

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 September 1951 through 30 September 1951

Enclosure (1)

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Authority NND 70959

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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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During the period covered by this report, Marine Attack Squadron 251 was a subordinate unit of Marine Aircraft 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 William R. Lear 07973/7302, USMC.

A total of six-hundred and fifty-nine (659) sorties were flown for 975.0 hours. At the end of this period there were forty-one (41) officers and one-hundred eighty (180) enlisted personnel assigned.

On 4 September 1951 this Squadron went to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, El Centro, California where it conducted training in firing rockets, dropping bombs, air to air gunnery, close air support problems, night familiarization and night overland navigation. While operating at El Centro, this squadron commenced its flight operations at *0600 and secured by 1300. When conducting night flying, flight operations commenced at 0200. A rear echelon was at El Toro for administrative purposes.

On 12 September 1951, Second Lieutenant Frank L. Leister 052649/7301 had an accident on take off which caused aircraft (AD-1, BuNo. 09320) to be a complete strike. Second Lieutenant Leister sustained no injuries.

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On 15 September 1951 this Squadron returned to Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana), California. Normal working day routine was resumed on 18 September 1951.

Two (2) Rifle Inspections were held by the Commanding Officer on 1 September and 22 September 1951. This Squadron was "Fox" Company in a Regimental Review held on 29 September.

* Note All Times Pacific Day Light Saving.

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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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RESTRICTED 1 September 1951

At 0800 this squadron mustered in the hanger area for a rifle and carbine inspection by the Commanding Officer. One (1) sortie was flown for 1.3 hours. The squadron secured at 1130.

4 September 1951

On this date the squadron was scheduled for deployment to El Centro, California for intensified ordnance training. At 0800, twenty-six (26) enlisted men and one (1) officer mustered to board a transport. At 0830, they departed for Naval Auxiliary Air Station, El Centro, California. At 1000, nine pilots departed Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, flying squadron aircraft to El Centro. At 1300, ten pilots flew a Close Air Support demonstration at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton and proceeded to El Centro. At 1400, thirty-seven (37) enlisted personnel and one (1) officer mustered to board transports and departed at 1430. A rear echelon consisting of the Adjutant, Sergeant Major and the personnel section stayed at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, (Santa Ana) California, for administrative purposes. Those persons who were not air lifted were given permission to drive their own vehicles. This squadron flew nineteen (19) sorties for a total of 25.4 hours.

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~~RESTRICTED~~ 5 September 1951

This squadron was scheduled to commence flight operations at 0600 but the first sorties did not get out till 1000 due to fog. Ten (10) sorties were flown for a Close Air Support demonstration at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. A total of sixteen (16) sorties for a total of 38.1 hours were flown.

6 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0600 and flew forty-two (42) sorties for a total of 63.3 hours.

7 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0600 and flew fifty-four (54) sorties for a total of 69.8 hours.

8 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0600 and flew fifty-two (52) sorties for a total of 67.0 hours.

9 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew thirty-five (35) sorties for a total of 48.3 hours.

10 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew forty-five (45) sorties for a total of 66.7 hours.

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RESTRICTED 11 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew forty-two (42) sorties for a total of 68.6 hours.

12 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew thirty-nine (39) sorties for a total of 57.0 hours. Second Lieutenant Frank L. Leister, 052649/7301 attempted a take-off on runway 12R NAAS, El Centro, California, at 0745. The aircraft dragged a wing, cartwheeled and ended right side up causing the aircraft (AD-1, Bu No. 09320) to be a complete strike. There were no personnel injuries.

13 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew thirty-five (35) sorties for a total of 59.4 hours.

14 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200 and flew thirty-two (32) sorties for a total of 50.4 hours.

15 September 1951

This Squadron commenced flight operations at 0200. At 1000, nineteen (19) pilots flew squadron aircraft back to Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana), California. At 1030

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RESTRICTED 15 September 1951 (cont'd)
twenty-eight (28) enlisted men and one officer departed by transport for Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. The remaining personnel were given permission to drive back. Liberty was given to Duty Sections 2, 3, and 4, until 0745, 18 September. This Squadron flew thirty-three (33) sorties for a total of 45.8 hours. One (1) aircraft (AD-1 Bu. No. 09320) was transferred to FASRON 7, Naval Auxiliary Air Station, El Centro, California.

18 September 1951

This Squadron resumed its normal work day routine. This Squadron flew thirty-three (33) sorties for a total of 51.5 hours.

19 September 1951

This Squadron flew twenty-nine (29) sorties for a total of 45.5 hours.

20 September 1951

This Squadron flew forty-three (43) sorties for a total of 63.3 hours.

21 September 1951

This Squadron flew thirty-one (31) sorties for a total of 38.8 hours.

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22 September 1951

The Commanding Officer conducted a rifle inspection. Normal working day routine was conducted for half a day. No flights were scheduled.

24 September 1951

This Squadron flew twenty-nine (29) sorties for a total of 38.6 hours. Duty Section 1 was given liberty.

25 September 1951

This Squadron conducted normal working day routine. No flights were flown due to weather.

26 September 1951

This Squadron conducted a normal working day routine. No flights were flown due to weather.

27 September 1951

This Squadron flew twenty (20) sorties for a total of 34.4 hours.

28 September 1951

This Squadron flew twenty-eight (28) sorties for a total of 40.0 hours.

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29 September 1951

This Squadron was "Fox" Company in a Regimental Review.

This Squadron secured at 1000.

30 September 1951

This Squadron conducted Holiday routine. During the month of September, this Squadron flew six-hundred and fifty-nine (659) sorties for a total of 975.0 hours. The personnel strength on this date was one-hundred and eighty (180) enlisted personnel and forty-one (41) officers.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

30 September 1951

1. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED:

Officers:	Marine:	41
	Navy:	0
Enlisted:	Marine:	180
	Navy:	0

2. NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED: 23

Type:	AD-1
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3. AIRCRAFT LOST: 1

BuNo 09320/AD-1

4. AVERAGE AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY: 61%

5. ORDNANCE EXPENDED:

AMMO (rounds):

20mm M99	8762
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12ga #8	502
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BOMBS:

1000#GP MK66-Mod0	26
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500#GP AN-M43	42
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1000# (sand-water fill) MK66-Mod0	28
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500# (sand-water fill) MK65-Mod0	24
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100# (sand-water fill) MK15-Mod3	165
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Miniature MK23-Mod1	1248
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Napalm	3
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