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**FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO**

**FLEET POST OFFICE**

**NEW YORK 09501**



VF-102:10:JEC:dfm  
5750  
Ser: 58  
4 March 1974

**[REDACTED] (Unclassified upon Removal of Enclosures)**

**From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO**  
**To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0502)**

**Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1973 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)**

**Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B**

**Encl: (1) Command History**  
**(2) Officers' Roster**  
**(3) Biography and Photograph of LCDR P. W. PARCELLS, USN**

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

P. W. PARCELLS

**Copy to:**  
**DIRNAVHIST (OP-09B9)**

DECLASSIFY by 4 March 1979

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FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO  
COMMAND HISTORY - CY - 1973

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1. Command Organization: Commander E. W. CLEXTON, Jr., USN, 1310, assumed command of Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO on 9 June 1972. CDR CLEXTON was relieved by Lieutenant Commander P. W. PARCELLS, USN, 1310 in ceremonies held onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) on 8 November 1973, while anchored at Faleron Bay, Athens, Greece.

2. Summary of Operations: During the first two weeks of January, Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO operated a detachment of two aircraft at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida for "HOT PAD" duty.

During February 5-9, aircrew carrier qualification commenced aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) in preparation for type training. In February dissimilar ACM training was conducted with VA-43. During most of March, all air crewmembers completed training sorties utilizing all available electronic emitters at Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range in Northern Florida. On February 25 two aircrews were deployed to "TOP GUN", a four week Navy Fighter Weapons School at NAS Miramar. Carrier qualification commenced again aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) on March 15 and extended through March 23. Dissimilar ACM competitive exercises were flown during April, with outstanding results. The last carrier qualification period commenced April 15 and was completed April 28.

Type training I aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), involving fleet type operations, extended from April 23 until May 2; type training II and III were conducted from May 7-16 and May 21-25 respectively. The squadron's overall readiness evaluation was completed during the last week in May, with VF-102 receiving the highest grade among the airwing squadrons.

Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO commenced its twelfth Mediterranean cruise on June 21 aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). On June 28 USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) took over its Mediterranean assignment by relieving USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) at Rota, Spain.

In July the squadron took part in the NATO exercise, International Week, by flying CAP missions against a simulated enemy, which included both surface vessels and aircraft.

Normal training operations were conducted from August 7-10. After a twenty eight day in-port period, VF-102 engaged in refresher training September 4-7.

A highly successful air-to-air missile shoot was conducted on September 17 and 18. Utilizing the NATO missile firing installation (NAMFI) range north of the island of Crete. Two VF-102 fighters successfully downed two MQM-74 drones with AIM-7 Sparrow missiles on two separate occasions.

Enclosure (1)

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During the last week and a half of September, the squadron engaged in another NATO exercise, DEEP FURROW. During this exercise, VF-102 flew numerous CAP, SUCAP, and CAS missions in support of a simulated amphibious and carrier task force.

The last three weeks of October and first three days of November found the squadron conducting operations south of Crete in a peace-keeping role as a result of the Mid-East Crisis. During this period VF-102 won the "Golden Tailhook" award for superior landing performance.

After a short in-port period, the squadron returned to sea again performing its peacekeeping role during the Mid-East Crisis from November 9-22.

From December 2-16, VF-102 engaged in normal training operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Included in this period was a two day (December 11 and 12) combat readiness assessment exercise (CRAE), where the squadron participated in coordinated strikes, TARCAR, escort, and simulated BOGEY missions.

The last half of December found VF-102 anchored in-port, with a short at-sea period at the end of the month involving normal training operations.

3. Special Topics:

a. Statistics:

1973 Hours -	JAN 266	MAY 469	SEP 466
	FEB 280	JUN 132	OCT 595
	MAR 467	JUL 341	NOV 286
	APR 405	AUG 232	DEC 453

Total 1973 Flight Time	4392
Total 1973 Aboard Carrier	2199
Total 1973 Sorties Aboard Carrier	1222
Total 1973 Day Carrier Landings	939
Total 1973 Night Carrier Landings	339
Type Aircraft Assigned	F-4J
Number Aircraft Assigned	12

1973 Mediterranean Deployment Data

<u>Operating Days</u>	<u>Hours/Sorties</u>	<u>Day/Night Carrier Arrested Landings</u>
JUN - 4	52/33	30/3
JUL - 23	341/170	126/50
AUG - 21	232/169	49/15

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<u>Operating Days</u>	<u>Hours/Sorties</u>	<u>Day/Night Carrier Arrested Landings</u>
SEP 18	466/262	195/51
OCT 31	595/350	251/99
NOV 11	286/165	117/46
DEC 23	453/263	171/75

b. Major modifications to the weapons system: Installation of "PRIDE" electronic counter-measures equipment in all VF-102 aircraft began October 25, 1972. Attack carrier Air Wing SEVEN squadrons were the first units to receive this advanced equipment.

c. Major material casualties: On December 19 the squadron lost one aircraft at sea. The accident occurred south of Crete aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), while conducting normal training operations. LTJG NEWTON and LT DRUM ejected safely from aircraft bureau number 155535.

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