

1993 ✓



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN  
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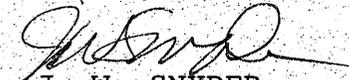
From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B4), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History

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

  
J. W. SNYDER

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1. Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN serves as one of two carrier-borne F-14A TOMCAT squadrons assigned to Carrier Airwing THREE. As of 01 April 1994, the squadron will transfer to Fighter Wing ONE at Naval Air Station Oceana. The squadron will tentatively be assigned to Carrier Airwing SEVENTEEN in August 1994, based onboard the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65). The squadron's primary mission is to provide air superiority for the carrier battle group and attached amphibious forces operating ashore. Secondary missions include strike, ground attack and close air support. The current Commanding Officer is CDR Jonathan W. Snyder; current Executive Officer is CDR Emmitt D. Dickens. When ashore, FITRON FOURTEEN is permanently based at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Nine F-14A TOMCAT aircraft are assigned with tailcodes "AC1xx."

2. The following is a chronology of significant events during 1993:

03-18 JAN	"Provide Promise" operations (Adriatic)
18-28 JAN	"Provide Comfort" operations (Northern Iraq)
01-28 FEB	"Provide Promise", joint operations with HMS ARK ROYAL
01-17 MAR	"Provide Promise" operations (Adriatic)
10-17 MAR	Operation "Distant Thunder" (Turkey)
24-25 MAR	Cruise turnover with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)
25 MAR-07 APR	TRANSLANT
10-14 MAY	ADMAT/ACMI inspection
26 MAY-02 JUN	Fleet Week, New York City
16-18 JUN	Coastal Carnage (Airwing Exercise), NAS Cecil Field, FL
15-17 JUL	Orange Air Detachment (supporting USS AMERICA (CV-66)), NAS Oceana
03-13 AUG	Bloodsworth Island Strike Training, Bloodsworth, MD
07-10 SEP	Tomahawk Land Attack Missile Training (TLAM)
13 SEP-15 OCT	Fleet Fighter Air Readiness Program (FFARP)
07 OCT-02 NOV	Marine Air Weapons and Tactics (MAWTS) Training, MCAS Yuma, AZ
23-31 OCT	Orange Air Detachment (supporting USS SARATOGA (CV-60)), Puerto Rico
15-19 NOV	Advance Attack Readiness Program (AARP)
15-22 DEC	Carrier Qualification Detachment, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69)

The TOPHATTERS began 1993 enjoying Christmas leave in Marseille, France. Once underway, they returned to Provide Promise operations off the coast of Bosnia, acting as both air-to-air and air-to-surface combat air patrols in support of joint

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European forces in theater. Due to increasing tensions in northern Iraq, the carrier battle group was ordered to emergency sortie while in port Naples, Italy directly to the western coast of Turkey. Once established, the squadron began planning and training for tentative airwing strikes in support of the established United Nations No-Fly zone.

Tensions subsided in Southwest Asia in February, and the TOPHATTERS promptly returned to cold weather operations in the Adriatic. In addition to previous assignments, the squadron flew "monitoring" missions during United Nations airlift flights over Bosnia-Hercogovina. Joint training was also conducted with British allies based aboard the HMS Ark Royal. All battle group members also had a third (and final) chance to enjoy six days liberty in Trieste, Italy.

In March, VF-14 prepared for the final month of cruise and turnover with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT. In addition to two final weeks of "Provide Promise" flights, several TOPHATTER aircrew participated in Operation "Distant Thunder" in Eskeshir, Turkey.

During the detachment, the squadron trained with the Turkish, British, Italian, and American Air Forces in the air-to-air and strike arenas. Finally, on 25 March, Carrier Airwing THREE and USS JOHN F. KENNEDY conducted the end of cruise turnover with Carrier Airwing EIGHT and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and headed west.

After eleven days and an end of cruise INSURV inspection, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY arrived in Norfolk on 07 April. Once back in Oceana, the squadron began several weeks of reduced tempo operations.

In May, the TOPHATTERS conducted four days of intensive ADMAT/AMCI inspections, consisting of a comprehensive review of the squadrons records as well as maintenance procedures. At the end of the cycle, the squadron emerged with consistent outstandings and no major discrepancies. On 26 May, VF-14 flew several aircraft out to KENNEDY for ten days of FLEET WEEK, the annual Memorial Day visit to New York City. While there, squadron members provided tours and a static display of the F-14 to approximately thirty thousand civilians.

During the June-August period, VF-14 conducted a series of training evolutions ashore at both the squadron and airwing level. During an airwing "Coastal Carnage" exercise, the TOPHATTERS sent a division to NAS Cecil Field, FL to lead an opposed strike into MCAS Beaufort, SC. The annual Fighter Fling competitions took place from 16-26 June, culminating in the

formal awards ceremony at the Waterside Marriot, Norfolk, VA. During July, the squadron dropped the first live cluster munitions by a TOMCAT during a series of strikes into Bloodsworth Island, MD, as well as W-386 off the Atlantic Coast. Additionally, they were selected to lead a division memorial fly-over for the funeral of RADM Bose at Arlington National Cemetery. Finally, VF-14 provided Orange Air assets for USS AMERICA off the coast of North Carolina.

In September, the squadron began the month-long Fleet Fighter Air Readiness Program (FFARP) syllabus consisting of air-to-air missions against the East coast aggressor squadron VF-43. During the last competition, VF-14 won the annual trophy for highest cumulative score from the final three day "FFARP war" and was looking for a repeat. Additionally, aircrew participated in Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) training with joint Navy assets, providing the squadron with in-depth strike planning experience.

October brought the final two weeks of FFARP. During the final three days, the TOPHATTERS achieved a 9 to 0 kill ratio, setting an all time record for squadron scoring. This was quickly followed by a ten day Puerto Rican detachment where the squadron provided Orange Air support for USS SARATOGA. The squadron also conducted live strikes into Vieques Island and expended four air-to-air missiles.

November and December found the squadron completing Advanced Attack Readiness Program (AARP). Consisting of two weeks of strikes utilizing ranges from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, aircrew were able to hone their skills in strike planning, weaponeering, close air support, and night attack. Finally, as 1993 came to a close, the TOPHATTERS accompanied Carrier Airwing THREE in its transition to the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. During the third week of December, VF-14 participated in a six day carrier qualification cycle, experiencing the heaviest sea states most aircrew had ever seen. Having achieved 100% aircrew qualification, the squadron returned to Oceana to Christmas leave.

3. The following is the operational summary for 1993:

	DAY HOURS	NIGHT HOURS	DAY SORTIES	NIGHT SORTIES	DAY TRAPS	NIGHT TRAPS
JAN	203	117	113	80	123	80
FEB	177	112	98	63	98	63
MAR	241	99	164	50	148	50
APR	42	0	30	0	6	0
MAY	153	4	111	0	18	0
JUN	275	5	186	4	11	0
JUL	192	4	136	0	15	0
AUG	232	2	161	0	0	0
SEP	193	22	166	11	0	0
OCT	260	20	195	15	0	0
NOV	165	24	95	25	0	0
DEC	90	76	67	67	65	38
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TOTALS	2229	485	1522	451	484	231