

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
SECURITY INFORMATION

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15
Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Marine Corps Air Station
El Toro (Santa Ana), California

TYPE "B" REPORT (COMMAND DIARY)

PERIOD OF 1 MARCH THROUGH 31 MARCH 1952

ENCLOSURE (1)

-1-

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Marine Attack Squadron 251 was located at the U. S. Marine Corps Air Station El Toro (Santa Ana), California. The commanding officer from 1 March through 31 March 1952 was Lieutenant Colonel Arthur W. Harn 08010/7300, U. S. Marine Corps. This squadron was a unit of Marine Aircraft Group 15 from 1 March through 31 March 1952.

During the period covered by this report, 1 March through 31 March 1952, Marine Attack Squadron 251 conducted routine assignment of personnel, on the training and basis in order to accomplish the missions assigned.

The missions of this squadron are:

a. The primary missions of a Marine Attack Squadron are to conduct flight operations in support of the U. S. Marine Force and Naval Force afloat in amphibious operations.

b. The secondary missions of a Marine Attack Squadron are to augment or replace Naval air units aboard aircraft carriers and to provide air defense of advanced Naval bases.

The tasks assigned are:

a. Must be able to provide adequate close air support through ability to deliver:

- (1) Accurate dive bombing attacks;
- (2) Accurate glide bombing attacks;
- (3) Accurate strafing attacks;

ENCLOSURE (1)

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Marine Attack Squadron 251 was located at the U. S. Marine Corps Air Station El Toro (Santa Ana), California. The commanding officer from 1 March through 31 March 1952 was Lieutenant Colonel Arthur M. Moran 08610/7302, U. S. Marine Corps.

This squadron was a unit of Marine Aircraft Group 15 from 1 March through 31 March 1952.

During the period covered by this report, 1 March through 31 March 1952, Marine Attack Squadron 251 conducted routine assignment of personnel, on the training and basic in order to accomplish the missions assigned.

The missions of this squadron are:

a. The primary missions of an Marine Attack Squadron are to conduct Flight operations in support of the Fleet Marine Force and Naval Forces afloat in Amphibious operations.

b. The secondary missions of a Marine Attack Squadron are to augment or replace Naval Air units aboard aircraft carriers and to provide air defense of advanced Naval bases.

The tasks assigned are:

a. Must be able to provide adequate close air support through ability to deliver:

(1) Accurate dive bombing attacks;

(2) Accurate glide bombing attacks;

(3) Accurate strafing attacks;

ENCLOSURE (1)

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

b. Must be prepared to provide adequate air defense by ability to intercept and destroy all attacking enemy aircraft.

c. Must be prepared to assist in defending against enemy surface attack.

d. Must be prepared to operate from either a land base or a carrier base.

e. Must be prepared to support offensive action as follows:

(1) Deliver coordinated attacks against ships and land targets;

(2) Deliver attacks against the enemy air force;

f. Must be prepared to provide anti-submarine defense as directed.

g. Must be prepared to provide spotting for Naval gunfire and shore artillery as directed.

h. Must be prepared to furnish visual aerial reconnaissance. During the month of March 1952 Naval Aviators assigned to this squadron participated in a total of three hundred forty-four (344) sorties for a total of six hundred fifty-one and one tenths (651.1) hours.

At the end of the period covered by this report, the personnel strength of Marine Attack Squadron 251 was forty-six officers and one hundred forty-one enlisted.

ENCLOSURE (1)

-4-

Topic:

(1) Defense...
a. What is...
b. What is...
c. What is...
d. What is...
e. What is...

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

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

ENCLOSURE (1)

-5-

CONFIDENTIAL

Activities of Marine Attack Squadron 251 for the period of 1 through 31 March 1952.

1 March 1952

Holiday Routine

2 March 1952

Holiday Routine

3 March 1952

Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of cold weather lectures and physical training. No flying was scheduled.

4 March 1952

Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on the Uniform Code of Military Justice. No flying was scheduled.

5 March 1952

Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Instrument Flying. Fourteen (14) sorties were flown for a total of 31.4 hours.

6 March 1952

Normal operations this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Engineering. Two (2) sorties were flown for a total of 8.0 hours.

ENCLOSURE (1)

-6-

CONFIDENTIAL

7 March 1952

Operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on the functions of the S-1 section. No flying was scheduled.

8 March 1952
Saturday operating routine. Pilot ground training consisted of close order drill and an Intelligence Summary by the S-2 section. Four (4) sorties for a total of 7.0 hours were flown. Eleven pilots from the squadron were sent on temporary additional duty to NAB Coronado for Close Air Support school.

9 March 1952

Holiday Routine. Operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of close order drill and an Intelligence Summary. Operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of cold weather lectures and physical training. No flying was scheduled this date.

11 March 1952

Operations were routine this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. Fourteen (14) sorties for a total of 20.7 hours were flown.

12 March 1952

Operations were routine this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. Twenty-nine (29) sorties for a total of 54.9 hours were flown.

ENCLOSURE (1)

-7-

CONFIDENTIAL

13 March 1952
Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of physical training and lectures on Standing Operating Procedures. Twenty-three (23) sorties for a total of 35.7 hours were flown.

14 March 1952
Squadron operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Radiological Safety. Fourteen (14) sorties for a total of 35.2 hours were flown.

15 March 1952
Saturday operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of close order drill and an Intelligence Summary by the S-2 section.

16 March 1952
Holiday Routine.

17 March 1952
Squadron operations were normal this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. Twenty-six (26) sorties for a total of 42.1 hours were flown.

18 March 1952
Operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Close Air Support. Twenty-four (24) sorties for a total of 41.9 hours were flown.

19 March 1952
Operations were of a routine nature this date. Pilot ground training consisted of Intelligence Summary films. Thirteen sorties were flown for a total of 25.4 hours.

CONFIDENTIAL

20 March 1952

Operations were of a routine nature this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. The pilots returned to duty who were TAD to Close Air Support school. Sixteen (16) sorties for a total of 40.4 hours.

21 March 1952

Squadron operations were routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of recognition films. Sixteen sorties for a total of 35.4 hours were flown.

22 March 1952

Saturday operating routine. Pilot ground training consisted of close order drill and an Intelligence Summary by the S-2 section.

23 March 1952

Holiday Routine.

24 March 1952

Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Communications. Fifteen (15) sorties for a total of 17.1 hours were flown.

25 March 1952

Squadron operations normal this date. Pilots ground training consisted of lectures on Flight Equipment. Eighteen (18) sorties were flown for a total of 25.1 hours.

26 March 1952

Normal squadron operation this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Engineering. Forty-five (45) sorties were flown for a total of 78.3 hours.

ENCLOSURE (1)

-9-

CONFIDENTIAL

27 March 1952

Normal operating routine this date. Pilot ground training consisted of lectures on Radiological Defense. Twenty-three (23) sorties for a total of 38.4 hours were flown.

28 March 1952

Squadron operation was routine this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. Seven (7) sorties for a total of 9.0 hours were flown.

29 March 1952

Saturday operating routine. Pilot ground training consisted of close order drill and an Intelligence Summary by the S-2 section.

30 March 1952

Holiday routine. Twenty-one cross country sorties were flown for a total of 62.5 hours this date.

31 March 1952

Normal squadron operations this date. No pilot ground training was scheduled. Twenty sorties were flown for a total of 42.6 hours.

ENCLOSURE (1)

-10-

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE DAY

	Daily (including Saturday)	(Sundays and Holidays)
0600	First call	None
0600	Reveille	None
0615	Duty section sweeps down	0600
0600-0730	Regular Breakfast (NCO'S included)	0700-0800
0730	Mustering in designated squadron area	None
0755	Report of absences to squadron	None
0800	Turn to	None
0800-1000	Sick call	0800-1000
1130	Recall for noon meal	None
1130-1245	Regular noon meal (NCO'S included)	1130-1300
1200	Liberty (on Saturdays only)	Regular Liberty all day Sunday
	<u>A-P-P-E-N-D-I-X</u> <u>O-N-E</u>	
1300	Turn to	None
1300-1400	Sick call	1300-1400
1615	Mustering	None
1630	Recall	None
1635	Liberty	Regular Liberty all day Sunday
1700-1800	Regular supper (NCO'S included)	1630-1730
1800-1830	Sick call	1800-1830
2100	Duty section sweep down	2100
2145	Call to quarters	2200
2230	Taps, lights out	2215

ENCLOSURE (1)

APPENDIX (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE DAY

	Daily (including Saturday)	(Sundays and Holidays)
0550	First call	None
0600	Reveille	None
0615	Duty section sweeps down	0800
0600-0730	Regular Breakfast (NCO'S included)	0700-0800
0730	Muster in designated squadron area	None
0755	Report of absentees to squadron	None
0800	Turn to	None
0800-1000	Sick call	0800-1000
1130	Recall for noon meal	None
*1130-1245	Regular noon meal (NCO'S included)	*1130-1300
**1200	Liberty (On Saturdays only)	**Regular Liberty all day Sunday
1300	Turn to	None
1300-1400	Sick call	1300-1400
1615	Muster	None
1630	Recall	None
1635	Liberty	Regular Liberty all day Sunday
1700-1800	Regular supper (NCO'S included)	1630-1730
1800-1830	Sick call	1800-1830
2100	Duty section sweep down	2100
2145	Call to quarters	2200
2200	Taps, lights out	2215

CONFIDENTIAL

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 251
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15
AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
EL TORO (SANTA ANA), CALIFORNIA

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
March 1952

1. PERSONNEL:	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>
A. Officer strength	59	46
(1) Naval Aviators	50	39
(2) Aviation Ground Officers	8	7
B. Enlisted Strength	179	141
(1) Naval Aviation Pilots	0	1
2. AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED AT END OF PERIOD:		
A. F4U-4		20
B. AD-1		1
3. AIRCRAFT LOST:		0
4. AVERAGE AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY:		45%
5. TOTAL SORTIES:		344
6. TOTAL HOURS FLOWN:		651.1
7. ORDNANCE EXPENDED:		
A. 9595 rounds .50 cal.		
B. 3200 rounds tracer .50 cal.		
C. 466 miniature bombs		
D. 237 SCARS		
E. 200 rounds #8 chilled shot		

APPENDIX (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

3. DAILY FLIGHT SUMMARY:

DATE	TYPE SORTIES	NO. SORTIES	HOURS
(5)	Familiarization Day	14	31.4
	Cross Country		
(6)	Cross Country	2	8.0
(8)	Familiarization Day	29	54.9
	Cross Country		
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
	Cross Country Night		
(11)	Instruments	4	7.0
(12)	Familiarization Day	14	20.7
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
	Test		
(13)	Familiarization Day	23	35.7
	Test		
	Familiarization Night		
	Strafing		
	Section Tactics Night		
(14)	Familiarization Day	14	35.2
	Cross Country		
	Reconnaissance		
	Test		
(17)	Familiarization Day	26	42.1
	Division Tactics		

APPENDIX (2)

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE SORTIES</u>	<u>NO. SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
(17) cont.	Cross Country		
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
(18)	Familiarization Day	24	41.9
	Division Tactics		
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
	Test		
(19)	Instruments	13	25.4
	Bombing and Rockets		
(20)	Cross Country	16	40.4
	Instruments		
(21)	Familiarization Day	16	35.4
	Cross Country		
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
	Reconnaissance		
(24)	Familiarization Day	15	17.1
	Division Tactics		
	Instruments		
	Gunnery Air to Air		
	Test		
(25)	Familiarization Day	18	25.1
	Cross Country		
	Reconnaissance		

APPENDIX (2)

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE SORTIES</u>	<u>NO. SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
(25) cont.	Familiarization Night		
	Section Tactics Night		
(26)	Division Tactics	45	78.3
	Cross Country		
	Instruments		
	Bombing and Rockets		
	Cross Country Night		
(27)	Familiarization Day	23	38.4
	Division Tactics		
	Instruments		
	Ground Controlled Approach		
(28)	Familiarization Day	7	9.0
	Instruments		
(30)	Cross Country	21	62.5
	Cross Country Night		
(31)	Division Tactics	20	42.6
	Cross Country		
	Instruments		
	Test		
	Cross Country Night		

APPENDIX (2)

-4-