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CMA (A03E)
ORIG-104
6763

TYPE "B" REPORT COMMAND DIARY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 70959

VMA-251



FOR THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 MARCH 1955

HISTORICAL OFFICER

FIRST LIEUTENANT

ROBERT F. FOLK JR.

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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

FF14/VMA-251
RJH:gcc
A12-1
Ser: 023
5 April 1955

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5558

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AO-3B)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
(2) Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
Subj: Type "B" Quarterly Report (Command Diary); submission of
Ref: (a) Chapter 11, MCM 1949
(b) 1st MAF General Order No. 224 of 13 July 1954
(c) MAG-12 General Order No. 122 of 1 August 1954
Encl: (1) Type "B" Quarterly Report (Command Diary) for the period
1 January through 31 March 1955.

1. In accordance with the instructions contained in references (a) through (c), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. Letter of transmittal may be downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

R. J. Holm
R. J. HOLM

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-- TASK ORGANIZATION --

UNIT:

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251

COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 JANUARY THROUGH 31 MARCH 1955
LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. HOLM
07498/7302 USMC

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

1 JANUARY THROUGH 27 MARCH 1955
K-6 AIRBASE, PYONGTAEK, KOREA

28 MARCH THROUGH 31 MARCH 1955
K-3 AIRBASE, FOHANG, KOREA

NEXT HIGHER ECHELON:

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP TWELVE
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF

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INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY

Marine Attack Squadron 251 was located at K-6 airbase, Pyongtaek, Korea during the period from 1 January through 28 March 1955. From 21 March through 28 March VMA-251 was in the process of moving to K-3 airbase located at Pohang, Korea. The aircraft arrived at K-3 airbase on the morning of 28 March, and the aircraft were flown again the same day on training missions.

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 for 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.

The Commander of the squadron since November 22, 1954 is Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. HOLM 07498/7302 USMC.

During the first two months of this quarter at K-6 airbase, VMA-251, the "Black Patch" squadron, led all squadrons in hours flown per month. On 16 March operations were ceased to begin preparations for moving to K-3 airbase. Total hours for this period were 1953.6, with 583.0 for January, 757.4 for February, and 613.2 for March 1955.

Sorties for the quarter were 1021, with 20 aborts for the quarter. Total effective sorties were 1001. 2/

The average number of aircraft available for flight was 69% of the aircraft assigned, while the average number of pilots available were 71% of the pilots assigned. Six (6) instrument cards were renewed during the quarter, with one (1) in January, two (2) in February, and three (3) in March.

There was one "Yellow alert" on 20 March, with the alert sounding at 1730 and the All Clear at 1750. No aircraft were dispersed. However, during the quarter several VMA-251 aircraft were sent out with APS-19 radar gear to search for slow moving aircraft believed to be "Bed-check Charlies."

There was one aircraft accident this quarter on 9 March, in which Second Lieutenant James F. KUNZMANN 064367/7333 USMCR received class "A" injuries. The crash occurred on take off. The mission was to have been a practice bombing hop. Due to incorrect trim tab settings by the pilot, the plane stalled after becoming airborne and hit an embankment. The aircraft was a complete strike.

Another party was given for all hands in the large hanger at K-6 airbase. Morale is very high in the squadron, as was shown by the fast and efficient move to K-3 airbase in which all hands "pitched in" to make it a success.

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

2/ The Special Weapons Delivery Unit of VMA-251 flew 526 Sorties for a total of 863.5 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 JANUARY 1955

1 January 1955

Holiday routine this date (Squadron Stand-down).

2 January 1955

Holiday routine this date (Squadron Stand-down).

3 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	MFQ	2
Test	1	Familiarization	2
GCA	6	Ferry	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 32.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 19 2.25" Rockets
1 500 lb. WSF Bomb

4 January 1955

SORTIES:

Test	1
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 1
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 0.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

5 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	6
Test	1	Familiarization	2
GCA	3		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 16
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 39.1
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

6 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	MFQ	2
Familiarization	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 13
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 21.7
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 4 500 lb. GP Bombs

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7 January 1955

SORTIES:

Interdiction	2	Familiarization	1
Rockets	4	Ferry	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 11

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 20.7

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 17 5:00"Rockets

7 Flares, parachute

8 January 1955

Holiday routine this date (Squadron Stand-down).

9 January 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument	2	MLR	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 4

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 4.0

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 7 Flares, parachute

Two aircraft aborted due to inclement weather.

10 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	5	Close air support	2
MPQ	2	Instrument	2
Tactics	4	Familiarization	1
GCI	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 27.5

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Two aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.

11 January 1955

No aircraft were flown this date due to basic training for Officers and enlisted personnel. GMST tests were given to the enlisted men from PFC to SGT rates from 0800 to 1100, and the annual examinations on military subjects was given to the Staff NCO's from 0800 to 1100. Second Lieutenant Victor J. JOHNSON Jr. 063503/7331 USMC the squadron training officer administered the examinations.

At 1320 the squadron held inspection of troops and their weapons, and at 1345 a simulated "Black alert" was conducted in the squadron areas assigned by the Executive officer Captain Robert L. GOVER Jr. 048796/7331 USMC. The personnel walked through their assigned duties. At 1500 Captain GOVER held a critique on the performance of the walk-through and concluded that the squadron performed very well, and dismissed the personnel at 1530.

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12 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Instrument	6
Test	5	MLR	2
Familiarization	1	Rockets	4
Cross-country	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 26
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 44.67
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 16 5:00 "Rockets
12 Flares, parachute

13 January 1955

SORTIES:

Close air support	2	Interdiction	4
Instrument	4	Tactics	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

One aircraft aborted due to a mechanical failure.

14 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	MPQ	2
Instrument	6	Navigation	4
Rockets	5		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 43.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 23 5:00 "Rockets
10 Flares, parachute

15 January 1955

SORTIES:

Close air support	2	Interdiction	2
MLR	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 11.2
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

16 January 1955

SORTIES:

Cross-country	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 2
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 2.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Holiday routine this date (Squadron Stand-down).

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17 January 1955

SORTIES:

Close air support	2	Instrument	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	4
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	7.4
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	None

18 January 1955

There were no missions flown this date because of Pilot ground training schedule. At 0900 to 1000 Warrant Officer Anderson (Air Force) gave a lecture on Aerology. From 1000 to 1130 Captain Richard STEELE 043438/7331 USMCR gave a lecture on Safety and Accident review, and from 1130 to 1200 all squadron pilots were called to a meeting by Captain STEELE. At 1300 to 1500 the pilots attended a movie in the ready room.

From 0800 to 1030 the enlisted men of the first three pay grades were given a series of tests on military questions at the Staff NCO Club by Second Lieutenant Victor J. JOHNSON Jr. the squadron training officer.

19 January 1955

No missions were flown on this date

20 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Navigation	4	Tactics	2
APS-19	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	25
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	46.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	8 500 lb. GP Bombs

21 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	6	Close air support	2
Instrument	6	Tactics	2
Rockets	5	APS-19	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	23
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	36.9
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	1715 20 mm rounds 37 5.00" Rockets 24 100 lb. WSE Bombs 5 1000 lb. WSE Bombs

22 January 1955

SORTIES:

Interdiction	4	Instruments	6
MLR	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -	12
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -	22.3
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -	12 Flares, parachute

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23 January 1955

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

24 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	8	Close air support	
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Test	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 19

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 34.4

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 63 100 lb. WSF Bombs

25 January 1955

No aircraft were launched on this date.

26 January 1955

SORTIES:

Interdiction	8	Familiarization	1
Rockets	5		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.3

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 30 5.00" Rockets
12 Flares, parachute

27 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	7	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Tactics	2	MIR	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 21

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 38.5

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 56 100 lb. WSF Bombs

28 January 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	13	Close air support	3
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
Test	1	Familiarization	2
Radar calibration	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 48.0

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 52 100 lb. WSF Bombs
12 Flares, parachute

One aircraft aborted due to inclement weather, and two aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.

29 January 1955

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

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30 January 1955

SORTIES: Bombing 3 Instrument 2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 5
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 7.0
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - -24 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.

31 January 1955

SORTIES: Bombing 8 Close air support 2
 Interdiction 2 Instrument 8
 Familiarization 2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 22
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - ~~34.4~~ 35.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - -24 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.

3/ A total of 176 sorties for the month of January, and a total of 342.5 operational hours were flown by the VMA-251 Special Weapons Delivery Unit, located in Japan. See Appendix L

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1955

1 February 1955

There were no missions flown on this date. The squadron held basic training for officers and enlisted men, and from 0800 to 1100 lectures were given on Basic Map and Scouting and Patrolling at the Station theatre by Second Lieutenant Kenneth C. SANGUINETTI 063580/7331 USMC, also giving a talk on Guerrilla Warfare in this area.

From 1330 to 1500 a simulated "Black alert" ground defense walk-through training period was held by the squadron personnel, and was directed by First Lieutenant Frederick F. MC CUNE 047027/7331 USMC, the Ordnance Officer.

2 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	Interdiction	2
Instrument	2	Test	1
Familiarization	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 8
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 18.3
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Second Lieutenant Thomas (n) BAKER 063671/6610 USMC, was joined on this date.

3 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	3	Close air support	2
Interdiction	2	Instrument	4
Navigation	4	Exercises	2
MLR	2	Familiarization	1

TOTAL SORTIES: - - - - - 20
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 43.0
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

4 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	Instrument	6
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 8
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 13.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 24 100 lb. WSE Bombs

5 February 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument	4	Familiarization	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 6
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 13.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Major Ovis D. HUNTER 018656/7303/6710 USMC, was joined from CONUS this date.

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6 February 1955

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

7 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	5	Instrument	12
Test	1	Radar calibration	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 37.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 2 Flares, parachute

8 February 1955

No missions were flown this date due to basic training periods. Pilot training lectures started at 0800. Second Lieutenant Robert A. GILLON 060541/7331 USMCR briefed the pilots on CAR-60, and from 0830 to 0930 First Lieutenant Marvin S. SHINBAUM 057085/7331 USMCR spoke on Airways flight. From 0940 to 1030 Second Lieutenant Virgil R. FRIEBLE 064118/7331 USMCR briefed the pilots on Publications, while from 1040 to 1130 Captain Richard (n) STEELE 043438/7331 USMCR talked on operation procedures, and held a pilots meeting.

9 February 1955

SORTIES:

Interdiction	1	Instrument	10
MLR	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 15
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 34.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Two aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.

10 February 1955

SORTIES:

Interdiction	2	Instrument	8
Tactics	4	Familiarization	2
Ferry	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 20
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 36.0
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Lieutenant Colonel Frank L. MAERZ 08015/7333 USMC was joined this date from CONUS.

11 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	2
Interdiction	4	Instrument	6
Navigation	6	Test	1
Familiarization	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 46.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 47 100 lb. WSE, Bombs

One aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.

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12 February 1955

SORTIES:

Close air support	2	Interdiction	2
Tactics	2	MLR	2
Familiarization	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 24.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

13 February 1955

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

14 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	Interdiction	2
Instrument	6	MLR	2
Ferry	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 16
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.4
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

15 February 1955

SORTIES:

Cross-country 2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 2
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 1.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

Pilot ground training was conducted this date in the ready room. From 0830 to 0900 First Lieutenant John L. THATCHER 061913/7331 USMCR presented a talk on Sensations of Flight, and from 0910 to 1000 Second Lieutenant Donald C. HEIM 064593/7331 USMCR spoke on Night Flying. From 1010 to 1100 First Lieutenant Bruce W. BECKWITH 055862/7331 USMCR spoke on the subject of Airframes, while from 1110 to 1130 First Lieutenant Frederick E. MC CUNE 047027/7331 USMC gave a lecture on Security. At 1130 to 1200 an all pilots' meeting was conducted by Major Ovis D. HUNTER 018656/7303 USMC the squadron operations officer.

16 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
Tactics	5	Test	4
Familiarization	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 40.4
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 47 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.

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17 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Interdiction	6
Instrument	6	Familiarization	5
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		-21	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		-42.2	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		-48 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.	

18 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	8	Interdiction	2
Tactics	2	Familiarization	3
Radar Calibration	2	Cross Country	2
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		-19	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		-43.5	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		-84 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.	

Second Lieutenant Albert H. BERG 065420/7333 USMCR was joined on this date from CONUS.

19 February 1955

Holiday routine prevailed this date (Squadron Stand-down)
First Lieutenant Peter G. JOHNSON 058317/7333 USMC was joined this date from CONUS. Captain Robert L. GOVER Jr. 048796/7331 USMC, and First Lieutenant John L. THATCHER 061913/7331 USMCR were transferred to VMA-212 on this date.

20 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Interdiction	6	Instrument	6
Familiarization	2		
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		-14	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		-27.0	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		-None	

21 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Close air support	2
Interdiction	3	Test	1
Familiarization	3		
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		-13	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		-28.9	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		-36 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.	

22 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Instrument	5	Navigation	3
Tactics	2	Test	1
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		-11	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		-23.5	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -		-None	

One aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure.
Second Lieutenant Howard J. SAWYER 065957/7331 USMCR was joined on this date from VMA-212 for duty.

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23 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	8
Tactics	4	Familiarization	1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 23
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 43.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 35 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.
 3 Flares, parachute

24 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	3	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Test	1	MLR	4
Familiarization	1		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 21
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 41.9
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 35 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.

25 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	6
Navigation	4	Familiarization	6

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 26
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 61.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 31 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.
 12 2.25" Rockets

The following pilots were joined this date for duty from the CONUS:
 Captain James J. DINARDO Jr. 050751/7331 USMC, First Lieutenant Harold R.
 WARREN Jr. 056032/7331 USMC, First Lieutenant Jere M. POUND 057313/7331
 USMC, and Second Lieutenant James F. LLOYD 066570/7331 USMCR.

26 February 1955

SORTIES:			
Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
Familiarization	5		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 17
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 34.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 23 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.
 9 2.25" Rockets

The following pilots were joined this date from the CONUS:
 Second Lieutenant Walter T. BURTON Jr. 066591/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant
 Chauncey F. CLARK 065972/7333 USMCR, and Second Lieutenant James C. RHODES
 066533/7333 USMCR

27 February 1955

Holiday routine prevailed this date (Squadron Stand-down)

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28 February 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	4
Interdiction	2	Instrument	2
Navigation	11	Tactics	6
MLR	4	Familiarization	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 37

TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 78.2

ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 32 Bombs, WSF, 100 lb.
12 2.25" Rockets

First Lieutenant Frederick F. MC CUNE 047027/7331 USMC was transferred to VMA-212 this date.

4/ A total of 164 sorties for the month of February, and a total of 266.7 operational hours were flown by the VMA-251 Special Weapons Delivery Unit. *located in Japan See Appendix L*

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1955

1 March 1955

There were no missions flown this date. Pilot ground training and enlisted ground training was held. From 0800 to 0900 a "Black Alert", (simulated) walk-through was conducted by the squadron personnel. From 0900 to 1000 the enlisted personnel attended school on map and aerial photo interpretation at the Staff NCO club building.

The following officers were joined this date from VMA-212: Second Lieutenant David L. ALTHOFF 064955/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant James F. KUNZMANN 064367/7333 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Hans A. ZANDER 064872/7331 USMCR, First Lieutenant William D. THAYER Sr. 055064/7331 USMCR, and First Lieutenant John C. YOUNG III 054426/7333 USMCR

2 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Interdiction	4
Instrument	4	Familiarization	2
Rockets	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 18
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 31.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 75 100lb. WSF Bombs
 16 2.25" Rockets

3 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	2
Interdiction	4	Tactics	4

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 14
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 31.1
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 1915 20mm rounds
 32 100 lb. WSF Bombs
 24 5.00" Rockets
 13 2.25" Rockets
 1 500 lb. WSF Bomb
 1 1000 lb. WSF Bomb

4 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	9	Close air support	2
Familiarization	12	Radar calibration	2
Rockets	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 29
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 58.2
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 64 100 lb. WSF Bombs
 24 Incendiary, cluster
 Bombs, 100 lb.
 24 3.5" Rockets
 24 2.25" Rockets
 3 Flares, parachute

5 March 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument	2	Test	3
Familiarization	16		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 21
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 40.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None
 13

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6 March 1955

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

7 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	7	Close air support	4
Test	1	Familiarization	8
Radar Calibration	2		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 22
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 45.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 56 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.
 10 2.25" Rockets

8 March 1955

SORTIES:

Airborne Intercept	2
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TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 2
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 2.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

9 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	4	Close air support	2
Interdiction	4	Instrument	6
Navigation	4	Tactics	4
Familiarization	3	Radar Calibration	2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 29
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 59.3
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 40 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.
 8 Bombs, GP, 100 lb.
 4 Bombs, GP, 500 lb.
 1 Flare, parachute

One aircraft aborted due to mechanical failure. Second Lieutenant James F. KUNZMANN 064367/7333 USMC received a class "A" injury this date, while on a bombing mission. He failed to recover from a stall on take-off from K-6 airbase.

10 March 1955

SORTIES:

Bombing	2	Close air support	2
Interdiction	3	MLR	2
GCA	4		

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 13
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 22.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - 30 Bombs, WSE, 100 lb.

There were two (2) aborts this date, due to mechanical failure.

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11 March 1955

SORTIES:			Instrument	4
	Close air support	4	MLR	2
	Tactics	4		
TOTAL SORTIES		----- <u>14</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS		----- <u>26.0</u>		
ORDNANCE EXPENDED		----- None		

12 March 1955

SORTIES:				
	Instrument	4		
TOTAL SORTIES		----- <u>4</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS		----- <u>3.4</u>		
ORDNANCE EXPENDED		----- None		

13 March 1955

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

14 March 1955

SORTIES:				
	Close air support	2	Interdiction	2
	Instrument	6	Test	6
	Familiarization	5		
TOTAL SORTIES		----- <u>21</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS		----- <u>33.6</u>		
ORDNANCE EXPENDED		----- None		

15 March 1955

SORTIES:				
	Instrument	6	Test	3
TOTAL SORTIES		----- <u>9</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS		----- <u>16.8</u>		
ORDNANCE EXPENDED		----- None		

16 March 1955

SORTIES:				
	Close air support	1	Interdiction	3
	MLR	2	Familiarization	3
TOTAL SORTIES		----- <u>9</u>		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS		----- <u>19.5</u>		
ORDNANCE EXPENDED		----- None		

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17 March 1955

SORTIES:

Test 1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 1
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 0.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

18 March 1955

SORTIES:

Test 2 Ferry 2

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 4
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 5.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

19 March 1955

SORTIES:

Test 3

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 3
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 4.7
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

20 March 1955

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

A "Yellow alert" was sounded at approximately 1730, with the "All Clear" sounding at 1750. No aircraft were dispersed.

From 21 March through 27 March 1955, all departments of the squadron were in the process of moving from K-6 airbase to K-3 airbase.

On 23 March 1955 there was one Test sortie, with 0.7 operational hours.

28 March 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument 8 Familiarization 1
 Cross-country 16

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 25
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 37.5
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

The squadron and personnel completed their move from K-6 to K-3 airbase and the aircraft arrived from K-6 airbase at 1200 hours.

29 March 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument 23 Familiarization 1

TOTAL SORTIES - - - - - 24
 TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - - 55.6
 ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - - None

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30 March 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument	16	Test	1
Familiarization	5	Radar calibration	1
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		23	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		45.3	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -			None

31 March 1955

SORTIES:

Instrument	16	Familiarization	15
MPQ	2		
TOTAL SORTIES - - - - -		33	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS - - - - -		72.1	
ORDNANCE EXPENDED - - - - -			None

5/ A total of 186 sorties for the month of March, and a total of 254.3 operational hours were flown by VMA-251 Special Weapons Delivery Unit. located in Japan See Appendix L

OPERATIONS (S-3) SECTION SUMMARY

For the quarter ending 31 March 1955, WMA-251 continued to lead all other squadrons at K-6. The quarter was completed with a total of 2817.1 hours flown. There was an aircraft accident on 10 March 1955, resulting in the death of Second Lieutenant James F. KUNZMANN 064369/7333 USMCR. Strike damage resulted to AL-8 Bureau number 123810 from the accident.

A total of 1529 sorties were flown during the quarter, 497 in January, 545 in February, and 505 in March. There were a total of 20 aborts, with 9 for January, 5 for February, and 6 for March. Of the total hours flown, 925.5 were flown in January, 1024.1 were flown in February, and 867.5 were flown in March. The average number of pilots available were 27 or 71% of the pilots assigned. The average number of aircraft for flight was 12 or 60% of the aircraft assigned. The squadron completed 85% of the quarterly flight syllabus. A turnover in pilot personnel of approximately 35% 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 procedures, flight survival techniques, navigation and supply discipline.

Six (6) instrument cards were renewed during the quarter. Those renewed during the quarter were issued to Captain Phillip E. MEGNA 052261/7333 USMC, First Lieutenant Jerry D. HENDERSON 063642/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Virgil R. FRIEBEL 064118/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant Richard F. COLEMAN 064599/7331 USMCR, Second Lieutenant David R. LAW 063660/7331 USMCR, and Second Lieutenant George B. KOLLER 064786/7331 USMCR.

K-6 was declared on "Yellow Alert" status on 20 March 1955, but the aircraft were not dispersed.

The squadron deployed to K-3 airbase beginning 21 March 1955 and lasting through 28 March 1955. Flight operations were secured on 16 March 1955 and the aircraft flown to K-3 airbase on 28 March 1955. Flight operations were resumed at 1430 on 28 March.

Second Lieutenant James F. KUNZMANN 064369/7333 USMCR was killed in an aircraft accident on 10 March 1955. While taking off on a scheduled routine bombing flight Lieutenant KUNZMANN'S plane veered to the left of duty runway 32 in a nose high attitude and collided with an earth embankment approximately sixteen (16) feet high. Fire broke out immediately on impact and extinguished by the crash crew.

Lieutenant KUNZMANN was killed immediately upon impact. The Accident Board attributed the accident to the pilot's failure to use the take-off check-off list as he took off with full back elevator tab. An error in judgment was made when the pilot elected to continue the take-off run when it was apparent that something was wrong with the controls of the aircraft.

On 1 January 1955 there were twenty (20) aircraft assigned to WMA-251, of which six (6) were AD-4B's assigned to the Special Weapons Delivery Unit at NAS Atsugi, Japan. The remaining fourteen (14) AD-4's were assigned to K-6.

During the quarter, nine (9) aircraft were transferred. six (6) were transferred to MARS-17 and three (3) were transferred to FASROM-11.

(Continued)

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(OPERATIONS (S-3) SECTION SUMMARY CONTINUED)

Completion of service tours are as follows: AD-4B 132309 1/5/55,
AD-4 123895 1/7/55, AD-4 123950 1/7/55, AD-4 123907 2/4/55, AD-4 123888
2/12/55, AD-4B 132385 2/23/55, AD-4B 132245 3/8/55, AD-4B 132387 3/8/55,
AD-4 123792 3/19/55.

123810 AD-4 struck 14 March 1955.

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MATERIEL SUMMARY

During the first quarter the Materiel Department operated with a complement of six enlisted men and two officers, one of whom was transferred to the Sub-Unit and replaced. A ground officer joined the department for materiel training in March. At the end of the quarter, the department participated in the squadron move to K-3, and all hands performed their duties in a competent and efficient manner.

During the quarter the department processed 514 stubs, of which 51 were A.C.O.G., a percentage of 9.4 A.C.O.G. There are 3 A.C.O.G. stubs outstanding.

The Squadron grant of \$59,565 was increased by a credit adjustment of \$11,461.58 due to a decrease in the adjustment price of aviation fuel from 1 July 1954. A further decrease in fuel cost during the quarter reduced the cost of operating correspondingly, and Baker Funds in the amount of \$10,000 were returned to the Wing due to reduced flight time during the move. Of the new total of \$61,026.58, all but \$4,002.96 was used in flying 2817.1 hours.

There are no continuing supply problems, and the squadron has generally received good support. Supply support prior to and during the transfer to K-3 was outstanding.

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SPECIAL WEAPONS SUMMARY

During the period of this report, progress in the Special Weapons program of Marine Attack Squadron 251 Detachment at NAS Atsugi, Japan, continued at a high rate. Training in high altitude, high angle dive bombing and loft bombing technique continued, with additional emphasis being placed on long range, low level navigation and field carrier landing practice. Pilots received training flights in the long range bomber configuration of the AD-4B. Monthly flights were conducted with the T63 and T64 shapes.

A First Marine Aircraft Wing exercise was conducted on 15 March 1955 in accordance with operations order 3-55. The following procedures were checked by Major R. L. ALLEN, Wing Special Weapons Officer, and a team sent out by the Wing. Loading teams loaded both Mk-7 and Mk-8 weapons. Pilots planned a simulated strike on Mito range and one pilot flew the T63 shape. The bombing accuracy of the three qualified pilots was checked, but was hindered because of weather. The report of this exercise has not been received, but an informal critique indicated satisfactory performance by the unit.

Four (4) pilots were transferred to CONUS during the period: Captain Raymond M. RYAN 051349/7331 USMC on 10 March 1955, First Lieutenant Robert SCHMID 057779/7331 USMCR on 3 February 1955, Second Lieutenant Charles D. OVERTURE 063505/7331 USMCR on 6 February 1955 and Second Lieutenant Louis L. KUNTZ 063507/7331 USMCR on 6 February 1955. Eight pilots joined the squadron during the period: Captain Robert W. MINICK 034820/7331 USMC on 1 January 1955, Captain Robert L. ALLEN 039422/7302 USMC on 19 January 1955, Second Lieutenant Alfred B. BUHL 064698/7331 USMCR on 9 February 1955, Second Lieutenant John R. SANTELL 064215/7331 USMCR on 13 February 1955, Second Lieutenant Leonard E. PALMER Jr. 064535/7331 USMCR on 2 March 1955, Second Lieutenant David L. ALTHOFF 064955/7331 USMCR on 11 March 1955, Second Lieutenant Walter T. BURTON Jr. 066591/7331 USMCR on 11 March 1955 and Captain Knowlton P. RICE 046243/7333 USMC on 17 March 1955.

The unit has three (3) fully qualified delivery pilots assigned. Due to the influx of new pilots, the detachment is under an intensive training period at the present time.

Over four hundred and fifty (450) Special Weapons Training missions were flown during the period. Close Air Support missions were flown with the Third Division.

The flight training syllabus is currently fifty percent (50%) complete.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I. Personnel:

a. Officers assigned:	(Jan)	36	NA's	35	AGO's	1
	(Feb)	44		42		2
	(Mar)	50		46		4

b. Enlisted assigned:	(Jan)	191	NAP's	0
	(Feb)	219		0
	(Mar)	195		0

2. Aircraft

a. Number assigned:	(Jan)	19	Type assigned:	AD-4	13	AD-4B	6
	(Feb)	20			14		6
	(Mar)	22			12		6
				AD-3	-	4	

3. Operations:

a. Aircraft availability:	(Jan)	55%	Pilot availability:	(Jan)	70%
	(Feb)	60%		(Feb)	78%
	(Mar)	65%		(Mar)	65%
	(Quarter)	60%		(Quarter)	71%

b. Total flight time:	(Jan)	925.5	Total sorties flown:	(Jan)	497
	(Feb)	1024.1		(Feb)	545
	(Mar)	867.5		(Mar)	505
	(Quarter)	2817.1		(Quarter)	1547

c. Tactical Hours Flown:	(Jan)	155.8	Tactical Sorties Flown:	(Jan)	75
	(Feb)	211.7		(Feb)	94
	(Mar)	93.5		(Mar)	45
	(Quarter)	461.0		(Quarter)	214

4. Ordnance Expenditures:

20mm Rounds	3630
Bombs, 100 lb. WSF	982
Bombs, miniature practice	694
Rockets, 5.00"	147
Rockets, 2.25"	115
Flares, parachute	81
Rockets, smoke, 3.5"	24
Bombs, 100 lb. incendiary	24
Bombs, 500 lb. GP	16
Bombs, 100 lb. GP	8
Bombs, 1000 lb. WSF	6
Bombs, 500 lb. WSF	2 7/

6/ The Special Weapons detachment of this squadron flew five hundred and twenty six (526) sorties for a total of eight hundred and sixty three point five (863.5) flight hours during this quarter, added to the one thousand nine hundred and fifty three point six (1953.6) hours flown by the squadron at K-6 and K-3 for a total of two thousand eight hundred and seventeen point one (2817.1) hours.

7/ One signal practice bomb is expended with each miniature bomb, WSF bomb and 25 lb. practice bomb.

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
APS Airborne Pulse Radar

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