

SECRET

TYPE "B" REPORT COMMAND DIARY

VMA-251



FOR THE PERIOD

-1-31 May 1954

HISTORICAL OFFICER

First Lieutenant Francis B. MARTIN

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Authority NND 70959

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California

TYPE "B" REPORT

COMMAND DIARY

1-31 MAY 1954

DISTRIBUTION

- (1) Original and one (1) copy to Commandant of the Marine Corps
- (2) Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
- (3) Copy to: CG, FMF Pac
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TASK ORGANIZATION

UNIT	Marine Attack Squadron 251
COMMANDING OFFICER	1-31 May 1954 Lt Col Frank R. PORTER, Jr. 07082/7331, USMC
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	K-6 Air Base, Pyongtaek, Korea
NEXT HIGHER ECHELON	Marine Aircraft Group 12 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

MISSION AND TASKS

MISSION

Provide air support of Fleet Marine Force operations by destruction of surface targets.

TASKS

1. Conduct close air support.
2. Conduct strikes against enemy installations, armed reconnaissance and interdiction operations.
3. Conduct visual reconnaissance.
4. Provide smoke laying, illumination and insecticide spraying.
5. Maintain the capability to perform mission and tasks during darkness.
6. Maintain capability to depart from and return to base during all-weather conditions.

INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY

Marine Attack Squadron 251, was located at K-6 Airbase, Pyongtaek, Korea during the period 1 through 31 May 1954.

During the month of May this squadron flew a total of 566 effective sorties with 20 aborts, for a total of 1002.7 operational hours. The average number of pilots available during the month was 24 or 75% of the pilots assigned. The average number of aircraft available for flight was 14 or 70% of the aircraft assigned. Pilots completed 62.3% of the Quarterly Syllabus for the period 1 April 1954 to 30 June 1954.

Between 4 May and 14 May 1954, nine (9) pilots, two (2) loading teams and six (6) AD-4B aircraft, plus the necessary maintenance personnel participated in loading Operations of Special Weapons at NAS, Atsugi, Japan.

Three (3) "Yellow" and two (2) "Red" alerts were sounded during the month of May. One "Yellow" alert was sounded on 27 May and lasted from 1728 to 1808. A "Yellow" alert was sounded at 1204 on 27 May and the All Clear came at 1228. A "Yellow" alert was sounded at 1034 on 18 May and at 1035 a "Red" alert was sounded. The All Clear came at 1124. A "Red" alert was sounded at 1327 on 8 May and the All Clear was sounded at 1337.

On 23 May this squadron participated in the rehearsal phase of MARLEX V and on the 25th of May six (6) aircraft provided simulated night Close Air Support for the maneuver, using Flares to illuminate the target area.

The Squadron Insignia, Black Patch, was approved by CNO and is enclosed as Enclosure (1) to Appendix X1.

On 31 May, two (2) search missions were flown by this squadron. This search was conducted for two (2) METEOR aircraft reported down in the FREE TRADE area.

During the month of May 1954, no Officers and thirty (30) enlisted men were joined. Four (4) Officers were detached and five (5) enlisted men were transferred. Personnel on hand as of 2400, 31 May 1954 were as follows:

Officers	31 NA's	6 AGO's
Enlisted	194 (one NAP included)	

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 1954

1 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Instrument 6

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 6.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

2 MAY 1954

No flights were launched this date due to a Squadron Stand-down.

3 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Test	2
CAS	2	Target Spotting	1
Instrument	8	MIR Reconnaissance	5
Familiarization	4		

Two (2) aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to mechanical failure.

One aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to electrical failure.

One aircraft on a Bombing mission aborted due to mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 30
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 35.7
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 64 100 lb. WSF Bombs
64 Signal, Practice Bombs

4 MAY 1954

Eleven (11) Officers and Sixteen (16) Enlisted men from this Squadron were sent TAD to Atsugi, Japan in connection with Special Weapons training. See Special Weapons Summary for further information.

The squadron held a training stand-down this date. Lectures were presented to the Enlisted men on Military Courtesy and Discipline, Shelter Halves and Individual Protection. The Officers were shown a SECRET film, F-240-ER USAF 20943 R-142 Print, "We Flew the Mig". The Pilot's meeting followed this film.

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SORTIES:

Familiarization	1	Cross-country	15
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	16
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	29.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	NONE

5 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	15	Navigation	5
CAS	4	Instrument	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	28
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	41.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	56 100 lb. WSF Bombs
	56 Signal, Practice Bombs
	8 Fire Bombs

6 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Instrument	10
CAS	6	Test	1
		Familiarization	12

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	33
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	37.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	24 Signal, Practice Bombs
	24 Miniature Bombs

7 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Test	2
CAS	4	MLR Reconnaissance	4
Instrument	4	Smoke Laying	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	31.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	24 Signal, Practice Bombs
	24 Miniature Bombs
	4 500 lb. WSF Bombs

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8 MAY 1954

A "Plan of the Day", was published this date as Squadron Order number 12-54. (See Appendix 1)

While returning from a Bombing hop in AL-10 BuNo. 123309, Lieutenant DUNN experienced an engine failure. A successful landing was made at Atsugi, Japan and a new engine was installed. For further information on this engine failure see engineering summary.

SORTIES:

Bombing	17	Familiarization	1
CAS	3	Instrument	4

Two (2) aircraft on Bombing missions aborted due to mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	25
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	42.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	32 100 lb. WSF Bombs
		32 Signal, Practice Bombs
		21 3.5" Smoke Rockets
		9 100 lb. G. F. Bombs
		6 250 lb. G. F. Bombs

9 MAY 1954

No flights were launched this date due to a squadron stand-down.

10 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	5	Instrument	10
CAS	4	Navigation	3
		Ferry	1

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	23
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	48.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	NONE

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11 MAY 1954

No flights were launched this date due to a squadron training stand-down. Training for the day started at 0730 with a Personnel Inspection of the Enlisted men. The lectures for the Enlisted personnel were General Information on Current Affairs and a lecture on Hand and Rifle Grenades followed by an examination. The Pilots were given lectures on Map Reading, Navigation and Security of Information followed by a pilot's meeting. The entire squadron participated in Physical exercise and recreation during the afternoon.

The squadron received a letter from the Chief of Naval Operations this date, authorizing the Squadron Insigne. (See Appendix ¹2)

Flights listed this date were flown in Japan:

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Navigation	2
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		8	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		17.2	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		NONE	

12 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

CAG	4	Navigation	2
Instrument	8	Test	2
		MLR Reconnaissance	2
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		18	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		34.3	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		NONE	

13 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Instrument	8
		Cross-country	9

Four (4) aircraft on Bombing missions aborted due to weather.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		21	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		25.9	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		32	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		32	Signal, Practice Bombs

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14 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Instrument	11	Familiarization	2
Test	1	Cross-country	6

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 30.0
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

15 MAY 1954

No aircraft were launched this date due to a Squadron stand-down.

Second Lieutenant's, Chested A. FOLCK, 061034/7331 USMCR and Joe G. WALKER Jr., 060473/7331 USMC were transferred this date.

16 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	GCA	2
Cross-country	4	Rockets	8
Instrument	3	MLR Reconnaissance	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - ~~HOURS~~ - - 24
TOTAL OPERATIONAL SORTIES - - - - - 40.7
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 28 2.25" Rockets
18 100 lb. MSF Bombs
18 Signal, Practice Bombs

17 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	Cross-country	4
CAS	4	Instrument	12
MPQ	3	Test	3
		Ferry	1

One aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to Electrical failure.

One aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to Mechanical failure.

One aircraft on an MPQ flight aborted due to Mechanical failure.

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TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	30	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	41.2	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	24	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		24	Signal, Practice Bombs

18 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Cross-country	2
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TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	6	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	12.8	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	27	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		27	Signal, Practice Bombs

19 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Familiarization	1
CAS	4	Test	2
Instrument	4	Division Tactics	10
GCA	6		

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	31	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	49.1	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	23	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		23	Signal, Practice Bombs
		20	Flares

20 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

MFQ	2	Instrument	2
Cross-country	2	Test	5
Navigation	6	Division Tactics	8

One aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to Mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	25	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	37.4	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	NONE	

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21 MAY 1954

AL-23 BuNo. 132316 was grounded at Itami, Japan and required an engine change. The engine change was necessary due to excessive use of oil.

SORTIES:

Cross-country	2	MIR Reconnaissance	15
Test	2	Weather Reconnaissance	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 31.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

22 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Test	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 6.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

23 MAY 1954

First Lieutenant Reynold M. OLSON, 057824/7331 USMCR was transferred this date.

SORTIES:

CAS	8	Division Tactics	4
Familiarization	4	Target Spotting	2

One aircraft on a CAS mission aborted due to Mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 43.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

24 MAY 1954

Second Lieutenant Joseph C. ZERN, 061914/7331 USMCR was transferred this date.

SORTIES:

Instrument	6	Familiarization	1
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Two (2) aircraft on an Instrument flight aborted due to Weather.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 7
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 8.5
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

25 MAY 1954

While on a night CAS mission, Event No. 17 of MARLEX V, Automatic weapon fire was encountered at 2115. The location of the automatic weapon was determined to be at DT 5630. An investigation was conducted and the fire was determined to be ricochet tracers from an ROK rifle range located in the area.

Captain E. J. SMITH was alerted at 2300 to intercept an unidentified aircraft in the INCHON area. A low, slow flying aircraft was reported in the area but no intercept or contact was made. BADGER controlled the flight.

All Military payment Certificates, series 481 were ^{VR}turned in this date in exchange for the new Military payment Certificates, Series 521. The exchange of money was conducted without incident in this squadron.

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	GCI	1
CAS	12	Target Spotting	4
Navigation	3	Smoke Laying	4
Test	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 31
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 80.5
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 240 Gallons, Smoke Mixture
22 100 lb. WSF Bombs
22 Signal, Fractice Bombs
8 Flares

26 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Familiarization	7
CAS	8	Test	2
Cross-country	4	Target Spotting	4

One aircraft on a Bombing mission aborted due to Mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 29
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 59.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 31 2.25" Rockets
5 100 lb. WSF Bombs
5 Signal, Fractice Bombs

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27 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	Familiarization	1
CAS	8	Test	1
Instrument	2	Target Spotting	4

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	19	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	44.7	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	24	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		24	Signal, Practice Bombs

28 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	9	Test	1
Instrument	4	Division Tactics	4
Familiarization	6	Smoke Laying	2

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	26	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	41.3	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	90	Gallons, Smoke Mixture
		34	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		34	Signal, Practice Bombs
		7	250 lb. G. F. Bombs

29 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	20	Instrument	4
Navigation	3	Division Tactics	16

One aircraft on a Bombing mission aborted due to Mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	43	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	80.9	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	86	100 lb. WSF Bombs
		86	Signal, Practice Bombs
		65	Gallons, Smoke Mixture

30 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	5	Familiarization	2
Instrument	4		

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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 11
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 19.0
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

31 MAY 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Search	2
Target Spotting	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 12
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 25.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 64 100 lb. WSF Bombs
64 Signal, Practice Bombs

Fourteen (14) men were joined, one (1) man was transferred to VMA-212, leaving our strength at 53, roughly ninety per cent (90%) of our strength of the allotted T/O.

MATERIAL SUMMARY

During the month of May 1954 there were 352 stub requisitions submitted. There were nineteen (19) ACOG's submitted with eighteen (18) completed. One hundred and thirty-nine (139) priority "A" were submitted with ninety-three (93) completed. One hundred and ninety-four (194) priority "C" submitted with one hundred and forty-one (141) completed.

During the month of May, One (1) Officer and six enlisted men were assigned to the Material Section.

The Construction Battalion is completing the extension on the Material building, this will provide adequate storage space for all equipment and supplies.

SPECIAL WEAPONS MONTHLY SUMMARY

Training continued during the month emphasizing high altitude 70° dive bombing on the ranges available. The ranges available locally are not satisfactory as they have no dive angle calibration equipment, and are designed for low altitude releases. Work is in progress at ASAN-MAN to construct a suitable range with dive angle calibration equipment. Training in lob bombing technique was begun but no drops will be made until the six AD-4Bs have been modified for lob bomb delivery. The necessary equipment was placed on order and the aircraft will be modified locally upon its receipt.

Ground school for pilots on weapons circuitry, components, normal operations and malfunctions and operation of test and control equipment was continued.

Between the fourth and the thirteenth of May a loading exercise was conducted at NAS Atsugi, Japan, Six (6) AD-4B and nine (9) pilots and two (2) loading crews plus seven (7) maintenance personnel participated in the operation. All the pilots made heavy load takeoffs with both the MK-VII and MK VIII and made in flight checks with the T-63 and T-64 weapons. The loading crews made fit checks with both weapons on all six (6) aircraft. Six (6) pilots made low altitude JADF penetration flights against three (3) targets on the island of HONSHU simulating special weapons delivery. A total of one hundred and forty-three (143) MK-76 bombs were dropped on the MITO high altitude bombing range. A total of one hundred and twenty-nine hours were flown during the operation.

STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT

1. PERSONNEL

(a) Personnel authorized:

Officers	AG's 5	NA's 53
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Enlisted	220
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(b) Personnel assigned:

Officers	AG's 6	NA's 31
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Enlisted	194 (One NAP included)
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(c) Personnel Lost:

None

2. AIRCRAFT:

(a) Aircraft authorized:

Type	AD-3	AD-4	AD-4B	Total 24
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(b) Aircraft assigned:

Type	AD-3	AD-4	AD-4B	Total 20
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(c) Aircraft Lost:

None

3. OPERATIONS:

Availability of pilots - - - - -	24
Availability of aircraft - - - - -	14
Total effective sorties - - - - -	566
Total air aborts - - - - -	20
Total flight hours - - - - -	1002.7

GLOSSARY

TAC/A - - - - -	Tactical Air Coordinator, Airborne
AIA - - - - -	Airborne Intercept Aircraft
WSF Bombs - - - - -	Water, Sand filled bombs
CAS - - - - -	Close Air Support
JOC - - - - -	Joint Operational Center
MLR - - - - -	Main Line of Resistance
JADF - - - - -	Japanese Air Defense Force
BADGER - - - - -	Code name for Tactical Air Direction Center
FREE TRADE- - - - -	Code name for Tactical Air Direction Center

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to
Op-05A20/dmg
Ser 145P05
23 April 1954

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE

Subj: Naval Aviation Insignia; information on

Ref: (a) CO, VMA-251 ltr ser 57 of 5 Mar 1954 w/modified insignie

1. Reference (a) submitted a proposed design for approval as the official insignie of Marine Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE.
2. The insignie submitted with reference (a) is hereby approved as the official insignie of Marine Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE.
3. It is requested that a description of the significance of the design, together with six (6) glossy photographs, two (2) embroidered shoulder patches, and two (2) decals if used, be forwarded to be made a part of the permanent record of your command.

R. A. KINCAID
By direction

Copy to:
CO, MAG-12
CG, 1st MAW
CG, Air EMFLant
CMC

Appendix (1)

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enclosure (1) to Appendix (1)