mandatory if the overall proficiency of the squadron is to be maintained.

Promotions: The following promotions were effected:

To PFC	8
To LCPL	9
To CPL	12
To SGT	10
To SSGT	1
To GYSGT	2
To MSGT	1
To CAPT	4

Officers Joined:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>MOS</u>
1 Maj	7501
2 Capt	7598
3 Capt	7501
3 1STLt	7598

Officers Dropped:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1STLt	7501	Intra-Group
Capt	7501	EOS

Legal Action:

SCM - 0  
Office Hours - 8  
Investigations - 0

MEDICAL

No significant activities.

LOGISTICS/SUPPLY

The second half of 1981 was characterized by a fast tempo of operations which the logistics department handled with a minimum of personnel and a high turnover rate. Major events were the Luke AFB deployment in July and the NAS Fallon deployment in November. Additionally, in mid October the logistics department planned and executed the administrative move of all essential squadron equipment to the VMGR-352 hangar to facilitate the painting of the squadron hangar deck.

ENCLOSURE (1)

### TRAINING

Training continued to be an important facet of this command's activity. The squadron normally scheduled a half day of training per week and also a standdown every other month with a full day devoted to safety training. The EST was administered on 19 October and a PFT on 4 December. Ninety-two percent of squadron personnel had gas chamber training in December and squadron personnel completed 28 MCI courses during the preceeding six months.

### CIVIC ACTION

During November, the squadron enthusiastically took part in the Combined Federal Campaign and under the leadership of 1st Lieutenant PEELER had 100% participation. Furthermore, 1st Lieutenant PEELER and Sgt ACKERMAN painted a forty foot reproduction of the squadron insignia on the roof of the "Tomcat" hangar.

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

10-17 July 1981	Squadron deployment to Luke AFB
30 July 1981	CAS in support of VMA(AW)-242
6 August 1981	DAS strike to NAS Fallon
19 August 1981	Squadron COMPEX
25 August 1981	NTPI
28 August 1981	DAS strike to the China Lake Complex
3 September 1981	DAS strike to NAS Fallon
9 September 1981	CAS in support of VMFA-531
15 September 1981 to 10 October 1981	EWCAS, Nellis AFB
24 September	Live Shrike firing
1 October 1981	CAS in Kernel Usher PHIBLEX at Camp Pendleton
16 October 1981	DAS strike at NAS Fallon
28 October 1981	CAS and smoke missions in support of LFTCPAC at Twentynine Palms
10-24 November 1981	Squadron deployment to NAS Fallon

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NONE