

1970

FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

VF102:16:CMR:jhw
3750
Ser

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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1970

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

- Encl:
- (1) Command History
 - (2) Officer's Roster
 - (3) Christmas Newsletter
 - (4) Dependents' Handbook
 - (5) Photograph CDR P.P. MARSHA, Jr.
 - (6) Biography and Photograph CDR W.W. HARGRAVE, Jr.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (6) are submitted.



C.M. RUBEL
By direction

Copy to:
DIRNAVHIST (OP-09B9)

COMMAND HISTORY

PART I

Fighter Squadron One Hundred Two Chronology of Outstanding Events for 1970:

- 1 JAN 70: Based ashore at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Va.
- 1-14 JAN 70: Detachment to Key West for VF Detachment.
- 28 FEB to 10 MAR 70: Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range, Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for conduct of a missile firing exercise.
- 11-19 MAR 70: On board USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62) for refresher training.
- 20 MAR to 15 APR 70: Based ashore at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Va.
- 16 APR to 10 MAY 70: On board USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62) for buildup training.
- 15-20 MAY 70: Detachment on board USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62) in support of Exotic Dancer III.
- 10 JUN 70: Change of Command - CDR W.W. HARGRAVE, Jr. relieved CDR P.P. MARSHA, Jr. to become the 15th Skipper of the "Diamondbacks".
- 23 JUN 70: On board USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62).
- 6-8 JUL 70: Operational Readiness Inspection.
- 16 JUL 70: In-chop SIXTH Fleet.
- 23-27 JUL 70: Inport - Naples, Italy
- 11-20 AUG 70: Inport - Malta
- 21-24 AUG 70: Exercise National Week VII.
- 26 AUG-5 SEP 70: Inport - Athens, Greece
- 7 SEP-5 OCT 70: Contingency operations in support of Bravo Station during the Jordanian Crisis.
- 7-11 OCT 70: Inport - Athens, Greece
- 12-22 OCT 70: Exercise Deep Express 70.
- 23-28 OCT 70: Inport - Athens, Greece
- 7-15 NOV 70: Inport - Taranto, Italy
- 21 NOV 70: CAWEX III exercise against USS J.F. KENNEDY (CVA67).

Enclosure (1)

23-30 NOV 70: Inport - Naples, Italy

4-5 DEC 70: Provided airborne AQM-37A drone targets.

6 DEC 70: CAMEX III exercise against USS J.F. KENNEDY (CVA67).

8-14 DEC 70: Inport - Barcelona, Spain

21-31 DEC 70: Inport - Cannes, France

PART II

Basic Narrative

1. Command Organization and Relations: Commander Patrick Paul MARSHA, Jr., USN, 583998/1310, who assumed command of VF-102 on 25 June 1969, was relieved by Commander William Walter HARGRAVE, Jr., USN, 584494/1310, in ceremonies held on board Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, on 10 June 1970. NAS Oceana serves as homebase for VF-102 during periods ashore. The squadron, flying 12 F4J "Phantom II's", is primarily charged with the interception and destruction of enemy aircraft. VF-102 also maintains a high degree of proficiency in the air-to-ground delivery of conventional weapons. The squadron is presently a unit of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN (CVW-7), currently the air wing of USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62).

2. Operations/Activities. While based ashore at the Naval Air Station Oceana at the beginning of 1970, VF-102 was required to augment the North American Defense Command's scramble alert aircraft. The squadron therefore maintained a detachment of three F4Js, five aircrews and a small number of maintenance personnel at the Naval Air Station Key West, Florida until the 14th of January.

During the period of 1 January to 27 February 1970, and all other periods ashore until the squadron deployed in June, Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) was stressed foremost by aircrews in an effort to offset the relative lack of ACM when carrier based.

On 28 February, the squadron deployed to the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to conduct a missile firing exercise for the purpose of primary mission training. During this concentrated 10 day operating period, the techniques and requirements for firing the Sparrow III missile were vigorously pursued. This deployment was most successful in accomplishing the aircrew training necessary to bring the squadron to a high state of operational readiness.

On 10 March, the squadron departed Roosevelt Roads for Mayport, Florida. On 11 March, VF-102 embarked aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62) for carrier operational training and disembarked on the 19th of March. The squadron again embarked aboard INDEPENDENCE on the 16th of April for training until the 10th of May. During these two short at sea periods, VF-102 flew a total of 729 hours/490 sorties and amassed 324/124 day/night carrier arrested landings. For demonstrating the highest overall excellence and professionalism in carrier landing expertise, COMCVW-7 awarded VF-102 the "Golden Hook Award".

In support of EXOTIC DANCER III, VF-102 maintained a detachment of men and aircraft on board INDEPENDENCE during the period of 15-20 May for conducting CAP/Attack missions during the joint services exercise.

For their last period ashore, ACM and Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLPs) were stressed in preparation for the deployment to the Mediterranean.

On 23 June 1970, VF-102 deployed on board USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA62) for a 7½ month deployment to the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. Prior to heading east for the SIXTH Fleet, build-up flight operations were conducted off the coast of Puerto Rico and the target complex at Vieques Island, P.R. in preparation for the Operational Readiness Inspection of 6-8 July. The command received a grade of 89.81.

During the transit across the Atlantic, VF-102 airplanes intercepted Russian built "Bears" that overflew the INDEPENDENCE.

After inchopping to the SIXTH Fleet on 16 July, the command enjoyed a totally good-weather cruise. Regardless of their mission or responsibilities throughout the cruise, VF-102 aircrews responded to all requirements with the attitudes and abilities for success. When the Jordanian Crisis flared up, squadron aircrews manned aircraft around-the-clock. Arduous hours were spent flying CAP, simulated airwing "Alpha" strikes, and surface search and surveillance missions. When not engaged in flight operations, continuous preparations were being made in the event the U.S. intervened to assist U.S. citizens in Jordan. Unique in the operation was the exceptionally outstanding training accomplished for squadron aircrews.

The cruise employed five (5) exercises through the end of the year: National Week - a surface vs surface situation with squadron aircraft utilized in conducting surface search and surveillance of the "enemy forces"; Deep Express - a NATO exercise employing various military units requiring an amphibious assault on an "enemy" held beach under the protection of squadron aircraft to oppose "enemy" air forces while flying Close Air Support (CAS) missions; Missile Firing Exercise - tasked by CTG 60.2 to provide airborne AQM-37A drone targets in support of surface to air missile firing exercise by various surface ships of the SIXTH Fleet, the squadron launched six (6) of seven (7) AQM-37As successfully; Two (2) CAMEX IIIs - simulated battles against the USS J.F. KENNEDY (CVA67) by CVW-7 and INDEPENDENCE. The squadron flew CAP missions and ALPHA strike escorts in support of both exercises which resulted in decisive victories for the INDEPENDENCE and Air Wing SEVEN.

PART III

Special Statistics. The following statistics are provided for information.

Monthly flight time for the calendar year - ACCIDENT FREE:

JAN - 186.3 hours	JUL - 333.5 hours
FEB - 208.3 "	AUG - 238.0 "
MAR - 357.3 "	SEP - 537.1 "
APR - 486.8 "	OCT - 525.2 "
MAY - 240.8 "	NOV - 285.0 "
JUN - 255.4 "	DEC - 337.4 "

Total flight time in 1970 - 3991.1 hours

Total flight time aboard a carrier in 1970 - 3143 hours

Total sorties flown aboard a carrier in 1970 - 2002

Total day carrier landings in 1970 - 1376

Total night carrier landings in 1970 - 606

Total accumulated accident free flight time to 31 December 1970 -
4876.4 hours

Deployment statistical data:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DAYS OPERATED</u>	<u>HRS/SORTIES</u>	<u>DAY/NIGHT TRAPS</u>
June	5	125/80	57/23
July	19	334/223	176/38
August	13	238/161	101/56
September	24	555/350	203/150
October	19	525/319	209/110
November	12	285/173	124/49
December	12	337/192	147/45
Totals	104	2399/1498	1017/471