



VMA-251 - Command Diary - January 1953 - March 1953

Korean War

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THIRD ENDORSEMENT on CO VMA-251 ltr ser 013 of 3 Apr 1953

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: Type "B" Report (Command Diary) to cover the period
1 January 1953 through 31 March 1953

1. Forwarded.
2. This endorsement is downgraded to unclassified upon detachment from the enclosure.

Edward A. Wilcox
EDWARD A. WILCOX
By direction

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10 APR 1953

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMA-251 Conf ltr ser 013 of 3 April 1953

From: Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Type "B" Report (Command Diary) to cover the period 1 January 1953
through 31 March 1953

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R. O. BLISSON
By direction

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

FF14/VMA-251/HAH:dmr

A12-1

Ser: 013

3 APR 1953

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From: Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron-251
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-15
(2) Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific


Subj: Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for the period 1 January 1953 to 31 March 1953

Ref: (a) AirFMFPac Memo No. 31-53 of 20 Mar 1953
(b) Part E Chapter 11, MCM (Change 1tr 1 to Change 4)

Encl: (1) Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for the Period 1 January 1953 to 31 March 1953

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

2. Upon removal of enclosure (1) this letter is downgraded to unclassified.



HAROLD A. HARWOOD

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6 APR 1953

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, VMA-251 Conf ltr ser 013 of 3 Apr 1953

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-15
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps
Via: (1) Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

Subj: Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for the period 1 January 1953 to
31 March 1953

Encl: (1) Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for the period 1 January 1953
to 31 March 1953

1. Forwarded.
2. Upon removal of Enclosure (1) this letter is downgraded to unclassified.



W. K. POTTINGER

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FF14/VMA-251/HAH: dmr

A12-1

Ser: 013

8 APR 1953

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON-251
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-15
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 (C-O-M-M-A-N-D D-I-A-R-Y)

PERIOD 1 JANUARY 1953 THROUGH 31 MARCH 1953

DISTRIBUTION ✓

Commandant of the Marine Corps
Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet
Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
Commandant, Marine Corps Schools
Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic
Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Commanding General, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing
Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing
Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-15
1st Provisional Marine Air-Ground Task Force
Pacific Fleet Evaluation Group

HISTORICAL OFFICER

Second Lieutenant Francis E. MARTIN, USMC

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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Type "T" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY

During the period covered by this report, 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 1953 was Lieutenant Colonel Harold A. HAYWOOD 06535/7302, U. S. Marine Corps. This squadron is a unit of Marine Aircraft Group-15. During the period 1 March 1953 through 31 March 1953, Marine Attack Squadron-251 conducted an intensive training program designed to qualify all Naval Aviators and Naval Aviation Pilots, assigned to this squadron, for combat in the newly assigned AD type aircraft.

Due to the limited facilities and targets available for use by this squadron at MCAS, El Toro, twenty-nine (29) officers and one hundred twelve (112) enlisted men were deployed to Naval Auxiliary Air Station, El Centro, California for the period 8 March 1953 to 28 March 1953 during which time all pilots assigned to this squadron received a minimum of forty-five (45) hours flight time in the AD aircraft. For further breakdown of flight time and training during this period see APPENDIX V.

This squadron is preparing for deployment to Korea in June 1953.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

3 March 1953 to 6 March 1953

Squadron operations consisted of familiarization and section tactic flights for all pilots assigned.

4 March 1953

The last seven (7) F4U-4 aircraft were transferred to VMAT-10 this date.

5 March 1953

Mr. W. L. PHEIFFER, representative of the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, was assigned to this squadron.

7 March 1953

Mr. RILEY and Mr. WOLGESS, representatives of the Curtiss Wright Aircraft Corporation presented a lecture on the performance and capabilities of the 3350-26 engine.

8 March 1953

Twenty-nine (29) officers and one hundred twelve (112) enlisted men departed for NAAS, El Centro, California for a period of twenty-one (21) days intensive training. Fourteen AD aircraft were flown by squadron pilots to NAAS, El Centro this date.

9 March 1953

Two (2) AD-3 aircraft joined from NAS Alameda.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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Flight operations were confined to familiarization, section and division tactics.

10 March 1953

Angle calibration hops were flown by all pilots. Thirty (30), fifty (50), and seventy (70) degree dives were used. Seventy (70) degree dives were discontinued due to excessive oil leaks, believed to be caused by the extreme dive angles.

11 March 1953

Captain James R. BLUNT, Intelligence Officer, gave a lecture on close air support to Naval Air Intelligence school at NAS Alameda, California.

13 March 1953

The first night familiarization hop in the AD aircraft was flown this date.

15 March 1953

Two (2) AD-3 Aircraft were joined from NAS Moffett.

Eighteen enlisted men detailed to the Maintenance Course on the AD aircraft at NAS San Diego, California, completed their course of instruction and returned to MCAS, El Toro.

24 March 1953

The first night bombing hops were flown using flare pots to outline the target.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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25 March 1953

Captain Kenneth A. LUND encountered a complete engine failure while on a night bombing hop in an AD-3 aircraft Bureau No. 122745 and sustained Class B injuries while bailing out. Captain LUND was picked up by a helicopter from NAAS El Centro and returned to the infirmary at NAAS, El Centro, California. He was then transferred to the Naval Hospital at San Diego. The cause of the engine failure could not be determined.

26 March 1953

The first night strafing hops were flown this date.

28 March 1953

The squadron returned from NAAS, El Centro, California.

30 March 1953

Flight operations were confined to Ground Controlled Approach. Pilots qualified or regualified with five (5) approaches each.

For further breakdown of flight time for the month of March 1953 see
APPENDIX V.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY 1953 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1953

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Type "D" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY 1953 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1953

TASK ORGANIZATION

Unit: Marine Attack Squadron-251

Commanding Officers: Lieutenant Colonel Sumner H. WHITTEN 06995/7302,
U. S. Marine Corps, 1 January 1953 to 13 February
1953
Lieutenant Colonel Harold A. HARWOOD 08585/7302,
U. S. Marine Corps, 14 February 1953 to 28
February 1953

Geographic Location: Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana),
California

Next Higher Echelon: Marine Aircraft Group-15

Commanding Officer: Colonel William K. POTTINGER, 04643/9907,
U. S. Marine Corps

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

1 January 1953

Holiday Routine (See APPENDIX II).

2 January 1953

Routine Working Day (See APPENDIX II).

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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15 January 1953

At 1348 this date, Second Lieutenant Edward M. BELFORD 054177/7301 USMCOR, experienced a landing gear failure during a landing roll out at MCAS El Toro, California. Lieutenant BELFORD was flying an F4U-4 Modex No. AL-15 Bureau No. 80871. Both Pilot and plane sustained Class D injuries and damage. The cause of this accident was unknown.

23 January 1953

Six (6) officers and six (6) enlisted men were detached for temporary additional duty to Marine Training Group-10 for Carrier Qualification aboard the USS Sicily.

25 January 1953

Thirteen (13) officers were detached for temporary additional duty under instructions to the Tactical Air Support School at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California.

27 January 1953

Three (3) planes from this squadron participated in a close air support problem at Camp Pendleton.

29 January 1953

Eleven (11) planes from this squadron participated in a close air support problem at Camp Pendleton.

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Type "E" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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30 January 1953

Thirteen (13) officers detailed to the Tactical Air Support School, completed their course of instructions and returned to MCAS El Toro, California.

31 January 1953

Nine (9) officers and eleven (11) enlisted men were transferred during the month of January 1953 to Service Squadron AirFMFPac for assignment to an overseas replacement draft.

For further breakdown of flight time during January 1953 see APPENDIX III.

1 February 1953

Five (5) officers were detached for temporary additional duty under instructions to the Tactical Air Support School at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California.

Twenty-four (24) officers and ninety-five (95) enlisted men departed for NAAS, El Centro, California for a period of seven days intensive training with the F4U-4 aircraft. This period stressed pilot training in rockets, strafing and bombing.

5 February 1953

Captain Stanley H. CARPENTER 048995/7301, USMC, while parked in an F4U-4, AL-7 Bureau No. 97125, was struck in the left temple by the valve

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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of a CO-2 fire bottle. The fire bottle was standing upright in the middle of the taxi way leading into the magazine loading area at NAAS El Centro, California, and was struck by the propeller of AL-15 Bureau No. 80871 piloted by Major Robert J. BARBOUR 021057/7302 USMC. AL-7 and AL-15 both received Class D damage and Captain CARPENTER received Class C injuries. Captain CARPENTER was wearing a H-3 protective helmet which was cracked from the force of the flying metal (CO-2 fire bottle valve). It is believed that this protective helmet saved the life of the pilot.

7 February 1953

The squadron returned this date from El Centro.

Five (5) officers detailed to the Tactical Air Support School, completed their course of instructions and returned to MCAS, El Toro, California.

8 February 1953

Twenty-three (23) enlisted men were detached for temporary additional duty under instructions to the maintenance course on the AD aircraft at NAS, San Diego, California.

11 February 1953

The first two (2) AD type aircraft were received in this squadron from NAS Alameda, California.

An inspection of the squadron Post Office was conducted by AirFMFPac postal representatives.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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13 February 1953

The squadron Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Sumner H. WHITTEN
06995/7302, USMC, was transferred to Marine Fighter Squadron-451.

14 February 1953

Lieutenant Colonel Harold A. HARWOOD, 00585/7302, USMC, assumed command of
Marine Attack Squadron-251. Colonel HARWOOD commanded Marine Fighter Squad-
ron-451 prior to his transfer.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur N. NEHF Jr. 09391, USMC, presented a lecture
to the pilots of this squadron on the situation in Korea.

18 February 1953

Fourteen (14) officers were detached for temporary additional duty under
instructions to the Indoctrination Course (cutaway school) on the AD aircraft
at NAS San Diego, California.

19 February 1953

Two pilots flying F4U-4 aircraft participated in the AIRLEX II maneuver.
The two aircraft were used to lay a smoke screen.

20 February 1953

Fourteen (14) officers detached to the Indoctrination Course, completed
their instructions and returned to MCAS, El Toro, California.

21 February 1953

Captain William H. BORTZ 032735/7333, USMC, presented a lecture to the

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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pilots of this squadron on the situation in Korea and the problems encountered during his recent tour with Marine Aircraft Group-12.

23 February 1953

Twenty three (23) enlisted men detailed to the Maintenance Course on the AD aircraft, completed their course of instructions and returned to MCAS, El Toro, California.

Nine (9) officers and one (1) enlisted man (NAP) were detached for temporary additional duty under instructions to the Indoctrination Course (cutaway school) on the AD aircraft at NAS, San Diego, California.

26 February 1953

Nine (9) officers and one (1) enlisted man (NAP) detached to the Indoctrination Course on the AD aircraft completed their instructions and returned to MCAS, El Toro, California.

27 February 1953

Eighteen (18) enlisted men were detached for temporary additional duty under instructions to the Maintenance Course on the AD aircraft at NAS, San Diego, California.

28 February 1953

Mr. BROWN, chief test pilot for the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, gave the pilots of this squadron a lecture on the AD type aircraft. It is felt that lectures of this caliber have enhanced the technical knowledge of the pilots

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Type "D" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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in this squadron considerably.

For further break down of flight time during the month of February 1953,
see APPENDIX IV.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX I

TASK ORGANIZATION

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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TASK ORGANIZATION

Unit:	Marine Attack Squadron-251
Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel HAROLD A. HAREWOOD 08585/7302, U. S. Marine Corps
Geographic Location:	Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro (Santa Ana), California
Next Higher Echelon:	Marine Aircraft Group-15
Commanding Officer:	Colonel WILLIAM K. POTTINGER, 04643/9907 U. S. Marine Corps

APPENDIX I

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1955 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX II
PLAN OF THE DAY

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 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) For March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

PLAN OF THE DAY

<u>Daily (Including Saturday)</u>		<u>Sundays & Holidays</u>
0600	Reveille	None
0630-0730	Breakfast	0700-0800
0700	Duty Section Muster & Sweepdown	1300
0730	General Muster in Squadron Area	None
0800	Turn To	None
0800-0900	Sick Call	0800-0900
1130-1230	Noon Meal	1130-1230
1200*	Liberty (Saturday Only)	Regular Liberty all Day Sunday
1300	Turn To	None
1300-1400	Sick Call	1300-1400
1615	General Muster in Squadron Area	None
1630	Liberty	Regular Liberty all day Sunday
1700-1800	Evening Meal	1630-1715
1800	Duty Section Muster & Sweepdown	1800
1800-1830	Sick Call	1800-1830
2130	Duty Section Muster & Sweepdown	2130
2145	Call To Quarters	2200
2200	Taps, Lights Out	2215

* Normal Holiday Routine shall prevail from 1200 on Saturday until 0730 on the following Monday unless otherwise specified by the Squadron Commander or higher authority.

APPENDIX II

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX III

STRENGTH, AIRCRAFT, AND FLIGHT TIME REPORT AND
ORDNANCE EXTENDED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1953

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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JANUARY 1953

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Type of Sorties</u>
2 Jan	9	13.1	Familiarization, Instrument, Instrument Chase
3 Jan	10	10.6	Familiarization, Section Tactics, Test
5 Jan	13	18.4	Instrument, Instrument Chase, Ground Controlled Approach, GCI, Familiarization
7 Jan	4	2.2	Test, Familiarization
8 Jan	13	17.6	Test, Familiarization, Instrument, Instrument Chase
9 Jan	18	21.9	Bombs & Rockets
12 Jan	1	.8	Test
14 Jan	34	36.9	Familiarization, Test, Section Tactics, Rockets & Bombs
15 Jan	26	46.9	Bombs & Rockets, Familiarization, Test, FCLP
16 Jan	32	50.2	Ferry, FCLP, Test, Bombs & Rockets, Strafing, Familiarization, Section Tactics
17 Jan	32	42.8	Instrument, Instrument Chase, GCA, FCLP, Familiarization, Section Tactics, Division Tactics
18 Jan	13	16.6	Section Tactics, Instrument, Instrument Chase
19 Jan	11	11.6	Section Tactics, FCLP
20 Jan	4	7.8	Test, Reconnaissance

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 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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JANUARY 1953 Cont.

21 Jan	24	34.0	Bombs & Rockets, Cross Country, Test, Instrument, Instrument Chase, Section Tactics, Night Familiarization
22 Jan	23	31.9	Section Tactics, Bombs & Rockets, Instrument, FCLP, Test Division Tactics
23 Jan	20	32.2	Bombs & Rockets, Section Tactics, Division Tactics, Instrument
24 Jan	8	9.5	Test, Section Tactics, Cross Country, Division Tactics
25 Jan	7	9.1	Section Tactics, Familiarization
27 Jan	24	45.9	Close Air Support, GCA, Instrument, Section Tactics, Division Tactics, Cross Country
28 Jan	21	41.5	Close Air Support, GCA, Section Tactics, Division Tactics, Instrument
29 Jan	13	23.9	FCLP, Close Air Support
30 Jan	<u>11</u>	<u>8.0</u>	FCLP, Test, Familiarization
TOTAL	371	533.4	

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. Total Aircraft Authorized	24 F4U-4
2. Total Aircraft on Hand	22 F4U-4
3. Aircraft Lost	0
4. Aircraft Availability	50 %
5. Pilots Combat Ready	20

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 Type "E" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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JANUARY 1953 Cont.

	<u>On Hand</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
6. Officer Strength:		
a. Naval Aviators:	37	53
b. Aviation Ground Officers	2	6
c. Naval Officers (Medical Corps):	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
d. TOTAL	39	60
7. Enlisted Strength:	141	179
a. Naval Aviation Pilots:	2	0
b. Naval Hospital Corpsmen:	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
c. TOTAL	143	182

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

500 lb. GP Bombs	14
Miniature (MK23)	505
Fire Bombs (MK77)	16
2.25 Scars	464
3.5 Rocket Head (MK 6)	57
5.0 Rocket Head (MK 6)	112
Napalm Thickener	880 lbs.
.50 Caliber	4200 rds.
Fuze, Bomb	14

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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JANUARY 1953 Cont.

Fuse, Rocket	112
Igniter (M15)	32
Fuze, Bomb (M157)	32
Shell, Shotgun (12 ga)	3000 rds.

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX IV

STRENGTH, AIRCRAFT, AND FLIGHT TIME REPORT AND
ORDNANCE EXPENDED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1953

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 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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FEBRUARY 1953

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Type of Sorties</u>
1 Feb	12	11.8	Cross Country
2 Feb	41	62.0	Night Tactics, Night Familiarization, Bombs & Rockets, Cross Country, Familiarization Section Tactics, Division Tactics
3 Feb	42	60.8	Night Familiarization, GCA, Bombs & Rockets Instrument
4 Feb	40	57.6	Strafing, Night Familiarization, Bombs & Rockets
5 Feb	26	49.6	Strafing, Bombs & Rockets, Cross Country
6 Feb	35	59.9	Bombs & Rockets, Cross Country, Familiarization
7 Feb	17	19.3	Cross Country, Familiarization
8 Feb	2	4.2	Cross Country
9 Feb	22	30.7	Instrument, Cross Country, Section Tactics Division Tactics, Familiarization
10 Feb	29	49.6	Strafing, Night Tactics, Test, Bombs & Rockets
11 Feb	20	27.2	Ferry, Bombs & Rockets, Cross Country, Familiarization
12 Feb	10	15.3	GCA, Section Tactics
13 Feb	25	33.1	Ferry, Bombs & Rockets
16 Feb	33	47.5	Bombs & Rockets, Night Section Tactics, Ferry, Familiarization
17 Feb	25	32.3	Bombs & Rockets, Section Tactics, Slow Time

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 SECURITY INFORMATION

APPENDIX IV

 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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FEBRUARY 1953 Cont

13 Feb	11	17.4	Test, GCA, Familiarization, Bombs & Rockets, Ferry
19 Feb	16	24.3	Bombs & Rockets, Familiarization, Smoke, Ferry
20 Feb	19	30.5	Strafing, Bombs & Rockets, Familiarization, Instrument, Test
21 Feb	3	2.0	Test, Ferry
24 Feb	22	29.1	Ferry, Familiarization, Test, Smoke
25 Feb	18	33.4	Familiarization, Cross Country, Ferry
26 Feb	16	18.3	Familiarization, Test, Ferry
27 Feb	27	38.5	Ferry, Test, Familiarization
23 Feb	<u>22</u>	<u>28.4</u>	Test, Section Tactics, Familiarization
TOTAL	674	831.6	

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. Total Aircraft Authorized	24 AD-3 & 4
2. Total Aircraft on Hand	16 AD-3 & 4
	8 F4U-4
3. Aircraft Lost	0
4. Aircraft Availability	30 %
5. Pilots Combat Ready	13

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 SECURITY INFORMATION

APPENDIX IV

 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

CONFIDENTIAL
 SECURITY INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 1953 Cont

	<u>On Hand</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
6. Officer Strength:		
a. Naval Aviators:	35	53
b. Aviation Ground Officers:	2	6
c. Naval Officers (Medical Corps):	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
d. TOTAL:	37	60
7. Enlisted Strength:	141	179
a. Naval Aviation Pilots:	2	0
b. Naval Hospital Corpsmen:	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
c. TOTAL:	143	182

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

500 lb. GP Bomb	19
500 lb. WSF Bomb	50
Miniature (MK23)	1568
Fire Bombs	32
2.25 Rocket Head	1407
3.5 Rocket Head	30
5.0 Rocket Head	366
FS Smoke Mixture	132 Gal
Napalm Thickener	1760 lbs.
50 Caliber	37545 rds.

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APPENDIX IV

Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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FEBRUARY 1953 Cont.

Fuze, Bomb, Nose	19
Fuze, Rocket, Nose	30
Igniter (M15)	32
Fuze, Bomb	30

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APPENDIX IV

DECLASSIFIED

Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX V

STRENGTH, AIRCRAFT, AND FLIGHT TIME REPORT AND
ORDNANCE EXTENDED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1953

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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SECURITY INFORMATION

MARCH 1953

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Type of Sorties</u>
2 Mar	27	36.4	Familiarization, Section Tactics, Test, MPQ
3 Mar	21	28.2	Section Tactics, Division Tactics, Cross Country, Ferry, Test
4 Mar	31	42	Section Tactics, Instrument, Test, Familiarization
5 Mar	23	34.9	Division Tactics, Section Tactics, MPQ
6 Mar	4	6.4	Test, MPQ
8 Mar	14	23.3	Cross Country
9 Mar	51	71.0	Instrument, Division Tactics, Section Tactics, Familiarization, Ferry
10 Mar	50	65.8	Simulated Bombing, Familiarization, Cross Country, Test
11 Mar	52	69.4	Simulated Bombing, Section Tactics
12 Mar	49	70.6	Rockets & Bombs, Division Tactics, Familiarization, Test
13 Mar	67	94.8	Rockets & Bombs, Night Familiarization, Night Division Tactics, Section Tactics, Cross Country
14 Mar	36	55.4	Rockets & Bombs, Instrument, Section Tactics, Test
15 Mar	20	41.8	Navigation, Division Tactics, Cross Country, Instrument, Test
16 Mar	66	92.5	Rockets & Bombs, Night Familiarization, Bombing, Cross Country, Test

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APPENDIX V

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 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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MARCH 1953 Cont

17 Mar	70	103.1	Strafing, Bombing, Night Familiarization, Ferry, Cross Country
18 Mar	67	95.6	Strafing, Navigation, Familiarization, Cross Country, Bombing
19 Mar	59	85.4	Bombs & Strafing, Bombing familiarization, Section Tactics, Cross Country
20 Mar	13	17.9	Strafing, Navigation, Familiarization
21 Mar	42	63.1	Instrument, Navigation, Section Tactics, Instrument Chase
22 Mar	22	42.0	Instrument, Navigation, Section Tactics
23 Mar	52	72.0	Night Division Tactics, Night Section Tactics, Night Familiarization, Navigation, Instrument
24 Mar	36	45.7	Night Bombing, Night Division Tactics, Cross Country, Night Navigation
25 Mar	53	70.7	Night Bombing, Strafing, Section Tactics, Instrument, Test
26 Mar	58	71.2	Night Bombing, Strafing, Night Familiarization, Instrument, Familiarization, Cross Country, Test, Ferry
27 Mar	23	23.9	Night Strafing, Strafing, Test, Cross Country, Ferry
28 Mar	12	14.4	Navigation, Test
30 Mar	15	24.2	Night Navigation, GCA, Chase, Navigation
31 Mar	24	29.7	GCA, GCA Chase, Cross Country

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APPENDIX V

DECLASSIFIED

 Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

CONFIDENTIAL
 SECURITY INFORMATION

MARCH 1953 Cont

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. Total Aircraft Authorized		24 AD
2. Total Aircraft On Hand		20 AD
3. Aircraft Lost		1 AD
4. Aircraft Availability		65 %
5. Pilots Combat Ready		2
6. Officer Strength:	<u>On Hand</u>	<u>Authorized</u>
a. Naval Aviators:	39	53
b. Aviation Ground Officers:	2	6
c. Naval Officers (Medical Corps):	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
d. TOTAL	41	60
7. Enlisted Strength:	168	179
a. Naval Aviation Pilots:	2	0
b. Naval Hospital Corpsmen:	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
c. TOTAL:	170	182

ORDNANCE EXPENDED

100 lb. WSF (MK15)	1901
Miniature (MK23)	1998
2.25 Rocket Head	1628
20 mm. Cartridges	29,026 rds.

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 SECURITY INFORMATION

APPENDIX V

DECLASSIFIED

Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

APPENDIX VI
ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

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

14 February 1953

SQUADRON ORDER)

: Assumption of Command
NUMBER...22-53)

1. I have this date assumed command of Marine Attack Squadron-251. All orders issued by my predecessor remain in effect until revoked by competent authority.

HAROLD A. HARTWOOD
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

APPENDIX VI

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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SECURITY INFORMATION

APPENDIX VII

STATION LIST

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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APPENDIX VII

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

T/O JOB TITLE	T/O RANK	T/O MOS	NAME	RANK	MOS	ADD	SERVICE NUMBER	DATE OF RANK	DATE JOINED	REF US	QUARTERS NUMBER	NOTE	RES
HEADQUARTERS													
Commanding Officer	Lt Col	7331	PANWOOD, Harold A	Lt Col	7302	7331	06585	1 Jul 51	1 Feb 53	Oct 46	2047 S Olive St Santa Ana	1051	25925
Executive Officer	Maj	7331	MERRITT, James W.	Maj	7302		011242	19 Oct 45	1 Feb 53	Jun 46	BQ 35	1051	
Adjutant	Capt	0130	CARPENTER, Stanley H	Capt	7331		046955	25 Jan 52	7 Jan 53	Apr 51	11892 Old Fashioned Way Garden Grove	1051	
INTELLIGENCE													
Avn Intello	Capt	7010	CHUNT, James R	Capt	7302	7010	030505	1 Jul 49	15 Feb 53		WAMAR 9-G	1053	
FLIGHT SECTION													
Pilot WMA (O)	Maj	7331	BARTON, Leroy C	Maj	7304	6410	025336	28 Jun 52	28 Oct 52	Nov 45	2242 Spurgeon St Santa Ana	1053	25849
Pilot WMA (O)	Maj	7331	COCERANE, Steven (n)	Maj	7304		026651	28 Jun 52	30 Oct 52	Aug 51	962 Summit Drive, Laguna	1053	444591
Pilot WMA (O)	Maj	7331											
Pilot WMA (O)	Maj	7331											
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	AARON Albert W	Capt	7302		029421	28 Jun 52	15 Feb 53	Jul 45	304 43	1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	ANDERSON, John W	Capt	7302		047195	28 Jun 52	15 Feb 53		WAMAR 8-E	1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	BARR, Elmer G	Capt	7331		029052	1 Jan 51	1 Oct 52		WAMAR 8-D	1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	DARRELL, Thomas J	Capt	7301		030823	1 Jan 50	14 Feb 53		2621 Orchid St Santa Ana	1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	FOSTER, William J Jr	Capt	7302		033983	17 Sep 51	14 Feb 53	Feb 47	522 E Maple St El Segundo	1053	TS 1541J
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	MAK Devey M Jr	Capt	7302		035475	1 Jan 51	14 Feb 53	Oct 46	325 Broadway, Costa Mesa	1053	Be 6920M
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	MERTLE, Jack R	Capt	7302	6410	036243	1 Jan 51	13 Mar 53			1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	ROBBINS, Jack W	Capt	7301	5230	049637	25 Jun 52	13 Feb 53			1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	STEWART, Robert A	Capt	7331		049182	25 Jun 52	29 Dec 52	Apr 51	11892 Old Tash. Way Garden	1053	Ha 0385W
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	WELSHING, Albert G	Capt	7302		036090	1 Jan 51	30 Sep 52	Feb 46	501B Larkspur, Corona Del Mar	1053	Ha 0385W
Pilot WMA (O)	Capt	7331	WILSON, Milton A	Capt	7304		030817	1 Jan 51	16 Dec 52	May 45	Dana Pt Hotel, Dana Point	1053	DP 732
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	ELLIS, James I	1st Lt	7302		032417	4 Apr 46	1 Oct 52	Oct 45	1322 Pacific St, Santa Ana	1053	Ha 39378
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	WUWEMA, Ralph M	1st Lt	7302		033054	31 Jan 46	1 Oct 52		4459 Conquista Ave Long Beach	1053	IB 50266
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	SIGMUND, Kenneth E	1st Lt	7302		035510	3 Jun 46	16 Dec 52		2230 Orchid St Corona Del Mar	1053	Ha 1532W
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	STEWART, Donald R	1st Lt	7304	7377	051530	16 Aug 52	1 Nov 52		289 Dolphin Way, Laguna Beach	1053	4-1349
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	WILSON, Frederick G	1st Lt	7301		036291	31 Jan 46	16 Dec 52		304 43, Rm 102	1053	
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	ATERY, Willard G Jr	2d Lt	7301		057312	1 Aug 52	22 Nov 52		1171 Ocean Way Laguna Beach	1053	4-5044
Pilot WMA (O)	Lt	7331	BELFORD, Edward M	2d Lt	7331	7010	054477	16 Aug 51	22 Nov 52		1502 N Van Ness Santa Ana	1053	

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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON-251, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-15,

[illegible]

DATE OF BIRTH

PHONE SET
OFF CES

FLIGHT SECTION (Cont)

[illegible]

OPERATIONS SECTION

AvrOperations0	Maj	7393 LAMONT, William A	Maj	7331 6410 018619	1Jan51	3May52	Sep51	2023 S Birch St Santa Ana	1053 KI	34560	
Lending Signal0	Capt	7381									
Rad-Def0		5710*EUFON, John R	1stLt	6510	052503	1Nov52	14Feb53	Jun46	631 S Baker St Santa Ana	1053 KI	37629

An additional duty.

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MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-15, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-15, AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC (Continued)

P/O Job Title	P/O T/O NAME	RANK MOS	RANK MOS	ADD MOS	SERVICE NUMBER	DATE OF LEAVE	REF	QUARTERS	PHONE
						JOINED US			OFF PMS
<u>AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SECTION</u>									
A/C Engineering	Capt	6410	052503	1 Nov 52	6 Aug 52	Jul 47	2206	Standard St Santa Ana	1053 Ki 32533
Asst A/C Eng	Lt	6410							
<u>MATERIAL SECTION</u>									
Sig Mater	Lt	6406	038029	17 Sep 51	31 Oct 51	Aug 51	219	Jasmine Corona Del Mar	1053 Ea 2535W
<u>ORDNANCE SECTION</u>									
Avn Ordnance	C	Lt	6510	052503	1 Nov 52	14 Feb 53	Jun 46	631 S Baker St Santa Ana	1054 Ki 37629
<u>ELECTRONICS</u>									
Avn Electronics	C	Lt	6510	052503	1 Nov 52	14 Feb 53	Jun 46	631 S Baker St Santa Ana	1054 Ki 37629
<u>MEDICAL SECTION</u>									
Medical Officer	Lt	(MC)							
<u>NON-EFFECTIVES</u>									
Tad MTG-10	RENNING, Arthur C	Capt	7302	037240	1 Jan 51	16 Dec 52		5314 Brittain Long Beach	1053 5-0873
Tad MTG-10	SHAW, Edward C	Capt	7302	031410	1 Jan 51	16 Dec 52		2351 Pirate Road, Newport	1053 Ea 3180M
Tad MTG-10	STOKES, Jay A	Capt	7302	030531	1 Jul 49	14 Feb 53	Jul 45	205 Via Gordova-Lido Isle New	1053 Ea 3622M
Tad MTG-10	JOHNSON, Henry C	1st Lt	7301	036297	1 Feb 46	16 Dec 52		302 Larkspur, Corona Del Mar	1053 Ea 45044
Tad MTG-10	MONTAGNE, Robert J	2d Lt	7301	056000	1 Aug 52	22 Nov 52		1771 Ocean Way, Laguna Beach	1053 Ea 45044
Tad MTG-10	MURPHY, William D	2d Lt	7301	057455	15 Jul 52	22 Nov 52		1771 Ocean Way, Laguna Beach	1053 Ea 45044
On leave	MUCHINSKI, Charles R Jr	2d Lt	7302	052933	16 Dec 51	12 Mar 53			

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Type "B" Report (Command Diary) for March 1953 VMA-251 Continued

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APPENDIX VIII

READINESS PILOT TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON-251

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
U. S. MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, EL TORO
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

FF13-5/GHD/jjj
P11-4
Ser: 0175
5 Mar 1953

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From: Commanding General, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-15

Subj: Readiness Pilot training Syllabus for Marine Attack Squadron-251

Ref: (a) ComAirPac Instruction 03550.7
(b) CMC ltr AAP-1752-bd of 1 Dec 1952
(c) AirFMFPac TrngOrd 2-53 w/chgs

Encl: (1) Marine Attack Squadron Pilot Flight Syllabus
(2) Marine Attack Squadron Pilot School Requirement Summary
(3) Weekly Training Status Report

1. Reference (a) defines the Commander Air Force, Pacific's Training Syllabus for Attack Pilots.
2. Reference (b) describes the tasks and missions of Marine Aviation Units.
3. Applicable portions of references (a) and (b) were utilized to include in the syllabus outlined in enclosures (1) and (2). Enclosures (1) and (2) constitute a special accelerated syllabus in view of the early deployment of Marine Attack Squadron-251.
4. The flight syllabus outlined in enclosure (1) constitutes a total of one hundred and thirteen (113) hours for each pilot. It is recognized that individual pilot proficiency may require deviation from this syllabus to insure maximum training efficiency. It is desired that the squadron commander prepare a detailed syllabus covering each flight for use within his squadron.
5. Pilot school requirements are detailed in enclosure (2) and will be complied with if time permits. Every effort should be made to complete this requirement early in the syllabus.
6. The squadron commander is responsible for the readiness of his squadron and shall conduct pilot training in accordance with the syllabus outlined in enclosures (1) and (2). Deviation from the syllabus, when required, is authorized.

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FF13-5/GHD/jjj
P11-4

7. A weekly training status report, enclosure (3), shall be submitted by the squadron commanding officer to G-3, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.
8. Recommendations for changes in the syllabus are welcome in the interest of improving readiness and the state of training.
9. Provisions of reference (c) are still applicable prior to deployment.

R. E. GALER
By Direction

Copy to:
CO, VMA-251
CG, 1st MAW

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APPENDIX VIII

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PHASE I

	<u>HOURS</u>
A. Familiarization	4.0
B. Basic Tactics	6.0
C. Type Instruments	10.0
D. Navigation	4.0
E. Night Familiarization	<u>3.0</u>
	27.0

PHASE I - INITIAL TRAINING (27 Hours)

A. Aircraft Familiarization	4.0
General Airwork - stalls, slow flight, touch and go landings and aerobatics	
B. Basic Tactics	6.0
Section Tactics, division tactics oxygen training, section or division tactics to altitude - 90% of aircraft service ceiling.	
C. Type Instruments	10.0
(Completion of VMIT or equivalent training prior to commencing this phase) (10 hours hooded) GCA, ADF AND MDF Navigation, ZB, VHF-DP general airwork	
D. Navigation	4.0
Cross country navigation dead reckoning navigation, without radio aids	
E. Night Familiarization	3.0
Individual take-offs, night familiarization touch and go landings.	

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PHASE II

A. Weapons		<u>HOURS</u> 33.0
1. Gunnery	4.0	
2. Strafing	8.0	
3. Bombing	16.0	
4. Rockets	5.0	
B. Night Navigation		6.0
C. Close Air Support		<u>5.0</u> 44.0

PHASE II - GENERAL TRAINING (44 hours)

A. Weapons		33.0
1. Gunnery	4.0	
High side and "round house" runs at 8000 and 15,000 feet		
2. Strafing	8.0	
Individual, section and division strafing		
(a) Day	4.0	
(b) Night - Target #64.	4.0	
fixed ground flare pots, lighted target		
3. Bombing		16.0
Dive angle calibration and range estimation		
(ACRE) 70°, 40°, 25° dives, dive bombing 70°, glide bombing 40°, 25°		
High altitude dive bombing and low level bombing, napalm, high altitude toss bombing.		
(a) Day		8.0
(b) Night Target #103		8.0

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	Raked target fixed ground flare pots,	
	aligning direction of runs and target identification	
4.	Rockets	5.0
	15°, 25° and 50° rockets	
	(a) Day	3.0
	(b) Night - target #103	2.0
	Raked target - fixed ground flare pots	
	aligning direction of runs and target identification	
B.	Night Navigation	6.0
	Dead reckoning navigation to two thirds of combat radius and return, Pilotage, overland reconnaissance to three fourths of maximum radius and return	
C.	Close Air Support	5.0
	Support area training under the supervision of air support school personnel	

PHASE III

A.	MPQ	6.0
B.	Night Intruder	10.0
C.	Night and Instrument Navigation	10.0
D.	Weapons - Night Flare	<u>16.0</u>
		42.0

PHASE III - PREPARATION FOR DEPLOYMENT (42 hours)

A.	MPQ	6.0
	Indoctrination flights associated with MPQ drops.	
	Automatic ARB-2 drops.	
	(a) Day	2.0
	(b) Night	4.0

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B. Night Intruder

10.0

Pilotage to remote areas, without use radio aids,
overland reconnaissance pilotage - South end Salton Sea,
Colorado River, Walker Lake, Mona Lake etc.

C. Night and Instrument Cross-country; direct and airways -
actual instrument cross-country flying - using forward
area electronic aids.

D. Weapons - Night Flare

16.0

Combination; bombing, rockets, strafing flights under
flares. Flare drops utilizing sonobuoy dispenser,
mortar, artillery, NGF, Flare work. Night close air support
under supervision of support school personnel.

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APPENDIX VIII

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VMA SQUADRON PILOTS SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. VMIT - Regular SNB Course
 - a. Duration (6 weeks approximate)
 - b. Required of all pilots except for graduates of recognized instrument course within last 18 months (FAWTF, USNSAWF, VMIT)
2. Air Support - Air Spot
 - a. Air Support - Air Support School Course A-1 Modified
 - (1) Duration one week
 - (2) Required of all pilots excepting those completing ASAS course detailed below.
3. Combined Air Support Air Spot (ASAS)
 - a. Duration - 7½ days
 - b. Required minimum of 2 pilots/squadron
4. Ordnance
 - a. NAMT - MOR Mobile ordnance and rearming
 - (1) Required; squadron ordnance officer
5. Weapons
 - a. Air Weapons Course (FAETUPAC)
 - (1) Duration - 1 week
 - (2) Required for squadron commanding officer, executive officer, air intelligence and ordnance officers.
 - b. Special weapons Orientation (C-427 at FAETUPAC)
 - (1) Duration - 1 Week
 - (2) Squadron commanding officer and executive officer

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6. Survival

- a. Survival Course (including oxygen, night vision and bailout trainer)

7. Legal

- a. AirFMPac Legal School

- (1) Duration - 4 weeks

- (2) Required for one officer if time permits

8. Aircraft type trainer

- a. NAMT

- (1) Duration - 2 days

- (2) Required for all pilots

9. Rad-Safety - ABCD (atomic biological chemical defense)

- a. Atomic Defense - Treasure Island - duration - 2 weeks

- b. Required of one officer

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Enclosure (2) to
APPENDIX VIII

WEEKLY TRAINING STATUS REPORT

Squadron _____

DATE (NOTE 2) _____

GENERAL

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Aircraft on board | _____ |
| 2. Aircraft availability (note 1) | _____ |
| 3. Pilots Assigned | _____ |
| 4. Pilots available for flight | _____ |
| 5. Syllabus hours | _____ |
| Average number per pilot completed this week | _____ |
| TOTAL completed this week | _____ |
| TOTAL Completed to date | _____ |

Note 1. Aircraft availability is average number of planes in commission status during each 24 hour period divided by average number planes on board during each 24 hour period.

Note 2. Report shall include the weekly period ending at the close of working hours each Saturday. It is directed that the report reach G-3, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific on the Monday following.

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Enclosure (3) to
APPENDIX VIII

Flight Syllabus Status

	Average number syllabus hours completed per pilot	Number pilots completed
Phase I		
A. Familiarization	_____HRS	_____NO.
B. Basic Tactics	_____HRS	_____NO.
C. Type Instruments	_____HRS	_____NO.
D. Navigation	_____HRS	_____NO.
E. Night Familiarization	_____HRS	_____NO.
Phase II		
A. Weapons	_____HRS	_____NO.
Gunnery	_____HRS	_____NO.
Strafing	_____HRS	_____NO.
Bombing	_____HRS	_____NO.
Rockets	_____HRS	_____NO.
B. Night Navigation	_____HRS	_____NO.
C. Close Air Support	_____HRS	_____NO.
Phase III		
A. MPQ	_____HRS	_____NO.
B. Night Intruder	_____HRS	_____NO.
C. Night and Instrument Nav.	_____HRS	_____NO.
D. Weapons Night Flare	_____HRS	_____NO.

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Enclosure (3) to
APPENDIX VIII

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