



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

1978

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5750  
Ser 44  
23 MAR 1979

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

Subj: Command History for 1978; forwarding of (OPNAV  
Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History Report

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

*K. T. Kilby*  
K. T. KILBY

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COMFITWING ONE  
COMCARAIRWING SEVENTEEN

COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

1. Basic History

a. Chronology of Events - 1978

01 JAN to 12 JAN - Squadron Operations, NAS Oceana, Va.

13 JAN to 06 FEB - Embarked in USS FORRESTAL (CV 59)  
for TYT III.

07 FEB to 23 FEB - Squadron Operations, NAS Oceana, Va.

24 FEB - CDR K. T. KILBY relieves CDR R. R. STOOPS  
as VF-11 Commanding Officer. LCDR  
A. L. WISE becomes Executive Officer.

25 FEB to 20 MAR - Squadron Operations, NAS Oceana, Va.

21 MAR to 03 APR - Embarked in USS FORRESTAL (CV 59)  
for TYT IV.

04 APR - Squadron departs NS Mayport aboard  
USS FORRESTAL extended Mediterranean  
deployment.

04 APR to 13 APR - TRANSLANT

14 APR to 20 APR - Squadron arrives NS Rota, Spain onboard  
USS FORRESTAL prior to Mediterranean  
Inchop.

21 APR to 23 APR - Inchop.

23 APR to 29 APR - ASW Week. First exercise of cruise.

29 APR to 09 MAY - Five A/C to Sigonella, Sicily for  
Operation Big Wheel.

30 APR to 08 MAY - Inport, Naples. Italy.

09 MAY to 15 MAY - AAW Week

16 MAY to 18 MAY - Operations in Ionian Sea.

19 MAY to 29 MAY - Exercise Dawn Patrol.

30 MAY to 05 JUN - Inport, Catania, Sicily.

Enclosure (1)

06 JUN to 07 JUN - At sea operations.  
08 JUN to 22 JUN - Inport, Marseilles, France.  
23 JUN to 26 JUN - ASW Week.  
27 JUN to 04 JUL - Inport, Naples, Italy.  
05 JUL to 11 JUL - At sea operations.  
12 JUL to 16 JUL - Inport, Naples, Italy.  
17 JUL to 23 JUL - At sea operations.  
24 JUL to 28 JUL - National Week XXV.  
28 JUL to 31 JUL - At sea in TRANSIT to Valencia, Spain.  
01 AUG to 15 AUG - Inport, Valencia, Spain.  
16 AUG to 23 AUG - ASW Week.  
24 AUG to 29 AUG - Inport, Palma De Majora, Spain.  
30 AUG to 01 SEP - In TRANSIT to Northern Wedding.  
02 SEP to 19 SEP - Exercise Northern Wedding.  
20 SEP to 21 SEP - In TRANSIT to Malaga, Spain.  
22 SEP to 27 SEP - Inport, Malaga, Spain.  
28 SEP to 12 OCT - Display Determination.  
13 OCT - PASS EX  
14 OCT - Outchop  
15 OCT to 25 OCT - TRANSIT to United States.  
25 OCT - Squadron Flyoff from USS FORRESTAL.  
26 OCT - USS FORRESTAL ties up NS Mayport, FL.  
26 OCT to 01 NOV - Squadron Standdown.  
02 NOV to 03 DEC - Squadron Operations, NAS Oceana, Va.  
04 DEC to 15 DEC - Dissimilar Air Combat Training with  
27th TFS, Langley, AFB.  
16 DEC to 31 DEC - Squadron Operations, NAS Oceana, Va.

## 2. Narrative

Nineteen Seventy-eight marked the fifty-first year that the RED RIPPERS have continuously operated as a fighter squadron.

The RED RIPPERS began 1978 at NAS Oceana until 13 January, when they embarked in USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) for Type Training THREE.

TYT III concluded after the first six days of February. On February 24th, CDR K.T. KILBY relieved CDR R.R. STOOPS as Commanding Officer. LCDR A.L. WISE assumed the duty of Executive Officer.

March was primarily filled with operations at NAS Oceana until the 20th. Between the 21st and 28th of March the squadron was occupied with pre-deployment workups during Type Training FOUR in FORRESTAL.

April 4th was the day that the RED RIPPERS, embarked in FORRESTAL and departed for the Mediterranean. Two days later, LT Chet STRAIT, with his RIO, LCDR WISE, teamed up with wingman LT Tim DOBROVOLNY and his RIO, LCDR Terry MURPHY, to successfully intercept the first attempted "Bear" overflights. Other intercepts were successfully maneuvered by CDR KILBY/LCDR Joe FINDLEY, LT Bill FISCHER/LTJG Mike FOSTER, LT's Del HALL/Skip VIATOR, and LT Tim MURPHY with his RIO LTJG John BOLYARD.

After a six day turnover at NS Rota, Spain, the RED RIPPERS were involved in their first exercise; an intra-force ASW Week.

On the 29th of April, five aircraft launched from the FORRESTAL for Sigonella, Sicily, for Operation Big Wheel which was a maintenance function.

While Operation Big Wheel was in effect, the FORRESTAL made it's first port call at Naples, Italy. Out of Naples on the 8th of May, the squadron participated in an AAW Week and flight operations in the Ionian Sea. May 19th through the 29th saw the RED RIPPERS play a significant role in Operation Dawn Patrol, a major NATO exercise. The first Golden Tailhook Award competition was completed in May. CDR KILBY placed first in the squadron and fourth overall in the Airwing.

After a short five day visit to Catania, Sicily, and two days at sea, the FORRESTAL pulled into Marseilles, France. Prior to this, LCDR Curry LAWLER and his RIO, LTJG Mike FOSTER, with wingmen LT Tim MURPHY and his RIO, LTJG Rick HUNTER, flew two F-4J's to Ingolstadt, West Germany for maintenance work.

July began with the RIPPERS in Naples until July 4th. National Week XXV filled July 24th through 28th with good weather and good flying. LT Bill FISCHER finished first in the squadron and third in the Airwing in the Golden Tailhook competition.

August was primarily an inport period with the first 14 days in Valencia, Spain. A port call in Palma de Majorca filled the calendar from the 24th until the 29th of August. a short seven day at sea period between Valencia and Palma was used for maximum ACM sorties.

The first three weeks of September were spent either in transition to, or involvement in NATO exercise Northern Wedding. This experience in the North Atlantic sharpened the aviation skills required during inclement weather and rough seas.

Port of call, Malaga, Spain, concluded the month of September. This port was definitely the favorite of the entire cruise for the RED RIPPERS.

October began with the last exercise of the cruise; Display Determination. This was followed by the PASS EX with USS SARATOGA (CV-60), on October 13th.

Mediterranean Outchop took place on October 14th. On October 15th, the RED RIPPERS were well represented in the Airwing Golden Tailhook competition. LT Chet STRAIT placed fifth in the Airwing, followed by LT Bill FISCHER finishing sixth.

On October 25th, the RED RIPPERS flew nine aircraft from FORRESTAL to NAS Oceana.

The month of November was filled with a squadron standdown and operations ashore at NAS Oceana.

The first two weeks of December gave the RIPPERS a chance to fight F-15 aircraft in Dissimilar Air Combat Training. This training took place in W-386 east of Langley AFB.

Nineteen Seventy-eight will be remembered as a tremendous year for VF-11's RED RIPPERS. An accident free, incident free cruise in their 51st year is proof of the dedication and professionalism of the RED RIPPERS. VF-11 looks forward to new challenges in 1979 as it begins workups for its next Med cruise in November.

3. Operations Summary

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL HRS</u>	<u>HRS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL TRAPS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL SORTIE D/N</u>
JAN	357.2	247.0/110.2	123/40	154/94
FEB	110.0	109.2/ 0.8	N/A	98/ 1
MAR	225.9	147.0/ 78.9	69/43	101/72
APR	360.8	301.5/ 59.3	121/49	185/41
MAY	404.3	335.8/ 68.5	171/56	199/66
JUN	253.5	184.6/ 68.9	102/51	119/ 0
JUL	437.0	355.6/ 81.4	197/61	210/52
AUG	292.0	213.6/ 78.4	124/57	131/54
SEP	170.3	170.3/ 5.8	88/ 5	92/ 5
OCT	252.8	206.6/ 46.2	107/34	123/34
NOV	159.7	139.6/ 20.1	N/A	81/ 9
DEC	213.1	193.9/ 19.2	N/A	113/16

4. Squadron Officer Losses and Gains - 1978

- 01 JAN - LCDR Aubrey L. WISE, USN, received for duty from VF-171.
- 09 JAN - LT Edward P. JENNINGS, USN, discharged from active duty.
- 01 FEB - LT William G. FISCHER, USN, received for duty from VF-171.
- 24 FEB - CDR Ronald R. STOOPS, USN, transferred to NAS Memphis, Millington, TN, for duty.
- 13 MAR - LCDR Curry M. LAWLER, USN, received for duty from VF-171.
- 16 MAR - LTJG Joseph M. FOSTER, USNR, received for duty from VF-171.

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- 17 MAR - LCDR Gerald A. GURICK, USN, transferred to VF-171 for duty.
- 17 MAR - LT Chester E. STRAIT, USN, received for duty from VF-171.
- 24 MAR - LT James E. MOONEY, USN, transferred to Naval Educational Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island, for duty.
- 04 APR - CDR Robert F. ADAMS, USN, transferred to COMNAVAIRLANT, Norfolk, Va. for further transfer to USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62).
- 10 APR - LCDR Wayne C. DURHAM, USN, transferred to Fighter Wing ONE, for further transfer to NAS Patuxent River, Maryland for duty.
- 30 JUN - LT Ronald E. BARRY, USN, transferred to Naval Station Norfolk, Va., for duty.
- 16 JUL - LCDR Stephen M. BAHR, USN, transferred to Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland for duty.
- 19 JUL - CWO2 Gary W. WASSON, USN, received for duty from Naval Aviation School, NAS Pensacola, FL.
- 01 SEP - LTJG George D. WALKER, USN, received for duty from Naval Air Technical Training Command, Millington, TN.
- 21 SEP - LTJG Gary M. FREEMAN, USN, received for duty from VF-171.
- 30 NOV - LT Delmon B. HALL, III, USN, transferred to Training Squadron 26, Beeville, TX for duty.
- 08 DEC - LT Timothy K. MURPHY, USN, transferred to VF-201 NAS Dallas, TX for duty.