

1994 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
FPO AP 96601-6203

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
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17 Mar 95

From: Commanding Officer, VFA 25
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

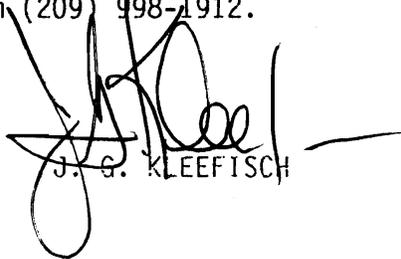
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History
λ (2) Change of Command Program

1. Per reference (a), the Command History for VFA 25 during the calendar year 1994 is submitted.

2. All questions should be directed to ENS Bob McPherson, VFA 25 PAO, NAS Lemoore, CA 93246, DSN 949-1918, com (209) 998-1912.


J. G. KLEEFISCH

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
1994 HISTORY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION

Strike Fighter Squadron Twenty Five will support national policy and global freedom as directed by our operational chain of command. Our primary mission is power projection ashore and afloat. The primary means of executing our mission is directly in line with the Chief of Naval Operations white paper ... " Forward, From the Sea..". Our mission includes the survivable delivery of precision ordnance on target, on time, day or night. We stand always ready to execute our primary, and any associated support missions. In doing so, The Fist of the Fleet will execute visionary, cutting edge tactics and hone our assets, both personnel and aircraft, to the forefront in combat readiness. We will continue to emphasize training and executing safely, and preserving our nation's finest aircraft, the FA-18 Strike Fighter, as well as the nation's proudest servicemen, the Navy Sailor.

We assume the responsibility for training our officers and sailors, both men and women, in the sage execution of tactics, leadership prowess, and courage. We hold in the highest regard, the development of our country's young men and women as future leaders and strive to produce a polished, proud American to pursue his or her goals.

Lastly, we will maintain the "Esprit de Corps" associated with single seat, Tactical aviation. We are the first punch, the "Light Cavalry", the "Tip of the Spear", in our proud Nation's arsenal. We accept and will prosecute the above mission with the inbred pride, dedication to duty, loyalty to cause and wherewithal our light attack predecessors have established for us. The Fist is in hot.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

VFA 25 is one of two Strike Fighter commands attached to Carrier Airwing 14, and deploying with the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) and Cruiser Destroyer Group 3. Our administrative immediate superior in command (ISIC) is Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, US Pacific Fleet. We are stationed afloat on board CVN 70, and ashore, aboard NAS Lemoore, California.

CHRONOLOGY

07 FEB Commander Joseph G. Kleefisch relieves Commander Carlton A. Simmons, Jr. as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 during a traditional Change of Command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Lemoore.

14 FEB-15 AUG VFA 25 with Carrier Air Wing Fourteen embarks onboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) for WESTPAC 94. This Western Pacific cruise culminated with three months operating in the Arabian Gulf flying missions over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. Port visits include Pearl Harbor, Yokosuka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, U.A.E, Perth, and Hobart, Tasmania.

MAY VFA 25 is awarded the Arleigh Burke Award for greatest improvement in overall combat readiness during calendar year 1993.

02-16 DEC VFA 25 sent a squadron detachment to Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas Nevada to support the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School F-15 Eagle division. The Fist work for two weeks providing airborne threats for the Air Force students and practicing division (4 plane) tactics. The exercise included air force units from the U.S. Air Force, Canada and Germany.

NARRATIVE

In 1994, the Fist Of the Fleet completed a highly successful deployment into the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf. Over a three month period, the Fist of the Fleet flew missions over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. On the return trip, VFA 25 was selected to provide the fly-by for the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet change of command hosted by the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in Pearl Harbor.

Post-cruise, VFA 25 continued land-based operations to improve their air-to-air proficiency and coordinated strike planning and execution. The Fist used every opportunity to increase operational readiness during a time of fiscal restraint.

Upon returning to CONUS, VFA-25 was required to stand down and preserve all 10 FA-18 aircraft due to fiscal year funding shortages. After preserving all aircraft, The Fist of the Fleet responded yet again to short fuze re-funding and de-preserved our aircraft. The Fist proceeded to fly over 200 flight hours and deliver more than 88,000 pounds of ordnance during the last two weeks of the fiscal year. This monumental accomplishment occurred during the post deployment school / leave and stand-down period.

During 1995, Strike Fighter Squadron Twenty Five will continue to set the standard for Strike Fighter Squadrons on both coasts, as an integral part of Carrier Air Wing 14 and the Carl Vinson Battle Group.