



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 25

To: Director, Naval Historical Center (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) 1990 Command History

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.


G. R. PEAIRS

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Mission

The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 is to maintain a maximum of air combat readiness in the Carrier Striking Forces and to utilize that readiness as a deterrent or striking capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America as may be directed by higher authority. The primary function of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 within that mission is to conduct offensive air to air and surface strike operations.

Organization Structure

Strike Fighter Squadron 25 is one of eleven FA-18 fleet squadrons in the U.S. Pacific Fleet and is based ashore at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California. Operational and Administrative Control is provided by Commander, Carrier Air Wing 14 which deployed aboard USS INDEPENDENCE from June to December 1990 to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean and deployed to the Eastern Pacific as a part of RIMPAC '90 during April and May.

Commanding Officer

Commander Gregory R. Peairs was commissioned and entered the Naval service in June 1972 upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy. While attending the Naval Academy he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, the Midshipman rank of Battalion Commander and graduated with distinction. His first assignment was to USS WADDELL (DDG 24) as EMO/EWO from July 1972 to January 1974. During this period the crew of USS WADDELL took part in "Operation End Sweep" off of North Vietnam.

In March 1974, Commander Peairs reported to VT-1 followed by VT-4 at NAS Pensacola, Florida, as a Student Naval Aviator. There he completed required studies and earned a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Systems from the University of West Florida. He was designated as a Naval Aviator in January 1976, and reported to VA-122 as a replacement pilot flying the A-7E Corsair II from April to November 1976.

Commander Peairs' first fleet aviation squadron was VA-97 from November 1976 to May 1979. He served as the squadron's Weapons Training Officer, Training Officer, LSO, and was a graduate of the Light Attack Weapons Employment School. For his first shore duty he reported to VA-122 as an Instructor Pilot from July 1979 to August 1982 for the Flying Eagles. Additionally, he served as a Department Head and Light Attack Weapons Employment Instructor at the Light Attack Weapons School, Pacific.

In August 1982 he reported to VFA-25 as a department head. After flying the A-7E for a year he transitioned with the squadron to the FA-18 Hornet. During his assignment to the "FIST" he participated in the first deployment of the FA-18 aircraft onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) in February 1985. He served as squadron Administrative, Operations and Maintenance Officer. Upon leaving sea duty, Commander Peairs reported to the staff of Commander, Light Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he served as the FA-18 Training and Readiness Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Simulator Officer. As Simulator Officer he was responsible for evaluation and validation of all

Navy/Marine FA-18 simulator modifications. Additionally while attached to COMLAWINGPAC, he served as an instructor pilot in VFA-125. In January 1988, Commander Peairs transferred to VFA-125 where he served until November 1988. His return assignment to VFA-25 was in November 1988 as Executive Officer during the squadron's WESTPAC/IO deployment onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64). Commander Peairs took command of VFA-25 on 31 May 1990. In June 1990 he again deployed with VFA-25 to the Western Pacific onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62).

Commander Peairs is authorized to wear the Navy Commendation Medal (1 Gold Star), Navy Achievement Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon (1 Star) and other unit decorations. He is a native of Sacramento, California. He currently resides in Lemoore, California.

CHRONOLOGY 1990

January 29 - February 13: Squadron deployed aboard USS INDEPENDENCE for Refresher Training in southern California operating area. February 27- March 20: Squadron deployed aboard USS INDEPENDENCE for Advanced Tactical Assessment. March 7: LT Jeff Bates and LT Tim Roorda shoot AIM 9M Sidewinder missiles and achieve lethal hits on target drone. April 5 - May 22: Squadron deployed aboard USS INDEPENDENCE along with rest of Battle Group Delta on RIMPAC '90. LT Dan Dixon and LT Steve Foley participated in a very successful AIM 7M shoot resulting in two direct hits on the target drone. VFA-25 won the CVW-14 Golden Tailhook for the RIMPAC line period and is also notified that it won the COMLAWINGPAC Safety Award for the 2nd quarter. May 31: Change of Command; Commander Greg Peairs relieved Commander Dan Gabriel. June 24: VFA-25 along with CVW-14 deployed aboard USS INDEPENDENCE to Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. On August 2 USS INDEPENDENCE was ordered to Gulf of Oman in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. August 6: VFA-25 and CVW-14 on station, ready to execute National Command Authority assignments. USS INDEPENDENCE continued its role in Operation Desert Shield through 2 November when USS MIDWAY relieved the USS INDEPENDENCE. December 20: USS INDEPENDENCE arrived in San Diego. VFA-25 maintained a 98% sortie completion rate for the deployment and won the Golden Tailhook for the first line period as well as the Professional Excellence and Supply Awards given by the USS INDEPENDENCE. December squadron notified as the recipient of LTJG Bruce Carrier Award for FY 1990.

NARRATIVE

VFA-25 was deployed on board the USS INDEPENDENCE for most of 1990. Refresher Training, Advanced Tactical Assessment and RIMPAC '90 were part of the workups that led to the deployment from June 23 to December 20.

As Carrier Group One entered the Indian Ocean enroute to Diego Garcia they were called to the ready by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and ordered to the Gulf of Oman. As tensions escalated, CVW-14 was the only military force in position to defend our national interests in the Gulf crisis. VFA-25 became extensively involved in Operation Desert Shield and contingency planning in support of its objectives. Until early November the USS INDEPENDENCE was on station in the Gulf of Oman. After 111 days at sea, liberty was enjoyed in Singapore, Hong Kong and Subic Bay in the Philippines. VFA-25 arrived back home at NAS Lemoore on December 20 in time for the holidays. The year was capped off by winning the LTJG Bruce Carrier Award again, making the "Fist of the Fleet" the first FA-18 squadron to win the award two years in a row.