

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
HAH:cjm
A9-4
Serial: 004

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7 SEP 1953

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
(3) Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
(4) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Type "B" Report Command Diary; submission of

Ref: (a) Part E, Chapter 11, MCM
(b) 1st MAW General Order 87 of 24 June 1952
(c) 1st MAW General Order 161 of 21 August 1953
(d) MAG-12 General Order 39 of 11 July 1952

Encl: (1) VMA-251 Type "B" Report Command Diary for the Period 1-31 August 1953.

1. In accordance with references (a) through (d) which require the monthly publication of Type "B" Report Command Diary, and set forth the format to be used, enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

2. This letter is downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

Harold A. Harwood

HAROLD A. HARWOOD

Copy to:

CinCPacFlt
IacFlt Eval Grp, CinCPacFlt
ComNavFe
Comdt Mar CorpsScol (3)
CG, AirFMFLant
CG, 2d MAW
CG, 3d MAW
ComAirPac
CG, 1st Provisional Marine Air-Ground Task Force

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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

TYPE "B" REPORT

COMMAND DIARY

1-31 AUGUST 1953

DISTRIBUTION

- (1) Original and one (1) copy to Commandant of the Marine Corps
- (2) Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12
- (2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
- (3) Commanding General, Aircraft Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
- (4) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force
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TASK ORGANIZATION
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TASK ORGANIZATION

UNIT

Marine Attack Squadron 251

COMMANDING OFFICER

1-31 August 1953
LtCol Harold A. HARWOOD
08585/7331 USMC

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

K-6 Air Base, PyongTaek, Korea

NEXT HIGHER ECHELON

Marine Aircraft Group 12
1st Marine Aircraft Wing

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TAB C
MONTHLY SUMMARY
1 PAGE

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SUMMARY OF MONTHLY OPERATIONS

During the month of August 1953, Marine Attack Squadron 251 was located at F-6 Air Base, Pusan, Korea. The Commanding Officer from 1 August through 31 August 1953 was Lieutenant Colonel Harold A. HARWOOD, 08585/7331, U. S. Marine Corps. This squadron is a unit of Marine Aircraft Group 12.

The cessation of hostilities in Korea allowed ample time to initiate a basic training program for the enlisted men and ground training for the pilots. This program, along with an accelerated intra-mural sports program, has contributed immensely toward maintaining a high state of morale within the command.

This squadron is in the process of training pilots in night intercept tactics. When a sufficient number of pilots have been trained, Marine Attack Squadron 251 will assume the mission of night defense against possible attack by enemy aircraft in the F-6 Seoul area. One (1) AD-4N type aircraft and one (1) airborne intercept operator were assigned to this squadron from VMC-1 to assist in this training.

In order that Marine Attack Squadron 251 might continue training in night close air support, a task for which considerable time and effort was spent prior to our deployment to Korea, a request for training facilities was submitted to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. (See Appendix I).

During the month of August 1953, Marine Attack Squadron 251 flew a total of 405 operational sorties for a total of 590.6 operational hours. 170 Ground Controlled Approaches and 56 ADF/MDF let-downs were made by pilots of this squadron during the month of August 1953.

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TAB D
CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE
1-5 PAGES

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

1 AUGUST 1953

One (1) test hop was flown for a total of .5 operational hours.

2 AUGUST 1953

Two (2) test hops were flown for a total of 1.0 operational hours.

3 AUGUST 1953

One (1) test hop was flown for .4 operational hours.

4 AUGUST 1953

A Basic Training Program for enlisted men was effected and will be conducted each Tuesday. Enlisted men have been divided into Port and Starboard Sections. Lectures delivered to Port Section in the morning will be heard by Starboard Section in the afternoon and vice-versa. Two (2) periods of History and Tradition of the Marine Corps were delivered by Master Sergeant Daniel L. W. ENGLE, 266052/6413, USMC. Two (2) periods of Military Courtesy and Discipline were delivered by Master Sergeant Michael M. MONTONARA, 850297/0149, USMC. Two (2) periods on Interior Guard were delivered by Master Sergeant Ernie L. O'NEAL, 397770/6449, USMC. A copy of the Basic Training Program for August 1953 is included as Appendix II of this report.

Two (2) instructional training sorties and two (2) cross-country flights totalled 3.6 operational hours.

5 AUGUST 1953

Twelve (12) instructional training sorties, seven (7) GCA sorties, three (3) test hops and four (4) cross-country flights were flown for a total of 39.4 operational hours.

6 AUGUST 1953

Marine Attack Squadron 251 has been assigned the task of night defense against possible attack by enemy aircraft on the K-6 Seoul area. This task is to be effected as soon as the squadron has trained a sufficient number of pilots for this type mission. At this time, there are only four (4) pilots assigned to this squadron with prior night fighter experience.

Four (4) officers of this command, Major James W. MERRITT, 011242/7331, USMCR, Major Leroy C. BARTON, 025336/7331, USMC, Captain Albert V. AARON, 029481/7331, USMCR and Captain William J. FOSTER, Jr., 038988/7331, USMCR, received Air Medals, first award. Two officers, Lieutenant Colonel Harold A. HARWOOD, 08585/7331, USMC and Major Kevin COCHRANE, 026651/7331 received gold stars in lieu of Air Medals, sixth and fifth awards, respectively.

Twelve (12) instructional training sorties, six (6) GCA sorties, four (4) test hops and six (6) cross-country flights were flown for a total of 38.1 operational hours.

7 AUGUST 1953

Eighteen (18) familiarization sorties, eight (8) instructional training flights and one (1) test hop were flown for a total of 35.8 operational hours.

8 AUGUST 1953

Ten (10) instructional training flights, six (6) GCA flights, one (1) test hop, one (1) abort and five (5) cross-country flights totalled 35.9 operational hours.

9 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew three (3) familiarization sorties, fourteen (14) instructional training flights, two (2) test hops and four (4) cross-country flights for a total of 36.7 operational hours.

10 AUGUST 1953

One (1) AD-4N type aircraft was received on this date as a temporary loan from Marine Composite Squadron 1 to be used in training pilots of this squadron in night intercept work. Staff Sergeant Richard BOHN, 1113767/6741, USMC, an airborne intercept operator assigned to Marine Composite Squadron 1 is flying with this squadron to assist in the training of squadron pilots in the use of the APS-19A equipment.

Seven (7) GCA flights and two (2) test hops were flown for a total of 11.3 operational hours.

11 AUGUST 1953

A Ground Training Program for officers of this command has been initiated and is to be conducted each week. Because the time which may be allotted to this training is rather indefinite no definite schedule of training will be set up, however, the lectures and training will be so designed that all will derive the utmost benefit from them. Officer Ground Training today consisted of a one (1) hour lecture on the Marine Corps Manual, Officer's Qualification Jacket and the Enlisted Men's Service Record Book. This very informative lecture was presented by Master Sergeant Michael M. MONTONARA, 850297/0149, USMC, Squadron Sergeant Major.

Enlisted training was conducted in accordance with the training schedule contained as Appendix II of this report.

Today all pilots were assigned individual aircraft and were required to perform a daily inspection of same in conjunction with staff non-commissioned officers of the engineering department.

No operational sorties were flown on this date.

12 AUGUST 1953

Two (2) familiarization sorties, six (6) instructional training flights, six (6) GCA flights, three (3) test hops and five (5) cross-country flights were flown for a total of 24.6 operational hours.

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13 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew one (1) test hop and one (1) cross-country flight for 1.2 operational hours.

14 AUGUST 1953

Four (4) familiarization sorties, 12 instructional training flights and one (1) test hop for 33.8 operational hours were flown.

On his own initiative, Captain James R. BLUNT, 030505/7331, USMCR began a speech class for all members of the squadron. The voluntary classes are designed to give personnel confidence in themselves and experience in public speaking. The classes are especially beneficial to NCO's of the squadron.

15 AUGUST 1953

Marine Attack Squadron 251 flew six (6) instructional training sorties and two (2) test hops for a total of 10.4 operational hours.

Six (6) enlisted men of this command received meritorious promotions. Privates First Class Donald A. ENOS, 1321639/6413, USMCSS, Wesley R. HAYGOOD, 1319126/6511, USMCSS, Austin (n) JONES, 132020/6413, USMCSS, and John M. SPBAGUE, 1326409/6511, USMCSS received promotions to the temporary rank of corporal. Corporals John W. CRAFTA, 1308724/6511, USMCSS and Roland G. FARRINGTON, 1229093/0111, USMC, were promoted to the temporary rank of Sergeant.

16 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew four (4) cross-country flights for 3.2 operational hours.

17 AUGUST 1953

Four (4) instructional training sorties, two (2) intercept training flights and one (1) test hop totalled 11.7 operational hours.

18 AUGUST 1953

A weapon inspection of all enlisted personnel possessing the U. S. rifle, caliber .30, M-1 was conducted. After the inspection, enlisted personnel practiced close order drill for one (1) hour. Junior non-commissioned officers were given the opportunity of drilling troops. Throughout the rest of the day the usual training schedule was conducted.

No sorties were flown on this date.

19 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew five (5) familiarization sorties, eight (8) instructional training flights, two (2) GCA sorties, nine (9) intercept training sorties and six (6) cross-country flights for a total of 45.3 operational hours.

Staff Sergeant BOHN was grounded for medical reasons and replaced by Staff Sergeant Joseph C. COSBY, 1155624/6731, USMC of Marine Composite Squadron 1.

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20 AUGUST 1953

Nine (9) familiarization sorties, four (4) instructional training sorties, four (4) GCA flights and three (3) intercept training sorties totalled 29.5 operational hours.

21 AUGUST 1953

Six (6) familiarization flights, 14 instructional training sorties and three (3) intercept training sorties were flown for a total of 37.6 operational hours.

22 AUGUST 1953

Marine Attack Squadron 251 flew one (1) familiarization sortie and four (4) instructional training sorties for 7.3 operational hours.

23 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew six (6) familiarization sorties, five (5) instructional training flights and two (2) test hops for a total of 18.2 operational hours.

24 AUGUST 1953

A request for night close air support training facilities was submitted this date to the Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. (See Appendix I).

Six (6) familiarization sorties, four (4) instructional training flights two (2) GCA sorties and one (1) test hop were flown for 20.6 hours.

25 AUGUST 1953

Basic training for enlisted personnel and Ground training for officers was conducted today.

No operational sorties were flown.

26 AUGUST 1953

No sorties were flown this date due to inclement weather.

27 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew two (2) familiarization sorties, 11 instructional training sorties, eight (8) GCA sorties, and three (3) intercept training flights for 35.1 operational hours.

28 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew fifteen (15) instructional training sorties, six (6) GCA flights, three (3) intercept training sorties, one (1) test hop, one (1) abort and two (2) cross-country flights for a total of 47.8 operational hours.

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29 AUGUST 1953

Nine (9) instructional training sorties, one (1) test hop and four (4) cross-country flights were flown for a total of 22.4 operational hours.

30 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew four (4) cross-country flights for 3.6 operational hours.

31 AUGUST 1953

The squadron flew two (2) familiarization sorties, ten (10) instructional training flights, five (5) GCA flights, three (3) intercept training sorties, two (2) test hops and one (1) abort for a total of 35.8 operational hours.

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STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT

1. PERSONNEL:

(a) Personnel authorized:

Officers AG 6 NA 53 Enlisted 179

NAP 0 TOTAL 238

(b) Personnel assigned:

Officers AG 5 NA 32 Enlisted 186

NAP 3 TOTAL 226

(c) Personnel lost:

None

(d) Personnel returned to duty from MIA:

None

2. AIRCRAFT:

(a) Aircraft authorized:

Type AD-3, AD-4, AD-4B Number 24

(b) Aircraft assigned:

Type AD-3, AD-4, AD-4B Number 24

(c) Aircraft lost:

None

3. OPERATIONS:

Availability of pilots-----30
Availability of aircraft-----18
Total flight sorties-----405
Total flight hours-----590.8
Total operational sorties-----405
Total operational hours-----590.8

RECAPITULATION OF FLIGHTS

<u>NON-COMBAT FLIGHTS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
FAMILIARIZATION	44	98.7
INSTRUCTION TRAINING	190	288.4
GCA	59	85.4
INTERCEPT	26	37.5
TEST	32	22.5
ABORTS	3	1.4
X-COUNTRY	51	56.9
TOTAL	405	590.8

4. ORDNANCE EXPENDED:

None

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APPENDIX I

NIGHT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT TRAINING FACILITIES, REQUEST FOR

1-2 PAGES

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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
HAH:fgm
A5
Ser: 003
24 August 1953

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From: Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 251
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FME (Attn: G-3)
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12

Subj: Night Close Air Support Training Facilities; request for

Ref: (a) CG, AirFMEPac ltr ser 0175 of 5 March 1953

1. Reference (a) sets forth the night syllabus scheduled for completion prior to the deployment of Marine Attack Squadron 251 to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The syllabus in its entirety stressed night close air support utilizing flare pots and aerial flares to accomplish illumination. As a result of this training, each pilot compiled an average of forty (40) hours flown at night while 2,200 one million (1,000,000) candle power aerial flares were dropped. At the present time, there are thirty two (32) pilots in this squadron trained and qualified in night close air support. It is believed mandatory that this training be continued; both in order to maintain the high degree of efficiency attained, as well as to further develop new methods of accomplishing and perfecting our mission in compliance with reference (a). This further training would make possible the compilation of a standing operating procedure covering all phases of night close air support.

2. Should hostilities be renewed, it is the opinion of the undersigned that the following means of target illumination and identification will prove most effective in carrying out night close air support missions:

(a) THE CROSSED BEAM METHOD- This method utilizes two (2) searchlight beams crossing at an angle over the desired target. The effective range of the lights now in use is considered to be four (4) miles, making it possible to pin point any target up to this distance.

(b) THE SINGLE BEAM, MARKING ROUND METHOD - Should only one light be available, the target azimuth can be indicated by the beam while the range may be indicated by dropping a WP marking round through the beam into the target area. A variation of this method will enable targets in defilade, or on rear slopes, to be attacked by positioning the beam on the forward slope and directing the strike aircraft to hit the rear slope.

(c) THE CROSSED TRACER METHOD - Using tracer ammunition automatic weapons can mark a pin point target, up to their effective range, in the same way as the searchlights were employed in the crossed beam method.

3. Although the above methods have been tried and proved practical, this squadron has not had the opportunity to train in their use. The method used during the training period utilized 1,000,000 candle power flares. An FAC would position the flare plane over the target for the first drop. Once the target had been illuminated and the strike leader oriented, he would then assume control of the flare plane. A minimum of two (2) flares, burning three (3) minutes each and preset to ignite at 2,000 feet above the

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target, were used on each run. A thirty (30) degree dive angle was considered the most practical and all pull-outs were made above the flares. It is interesting to note here, that the aggregate bombing scores for the squadron showed a marked increase for the night work as compared to the day dive-bombing.

4. It is also believed that targets in defilade could be illuminated and pinpointed by the use of flares. The paramount factor is to locate the target and to illuminate the area on the initial drop. This can be accomplished in one of the two ways, the Searchlight Method or MPQ control of the flare plane. The latter would be used in the event the target could not be positioned by use of either Searchlight Method. Once the target is lighted initially, the strike leader would then assume control of the flare plane as stated in the above paragraph.

5. It is requested that facilities to train in the above methods of night close air support be made available to this squadron. Proposed target sites are the Suwon bomb range as well as floating targets anchored in the Asan-Man Estuary.

HAROLD A. HARWOOD

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APPENDIX II

ENLISTED TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 1953

1 PAGE

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TRAINING
AUGUST 1953

Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California

TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 1953				
0830-0930	0930-1030	1030-1130	1300-1400	1400-1500 1500-1600
History & Tradition Marine Corps MSgt. ENGLE	do	Military Courtesy & Discipline MSgt. MONTONARA	Interior Guard MSgt. O'NEAL	Security of Military Information Lt. KUCHARSKI do
TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 1953				
Map Reading & Aerial Photo MSgt. DELACQUA	do	do	Military Courtesy & Discipline MSgt. MONTONARA	Interior Guard MSgt. O'NEAL do
TUESDAY AUGUST 18, 1953				
Map Reading & Aerial Photo MSgt. DELACQUA	do	do	Military Courtesy & Discipline MSgt. MONTONARA	Shelter Tents MSgt. BEARDEN do
TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 1953				
Map Reading & Aerial Photo MSgt. DELACQUA	Interior Guard MSgt O'NEAL	Defense Against Chemical Attack TSgt MEIKIE	do	World Affairs Capt BLUNT do