



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
FPO MIAMI, 34099

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1983  
IN REPLY REFER TO:  
VA-15/10/JPR:rwt  
5700  
Ser C004  
18 February 1984

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From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron FIFTEEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D  
(b) ATKRON FIFTEEN INST 5750.12C

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- Encl:
- (1) Command History Cover Letter
  - (2) Chronological History for 1983
  - (3) Narrative History for 1983
  - (4) Flight Statistics for 1983
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  - (6) Advancement/Retention Statistics for 1983
  - (7) Officer Roster for 1983
  - (8) Enlisted Roster for 1983
  - (9) Commanding Officer's Biography
  - (10) Commanding Officer's Photograph
  - (11) Executive Officer's Photograph
  - (12) Battle "E" Submission

*Logged*

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (12) are forwarded.

*B L Duff*  
B. L. DUFF

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

*R# R010 410 195*

DECLASSIFIED BY: CNO (N09N2)  
OPNAVINST 5513.16 SERIES  
DATE: 28 Apr 2000

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**ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
COMMAND HISTORY COVER LETTER  
01 MARCH 1984**

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Attack Squadron FIFTEEN, homeported at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida, flies the FLIR equipped VOUGHT A-7E CORSAIR II.

Nineteen Eighty-Three proved to be an eventful year for VA-15. The first few months were spent in a relatively short turnaround preparing for the 1983 - 1984 Mediterranean Cruise. Work-ups lasted from June to September and in October the VALIONS were underway.

During the last two and one-half months of 1983, the VALIONS were involved in two different military operations on two different continents. Both operations were in support of United States Forces ashore; Operation "URGENT FURY" in Grenada, lasted from 25 October through 2 November 1983, and on 4 December 1983, the VALIONS led both CVW-6 Strikes on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

VA-15 is under the administrative Command of COMLATWING ONE and Tactical Wings Atlantic Fleet. Operationally, the squadron is under CVW-6 and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62).

VA-15 is currently under the Command of Commander Byron L. DUFF, who assumed Command from Commander M. B. NORDEEN on 1 November 1982 aboard the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). The Squadron's Executive Officer is Commander Leslie G. KAPPEL.

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**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOR 1983**

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**JANUARY**

01 - 05            FIRST LEAVE PERIOD ENDS 5 JANUARY AFTER RETURN FROM 1982 MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE 22 DECEMBER 1982.

06-17            STANDDOWN CONTINUES.            SECOND LEAVE PERIOD RETURNS 17 JANUARY 1983.

17-18            BACK IN THE SADDLE PROGRAMS - EXTENSIVE GROUND TRAINING

18-19            COMLATWING ONE CORROSION AUDIT.

20                VALION AWARDS CEREMONY, FOR MED CRUISE '82 ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE. SQUADRON PARTY.

21-26            GROUND TRAINING CONTINUES - LOW ACTIVITY LEVEL OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

25                TWO VALION AIRCRAFT FLY AGAINST USS JOHN HALL TO ASSIST HER IN TRAINING EXERCISE.

26                CDR KAPPEL FLYS A-20-R TO PINECASTLE FOR AN "E" RATING BY CLAW ONE. THIS A-20-R WAS THE FIRST COMPEX OF THE NEW CALENDER YEAR.

27-31            TURNAROUND TRAINING.

**FEBRUARY**

01-15            NORMAL TURNAROUND TRAINING CONTINUES.

05-11            TWO AIRCRAFT DEPLOY TO NAS ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO FOR CNO PROJECT 547 (USS MAHAN)

14                MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT TEAM ARRIVES FOR INSPECTION.

22-23            CLAW ONE CONDUCTS VA-15 ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION.

24                LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] FLYS A-20-R TO PINECASTLE FOR COMPEX "QUAL".

25-28            TURNAROUND CONTINUES.

**MARCH**

01-03            NAVAL AIR STATION CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA TURNAROUND TRAINING

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03-28 VALIONS/CVW-6 ORANGE AIR DETACHMENT - NAVAL AIR STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO. PARTICIPANTS IN USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) AND USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) WORK-UPS AND ORE.

**APRIL**

01-15 VA-15/CVW-6 NAVAL AIR STATION FALLON, NEVADA WEAPONS DETACHMENT. SQUADRON TRAINING IN WEAPONS DELIVERY, TACTICS, CAS, RESCAP, LOW LEVEL FLYING, COORDINATED STRIKES.

VALIONS WIN CVW-6 BOMBING DERBY.

15-30 TURNAROUND TRAINING AT NAVAL AIR STATION CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA IN PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING TYPE TRAINING - JUNE 1983.

**MAY**

01-31 VA-15 CONTINUES TURNAROUND TRAINING WITH INCREASED TEMPO IN PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING WORKUPS.

**JUNE**

01-09 PREPARATION FOR TYPE TRAINING. FLEET CARRIER LANDING PRACTICE AT NAVAL AIR STATION CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA AND NAVAL AIR STATION WHITEHOUSE.

09 UNDERWAY ON BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). INDY LEAVES PIER 7, NAVAL OPERATIONS BASE, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA FOR CQ/ACLS/REFTRA/TYP E I TRAINING.

10-13 CQ/ACLS VERIFICATION IN VACAPES, CHARLESTON AND JACKSONVILLE OPERATING AREAS.

14 ANCHORED - GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

14-23 REFTRA ON BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) IN GUANTANAMO BAY OPERATING AREA.

23-26 VALIONS/CV-62 TRANSIT NORTH TO MAYPORT, FLORIDA

26 INPORT MAYPORT, FLORIDA FOR PERSONNEL OFFLOAD. CV-62 PULLS OUT SAME DAY.

27-30 VA-15 PERSONNEL REMAIN ON BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) TO HELP IN FLEET CQ FOR VF-101, VAW-120, AND NATC.

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**JULY**

01 FLEET CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS  
02 INPORT PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA  
02-06 PORT VISIT - FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
07 INDY DEPARTS - 0800  
  
07-19 TYPE TRAINING I - JACKSONVILLE OPERATIONS AREA  
21 FLY OFF  
22 INDY MOORS PIERSIDE - PIER 12, NORFOLK,  
VIRGINIA  
22-31 TURNAROUND TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR TYPE II,  
III, AND ORE.

**AUGUST**

01-15 TURNAROUND TRAINING CONTINUES.  
15 USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) DEPARTS PIER 12,  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.  
16 FLY-ON  
16-22 TYPE TRAINING II - PUERTO RICO OPERATING AREA.  
DURING THIS TRAINING PERIOD, VA-15 CONDUCTED  
ITS NTPI AND MRCI WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:  
NTPI: "OUTSTANDING" - ERROR FREE  
INSPECTION. MRCI: "SATISFACTORY" -  
FLAWLESS ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM - RETAINED BY  
CARGRU EIGHT TO BE USED AS A STANDARD FOR  
FUTURE INSPECTIONS.  
23-26 PORT VISIT - ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS.  
26-31 TYPE III TRAINING - PUERTO RICAN OPERATING  
AREA.  
28-29 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS VISIT

**SEPTEMBER**

01-05 TYPE III TRAINING CONTINUES  
06 VA-15 STANDS DOWN ONE DAY PRIOR TO ORE

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07-09 ORE - INDY/CVW-6 TEAM RECEIVES GRADE OF HIGH EXCELLENT. FOR VA-15'S CONTRIBUTION THE SQUADRON RECEIVES A GRADE OF LOW OUTSTANDING. VA-15 AND CVW-6 FOUGHT AGAINST ORANGE AIR BASED OUT OF NAVAL AIR STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO. DURING TYPE TRAINING AND ORE, THE SQUADRON OUTFLEW EVERY OTHER SQUADRON IN AIRWING SIX AND COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING: MRCI, NTPI, CHAFFROC EVALUATION, SINKEX (AGM-45 AND WALLEYE I) AND READEX 2-83.

11 CVW-6 FLY-OFF.

11-16 TRANSIT TO NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

16 INPORT NORFOLK, PIER 12 - VA-15 OFF LOAD

16-30 LEAVE PERIODS PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT - POM PERIOD.

20 SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AWARDS VALIONS THE NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR OPERATIONS OFF LEBANON DURING THE PERIODS 20 AUG 82 - 05 SEP 82 AND 01 OCT 82 - 06 DEC 82.

**OCTOBER**

01-07 LEAVE PERIODS CONTINUE.

07-17 VALIONS PREPARE FOR MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE '83-'84. FCLP AT NAVAL AIR STATIONS CECIL FIELD AND WHITEHOUSE.

18 0900 - DEPART NORFOLK, VIRGINIA ENROUTE MEDITERRANEAN TO RELIEVE USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) AND ASSUME DUTY OFF LEBANON IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE. - COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT EMBARKED.

18-19 REMAIN OFF VACAPES FOR CQ.

19 (p.m.) BEGIN TRANSIT TO MEDITERRANEAN.

20 USS INDEPENDENCE RECEIVES OORDER TO TRANSIT TO VICINITY OF GRENADA FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS. OPERATION "URGENT FURY".

21 RENDEZVOUS WITH USS GUAM MARG FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS IN GRENADA.

25 OPERATION "URGENT FURY" BEGINS - VALIONS FLY CLOSE AIR SUPPORT IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES PEACE KEEPING FORCES IN GRENADA.

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21 SORTIES FLOWN. VALIONS CONDUCTED LIVE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT. TWO AIRCRAFT BOMBED BRIDGE AND RADIO STATION WITH MK-82 SNAKES, AS WELL AS 20 MM. TWO OTHER VALIONS DROP MK-20 ROCKEYE AND STRAFE AT CUBAN TROOPS AT UTM 258275 AND 269328.

- 26 25 SORTIES FLOWN - LIVE STRIKES INCLUDE:  
 (1) TWO VALIONS CONDUCT STRAFING RUNS ON AREA SURROUNDING GOVERNOR'S MANSION WHERE UNITED STATES NAVY SEALS WERE TRAPPED. SEALS ESCAPE WITH GOVERNOR SCOON.  
 (2) FOUR VALIONS CONDUCT STRAFING RUNS IN POLICE BARRACKS SOUTH OF ST. GEORGE AT 1615.
- 27 20 SORTIES FLOWN  
 (1) FOUR ACTIVES (VALIONS) DROP MK-82 SNAKES AND MK-20 ROCKEYE ON CALVIGNY BARRACKS ON EGMONT PENINSULA. THESE BARRACKS WERE DETERMINED TO BE A CUBAN OPERATED TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP. SAME FOUR AIRCRAFT ALSO STRAFED IN VICINITY GRID COORDINATES 254278.  
 (2) THE NEXT EVENT TWO VA-15 A-7 DROP MK-82, ROCKEYE AND STRAFE WITH 20 MM ON RIDGE TO WEST OF CALVIGNY BARRACKS.
- 28 14 SORTIES FLOWN  
 (1) EVENTS 1 AND 2 - VALIONS DROP A TOTAL OF 5 MK-82 AND 3 MK-20 ON HOUSE OF PETIE CALVIGNY DR. FAC WAS "B14". HOUSE DESTROYED - BELIEVED TO BE AMMO STORAGE AREA.  
 (2) EVENT 3 - THREE VALIONS CONDUCT ROAD RECCE.
- 29 15 SORTIES FLOWN IN THE SUPPORT OF OPERATION URGENT FURY. NO ORDNANCE DROPPED. VALIONS FLY RECCE ON GRENADA AND SSSC SURROUNDING WATERS.
- 30 18 SORTIES FLOWN  
 (1) TWO VALIONS STRAFE CALVIGNY BARRACKS AREA WITH 20 MM. NO HOSTILE PERSONNEL OBSERVED. SAME TIME TWO OTHER VALIONS FLY ESCORT FOR HELO DURING PAMPHLET DROP OVER NORTHERN GRENADA AND GRAND ETANG FOREST. AIRCRAFT THEN STRAFED AT CALVIGNY BARRACKS.  
 (2) REMAINDER OF DAY, VALIONS FLY RECCE AND SSSC OF GRENADA, SURROUNDING ISLANDS AND WATERS.

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31 16 SORTIES FLOWN  
NO LIVE ORDNANCE DROPPED. VALIONS FLEW ALERT  
CAS, RECCE, AND SSSC.

NOVEMBER

01 14 SORTIES FLOWN "URGENT FURY" OPERATIONS  
WINDING DOWN. VALIONS AT ENTRY/EXIT CAS  
POINTS, CONDUCT ISLAND RECCE AND SSSC. NO LIVE  
ORDNANCE DROPPED.

TOTAL ORDNANCE EXPENDED DURING "URGENT FURY"  
A890 20MM HEI 18700 ROUNDS  
E488 MK-82 LDGP 21  
E838 MK-20 ROCKEYE 21  
L426 MK-45 PARA FLARE 08  
LW60 MK-46 DECOY FLARE 04  
M197 IMP CTG 04  
MD-48 IMP CTG 146  
NW20 RR129 CHAFF 146

03-10 INDY/VALIONS TRANSIT ATLANTIC ENROUTE  
MEDITERRANEAN.

11 INCHOP MEDITERRANEAN - UNDER CINCUSNAVEUR.

12-18 LIGHT FLIGHT OPERATIONS WEST MEDITERRANEAN  
DURING TRANSIT EAST. INDY HOLDS OFF EAST OF  
SICILY.

18-19 CV-62/CVN-69 TURNOVER  
CTF-60 (REAR ADMIRAL TUTTLE) EMBARKED.

19 VALIONS RECEIVE CONTINGENCY TARGETS FOR  
OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE U. S. MARINES IN  
MULTI-NATIONAL PEACE FORCES LOCATED AT BEIRUT  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

18-19 THREE UNITED STATES CARRIERS OPERATING IN EAST  
MEDITERRANEAN (USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), USS  
JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) AND USS EISENHOWER  
(CVN-69)). FRENCH CARRIER CLEMENCEAU ALSO IN  
AREA.

21-30 VALIONS/CVW-6 ALTERNATE FLIGHT OPERATIONS WITH  
USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. ONE CARRIER STANDS ALERT  
SUCAP WHILE THE OTHER FLYS.

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DECEMBER

01-03

NORMAL OPERATIONS.

04

CVW-6 LAUNCHES AIR STRIKE INTO LEBANON - SYRIAN TARGETS VICINITY BEIRUT. BOTH TARGETS WERE PLANNED BY COMMANDER DUFF AND COMMANDER KAPPEL. THEY WERE 27th ARTILLERY BRIGADE (VIC HAMMANA) AND SYRIAN STENTOR BATTLEFIELD SURVEILLANCE RADAR (YC55504760) 3350N - 3545E.

VALION PARTICIPANTS WERE:

27th ARTILLERY BRIGADE:

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>VALION</u>
314	CDR KAPPEL
312	LT [REDACTED]
307	LT [REDACTED]
301	LT [REDACTED]

AS 314 CAME OFF TARGET, SUFFERED SA-7 HIT ON TAILPIPE. CDR KAPPEL BROUGHT AIRCRAFT SAFELY BACK TO INDY.

STENTOR BATTLEFIELD SURVEILLANCE RADAR

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>VALION</u>
304	CDR DUFF
305	CDR [REDACTED] (CAG)

AIRCRAFT DROPPED MK-20 ROCKEYE AND APAM ON TARGET. ON EGRESS 305 HIT BY SA-7/SA-9. CDR [REDACTED] EJECTS AND 305 CRASHES NORTH OF BEIRUT. CAG RECOVERED BY A FISHERMAN AND SON AND RETURNED TO USS INDEPENDENCE THAT AFTERNOON.

RESCAP FOR CAG

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>VALION</u>
300	CDR [REDACTED]
302	LT [REDACTED]

DURING THE RECOVERY OF CAG [REDACTED] TWO MORE VALIONS, CDR [REDACTED] AND LT [REDACTED] FLEW RESCAP. EIGHT VA-15 AIRCRAFT WERE LAUNCHED ON THE 4 DECEMBER STRIKES. ALL ASSIGNED TARGETS WERE HIT WITH A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS OF ORDNANCE DELIVERED.

05-22

REMAIN EAST MEDITERRANEAN, ALTERNATELY FLYING WITH USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

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23-26

PORT VISIT - INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL.

27-31

EAST MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONS.

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NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR 1983

The year 1983 began with the VALIONS in the middle of the post 1982 Mediterranean Cruise leave periods. This standdown continued until 17 January. The remainder of January was spent with "Back in the Saddle" Training. Highlights of the month were the CLAW ONE (Commander Light Attack Wing ONE) Corrosion Audit on 18 - 19 January as well as the beginning of the 1983 COMPEX Year with Commander KAPPEL flying an A-20-R to Pinecastle Range for an "E" on the 26th of January.

Normal turnaround training continued through February with light flight operations. Two inspections were conducted in the month of February. On 14 February the Maintenance Management Team arrived for its inspection of VA-15's Maintenance Department. One week later, the Squadron's Administrative Inspection (ADMAT) was given by CLAW-1. From 5 - 11 February, VA-15 sent two aircraft to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to participate with the USS MAHAN in CNO Project 547.

Barely two months after its return from cruise, the VALIONS again left Cecil Field, Florida, this time to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The VALION/CVW-6 Orange Air Detachment was established on 3 March and ran until 28 March. During those 25 days, VA-15 acted as Orange Air for the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) work-ups and ORE.

The turnaround remained fast and furious as the VALIONS returned from "Roosy Roads" and went almost immediately to Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada on 1 April 1983. During the two week weapons detachment, the VALIONS participated in weapons delivery tactics, close air support, RESCAP, Low Level Training and Coordinated Strikes. Two major "Alpha Strikes" were led by VA-15. During the Weapons Detachment, VA-15 out-classed all competition in the CVW-6 Bombing Derby and came away as the best bombing squadron in the AIRWING. The detachment ended on the fifteenth and the remainder of April was spent at Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida with turnaround training in preparation for the upcoming Type Training Deployment.

The month of May and the first week in June were spent in increased tempo operations culminating in a week of intensive fleet carrier landing practice (FCLP) at Naval Air Station Cecil Field and Whitehouse.

Five months after returning from the cruise, the VALIONS were again embarked on USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). On 9 June, the USS INDEPENDENCE left pier 7, Naval Operations Base, Norfolk, Virginia. During its five day transit to Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, VA-15 participated on CQ/ACLS verification for INDY.

After anchoring for a short period at GITMO, the INDY left to conduct REFTRA in the GITMO Operating area. REFTRA continued

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until the 23rd of June after which the VALIONS and CV-62 transited north to Mayport, Florida. For three days following the personnel off load in Mayport on 26 June, VALIONS remained on board to help in fleet CQ for VF-101, VAW-120 and NATC.

INDY's first port visit of the work-ups was Ft. Lauderdale, Florida from 2 - 6 July. On 7 July at 0700, VA-15/CV-62 was underway and beginning Type Training I in the Jacksonville Operating area (JAX OP AREA). TYT I continued until the 19th of July. Shortly thereafter, on the 21st, the VALIONS flew off, back to Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida.

Turnaround training in preparation for TYT II, III, and ORE continued through the 15th of August. Fly aboard was on the 16th of August. The VALIONS conducted Type II training from 16 - 22 August, during INDY's transit to the Puerto Rican Operating Area.

From August 23rd through the 26th, the VALIONS had a port visit in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, after which they immediately jumped into TYT III. Type III training, again in the Puerto Rican Operating area, lasted from 26 August - 5 September. During this period of intensive operations, the VALIONS led and participated in "STRIKES" on VIEQUES RANGE as well as perfecting all areas of combat readiness.

Following a one day standdown on 6 September, the ORE began. From the 7th to the 9th, VA-15 and CVW-6 waged "war" against Orange assets - both air and naval. As a result of the ORE, the INDY/CVW team received a grade of "High Excellent". On an individual basis, VA-15 received a grade of "Low Outstanding".

Upon returning to Norfolk on 16 September, VA-15 entered its POM period, preparing for overseas movement as well as taking much needed leave. During the POM period, on 20 September, the VALIONS were awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal for Operations off the coast of Lebanon during the periods 20 August 1982 - 5 September 1982 and 1 October 1982 - 6 December 1982.

Leave periods continued until October 7th. With ten days left, the VALIONS began FCLP in preparation for the Mediterranean Cruise 83 - 84.

At 0900 on October 18th, 1983, the VALIONS departed Norfolk, Virginia enroute to the Mediterranean to relieve the USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69) and assume duty off the coast off Lebanon in support of the United States Multi-National Peacekeeping Force. Two days out of port, the USS INDEPENDENCE received orders to transit to the vicinity of Grenada for contingency operations, code name "OPERATION URGENT FURY".

On 25 October, Operation "URGENT FURY" began. The VALIONS began flying Close Air Support (CAS) in support of United States Peace Keeping Forces in Grenada. For the next eight days, VA-15

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flew over one hundred and forty CAS missions, delivering 21 MK-20 ROCKEYE, 21 MK-82 LDGP and 18,700 rounds of 20 MM HEI.

Upon completion of "URGENT FURY" commitment on 2 November, the VALIONS and INDY began a transit east to the Mediterranean. On 11 November the VALIONS inchooped the Mediterranean and came under operational control of CTF-60, Rear Admiral Jerry TUTTLE. From inchoop until turnover with the "IKE" on 18 November, VA-15 continued light flight operations. On the 19th of November, following the turnover with "IKE", Rear Admiral TUTTLE shifted his flag to the USS INDEPENDENCE and immediately the VALIONS began planning contingency targets for operations in support of U. S. Marines at Beirut International airport. During this period (17 -19 November), four carriers, USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), USS EISENHOWER (CV-69) and the CLEMENCEAU were operating in the Eastern Mediterranean. After the USS EISENHOWER's departure, the remainder of the month was spent alternating flight operations with the USS KENNEDY. While not flying, VA-15 engaged in alert SUCAP and contingency operations planning.

On 4 December all the contingency planning payed off. In response to hostile fire on a USS KENNEDY "TARPS" F-14, both CVW-6 and CVW-3 launched stikes into Lebanon. The two targets hit by CVW-6 were both led by VA-15. Commander DUFF led the Strike on the Syrian "Stentor" Battlefield Surveillance Radar (YC 55504760) 3350N 3545E. Two VALION aircraft were involved in this target. Commander DUFF in AE 304 and Commander [REDACTED] (CAG) in AE 305. These two aircraft dropped MK-20 ROCKEYE and APAM on the target, taking out the radar. On egress, 305 was hit by SA-7/SA-9. Commander [REDACTED] ejected and AE 305 crashed north of Beirut. CAG was recovered by a fisherman and his son and was returned to the USS INDEPENDENCE that afternoon.

The second target hit by VA-15/CVW-6 was the area of the Syrian 27th Artillery Brigade (vicinity: the village of Hammana, Lebanon). This Airwing Strike was planned and led by Commander Kappel. Four VALION A-7Es participated in this STRIKE. Numerous artillery (M-46 130MM) sites and AAA (ZU-23/2, ZSU-23/4) sites were hit. Again, on egress, Commander Kappel, in AE 314 was hit by an SA-7. The surface-to-air missile hit 314 in the tailpipe section damaging the turbines and blowing off the tailcone. Commander KAPPEL brought the disabled aircraft safely back aboard INDY.

The remainder of December was spent alternating flight operations with the USS KENNEDY until 22 December. From 22 December - 26 December, VA-15 enjoyed its first port visit in Haifa, Israel. On Christmas day, the USO sponsored the "BOB HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOW". After leaving Haifa, the last 4 days of 1983 were spent in the Eastern Mediterranean Operating area, again alternating flight operations with the USS KENNEDY.

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FLIGHT STATISTICS FOR CY 1983

FLIGHT HOURS:

TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS FLOWN ASHORE: 2210.0

DAY: 1813.8/82%

NIGHT: 396.2/18%

PRIMARY MISSION: 2033.2/92%

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN ASHORE: 1324

DAY: 1030

NIGHT: 294

TOTAL EMBARKED HOURS: 2456.4

DAY: 1638.9/35%/67%

NIGHT: 817.5/18%/33%

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN EMBARKED: 1236

DAY: 766

NIGHT: 476

SHIPBOARD LANDINGS: 1372

TOTAL CARRIER ARRESTED LANDINGS:

DAY: 853/62%

NIGHT: 519/38%

DAY GRADE

3.45

NIGHT GRADE

3.36

OVERALL GRADE

3.42

DAY BOARDING RATE

97%

NIGHT BOARDING RATE

90%

OVERALL BOARDING RATE

96%

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ORDNANCE EXPEDITURE - CY 1983

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>PERCENT OF ALLOWANCE</u>
20 MM/TPI/TP	25448	31317	123
20 MM/HEI	4767	26150	549
CBU 59 APAM	0	12	
MK 20 ROCKEYE	18	67	372
WALLEYE 1	0	1	
MK 82	191	563	295
MK 83 TP	47	59	126
MK 83 (INERT)	0	4	
MK 106	344	344	100
MK 76	6770	5425	80
MK 82 (INERT)	281	454	162
MK 84 (INERT)	0	10	
MK 4	7360	6223	84
MK 376 FUZE	10	60	316
MK 46 DECOY FLARE	80	40	50
MK 45/LUU	143	168	117
MK 58	402	240	60
CHAFF IMP	900	1166	130
MK 2 IMP	9800	7608	78
MK 131	80	40	50
CHAFF 129	908	1166	139
CHAFF (ROLL) 171	120	120	100
ATM-45 SHRIKE	5	5	100
2.75" FFAR	32	32	100
5.0" ZUNI (MK 32)	12	32	266
5.0" ZUNI (CHAFFROC)	0	8	
MK 36 DST	0	6	
MK 52	0	8	
MK 55	0	2	
BDU 20	0	5	
BDU 36	0	7	
BDU 24	0	2	

PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDES COMBAT EXPENDITURES

VA-15 ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

	<u>GRENADA</u>	<u>BEIRUT</u>
20 MM HEI	18700	0
CBU 59 APAM	0	12
MK 20 ROCKEYE	21	28
MK 82	21	0
5.0" ZUNI/MK32	0	35
CHAFF	146	120
MK 46 DECOY FLARE	4	36
MK 45 PARA FLARE	8	1

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
ADVANCEMENT/RETENTION STATISTICS CY 83

ADVANCEMENTS

DECLASSIFIED

E-3 to E-4 = 46

E-4 to E-5 = 33

E-5 to E-6 = 08

E-6 to E-7 = 04

E-7 to E-8 = 00

E-8 to E-9 = 00

RETENTION

FIRST TERM = 14/50 %

SECOND TERM = 10/91 %

CAREER = 5/63 %

DECLASSIFIED

Enclosure (6)



ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
OFFICER ROSTER FOR 1983

CDR BYRON L. DUFF, USN  
CDR LESLIE G. KAPPEL, USN  
CDR [REDACTED], USN  
LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
LCDR [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USNR  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT XAVIER M. PAITARD, FRENCH NAVY  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LT [REDACTED], USNR  
LT [REDACTED], USNR  
LT [REDACTED], USN  
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR  
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR  
LTJG [REDACTED], USN  
LTJG [REDACTED], USNR  
CWO4 [REDACTED], USN  
CWO3 [REDACTED], USN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPORTED</u>	<u>DEPARTED</u>
LCDR [REDACTED]	83 NOV 10	83 OCT 31
LT [REDACTED]	83 JUL 22	83 OCT 08
LT [REDACTED]	80 APR 07	83 JUN 06
LCDR [REDACTED]	80 SEP 12	83 MAY 31
LT [REDACTED]	80 APR 04	83 APR 04
LTJG [REDACTED]	83 APR 12	
LT [REDACTED]	83 MAR 08	
LTJG [REDACTED]	83 MAY 23	
LTJG [REDACTED]	83 MAY 23	
LCDR [REDACTED]	83 MAY 31	
LT PAITARD	83 SEP 20	
LT [REDACTED]	83 NOV 20	