

1995 ✓



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

- Encl:
- (1) VF-14 1995 Command History
  - (2) Commanding Officer Biography
  - (3) Commanding Officer Picture
  - (4) Squadron Aircraft Photograph
  - (5) Unit Level Letter of Commendation

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

*E. D. Dickens*  
E. D. DICKENS

## FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN 1995 COMMAND HISTORY

1. Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN is an F-14A Tomcat squadron attached to Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT. The mission of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN is to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft in all weather conditions, establish and maintain local air superiority, and deliver ordnance on target, on time, first pass. Commander Emmitt D. Dickens, Jr. is the current Commanding Officer and Commander John W. Snedeker, Jr. is Executive Officer. The squadron is homeported at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia with fifteen F-14A aircraft assigned.

2. The following is a chronology of significant events during 1995:

15-19 JAN	Carrier Qualification USS AMERICA (CV-66)
21 JAN-3 FEB	Exercise REDFLAG, Nellis AFB, NV
20 FEB-4 MAR	Strike/DACT Detachment, NS Roosevelt Roads, PR
6 APR	Change of Command
18-19 APR	Low Country Bombing Derby
10 MAY	Exercise COMBAT SENT
15-26 MAY	Air-to-Ground/Close Air Support Detachment, NAF El Centro, CA
13-16 JUN	Carrier Qualification USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69)
19-22 JUN	Air-to-Air Gunnery "Banner Blaster" Competition
23-27 JUN	Exercise MARCOT, NAS Brunswick, ME
13-16 JUL	Carrier Qualification USS George Washington (CVN-73)
8-26 AUG	Combined Arms Exercise, MCAGCTC (Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center) Twenty-Nine Palms, CA
30 AUG-8 SEP	ZUNI Rocket Demonstration Flights
9-31 OCT	Air-to-Air SFARP, NAS Oceana, VA
9-20 NOV	Air-to-Ground SFARP, MCAS Yuma, AZ
8-13 DEC	Air Intercept Control Detachment, NAS Key West, FL

3. Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN spent 1995 traveling around the United States in support of several major exercises, as well as conducting intensive unit level training. Although not attached to a Carrier Air Wing in 1995, the squadron remained combat capable and readily deployable.

The TOPHATTERS carrier qualified in mid-January on board USS AMERICA (CV-66). From 21 January to 3 February, the squadron participated in Exercise REDFLAG at Nellis AFB, Nevada in support of USAF and NATO units. Training included air combat tactics development and validation against F-15C and Mirage aircraft.

February saw the TOPHATTERS travel to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for a Strike Warfare/Dissimilar Air Combat Training Detachment. While there, squadron aircrews fired 3 AIM-54 Phoenix missiles.

In a ceremony held at NAS Oceana on 6 April, the reins of the squadron were passed. Commander John J. Morrow was relieved by Commander Emmitt D. Dickens, Jr. Commander John W. Snedeker, Jr., came aboard as the incoming Executive Officer. Two weeks later, the squadron garnered top Tomcat honors at the Low Country Bombing Derby.

In May, VF-14 flew two aircraft in support of Exercise COMBAT SENT, a high visibility Department of Defense demonstration of the RC-135 aircraft. Late May was spent at the Naval Air Facility El Centro, California. There the TOPHATTERS honed their Air-to-Ground and Close Air Support skills using a variety of weapons deliveries. The first ever attempts at, and subsequent validation of the F-14A "High-Pop" delivery while carrying 4 MK-84 bombs were accomplished.

June saw VF-14 on board USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) for another carrier qualification detachment. Upon returning home, "Fighting Fourteen" won the coveted COMFITWINGLANT "Banner Blaster" Air-to-Air Gunnery Competition. A two plane detachment to NAS Brunswick, Maine closed out a busy June as the squadron supported Royal Canadian Air Force Exercise MARCOT.

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73) was next up as the squadron carrier qualified on board in mid-July.

August brought the opportunity to prove combat readiness. Hand chosen to participate in Combined Arms Exercise 9-95 by the Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the TOPHATTERS traveled to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California. While there, the squadron demonstrated the capability of the Tomcat to operate from a forward base while flying in a close air support role. Over 157,000 pounds of ordnance were delivered in support of the Marine Expeditionary Force. The men of "Fighting Fourteen" were personally awarded a Letter of Commendation from the Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet for their outstanding contributions and efforts during this major joint exercise.

The first ever fleet demonstration of the 5 inch "ZUNI" rocket capability of the F-14 took place in late August/early September with VF-14 in charge. This newfound capability dramatically enhances the ability of the aircraft to perform the Airborne Forward Air Controller mission. By drawing upon the experience and know-how of TOPHATTER aircrew, this program was completed and validated in a fraction of the time and cost.

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Encl (1)

**BIOGRAPHY OF  
CDR EMMITT D. DICKENS, JR.**

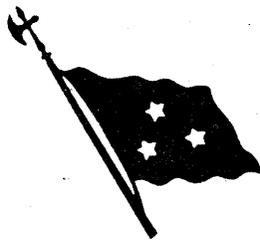
Commander Emmitt D. Dickens Jr., a native of Miami, Florida, graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Science. He received his commission through the AOCs program in March 1977 and was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1978.

After completing replacement training in the F-14A TOMCAT at Fighter Squadron 124, Commander Dickens received orders to the "CHECKMATES" of Fighter Squadron 211 in October 1979 where he made two WESTPAC deployments aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64). During this tour, he graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). The squadron also received the Battle "E" award. In November 1982, Commander Dickens reported for duty to Training Squadron 27, Corpus Christi, Texas, as a Primary Flight Instructor and Flight Leader. During this tour, he also served in the capacity as Advanced Flight Instructor attached to Training Squadron 22, NAS Kingsville, Texas. In December 1983, he was selected and reported to U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland, and graduated in December 1984, Class 86. In January 1985, Commander Dickens reported as F/18 project test pilot for the F/A-18 Weapons System Support Activity (WSSA).

In October 1987, Commander Dickens reported to the "BLACK ACES" of Fighter Squadron 41 where he was assigned as Operations and Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he made a North Atlantic and Mediterranean Deployments aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) in which the squadron received the Battle "E" and CNO Safety Awards. In August 1990, he joined Commander, Fighter Wing ONE staff in capacity of Readiness Officer and flew the F-5 aircraft as an Adversary Pilot. During this tour, he was dual CQ qualified in the F-14A/B aircraft and chosen as 1 of 4 contingency aircrew for Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Following this tour, he was assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) in Washington, DC, as the TACAIR Training Device Requirements Officer (OP-593) in September 1991.

Commander Dickens reported in February 1993 to the "TOPHATTERS" of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN as Executive Officer and assumed command in April 1995. He has accumulated over 4000 hours and 660 traps while flying over 25 different rotary and tactical aircraft. Commander Dickens has received numerous awards including two Meritorious Service Medals, Navy Commendation, Navy Expeditionary and the National Defense Service Medals.

Commander Dickens is married to the former Margaret A. Wingo of Miami, Florida. They reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with their two children, Heather and Sarah.



# Naval Air Force United States Atlantic Fleet

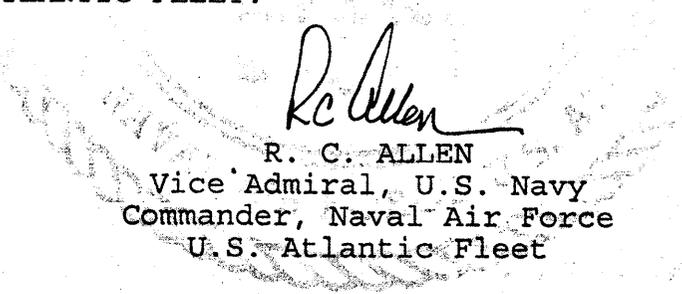
LETTER OF COMMENDATION

FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTY WHILE PARTICIPATING IN COMBINED ARMS EXERCISE (CAX) 9-95 AT TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA FROM 7 AUGUST 1995 TO 27 AUGUST 1995. AS ONE OF THE FIRST NAVY SQUADRONS TO DEPLOY THE F-14A TO THE HIGHLY DEMANDING CAX EVOLUTION, FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN PERFORMED IN AN EXEMPLARY AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL MANNER. DEMONSTRATING A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF INITIATIVE AND MOTIVATION, THE SQUADRON COMPLETED THE ENTIRE EXERCISE WITH FLAWLESS PRECISION. THE SQUADRON'S OVERALL TACTICAL EXCELLENCE, AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND MAINTENANCE PERFECTION SET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR NAVY PARTICIPATION IN THIS VITAL EXERCISE AND GUARANTEED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF READINESS FOR ALL PARTICIPATING UNITS. EVERY TACTICAL CAPABILITY OF THE TOMCAT WAS EXERCISED FLAWLESSLY AND FROM THE TIME FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN VOLUNTEERED FOR THE EXERCISE TO THE FINAL AFTER-ACTION REPORT THE SQUADRON EXHIBITED AN UNCANNY DESIRE TO WIN. THE EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALISM AND LOYAL DEVOTION TO DUTY REFLECTED CREDIT UPON THE SQUADRON, THE F-14 COMMUNITY AND THE COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET.



*R. C. Allen*

R. C. ALLEN  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander, Naval Air Force  
U.S. Atlantic Fleet



Encl (5)



