

1983



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON TWENTY-FIVE
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History

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


S. L. WEBB

Copy to:
Director of Naval History



COMMAND HISTORY 1983

Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE began 1983 flying and maintaining 12 A-7E Corsair II's. By June, all the A-7E aircraft had been transferred in preparation for the squadrons transition to the F/A-18A Hornet. The squadron received it's first F/A-18 on 11 November 1983 and is scheduled to have its full complement of 12 aircraft by March of 1984.

During 1983, the squadron served under the command of Captain D. W. Baird, Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO, and under the operational control of Commodore D. B. Cargill, Commander, Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

At the beginning of the year, the Commanding Officer of the "Fist" was CDR R. W. Leone and the Executive Officer was CDR S. L. Webb. The Change of Command was performed on 25 April 1983, in which CDR S. L. Webb became the new Skipper and CDR J. C. Leslie assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

There was a large turnover of enlisted personnel and officers during the year due to the transition. At years end, there were 190 enlisted personnel assigned to VFA-25. The following officers were assigned to VFA-25 during 1983: CDR Bob "Mumbles" Williams, CDR Mitch "Deacon" Moore, LCDR Scott "Viking" Ronnie, LCDR John "Jocko" Chenevey, LCDR Ken "Grubbo" Grubbs, LCDR Greg "Shifty" Peairs, LCDR Jerry "Lefty" Schubert, LCDR David "Grouch" Thompson, LT Dan "Groper" Moore, LT Chris "Biscuit" Berry, LT Tom "T-Mac" McCarthy, LT Dave "Redbone" Martin, LT Kenneth "Doc" Bird, LT Al "Bing" Cherry, LT Stewart "Kid" Rivall, LT Pat "Blox" O'Rourke, LT Dennis "Willie" Wilborn, LT Corey "Scorch" Moore, LT Kevin "Slick" O'Harra, LTJG James "Snowball" Winterroth, LTJG Jim "Dutch" Schwecke, LTJG Dave "Medic" Frahm, ENS Ike "Snort" Keas, ENS Lonnie "Pockets" Waltrip, ENS Steve "Fungus" Funchess, and CWO2 Charles "Gunner" Mach.

The squadron spent the entire year operating out of NAS Lemoore, California. From January to June, the squadron maintained combat readiness while gradually transferring it's A-7Es to other Light Attack Squadrons. The

squadron conducted a major detachment to Nellis AFB in May, providing 10 pilots and six A-7E aircraft in support of the F-15 Fighter Weapons School. Realistic training was conducted in low altitude, high threat strike tactics. On 23 June, the squadron achieved 7 years and surpassed 31,500 flight hours of mishap free operations.

By 30 June, all the squadron's A-7Es had been transferred and the first six pilots began training in the F/A-18 at VFA-125. Extensive ground and flight training was conducted in familiarization, all weather intercepts, basic fighter maneuvers, visual identification tactics, low level navigation, air to ground ordnance delivery, radar navigation and carrier qualification.

The squadron was redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VFA-25) on 1 July 1983, during a ceremony attended by Commodore Cargill.

On November 11th, the squadron received it's first F/A-18. The Skipper, CDR "Spider" Webb, personally flew the aircraft from the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation factory in St. Louis to NAS Lemoore.

On November 26th, the "Fist of the Fleet" reached an unprecedented 3 years of FOD free operations.

In December, the squadron held a highly successful Christmas Party and received two more aircraft from the manufacturer. The first class of pilots from VFA-25 to go through the F/A-18 training was in the process of field carrier landing practice for carrier qualifications early in January aboard the USS Enterprise.

The squadron is slated to have a full complement of aircraft and pilots by March of 1984.

Enclosure (1)