

1972
VF-102

FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

VF-102:10:CFK:rls
5750
Ser: 63
5 March 1973

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1972 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Officers' Roster
(3) Biography and Photograph of CDR E. W. CLEXTON, Jr., USN

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted. ✓


E. W. CLEXTON, Jr.

Copy to:
DIRNAVHIST (OP-09B9)

Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO

Command History - CY - 1972

1. Command Organization: Commander W. B. KIRKCONNELL, USN, [REDACTED] /1310, assumed command of Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO on 14 June 1971. CDR KIRKCONNELL was relieved by Lieutenant Commander E. W. CLEXTON, Jr., USN, [REDACTED] 1310 in ceremonies held on board Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia on 9 June 1972. LCDR CLEXTON became the seventeenth Commanding Officer of VF-102.

2. Summary of Operations: Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO, embarked aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62), departed Athens, Greece 2 January 1972. The squadron thereby began the second half of a six month Mediterranean deployment which had commenced 16 September 1971. During this half of the cruise, VF-102 won the Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN "Golden Tailhook" award twice for superior landing performance.

The squadron participated in three NATO training exercises in February and March. During February 5-9, VF-102 flew surface search and air defense missions in support of National Week XII. As an extension of this exercise the squadron moved into the Western Mediterranean on February 14 to begin operations in support of POOPDECK. This exercise tested the effectiveness of the task force in defending against land based air power. The simulated raids were provided by Spanish and United States Air Forces from Torrejon, Spain. The final NATO exercise of the deployment, Magic Sword V, was conducted March 6 and 7.

Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO returned from its eleventh Mediterranean deployment on March 16.

The squadron's shore based training cycle began on April 17 at NAS Oceana. On 1 May the squadron deployed a detachment of five aircraft, eight aircrews and maintenance personnel to Naval Air Station Key West, Florida for "Hot Pad" duty. Additional two week commitments to the Key West "Hot Pad" came in June, August, October and December.

An extensive Air Combat Maneuvering program was initiated in June when the squadron sent a two plane detachment to Tyndall, AFB for the week long Air Force sponsored College Dart program which saw our crews flying against Air Force F-106's. Continuing this emphasis on ACM two detachments (four aircrews) were sent to the four week Navy Fighter Weapons School at NAS Miramar.

Enclosure (1)

The first detachment attended "Top Gun" in July while the second left in late September. The squadron put this training to use in November by conducting dissimilar defensive ACM training for VA-12 and VA-66 at NAS Oceana. The two A-7 squadrons assigned to CVW-7 were provided with ACM instruction and insight not normally available within the attack community.

As a unit of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, VF-102 deployed to NAS Fallon, Nevada on November 27 for two weeks of day/night bombing and coordinated strikes. The squadron planned and led a coordinated strike of F-4, A-6 and A-7 aircraft on a local range on December 5. Electronic Countermeasures evaluation of the newly designed "PRIDE" equipment was also conducted during this deployment.

3. Special Topics:

a. Statistics:

1972 Hours	JAN	342	MAY	215	SEP	268
	FEB	314	JUN	186	OCT	316
	MAR	343	JUL	250	NOV	471
	APR	126	AUG	184	DEC	401
Total 1972 flight time	-	-	-	-	-	3416
Total 1972 aboard carrier	-	-	-	-	-	716
Total 1972 sorties aboard carrier	-	-	-	-	-	431
Total 1972 day carrier landings	-	-	-	-	-	309
Total 1972 night carrier landings	-	-	-	-	-	119
Type aircraft assigned	-	-	-	-	-	F-4J
Number aircraft assigned	-	-	-	-	-	12

1972 Mediterranean deployment data:

<u>Operating days</u>	<u>Hours/Sorties</u>	<u>Day/Night carrier arrested landings</u>
JAN - 14	314/192	138/52
FEB - 14	343/202	136/65
MAR - 3	59/37	35/2

b. Major modifications to the Weapons System: Installation of "PRIDE" electronic counter-measures equipment began 25 October 1972. With the conversion work being performed at NAS Oceana, nine VF-102 aircraft had been modified as of 31 December. VF-102 and its sister squadrons in Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN are the first squadrons to receive this advanced equipment. During Air Wing SEVEN's Weapons Deployment to NAS Fallon, Nevada, three modified VF-102 aircraft were flight checked on the Fallon Echo Range.