

1995 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN
UNIT 25504
FLEET POST OFFICE
AP 96601-6102

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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN
To: Director, Naval Historical Center (Attn: Aviation History Branch)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
 - (2) Chronology of Outstanding Events
 - (3) Narrative of Outstanding Events
 - (4) Biography of CDR Timothy L. Benham
 - (5) Photo of CDR Timothy L. Benham

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are hereby submitted.



T. L. BENHAM

Copy to:
COMCRUDESGRU THREE
COMFITWINGPAC
COMCARAIRWING FOURTEEN

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

(01 JAN 95 to 30 JUN 95)

CDR Michael D. Crisp

(30 JUN 95 to Present)

CDR Timothy L. Benham

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(01 JAN 95 to 30 JUN 95)

CDR Timothy L. Benham

(30 JUN 95 to Present)

CDR Ronald E. Weisbrook

LOCATION OF COMMAND

Naval Air Station Miramar

San Diego, CA 92145

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL ASHORE

Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN

Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

OPERATIONAL CONTROL AFLOAT

Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN

Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group THREE

AIRCRAFT

F-14D SUPER TOMCAT

Tail Code "NK"

CARRIER ASSIGNMENTS

USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

Homeported at Naval Air Station Alameda, California

MISSION

Fleet Air Superiority and Power Projection Missions include:

Combat Air Patrol, Air Intercept, Maritime Air Superiority,

Strike, Strike Escort, Forward Air Control (Airborne) and TARPS

Reconnaissance.

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

JANUARY

01-08 Holiday leave period.
01-08 AFC Playoff fly-by; Chargers vs Dolphins, Jack Murphy Stadium.

FEBRUARY

07-12 CQ Detachment, USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).
23 Serra High School Career Day, VF-11 participation in Partners in Excellence program with local high school.
23-25 (CVN-70) Flight Deck Certification.

MARCH

21-22 KC-10/KC-135 in-flight refueling training
23 ECCM COMPEX
27-31 Kernal Blitz

APRIL

01-06 Kernal Blitz.
08-15 Guns Det, NALF El Centro, CA (38.84%)
28-30 Det, Roving Sands, NM.

MAY

01-09 Det, Roving Sands, NM (cont.)

JUNE

06-15 TSTA I/II
30 Change of Command

JULY

09-21 FFARP, NAS Fallon, NV.
22-29 SFFARP, NAS Fallon, NV.
31 Implementation of software tape D-02

AUGUST

14 1st Bombs dropped (MK-76)
20-31 WWII 50 Year Commemoration Cruise (Pineapple Cruise) to Hawaii on board USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)
21-22 CQ (CVN-70)
27-29 Operation KEKOA with (CVN-70) CVBG

SEPTEMBER

01-13 WWII 50 Year Commemoration Cruise (Pineapple Cruise) to Hawaii on board USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) (cont.)
01-03 Barber's Point Air Expo.
14-30 Six aircrew attend FAC(A) school at NAS Fallon, NV.
18-30 Two aircrew attend MAWTS WTI School at NALF El Centro, CA.

19 Successful AIM-7M missile launch
24-30 Airwing Det NAS Fallon, NV.

OCTOBER

01-30 Two aircrew at MAWTS WTI School (cont.)
01-11 Airwing Det. NAS Fallon, NV. (cont.)
02 1st Live MK-80 series bombs dropped
17-25 Fighter Derby Practice
31 Fighter Derby

NOVEMBER

01-03 Fighter Derby (cont.)
01-03 Two aircrew at MAWTS WTI School (cont.)
13-21 TSTA III (CVN-70)
26-30 COMPTUEX 96-1A (CVN-70)

DECEMBER

01-20 COMPTUEX 96-1A (cont.)
15 Completed Blue Water CQ.
18-20 (CVN-70) ITA.
20-31 Holiday leave period

NARRATIVE OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

The beginning of 1995 saw Fighter Squadron ELEVEN conducting unit level training. The month of February was filled with Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) in preparation of carrier qualifications on board the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) during the second week of February. The squadron completed flight deck certification on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) during the last week of February.

During the month of March, the Rippers continued to develop their inflight refueling proficiency utilizing Air Force KC-10 and KC-135 aircraft. VF-11 also honed their warfighting skills in the F-14D simulators while competing in the ECCM COMPEX. During the last week in March, the Rippers participated in "Kernal Blitz", providing adversary air support for the United States Marine Corps.

Most of April was spent on detachment to El Centro, CA and Roving Sands, NM. The squadron set the all-time record for the Tomcat community scoring 38.84% in the High Noon Air to Air Gunnery Competition at NAF El Centro. The Roving Sands, NM detachment lasted through the second week of May and provided another opportunity to train with the United States Air Force.

In June, cruise work-ups began as the squadron joined the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) for Tailored Ship's Training Availability I/II (TSTA I/II). On 30 June, CDR M. D. Crisp passed the squadron command to CDR T. L. Benham.

July was extremely busy with a Detachment to NAS Fallon, NV where the Red Rippers established another Tomcat first by conducting both FFARP and SFFARP. VF-11 began flying with the D-02 software tapeload on 31 July, giving the F-14D air-to-ground strike capability. VF-11 dropped its first air-to-ground ordnance on 14 August, successfully delivering MK-76 training bombs on target.

The squadron spent late August and early September deployed on board (CVN-70) in participation of the World War II Commemoration Cruise to Hawaii. During this "Pineapple Cruise", the Rippers were able to carrier qualify (CQ) and take part in the joint operation "KEKOA". While in port at Pearl Harbor, VF-11 flew in the Barber's Point Air Expo.

In the month of September, VF-11 sent aircrew to Forward Air Control (Airborne) FAC(A) school, while also sending an aircrew to attend the MAWTS WTI course at Yuma, AZ. On 19 September, the squadron again displayed its warfighting proficiency successfully shooting an AIM-7M during a missile shoot. Work-ups kicked into high gear in mid-September as VF-11 and the rest of Carrier Air Wing Fourteen went on the Airwing Detachment to NAS Fallon where the Rippers successfully dropped their first live MK-80 series bombs. VF-11 closed out October back home at NAS Miramar with Fighter Derby practice flights.

November started with the Fighter Derby competition followed by more FCLP in preparation of Tailored Ship's Training Availability III (TSTA III) on board (CVN-70). Following Thanksgiving at home, VF-11 was back on the carrier for COMPTUEX 96-1A. VF-11 and the rest of Carrier Air Wing Fourteen were then

certified for Blue Water Operations while the Air Wing was integrated into the warfighting capability of the Carrier Battle Group. COMPTUEX finished on 20 December just as the holiday leave period began.

1995 was an extremely successful year for the Navy's oldest continuously active squadron. The Red Rippers look forward to 1996 as the turnaround cycle comes to a close and the Red Rippers of VF-11 ship out on WESTPAC '96.