

1990 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15  
FPO MIAMI, FL 34099-6201

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
10

8 FEB 1991

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 15  
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publication Division, Naval  
Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations Rev., 1973  
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 series

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
  - (2) Chronology of Recent Turnaround and Deployment
  - (3) Narrative History of 1990
  - (4) Commanding Officer's biography and picture
  - (5) Executive Officer's biography and picture
  - (6) Strike Fighter Squadron 15 History
  - (7) Squadron aircraft photo
  - (8) Strike Fighter Squadron 15 Notice 1301 DTD 2 OCT 90
  - (9) Enlisted Roster DTD 21 DEC 90 ~~removed (Privacy Act Info)~~
  - (10) Monthly Aviation Statistic Summary
  - (11) CVW-8 FALLON AIR WING DET AFTER-ACTION REPORT DTD 1 MAY 90

1. Enclosures (1) through (11) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

*B.M. Calhoun*  
B. M. Calhoun

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## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness in the Carrier Strike Forces and to utilize that readiness as a deterrent or strike capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America, as may be directed by higher command authority. The primary function of VFA-15 within that mission is to conduct offensive air superiority and air-to-surface attack operations.

2. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is organized in two primary levels; command and department. The organizational structure has been established within the framework of primary billets authorized by the Chief of Naval Personnel and within the guidelines established in references (b) and (c). In this particular application, the organizational structure and billet descriptions depicted in reference (c) have been tailored, as necessary, to fit the structure of a deployable aviation command.

3. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 based at NAS Cecil Field, FL and commanded by CDR Brian M. Calhoun has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

### ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. Command/Operational Control                   | Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eight<br>NAS Norfolk, VA   |
| b. Administrative Control (embarked)<br>(ashore) | Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eight<br>Commander, Light Attack Wing One<br>NAS Cecil Field, FL |
| c. Technical Material                            | Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic/<br>Naval Air Systems Command Control<br>NAS Norfolk, VA |
| d. Support Control                               | Commander, Light Attack Wing One   |

4. The eleven (11) F/A-18A HORNET aircraft assigned to the squadron has AJ tail code markings. The bureau number breakdown is as follows:

AIRCRAFT	BUREAU NUMBER
300	163113
301	163119
302	163124
303	163126
304	163121
305	163120
306	163122
307	163125
310	163129
311	163143
312	163101

5. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 consists of 172 enlisted members and 24 officers.

Enclosure (1)

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF RECENT TURNAROUND AND CURRENT DEPLOYMENT

"Shake Down" cruise, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-71)	19 JAN 90 - 23 FEB 90
Strike Fighter Air Crew Refresher Program (SFARP), NAS Key West, FL	3 MAR 90 - 17 MAR 90
Weapon's Detachment, NAS Fallon, NV	7 APR 90 - 27 APR 90
Refresher Training, CVN-71	8 MAY 90 - 25 MAY 90
Corrosion Control/Material Condition Inspection	4 JUN 90 - 5 JUN 90
Advance Phase, CVN-71	20 JUN 90 - 27 JUL 90
Walleye Training, China Lake, CA	9 SEP 90 - 12 SEP 90
Safety stand down, NAS Cecil Field, FL	17 SEP 90
Lead on shore based CVW-8 strike	19 SEP 90 - 20 SEP 90
FleetEx 1-91, CVN-71	29 OCT 90 - 18 NOV 90
Corrosion Control/Material Condition, ADMAT Inspection	28 NOV 90 - 30 NOV 90
Mediterranean/Middle East Deployment, CVN-71	28 DEC 90 -

Enclosure (2)

## NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 1990

1. Calendar year 1990 was an extremely busy and superbly productive year for the VALIONS of Strike Fighter Squadron 15. Our objective this year was to obtain the highest state of combat readiness and power projection capability while refining our reputation of excellence within Carrier Air Wing Eight and in the Strike Fighter Community. Our record and level of readiness on the eve of deployment to the Arabian Gulf to complement the forces already in Operation Desert Shield was the culmination of that goal.

2. The VALIONS along with other units of CVW-8, were chosen to "Shake Down" USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) following her commissioning. The cruise marked the VALIONS first at sea period since the end of MED 1-89. The cruise ended with an impressive "Tiger Cruise". Immediately flexing to pre-deployment work-ups, VFA-15 successfully completed SFARP at Nas Key West, FL, a weapons deployment to NAS Fallon, NV, and Refresher Training on board CVN-71. Next was Advanced Phase which was conducted by Commander, Carrier Group Four in the Caribbean Sea. In September the Valions, doing something uncommon for the Navy, led CVW-8 on a long range strike that was launched from shore bases along the east coast. The target being BT-9 off the coast of North Carolina. Due to Team Work 90 being cancelled in light of Operation Desert Shield, the VALIONS next found themselves participating in FleetEx 1-90. This year's FleetEx varied from previous others in that it involved two carrier battle groups and was geared more towards Middle East threats vice Warsaw Pact threats.

3. In December, VALION pilots and enlisted visited Whitehouse Elementary School in order to participate in the "Navy Involved In Kids Education Program" (NIKE). The school and squadron participated in a week long presentation that included classroom lectures and field trips to NAS Cecil Field. The presentations proved to be very informative for the students and fun for the squadron.

4. For Strike Fighter Squadron 15, calendar year 1990 was unprecedented in term of awards. The VALIONS won the CVW-8 Bombing Derby then outdid themselves by winning the CLAW-1 Bombing Derby for the fourth consecutive year despite the many complexities added to the event. Further, the squadron was CLAW-1 Phoenix Award nominee for the top maintenance department for the third consecutive year. For November, VFA-15 was awarded CLAW-1 "Clean Bird" of the Month Award. Ten (10) pilots qualified for the Commodores List for weapons delivery excellence. Finally, VFA-15 was not only awarded the COMNAVAIRLANT Silver Anchor Award but was the winner of the CINCLANT Golden Anchor Award.

5. Throughout this year VFA-15 had been constantly challenged and tested both at sea and ashore. The VALIONS methodically prepared for all operations while ensuring that all requirements were met successfully and in a professional manner. The following are further highlights of calendar year 1990:

### OPERATIONS:

- Won the CVW-8 Golden Tailhook Award for REFTRA/Advanced Phase/FLEET-EX.
- Led CVW-8 in boarding rate for every line period; 97% for CY 90.
- Standing flight lead and coordinator for all CVW-8 airshows and power projection demos.

Enclosure (3)

- Perfect inspection scores:

- Zero discrepancy NWAI.
- Zero discrepancy MRCI; called "Perfect" by COMINWARINSTGRU inspectors. 100 points on every mine laid.
- Zero discrepancy ADMAT.
- Completed intense Weapons Training on Walleye and SLAM for selected pilots during detachments to PT Mugu and China Lake, CA.
- Fired 19 Air To Air missiles by 14 different pilots in 3 separate missile exercises. All launches successful within lethal miss distance.
- Completed 255 CLAW complex events - 212 CLAW-1 "E's", 40 qualifications and three no quals.

MAINTENANCE:

- Submitted 27 revisions to the HORNET community tool control plan.
- Researched, authored and implemented 58 local Maintenance Requirement Cards (MRC) for incorporation into existing MRC decks.
- Managed the incorporation of 294 organizational, intermediate and depot maintenance level technical directives encompassing every major component of the command's 11 aircraft while simultaneously maintaining unprecedented MC/FMC rates.
- Mission Capable (MC) rate of 80.1 percent and a Full Mission Capable rate (FMC) of 76.9 percent were achieved over the entire year. Both statistics far exceed CNO goals.
- Active participants in community Maintenance Training Improvement Program (MTIP) and review process. Achieved a remediation completion rate of 94 percent, the highest in the Strike Fighter community.
- Submitted 51 Naval Aviation Maintenance Discrepancy Reporting Program (NAMDRP) reports citing material deficiencies in an effort to improve design and/or reliability of selected FA-18 components.
- Submitted 28 Technical Publication Deficiency Reports (TPDR) that were reviewed and approved.
- Annual ISIC corrosion control/material condition inspection in June 1990 graded Excellent, aircraft material condition Outstanding. November 1990 inspection graded Outstanding, "Best ever in LATWING to date".
- Qualified 123 Navy personnel in the vital, life saving CPR technique.

SAFETY:

- Completed over six years and over 22,000 mishap free flight hours on 24 Dec 90.
- No reportable mishaps (Class "A", "B" or "C") in 1990.
- Zero discrepancy NATOPS evaluation.
- One FOD in 1990, bird ingestion during night FCLP.
- Only two lost-workday injuries (both off duty).
- Safety programs cited as "Outstanding" during ADMAT inspection.

ADMIN:

- "Outstanding" ADMAT inspection.
- Zero discrepancy NWAI for PRP and personnel records.

- Led Strike Fighter community in participation at the annual "Tail Hook" convention in Las Vegas, NV.
- Dominated CLAW-1 athletic events during the Light Attack Ball competition.
- Reenlisted 20 sailors.