



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON FIFTEEN
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From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5059

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT - 2004

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12H
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 (series)

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Commanding Officer's biography and portrait
(5) Squadron History
(6) Squadron Aircraft Image
(7) Change of Command program

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.
2. POC: LT Anthony D. Roy, PAO, DSN 433-5054, (757) 433-5054.


J. G. JERAULD

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PAO
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COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION

The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN (VFA-15) is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness as a deterrent or striking capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America, as may be directed by higher command authority. The primary function of VFA-15 within that mission is to conduct offensive air superiority and air-to-surface attack operations.

ORGANIZATION

VFA-15 is organized in two primary levels: command and departmental. The organizational structure has been established within the framework of primary billets authorized by the Chief of Naval Personnel and within the guidelines established in references (b) and (c). In this particular application, the organizational structure and billet descriptions depicted in reference (c) have been tailored, as necessary, to fit the structure of a deployable aviation command.

3. Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN, based at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA, is commanded by CDR Joseph G. Jerauld, USN. It has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

Command/Operational Control	Commander Carrier Air Wing EIGHT
Administrative Control	<i>Embarked:</i> Commander Carrier Air Wing EIGHT <i>Ashore:</i> Commander Strike Fighter Wing U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Support Control	Commander Strike Fighter Wing U.S. Atlantic Fleet

The 12 F/A-18C Hornet aircraft assigned to the squadron have "AJ" tail code markings. The bureau number breakdown is as follows:

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>BUREAU NUMBER</u>
300	164627
301	164629
302	164643
303	164646
304	164655
305	164611
306	164691
307	164689
310	164673
311	164680
312	164631
314	164657

VFA-15 consists of 247 enlisted members and 27 officers.

CHRONOLOGY

21-23 January 2004 COMCARAIRWING EIGHT Air-to-Air Missile Shoot

23 February-1 March 2004 Flight Deck Certification, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)

4-16 March 2004 ORANGE AIR Detachment, NAS Pensacola, FL

26 March 2004 Pride Aircraft 307, BUNO 164689 destroyed at Raleigh-Durham (NC) International Airport

5-12 May 2004 Flight Deck Certification, USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

28-30 July 2004 COMCARAIRWING EIGHT Air-to-Air Missile Shoot

8-14 August 2004 HARM Shoot Detachment, NAS Point Mugu, CA

8-14 September 2004 Flight Deck Certification, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)

8-20 November 2004 Air-to-Air SFARP Detachment, NAS Key West, FL

16 December 2004 Change of Command

NARRATIVE

Beginning the year with a bang, VFA-15 successfully participated in a COMCARAIRWING EIGHT missile shoot employing two AIM-7 SPARROW and three AIM-9 SIDEWINDERS in January 2004. All missiles successfully impacted and destroyed their targets.

Quick to continue their success, the VALIONS boarded the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) on the 23rd of February for a flight deck certification and carrier qualifications. Triumphantly qualifying all squadron pilots, the squadron returned to Naval Air Station, Oceana for a quick turnaround before departing for Naval Air Station, Pensacola in support of COMCARAIRWING SEVENTEEN's Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). From the 4th to the 16th of March, VFA-15 provided ORANGE AIR simulation, accurately portraying a hypothetical threat country's air force and tactics to maximize the training received by the squadrons of COMCARAIRWING SEVENTEEN.

On March 26, PRIDE 307 and 310 on a weekend cross-country flight stopped in Raleigh-Durham (NC) International Airport for a brief "gas and go" before continuing to their final destination. On PRIDE 307's takeoff roll, the pilot experienced a loss of directional control on the ground. The pilot initiated ejection and sustained minor injuries. PRIDE 307, BUNO 164689, was completely destroyed in the ensuing fire. No other people were insured during the mishap.

The 5th of May saw the VALIONS load aboard the U.S. Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76). The historic trip saw the pilots and maintenance crews of VFA-15 complete a flight deck certification and pilot carrier qualifications. Once again, the VALIONS successfully qualified all squadron pilots.

In June, VFA-15 was allotted five AIM-9 SIDEWINDERS in preparation for the Summer COMCARAIRWING EIGHT missile shoot. From the 28th to the 30th of July, the VALIONS took to the air and successfully employed all five missiles. Each SIDEWINDER impacted and destroyed its designated airborne target.

A specialized detachment of VALIONS traveled to Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, CA on the 8th of August to participate in a High Speed Antiradiation Missile (HARM) shoot. On the 13th of August, the VALIONS successfully employed two HARMs against simulated surface-to-air sites. Both HARMs impacted and immobilized the site, giving VFA-15 a perfect air-launched missile employment record of 2004.

After a long Fleet Response Plan (FRP) sustainment and turnaround training period, the VALIONS began their predeployment training in November with the Air-to-Air Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP). Traveling to Naval Air Station, Key West, FL the men and women of VFA-15 eagerly prepared for their projected Summer 2005 deployment. Here the VALIONS honed their fighting prowess and flew relentlessly, completing 159 sorties in ten days, while taking their off time to enjoy the beauty of scenic Key West.

Bring the year to a close, the VALIONS held a change of command on the 16th of December. Commander Joseph G. Jerauld relieved Commander Edward D. Langford as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN.