

CONFIDENTIAL

TYPE "B" REPORT COMMAND DIARY

VMA-251



FOR THE PERIOD

1 OCTOBER THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 1954

HISTORICAL OFFICER

ROBERT P. FOLK JR.

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Authority NND 70959

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TASK ORGANIZATION

UNIT:	MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251
COMMANDING OFFICER:	1 October to 21 November 1954 Major Thomas B. WOOD 014612/7331, USMC
	22 November to 31 December 1954 LtCol Robert J. HOLM 07498/7302, USMC
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:	K-6 Air Base, Pyongtaek, Korea
NEXT HIGHER ECHELON:	Marine Aircraft Group 12 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FME

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THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. HOLM 07498/7302/5605 USMC assumed command of Marine Attack Squadron 251 "The Black Patch" squadron on November twenty-second 1954.

A graduate of St. Olaf College and the California Institute of Technology, Colonel HOLM received his Commission and Wings in November 1941.

During World War II he served in the Marshall Islands campaign, and some of his duty stations being Cherry Point, North Carolina, MCAS, El Toro, California, and the Bureau of Ordnance in Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Colonel HOLM began his present tour of duty overseas in July 1954.

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INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY

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

The mission and tasks assigned this organization are: 1/

Mission: To provide air support of Fleet Marine Force Operation by destruction of surface targets.

Tasks:

1. Conduct close air support.
2. Conduct armed reconnaissance, interdiction operations, and strikes against enemy installations.
3. Provide fog smoke laying, illumination and insecticide spraying.
4. Maintain capability to operate from aircraft carriers.
5. Maintain capability to operate during darkness, and under instrument flight conditions.

On the twenty-first of November, Major Thomas B. WOOD 014612/7331 USMC was detached to CONUS while Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. HOLM 07498/7302/5 USMC, assumed command of the squadron on the twenty-second of November 1954.

During this quarter, VMA-251 the "Black Patch" squadron, led all squadrons on the airbase in hours flown per month, for all three months. Total hours for this period were 3078.1, with 951.4 for October, 1181.4 for November, and 945.3 for December. Sorties for the quarter were 1694, with 36 aborts for the quarter. Total effective sorties were 1658. 2/

The average number of aircraft available for flight were sixty-eight (68%) of the aircraft assigned, while the average number of pilots available were eighty percent (80%) of the pilots assigned. Twelve instrument cards were renewed during the quarter, with three (3) in October, six (6) in November and three (3) in December.

There was one "Yellow Alert" on the 28th of December, the first for the quarter, with the siren sounding at 2148 and the "All Clear" sounding at 2216. No aircraft were dispersed.

There were no aircraft accidents this quarter. This is attributed to the fact that VMA-251 requires the "best" from each man available.

A new hanger was opened for the engineering department, and a squadron party was given which was one of the best in several months.

1/ CMC letter AAP - 2263-bd of 9 June 1954. Subject: Missions and Tasks of Fleet Marine Force Aviation Organizations.

2/ The Special Weapons Delivery Unit of the squadron flew 468 sorties for a total of 848.5 flight hours during the quarter. This is not shown in the chronological narrative, because of being detached from VMA-251.

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1954

1 OCTOBER 1954

Major Robert M. FRASER 029230/7331 USMC was transferred to CONUS this date. Captain Robert L. GOVER Jr. 048796/7331 USMC was assigned Executive Officer this date.

SORTIES:

Tactics	2	Instrument	4
MPQ	2	Interdiction	2
CAS	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 26.0
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

2 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Navigation	3	Instrument	6
Bombing	3	Test	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 13
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 3 500 lb. GI Bombs
3 Fire Bombs

3 OCTOBER 1954

No aircraft were launched this date due to Holiday routine.

4 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	2
CAS	4	Test	1
Air - Air Gunnery	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 15
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 585 rounds, 20mm

5 OCTOBER 1954

Basic training was held for the enlisted men from 1300 to 1600 hours this date.

SORTIES:

Interdiction	6
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 14.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

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6 OCTOBER 1954

Basic training was held for the enlisted men this date. Technical Sergeant James W. GUNTER 939438/6519 USMC gave a lecture on Military Discipline

SORTIES:

Instrument

3

TOTAL SORTIES

3

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS

7.3

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

None

7 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Familiarization

1

Tactics

4

Navigation

2

Instrument

4

Bombing

4

TOTAL SORTIES

15

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS

24.1

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

21 500 GP Bombs

8 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Tactics

9

Familiarization

1

Weather Check

1

Instrument

2

TOTAL SORTIES

13

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS

19.5

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

None

One (1) aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

9 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Tactics

3

Navigation

5

Instrument

2

Interdiction

4

TOTAL SORTIES

14

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS

22.0

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

None

10 OCTOBER 1954

No aircraft were launched this date due to Holiday routine.

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11 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Interdiction	14	Navigation	4
Instrument	2	Tactics	4
Weather Check	1		

Two (2) aircraft aborted due to Electrical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 19.1
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

12 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Interdiction	9	Test	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 10
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 13.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

13 OCTOBER 1954

First Lieutenant Frederick F. MC CUNE 047027/7331 USMC, the Squadron Ground Defense Officer, gave a lecture to the enlisted men on the new Ground Defense Plan for the squadron.

SORTIES:			
MIR Recon.	4	Instrument	6
CAS	4	Interdiction	4
Rockets	5	Test	1
Ferry	1		

Four (4) aircraft aborted due to Electrical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 46.1
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 30 5.00" Rockets

14 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Interdiction	4
CAS	2	Instrument	6
Air-Air Gunnery	4	Test	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 21
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.4
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 470 Rounds 20mm
 24 5.00" Rockets
 4 Fire Bombs
 4 500 lb. GP Bombs

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15 OCTOBER 1954

Second Lieutenant David M. LONG 062436/7302 was transferred to MABS-12 for duty on this date.

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Interdiction	2
MPQ	2	Instrument	4
Test	2	Air to Air Gunnery	5
Rockets	5		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 28
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 45.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 600 20mm Rounds
 64 100 lb. Bombs WSF
 31 5.00" Rockets

16 OCTOBER 1954

Holiday routine was held this date (Squadron Stand-down)

17 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	4
MLR	4	Air to Air Gunnery	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 16
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 26.1
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 520 20mm Rounds
 30 100 lb. Bombs WSF

18 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	12	Close Air Support	2
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Tactics	3	Test	3
Rockets	5		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 33
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 53.0
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 62 100 lb. Bombs WSF
 28 5.00" Rockets
 24 500 lb. Bombs GP

19 OCTOBER 1954

No aircraft were launched this date due to a Squadron Training Period. Training began at 0730 with a lecture on Military Courtesy, followed by an examination on the subject for the enlisted personnel. This was followed by inspection and drill for foot-troops. Captain GOVER, the Executive Officer inspected the personnel. The Squadron Pilots held their weekly meeting.

20 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Interdiction	2
Instrument	4	Navigation	2
MLR Recon.	3	Familiarization	3
Air - Air Gunnery	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 26
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 50.3
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 600 Rounds 20mm
 32 100 lb. WSF Bombs

21 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	7	CAS	3
Interdiction	5	Air - Air Gunnery	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.8
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 2310 Rounds 20mm
 48 100 lb. WSF Bombs
 31 5.00" Rockets
 8 Fire Bombs
 4 500 lb. GF Bombs

22 OCTOBER 1954

First Lieutenant Gerald FISHER 059103/7331 MCR, Second Lieutenant James H. COFFIN 060336/7331 MC and Second Lieutenant Arvid W. REILSEN 060356/7331 MC were transferred to CONUS this date.

SORTIES:

Bombing	5	CAS	4
Tactics	5	Test	1
Air - Air Gunnery	5		

Five (5) aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 24.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 1500 lbs. Smoke Mixture
 40 100 lb. WSF Bombs

23 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	4
Instrument	2	Navigation	2
MLR Recon.	2	Air - Air Gunnery	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 32.8
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 270 20mm Rounds
 32 100 lb. Bombs WSF

24 OCTOBER 1954

Holiday routine held this date (Squadron Stand-down).

25 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Interdiction	1	Instrument	3
Cross-Country	4		

TOTAL SORTIES	-----	8
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	-----	14.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	-----	None

26 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Interdiction	5	Test	1
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TOTAL SORTIES	-----	6
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	-----	10.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	-----	1500 lb. Smoke Mixture 675 20mm Rounds 2 11.75" Rockets 1 500 lb. Bomb GP

27 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

Interdiction	4	Instrument	4
Air to Air Gunnery	4	Rockets	5

TOTAL SORTIES	-----	17
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	-----	27.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	-----	520 20mm Rounds 23 5.00" Rockets

28 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

MIR	2	Rockets	2
Close Air Support	1	Interdiction	2
Instrument	4		

TOTAL SORTIES	-----	11
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	-----	21.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	-----	950 20mm Rounds 12 5.00" Rockets 2 Fire Bombs

One Aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

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29 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES;

Navigation	2	Instrument	2
Bombing	4	Interdiction	2
Tactics	5	MPQ	2

TOTAL SORTIES 17
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 27.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED 32 100 lb. Bombs WSF

One (1) aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.

30 OCTOBER 1954

SORTIES:

MPQ	2	Air to air gunnery	3
Bombing	8	Interdiction	4
Test	8		

TOTAL SORTIES 18
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 29.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED 735 20mm Rounds
56 100 lb. Bombs WSF

Three (3) aircraft were aborted due to mechanical failure.

31 OCTOBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date (Squadron stand-down).

3/ A total of one hundred forty-seven (147) sorties for two-hundred forty seven point seven (247.7) hours were flown during the month of October, by the Special Weapons delivery unit.

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1954

1 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	7	Instrument	7
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TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	14	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	17.1	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	40 2.25" Rockets	

One aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

2 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Instrument	11	Tactics	3
Test	1		

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	15	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	29.9	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	None	

Second Lieutenant Alfred B. BUHL Jr. 064698/7331 USMCR was assigned Electronics Officer of the squadron this date. Second Lieutenant Robert F. FOLK Jr. 063553/7331 USMCR was assigned squadron Intelligence Officer and Second Lieutenant John L. THATCHER 061913/7331 was assigned as the Assistant Operations Officer of the squadron.

3 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	CAS	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
MLR	2	GCA	4

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	22	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	40.9	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	64 100 lb. WSF Bombs	

4 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	CAS	4
Interdiction	4	Test	2
Ferry	4		

TOTAL SORTIES	- - - - -	22	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS	- - - - -	37.4	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED	- - - - -	32 100 lb. WSF Bombs	
		21 5.00" Rockets	
		4 Fire Bombs	

5 NOVEMBER 1954

No aircraft were launched this date. The squadron held a preliminary inspection in preparation for the 1stMAW Administrative and Material inspection to be held the eighth of this month.

6 NOVEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date (Squadron Stand-down).

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7 NOVEMBER 1954

Second Lieutenants Thomas R. FISHER 064939/7302 USMCR and Kenneth C. SANGUINETTI 063580/7302 USMCR joined the squadron this date.

SORTIES:

Interdiction 4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 4
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 7.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

8 NOVEMBER 1954

The First Marine Aircraft Wing held an Administrative and Material inspection of the squadron from 1300 to 1600 this date. The overall report of each department was EXCELLENT.

9 NOVEMBER 1954

Second Lieutenants George GIANOFULOS 062224/7331 USMCR and Richard A. JOHANNSEN 063799/7331 USMCR were transferred to the Third Marine Division as Forward Air Controllers this date.

SORTIES:

Tactics 8

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 8
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 19.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

10 NOVEMBER 1954

At 1300 the Squadron Commanding Officer gave an address to the squadron commemorating the 179th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

SORTIES:

Interdiction	4	Instrument	4
Tactics	4	GCA	4
Ferry	3		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 33.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

11 NOVEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date commemorating Veterans Day.

12 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Interdiction	2
MPQ	2	Instrument	4
MIR Recon.	3		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 17
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.5
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

One aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

13 NOVEMBER 1954

Second Lieutenants George B. KOLLER 064786/7331 USMCR and Herbert L. SCHNALL Jr. 060707/7331 USMCR joined the squadron this date.

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	CAS	4
Interdiction	4	Instrument	6
GCA	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.1
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 13 5.00" Rockets
 6 Fire Bombs
 3 500 lb. WSF Bombs

14 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

CAS	2	Interdiction	2
Test	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 8
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 14.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

15 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	CAS	4
Interdiction	4	Instrument	4
Familiarization	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.5
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 24 100 lb. WSF Bombs

16 NOVEMBER 1954

Basic training was held for the Enlisted personnel this date. First Lieutenant M.S. SHINBAUM gave a lecture on Supply Discipline and Second Lieutenant V.J. JOHNSON gave a lecture on Cold Weather Gear and it's use in combat, also showing a movie. This was followed by a lecture by Second Lieutenant J.C. ZERN on Decontamination in Radiological Warfare of Personnel and Materials.

SORTIES:

Cross-Country	6
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 5.8
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

17 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	6
Instrument	8	Navigation	6
Tactics	4	Test	5
Familiarization	3		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 36
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 71.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 24 100 lb. WSF Bombs

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18 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	7	CAS	4
MFQ	2	Instrument	4
Tactics	6	MLR Recon.	4
Familiarization	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 29
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 49.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 56 100 lb. WSF Bombs

19 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Interdiction	2	MFQ	2
Instrument	1	Navigation	6
Test	1	Familiarization	4
Jet Defense	5	Radar Calibration	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 23
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 45.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - NONE

20 NOVEMBER 1954

Change of Command ceremonies were held at 1300 on the flight line, for the outgoing Commanding Officer, Major Thomas B. WOOD, who returned to CONUS and the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. HOLM. Second Lieutenant Lloyd C. DILLON Jr. 064551/7331 USMCR joined the Squadron from CONUS this date.

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	CAS	2
Interdiction	4	Tactics	6
GCA	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 34.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 23 5.00" Rockets
8 Fire Bombs
4 100 lb. WSF Bombs

Two (2) aircraft aborted due to Electrical failure.

21 NOVEMBER 1954

First Lieutenants Harry L. HOAG 059943/7331 USMCR, Thomas F. MILLER 060252/7331 USMCR, Dennis W. WRIGHT 059946/7331 USMCR and Second Lieutenant Charles E. SCHWOB 061347/7331 USMCR were transferred to CONUS this date. No aircraft were launched this date due a Squadron stand-down.

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22 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	CAS	3
Interdiction	4	Instrument	2
Navigation	2	Tactics	4
Test	5	Rockets	5
GCA	2	Ferry	3
MSQ	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 34
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 64.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 24 5.00" Rockets
14 100 lb. WSF Bombs

One (1) aircraft aborted due to Weather conditions.

23 NOVEMBER 1954

No aircraft were launched this date due to Squadron Basic Training. The enlisted men were given lectures on Atomic, Biological and Chemical Warfare and Interior Guard Duty by Second Lieutenant V. J. JOHNSON.

The officers held their weekly pilots' meeting and were given lectures on Night Flying and Recognition by Second Lieutenants J. L. THATCHER and D.R. LAW respectively.

24 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	12	GCA	2
CAS	4	MPQ	2
Instrument	4	Interdiction	2
Navigation	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 30
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 64.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 1675 Rounds 20mm
72 100 lb. WSF Bombs
13 5.00" Rockets
4 500 lb. WSF Bombs
4 Fire Bombs

25 NOVEMBER 1954

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday no aircraft were launched this date.

26 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES;			
Close air support	4	Instrument	4
Navigation	6	Tactics	6
Test	1	Familiarization	2
MSQ	2		

TOTAL SORTIES 25
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 56.7
ORDNANCE EXPENDED None

27 NOVEMBER 1954

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

28 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Bombing	2	Interdiction	4
Instrument	2	Tactics	4
Test	1	MSQ	2
Familiarization	2	Strafing	4

TOTAL SORTIES 21
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 46.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED 2850 20mm Rounds
4 1000 lb. Bombs WSF
4 Fire Bombs

29 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Close air support	2	Interdiction	4
Instrument	5	Navigation	7
Tactics	3	Familiarization	5
GCA	5		

TOTAL SORTIES 34
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 74.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED None

30 NOVEMBER 1954

SORTIES:			
Close air support	4	Instrument	4
Navigation	4	Tactics	7
Test	1	Familiarization	1

TOTAL SORTIES 21
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS 39.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED None

4/ A total of one-hundred seventy-four (174) sorties for three-hundred nineteen point three (319.3) aircraft hours were flown during the month of November, by the Special Weapons delivery unit.

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1954

1 DECEMBER 1954

No aircraft were launched on this date.

2 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	4	Interdiction	2
Instrument	8	MLR	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 16
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 28.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

3 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	2	Interdiction	4
MPQ	2	Instrument	6
Test	1	Rockets	4
Radar Calibration	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 21
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 40.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 36 2.25" Rockets

4 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	11	Close Air Support	2
Interdiction	2	Instrument	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 34.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 1488 20 MM Rounds
56 100 lb. Bombs WSF
42 2.25" Rockets
8 1000 lb. Bombs WSF

5 DECEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed on this date, (Squadron Stand-down).

6 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	2	Test	2
Ferry	4	Radar Calibration	3

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 11
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 19.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

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7 DECEMBER 1954

No missions were flown on this date, due to pilot training. Basic training was held for enlisted personnel in the Base theatre, with lectures and tests following on Atomic, radiological and chemical defense, and interior guard duty, given by the squadron training officer Second Lieutenant Victor J. JOHNSON Jr., 063503/7331 USMCR, from 0800 to 1100. The pilots also attended lectures in the ready room.

8 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close air support 2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 2
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 0.5
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Warrant officer Thomas E. WILLIAMS 057611/6410 USMC, of the engineering department, was transferred to CONUS this date.

Two (2) aircraft were aborted this date due to electronic failure.

9 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close air support	2	Interdiction	2
MFQ	2	Instrument	2
Navigation	6	Test	1
MLR	2	Familiarization	2
Rockets	4	GCA	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 45.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

10 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close air support	4	Rockets	4
Instrument	7	Test	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 16
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 26.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 25 2.25" Rockets

Second Lieutenants Donald C. DANIELSON 061974/7331 USMCR and Joseph C. ZERN 061914/7331 USMCR, were transferred to CONUS this date.

One (1) aircraft was aborted due to mechanical failure.

11 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Instrument	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 12
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 23.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 32 100 lb. Bombs WSN

Two (2) aircraft were aborted due to mechanical failure.

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12 DECEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed on this date.

13 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Instrument	4	Tactics	2
Test	1	MLR	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 9
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 15.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None.

Two (2) aircraft were aborted on this date due to Weather.

14 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	4	Ferry	8
Interdiction	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 20.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Two (2) aircraft were aborted on this date due to Mechanical failure.

15 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	Close Air Support	4
Interdiction	4	Instrument	2
Test	1	Rockets	3

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 17
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 18.7
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None.

Two (2) aircraft were aborted on this date due to Weather.

16 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	2	Instrument	6
Rockets	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 12
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 18.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 29 2.25" Rockets

17 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Close Air Support	2	Interdiction	2
Instrument	6	Familiarization	4
Rockets	4	Radar Calibration	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 22
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 42.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 24 2.25" Rockets

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18 DECEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date.

19 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Instrument	6
Test		MLR Recon	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 13
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 15.6
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 7 500 lb. WSF Bombs

Two (2) aircraft aborted due to the weather.

20 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	CAS	2
Interdiction	2	Navigation	2
Test	1	Rockets	5

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 30.5
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 64 2.25" Rockets

One aircraft aborted due to Mechanical failure.

21 DECEMBER 1954

There were no missions flown this date as the pilots were given lectures and briefings. Pilot training consisted of instruction on the Dependant Data forms, and lectures were given on Aerology by Air Force Warrant Officer ANDERSON, also a Medical lecture was presented by the Flight Surgeon and lastly the Operations Officer, Captain Richard STEELE 43438/7331 USMCR gave a lecture on Operations procedures and Accident Reports and Safety.

The Enlisted personnel attended basic training from 0800 to 1000 hours in the Group briefing room, where Second Lieutenant John R. SANTELL 064215/7331 USMCR gave a lecture on Domestic Disturbances.

22 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	10	CAS	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
Navigation	1	Rockets	11

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 30
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 51.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 2405 20mm Rounds
20 5.00" Rockets
4 1000 lb. WSF Bombs
3 500 lb. WSF Bombs
1 Flare

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23 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	MFQ	2
Instrument	6	Navigation	2
Rockets	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 42.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 8 100 lb. Bombs WSF

24 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Instrument	2
Test	1	Familiarization	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 10
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 2535 20mm Rounds
28 2.25" Rockets
6 1000 lb. Bombs WSF
5 500 lb. Bombs WSF

Captain Robert W. MINICK 34820/7331 and Second Lieutenant Robert S. REED 064961/7331 USMCR, were joined on this date from CONUS.

25 DECEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date. "A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL".

26 DECEMBER 1954

Holiday routine prevailed this date (squadron stand-down)/

27 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	2
Instrument	2	Navigation	4
Tactics	2	Test	1
Familiarization	1	Rockets	2
Radar calibration	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 41.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 655 20mm Rounds
120 lb. Napalm thickener
12 5.00" Rockets
3 Fire Bombs

Captain Phillip E. MEGNA 052261/7331 USMC, was joined this date from CONUS.

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28 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Navigation	13
Familiarization	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 33.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

At 2148 a "Yellow Alert" was sounded with the "All Clear" given at 2246

29 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	9	CAS	4
Instrument	4	Navigation	2
Familiarization	3	Radar Calibration	3

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 50.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 17 2.25" Rockets

30 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	CAS	2
Interdiction	4	MFQ	2
Instrument	2	Navigation	2
Test	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 17
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 35.8
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 865 20mm Rounds
19 2.25" Rockets
4 1000 lb. WSF Bombs
3 500 lb. WSF Bombs

31 DECEMBER 1954

SORTIES:

CAS	4
-----	---

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 4
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 6.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

* One Signal Practice Bomb is expended with each Miniature Bomb, WSF Bomb and 25 lb. Practice Bomb.

5/ A total of one hundred forty-seven (147) sorties for two hundred and eighty-one point five (281.5) flight hours were flown by the Special Weapons Detachment during the month of December.

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PERSONNEL (S-1) SECTION SUMMARY

The Squadron detached its Commanding Officer, Major Thomas B. WOOD on 21 November 1954 and joined Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. HOLM as Commanding Officer on 22 November 1954.

During the quarter, the squadron had an average number of 33 NA's and 2 AGO's, and 185 enlisted men. There were 35 Officers, (34 NA's and 1 AGO) and 188 enlisted men on hand as of 2400 31 December 1954. The Squadron's T/O is 58 Officers, (53 NA's and 5 AGO's) and 220 enlisted men.

During the quarter, 1 Officer and 2 Enlisted men were on normal TAD, and 11 Officers and 56 enlisted men were on TAD in excess of 30 days. 5 enlisted men were on leave during the quarter.

Two (2) officers were given Active Duty Contracts during the quarter.

The following men were reenlisted for a period of three (3) years: Corporals John T. CROWE 1334918/6511 USMC, Jack L. TUTWILER 1325038/6511 USMC, and Kurt H. SCHOENFELDT 1044419/6413 USMC.

Eight Officers submitted requests for integration during the quarter.

The squadron Special Services planned, and supervised two (2) parties during the quarter. The outstanding was a Christmas party given for the Orphans from the Chain Hai Orphanage. The squadron entertained thirty (30) orphans. Each child was escorted by a member of the squadron. Santa Claus arrived by helicopter, to give each child a coat. The children were served the evening meal at the enlisted mess hall. The Christmas Spirit of the men of the squadron was greatly enhanced by having these children helping to celebrate Christmas Day.

During the quarter, the education department was busy giving tests, supervising the instructions of the men enrolled in correspondence courses, and interviewing new men. Forty-eight (48) members of the squadron were newly enrolled in correspondence courses during the quarter, and six (6) final examinations were administered. A plan is now underway to commence night study classes, to prepare the members of the squadron who do not have a high school diploma for the high school equivalency tests.

Appendix A

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OPERATIONS (S-3) SECTION SUMMARY

During the quarter VMA-251 continued to lead all other squadrons at K-6 in hours flown each month, and completed the quarter with a total of 3078.1 hours flown. There were no aircraft accidents during this quarter.

A total of 1694 sorties were flown during the quarter; 558 in October, 618 in November, and 518 in December. There were a total of 36 aborts, with 17 for October, 4 for November, and 15 for December. Of the total hours of 3078.1 flown, 951.4 were flown in October, 1181.4 in November, and 945.3 in December. The average number of pilots available were 27 or 80 % of the pilots assigned. The average number of aircraft for flight were 13 or 68 % of the aircraft assigned. The squadron completed 90 % of the quarterly flight syllabus. A turn-over in pilot personnel of approximately 25 % occurred during the quarter. Pilot ground training continued at an accelerated pace on ground training days, including lectures, flight safety, reviewing of accident reports, instrument techniques, aircraft identification, operational procedures, cold weather flight survival techniques (by the flight surgeon), navigation and supply discipline.

Twelve (12) instrument cards were renewed during the quarter. Those renewed in October were issued to First Lieutenant Gerald FISHER 059103/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Richard A. JOHANNSEN 063799/7331 USMCR, and Captain Raymond M. RYAN 051349/7331 USMC. Those renewed in November were to Second Lieutenant Alfred B. BUHL Jr. 064698/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant George GIANOFULOS 062224/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Ray A. LOWE 064235/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Robert F. POLK Jr. 063553/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant John L. THASCHER 061913/7331 USMCR, and Second Lieutenant Herbert L. SCHNELL Jr. Those renewed in December were to Second Lieutenant James M. REED 064407/7302 USMCR, First Lieutenant Marvin S. SHINBAUM 057085/7331 USMCR, and Second Lieutenant Kenneth G. SANGUINETTI 063580/7331 USMCR.

On 28 December at 2148, K-6 was declared on "Yellow alert" status. The all clear "Condition White" was sounded at 2246. The squadron aircraft were not dispersed.

On 1 October there were seventeen (17) aircraft assigned to VMA-251, of which six (6) AD-4Bs were assigned to the Special Weapons delivery unit at NAS, Atsugi, Japan. The remaining eleven (11) AD-4s were assigned to K-6, and included one (1) AD-4 Bureau No. 123907 at H&MS-12 for engine change.

During the quarter seven (7) aircraft were transferred to FASRON-11 NAS, Atsugi, Japan on the completion of service tours as follows; AD-4B Bureau No. 132274 and AD-4B Bureau No. 132271 on 5 October, AD-4 Bureau No. 123833 on 9 November, AD-4B Bureau No. 132244 on 10 November, AD-4B Bureau No. 132316 on 3 December, and AD-4 Bureau No. 123914 and AD-4 Bureau No. 128921 on 11 December.

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OPERATIONS (S-3) SECTION SUMMARY(Continued)

Ten (10) aircraft were transferred to the squadron during the quarter as follows; from MARS-17, AD-4 Bureau No. 123792 on 13 October, from VF-54 AD-4Bs Bureau Nos. 132380, 132385, and 132387 on 2 November, from FASRON-1 AD-4s Bureau Nos. 128831 and 123810 on 4 November, AD-4 Bureau No. 128920 on 20 November, and AD-4s Bureau Nos. 123839 and 123817 on 4 December.

On 7 October AD-4 Bureau No. 123888 was transferred to H&MS-12 for tail wheel assembly repair. This aircraft was transferred back to the squadron on 24 November. AD-4 Bureau No. 123907 was transferred back from engine change at H&MS-12 on 13 October. On 22 October AD-4 Bureau No. 123929 was transferred to H&MS-12 for engine change, returning to the squadron on 13 November. This same aircraft was again transferred to H&MS-12 for wing repair on 5 December and returned on 17 December. On 29 October AD-4 Bureau No. 123895 was transferred to H&MS-12 for fuel cell repair and returned on 1 November. On 19 November AD-4B Bureau No. 132245 was transferred to H&MS-11 for engine change and returned on 14 December. On 23 November AD-4B Bureau No. 132332 was transferred to H&MS-11 for engine change and returned on 22 December. On 10 December AD-4 Bureau No. 128960 was transferred to H&MS-12 for engine change and on 14 December AD-4B Bureau No. 132380 was transferred to H&MS-11 for engine change.

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SPECIAL WEAPONS SUMMARY

During the period of 1 October through 31 December 1954, progress in the Special Weapons program of VMA-251 detachment at NAS, Atsugi, Japan continued at a high rate. Training in high altitude, high angle dive bombing and loft bombing, with additional emphasis being placed on long range, low level navigation, and field carrier landing practice was carried out for pilot improvement. Pilots received training flights in the long range bombing configuration of the AD-4B. Monthly flights were conducted with one T-63 and T-64 shapes.

Four (4) pilots were transferred to CONUS during the quarter. Major Howard M. HUMPHREY 017145/7333 USMC on 19 October, Captain Everett J. SMITH 038191/7331 USMC, and Second Lieutenant Sidney S. NEBLETT 061384/7331 USMCR on 21 November, and Second Lieutenant Donald C. DANIELSON 061374/7331 USMCR on 9 December. Second Lieutenants Herbert L. SCHWELL Jr. 060707/7331 USMCR and George B. KOLLER 064786/7331 USMCR, were joined on 1 December.

The unit has five (5) fully qualified delivery pilots assigned. One other is operationally qualified, but has not completed a recognized delivery course. Intensive training is being conducted for the two new pilots, and it is estimated that they will be qualified by 1 February 1955.

Four-hundred sixty-eight (468) special weapons sorties were flown during the quarter. During the month of November the unit flew close air support missions with the Third Marine Division.

The flight training syllabus is currently fifty-eight percent (58 %) complete.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

<hr/>									
1. Personnel:									
a. Officers assigned:	(Oct)	36	NA's	34	AGO's	2			
	(Nov)	35		33		2			
	(Dec)	35		34		1			
<hr/>									
b. Enlisted assigned:	(Oct)	203	NAF's	0					
	(Nov)	184		0					
	(Dec)	188		0					
<hr/>									
2. Aircraft:									
a. Number assigned:	(Oct)	17	Type assigned:	AD-4	11	AD-4B	6		
	(Nov)	21			15		6		
	(Dec)	20			14		6		
<hr/>									
3. Operations:									
a. Aircraft availability:					Pilot availability:				
	(Oct)	73 %			(Oct)	88 %			
	(Nov)	70 %			(Nov)	72 %			
	(Dec)	62 %			(Dec)	80 %			
	(Quarter)	68 %			(Quarter)	80 %			
<hr/>									
b. Total flight time:	(Oct)	951.4	Total sorties flown:	(Oct)	558				
	(Nov)	1181.4		(Nov)	618				
	(Dec)	945.3		(Dec)	518				
	(Quarter)	3078.1	6/	(Quarter)	1694				
<hr/>									
4. Ordnance expenditures:									
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20 mm Rounds	22138								
Smoke mixtures	3000 lbs.								
Bombs, 100 lb. WSF	817								
Bombs, miniature practice	560								
Rockets, 2.75"	324								
Rockets, 5.00"	274								
Bombs, 500 lb. WSF	78								
Bombs, 500 lb. GP	57								
Flares	39								
Fire bombs, napalm	38								
Bombs, 1000 lb. WSF	30								
Rockets, 11.75"	2								
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6/ The special weapons detachment of this squadron flew four-hundred sixty-eight (468) sorties for a total of eight-hundred forty-eight point six (848.6) flight hours during this quarter.

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

22 November 1954

SQUADRON ORDER)

NUMBER 29-54..)

: ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

1. I have this date assumed command of Marine Attack Squadron 251, Marine Aircraft Group 12, First Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force. All orders and directives issued by my predecessors remain in effect until revoked or revised.

R J Holm

R. J. HOLM
Lieutenant Colonel
U. S. Marine Corps

GLOSSARY

TAC/A Tactical Air Coordinator/Airborne
AIA Airborne Intercept Aircraft
WSF Water, Sand filled Bombs
GP General Purpose
GCI Ground Control Intercept
CAS Close Air Support
MPQ Mobile Pulse Radar
GCA Ground Controlled Approach
MLR Main Line of Resistance
CONUS Continental United States
ACOG. Aircraft on Ground
JOC Joint Operations Center
MSQ Radar Tracking Close Support Bombing