



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN
FPO NEW YORK, 09501

VA-15
1974

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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5700
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From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron FIFTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (Report Symbol 5350-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAV Instruction 5750.12A
(b) VA-15 Instruction 5750.12

Encl: (1) VA-15 Chronological Events of 1974
(2) VA-15 Narrative History of 1974
(3) VA-15 Flight/Ordnance/Reenlistment Statistics
(4) VA-15 Officer Billet Assignments and Precedence List
(5) VA-15 Enlisted Roster
(6) Biography of Commander H. P. KOBER, USN
(7) Picture of Commander H. P. KOBER, USN

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (7) are forwarded.


G. E. EVANS
Acting

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS OF 1974

JANUARY

- 1-3 In port Barcelona, Spain, embarked on USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)
- 4-13 Operations Western Mediterreanean
- 14-23 In port Athens, Greece
- 24-28 Operations Eastern Mediterreanean
- 29-31 In port Thessaloniki, Greece

FEBRUARY

- 1-2 In port Thessaloniki, Greece
- 3 Enroute Athens, Greece
- 4-10 In port Athens, Greece
- 11-14 Operations Eastern Mediterreanean
- 15-19 National Week Exercise - Operations
- 20 At anchor Souda Bay
- 21-23 Operations Western Mediterreanean
- 24-28 In port Palma De Mallorca

MARCH

- 1-3 In port Palma De Mallorca
- 4 Enroute Rota, Spain
- 5-6 In port Rota, Spain
- 7 OUTCHOP in transit CONUS
- 14-15 FDR encounters storm at sea
- 17 FDR arrives Mayport, Florida
- 18 Aircraft #312 crashed on flight from Mayport back to Cecil Field

Enclosure (1)

MARCE (Cont'd)

19-31 Squadron standdown at NAS Cecil Field

APRIL

30 LANTREDEX 3-74

MAY

1-6 LANTREDEX 3-74 (Cont'd)

8 Aircraft #306 crashed off Jacksonville Coast during routine training flight

24 Change of Command Ceremony, CDR H. P. ROBER relieves CDR R. C. MCCLARY

26-31 Operation Solid Shield

JUNE

1-2 Operation Solid Shield (Cont'd)

JULY

1-31 Training for COMPEX begins

AUGUST

26-31 Weapons Detachment with CVW-6 at MCAS Yuma

SEPTEMBER

1-7 Weapons Detachment (Cont'd)

OCTOBER

22-24 Carrier qualifications aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)

31 Type Training 1 aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)

NOVEMBER

1-8 Type Training 1 (Cont'd)

12-21 Type Training 2 aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)

DECEMBER

2-9 Type Training 3 and Operational Readiness Evaluation aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)

10-31 Squadron standdown for pre-cruise/Christmas Leave

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

NARRATIVE HISTORY

1974

The year 1974 began for the VALIONS of Attack Squadron FIFTEEN in port at Barcelona, Spain. The time was well spent by the Squadron on liberty as they ushered in the new year and took a break from the hectic operations of Mediterranean flying.

On January 4th with the cruise now half over, it was back to work as VA-15 along with the rest of CVW-6 left Barcelona aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) for ten days of operating in the Western Mediterranean area. The daily cycles of launches and recoveries continued as the ROOSEVELT worked her way east until the 14th of January when the ship pulled into Athens, Greece. The ten day port of call in the ancient city of Athens gave everyone a chance to relax and many in the squadron took this opportunity to take one or more special services tours which visited the sites of many famous Greek ruins. During this port visit, LT [REDACTED] detached. Two new pilots, LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED], reported aboard.

After leaving Athens, VA-15 continued flight operations in the Eastern Mediterranean area until January 29th when the ROOSEVELT again dropped anchor at a Greek port; this time Thessaloniki, Greece. Leaving Thessaloniki on February 2nd, the ROOSEVELT steamed back to Athens and remained there until February 10th. A lot of the in-port time could be attributed to the new energy crisis, which the Navy and the Sixth Fleet were just beginning to feel.

Flight operations resumed on February 11th and the tempo increased to one of the highest levels on cruise as the VALIONS participated in the National Week Exercise with other Sixth Fleet units. During this period the VALIONS met and exceeded scheduled around the clock sorties. These sorties included search and surveillance of Mediterranean shipping, combat air patrols, and simulated strikes against enemy ships. The rest of February was spent with flight operations being conducted as the ship worked her way to the Western Mediterranean for her anticipated return trip home in March. One of the final ports visited was the Island of Palma de Mallorca on February 24th. In Palma LT Randy SECREST detached from the squadron.

On March 4th it was enroute to Rota, Spain for the final two days of liberty prior to leaving for CONUS on March 7th. The USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT outchopped on March 7th turning over her Sixth Fleet commitment to the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59).

Hearts and hopes were high as the ROOSEVELT sailed homeward with an expected ten day transit to Oceania, Virginia, and then Mayport, Florida. But mother nature dealt her a severe blow as the ship was engulfed in a savage storm in the Atlantic on March 14th and 15th. The battered ship pulled into Mayport on March 17th with her entire airwing still aboard. Due to storm damage to the catapults, all of the aircraft had to be off-loaded by crane vice being flown off.

Enclosure (2)

During the transfer of squadron aircraft from NAS Mayport to NAS Cecil Field, LT Bob BUSH was forced to eject from aircraft #312 before it crashed shortly after take-off. LT [REDACTED] escaped serious injury and the accident was later attributed to a fuel problem that was a result of defueling aboard the ROOSEVELT before the aircraft's offload from the ship.

The last half of March was a stand down period for the VALIONS and most of the squadron took advantage of the time off to take well earned leave.

In April more personnel changes occurred; notably LT [REDACTED] joined the squadron and LT [REDACTED] departed.

In May VA-15 participated in LANTREDEX EXERCISE 3-74. The squadron once again flew many sorties in an environment much like the cyclic operations aboard ship. However, bad luck again plagued the VALIONS when on May 8th aircraft #306 crashed off the coast of Jacksonville on a routine training flight. The pilot, LCDR [REDACTED], suffered a minor burn to his hand as he was inadvertently ejected when his aircraft's canopy exploded. On May 24th CDR R. C. MCCLARY was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR H. P. KOBER. CDR MCCLARY later retired from the Navy on 31 May.

In June VA-15 took part in operation SOLID SHIELD as they flew support missions for ground forces making amphibious landings on the North Carolina coast. Also in June two more veteran pilots, LCDR [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] left the squadron. The summer months were good months for flying and the squadron began the job of improving both the skill of their pilots and their weapon delivery systems for the upcoming COMPEX EXERCISES. Also the pilot turnovers continued as LT [REDACTED] departed and CDR G. E. EVANS joined the squadron as its new Executive Officer. On July 21st two new LTJG's fresh out of the RAG joined the VALIONS. They were LTJG [REDACTED] and LTJG [REDACTED]. In August, LCDR [REDACTED] and ENS [REDACTED] also from the RAG reported aboard. LT [REDACTED] departed for postgraduate school in Monterey, California.

With the pilot turnover nearly complete, the training cycle shifted into high gear as the squadron deployed to MCAS Yuma, Arizona with CVW-6 on a weapons detachment from August 26th until September 7th. The VALIONS quickly jumped out in front of the airwing by their team performance and the amount of ordnance expended while at Yuma. Once again due to a great overall maintenance effort, the squadron outflew all others in the airwing. LT [REDACTED] joined the squadron during the Yuma detachment.

With weapons delivery systems and pilots now in top shape, the squadron training focused toward shipboard operations and upcoming carrier qualifications. After several weeks of intensive FMLP practice, the squadron carrier qualified in both day and night landings on October 22nd through the 24th on the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). The stage was now set for the VALIONS type training and their OPERATIONAL READINESS EXERCISE before deployment to the Mediterranean on January 3rd. At this time, two old hands, LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] said farewell to the VALIONS.

Type Training I was conducted on November 1st through the 8th, Type Training II on November 12th through the 21st, and the OPERATIONAL READINESS EVALUATION on December 2nd through the 9th. The last two new pilots reported aboard at this time in the persons of LT [REDACTED] and LTJG [REDACTED]. During type training the VALIONS performed flawlessly as a team and quickly re-established themselves as the best in the airwing. The ORE was conducted entirely without fighter assets due to the F-4 fuel tank problems. The CORSAIRS of VA-15 were called on and quickly adapted themselves to the roles of CAP and alert birds in addition to flying their scheduled strike missions.

The squadron finished the ORE with a grade of high excellent including the combined scores of conventional weapons delivery, nuclear weapons delivery, and shipboard operations. On their return to Mayport December 9th, the VALIONS completed the final load aboard prior to the cruise. At this time, many squadron personnel took the standdown period to enjoy Christmas leave. Pilots detaching during this period were LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], and the squadron Gunner, CWO [REDACTED].

The year ended much like it had began for the VALIONS with the main emphasis on carrier operations, as the squadron again looked forward to a Mediterranean deployment.

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

FLIGHT/ORDNANCE/REENLISTMENT STATISTICS

I. 1974 Mediterrenean cruise statistics:

- a. CVA sorties - 2,642
 - b. CVA Flight Hours - 1,207.3 hours
 - c. Total CVA traps
 - 1. Day - 715
 - 2. Night - 281
- Total - 996

II. 1974 Total Flight Hours - 4,706.8 hours

III. 1974 Ordnance Expenditures

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
a. 20mm T.P. AMMO	25,375 <u>rounds</u>
b. Practice Bomb MK-76	3,722
c. Practice Bomb MK-106	314
d. Bomb MK-82 LDGP	268
e. Bomb MK-83 LDGP	28
f. Bomb MK-84 LDGP	8
g. Bomb W.S.F. MK-87	67
h. AIM 9-B Sidewinder	9
i. 2.75 Inch Rockets	526
j. 5.00 Inch Zuni Rockets	126
k. CHAFF	1,140 <u>rounds</u>
l. Flare Parachute MK-45	44
m. MK-58 Marine Marker	103

IV. 1974 Reenlistment Statistics

1st Term - 10	2nd Term - 27
Rate = 50%	Rate = 100%

Enclosure (3)