

RESTRICTED

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13  
Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific  
Marine Corps Air Station  
El Toro (Santa Ana), California

T-Y-P-E "B" R-E-P-O-R-T (H-I-S-T-O-R-I-C-A-L D-I-A-R-Y)

Period 1 August 1951 through 31 August 1951

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I-N-T-R-O-D-U-C-T-O-R-Y S-U-M-M-A-R-Y

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At the beginning of the period covered by this report, VMA-251 was a subordinate of Marine Air Group 13, located at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana), California. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel Philip "L" CRAWFORD, 07004/7302 USMC. The Executive Officer was Major Harold A. HARWOOD, 08585/7302 USMC. On 17 August 1951, Major William R. LEAR, 07973/7302 USMC was assigned to this squadron per Marine Aircraft Group 13 Special Order 227-51, dated 15 August 1951, and was appointed Executive Officer vice Major HARWOOD, who was detailed as Squadron Operations Officer.

During this aforementioned period, pilots from higher echelons flew this squadron's aircraft for Maintenance of Flight Proficiency purposes.

On 15 August 1951 the squadron was scheduled for inspection by the Inspector General of the United States Marine Corps. At 0815, the inspecting parties from the staff of the Inspector General arrived at the squadron area. Upon their arrival, one group inspected the troops in the squadron area and another group inspected the files of the various sections in the Administration Building. A clothing and equipment inspection was conducted at the barracks. The inspecting party secured the inspection at 1115 with a "WELL DONE".

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C-H-R-O-N-O-L-O-G-I-C-A-L N-A-R-R-A-T-I-V-E

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1 August 1951

This squadron flew fourteen (14) sorties on this date, for a total of 23.4 flight hours. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: eight (8) sorties consisted of Familiarization (1A1), for a total of 12.9 flight hours, six (6) sorties consisted of Division Tactics (1A1), for a total of 10.5 flight hours.

2 August 1951

This squadron flew nineteen (19) sorties on this date, for a total of 28.8 flight hours. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: sixteen (16) sorties consisted of Familiarization, Tactics and Navigation (1A1), for a total of 24.8 flight hours; two (2) sorties consisted of Instruments (1A2), for a total of 2.4 flight hours; and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 1.6 flight hours, which was flown by a pilot from a higher echelon.

3 August 1951

This squadron flew nineteen (19) sorties on this date, for a total of 28.3 flight hours. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: eighteen (18) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 26.7 flight hours; and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 1.6 flight hours, which was flown by a pilot from a higher echelon.

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6 August 1951

This squadron flew twenty-three (23) sorties for a total of 33.6 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: seven (7) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 12.1 flight hours; fifteen (15) sorties consisted of Air Support (1A9), for a total of 19.8 flight hours; and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 1.7 flight hours.

7 August 1951

At 0800 a muster was held in the hangar area for an inspection of the Field Marching Pack. This inspection was conducted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Philip "L". CRAWFORD, 07004/7302, USMC, as was the clothing and equipment inspection held in the barracks at 1800. This squadron flew eight (8) sorties for a total of 15.8 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: four (4) sorties consisted of Familiarization (1A1), for a total of 8.4 flight hours; and four (4) sorties consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 7.4 flight hours.

8 August 1951

A clothing and equipment inspection was held in the barracks at 1800. This inspection was conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Philip "L". CRAWFORD. This squadron flew twenty (20) sorties for a total of 27.4 flight hours for this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: seven (7) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 7.0 flight hours; ten (10) sorties consisted of Air Support (1A9),

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8 August 1951 (cont'd)

for a total of 17.0 flight hours; and three (3) sorties consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 3.3 flight hours.

9 August 1951

This squadron flew fourteen (14) sorties for a total of 16.8 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: nine (9) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 9.1 flight hours; and five (5) sorties consisted of Rockets and Miniature Bombs (1A7), for a total of 7.7 flight hours.

10 August 1951

Flights were cancelled by authority of Marine Aircraft Group 13, until further notice.

11 August 1951

A clothing and equipment inspection was held in the barracks at 0800. The inspection was conducted by the officers to whom various enlisted men were assigned. Upon completion of the inspection, personnel reported to their respective departments for duty as this was to be a full working day. On this date there was one (1) flight with a total of 0.7 flight hours. The reason for this one flight was to participate in the Orange County Air Show.

12 August 1951

Holiday Routine

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13 August 1951

Routine duties, no flights for this date.

14 August 1951

Routine duties, no flights for this date.

15 August 1951

The squadron mustered in the working area at 0800 for the Inspector General inspection. At 0815 the Inspector General's party arrived and split up into two groups. One group inspected the troops, clothing and equipment; while the second group inspected administrative aspects of the squadron. Upon completion of the inspection, duty sections 1 and 3 were secured for the afternoon. Duty sections 2 and 4, which were maintained on duty, were notified that they would be secured for the afternoon of 16 August 1951.

16 August 1951

This squadron flew thirteen (13) sorties for a total of 19.8 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given; four (4) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 8.3 flight hours; and nine (9) sorties consisted of Rockets and Bombs (1A9), for a total of 11.5 flight hours.

17 August 1951

This squadron flew a total of twenty (20) sorties for a total of 31.5 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given; nine (9) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 16.1 flight hours;

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17 August 1951 (cont'd)

nine (9) sorties consisted of Rockets and Bombs (1A9), for a total of 12.9 flight hours; one (1) sortie consisted of a Test Hop (1L), for a total of 1.0 flight hours and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 1.5 flight hours. Major William R. LEAR, 07973/7302, USMC was assigned to this squadron per Marine Aircraft Group 13 Special Order 227-51 dated 15 August 1951 and was appointed executive officer vice Major Harold A. HARWOOD.

18 August 1951

Holiday Routine

19 August 1951

Holiday Routine

20 August 1951

At 0730, all Sergeants and below mustered in the hangar area to be transported to the ordnance area for instruction in the technique of firing the M-1 rifle. The squadron flew a total of thirty-five (35) sorties for a total of 53.3 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: twelve (12) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 20.4 flight hours; twenty-one (21) sorties consisted of Rockets and Bombs (1A9), for a total of 30.0 flight hours; and two (2) sorties consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 2.9 flight hours.

21 August 1951

At 0600, all Sergeants and below were mustered in front of mess hall No. 1 to be transported to Simpson Range (40th Infantry Division, California National Guard) for familiarization firing of the M-1 rifle, their T/O weapon. On this date, twelve

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21 August 1951 (cont'd)

(12) sorties were flown for a total of 31.9 flight hours. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: eleven (11) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 29.9 flight hours; and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 2.0 flight hours.

22 August 1951

All Staff Non-Commissioned Officers reported to Ordnance area for instruction in the technique of firing the carbine. This squadron flew a total of sixteen (16) sorties for a total of 28.9 flight hours for this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: fifteen (15) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 27.5 flight hours; and one (1) sortie consisted of Maintenance of Flight Proficiency (1B1), for a total of 1.2 flight hours.

23 August 1951

All Staff Non-Commissioned Officers mustered in front of mess hall No. 4 to be transported to Simpson Range for familiarization firing of the Carbine. This squadron flew a total of ten (10) sorties for a total of 17.1 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: ten (10) sorties consisted of Tactics (1A1), for a total of 17.1 flight hours.

24 August 1951

A squadron party was held on this date, at San Onofre Beach (Camp Pendleton Recreation Area). Approximately 125 enlisted men

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24 August 1951 (cont'd)

and 35 officers attended. The party started at 1000 and continued until 1600. Individual and group activities, in which all hands participated, included softball, football, and swimming. As evidenced by later comments, a good time was had by all. No flights were scheduled for this date.

25 August 1951

At 0830, a rifle inspection was conducted by the Commanding Officer. Upon completion of the inspection, duty sections discussed the promotion examinations to be given during the early part of September. No flights were scheduled for this date.

26 August 1951

Holiday Routine

27 August 1951

This squadron flew twenty-three (23) sorties for a total of 34.7 flight hours on this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: three (3) sorties consisted of Familiarization and Tactics (1A1), for a total of 7.6 flight hours; and twenty (20) sorties consisted of Rockets and Bombs (1A9), for a total of 29.1 flight hours.

28 August 1951

The close air support demonstration to be given at Camp Pendleton was cancelled due to Storm Condition Three (3) having been set. All assigned aircraft not stored in Hangar Ten (10), were flown to Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, California to be stored during the storm condition. This squadron flew thirteen (13) sorties for a total of 5.2 flight hours. All of these sorties

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28 August 1951 (cont'd)

were Ferry (1J1).

29 August 1951

This squadron flew thirteen (13) sorties for a total of 3.6 flight hours for this date. In conjunction with the foregoing, the following breakdown is given: thirteen (13) sorties consisting of Ferrying (1J1), for a total of 3.6 flight hours.

30 August 1951

Routine duties, no flights were scheduled for this date.

31 August 1951

All hands packed equipment in preparation for the two-week training period at Naval Auxiliary Air Station, El Centro, California on 4 September 1951. No flights were scheduled for this date.

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