



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
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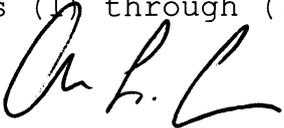
From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN  
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch,  
Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990  
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronological History  
(3) Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN Narrative History  
of 2002  
(4) Commanding Officer's biography and picture  
(5) Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN History  
(6) Squadron Aircraft Photograph (Email attachment)  
(7) 2002 Maintenance Award Nomination and Citation

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.

  
A. L. LEWIS

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 (VFA-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 striking 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. VFA-15 is organized in two primary levels: command and departmental. 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. VFA-15, based at NAS Oceana, VA, is commanded by CDR Andrew L. Lewis. It has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

### ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. Command/Operational Control       | Commander, Carrier<br>Air Wing EIGHT, NAS<br>Oceana, VA                                  |
| b. Administrative Control (embarked) | Commander, Carrier<br>Air Wing EIGHT   |
| (ashore)                             | Commander, Strike<br>Fighter Wing,<br>NAS Oceana, VA                                     |
| c. Technical Material                | Commander, Naval<br>Air Force<br>Naval Air Systems<br>Command Control<br>NAS Norfolk, VA |
| d. Support Control                   | Commander, Strike<br>Fighter Wing Atlantic   |

4. The 12 FA-18C HORNET aircraft assigned to the squadron have AJ tail code markings. The bureau number breakdown is as follows:

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>BUREAU NUMBER</u>
300	164627
301	164629
302	164643
303	164646
304	164655
305	164661
306	164691
307	164689
310	164673
311	164680
312	164631
314	164657

5. VFA-15 consists of 202 enlisted members and 24 officers.

### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY**

TOP GUN DETACHMENT: 29 Mar - 1 May 2002

PUERTO RICO DETACHMENT: 10-20 Apr 2002

CQ USS HARRY S. TRUMAN: 6-8 May 2002

MAPLE FLAG, CANADA: 7-22 Jun 2002

A/A SFARP, OCEANA: Jul-Aug 2002

A/G SFARP, FALLON: 9-27 Sep 2002

AIR WING FALLON, FALLON: 20 Oct - 14 Nov 2002

TSTA I/II USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT: 6-19 Dec 2002

**STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON FIFTEEN**  
**NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 2002**

During 2002, VFA-15 trained and honed its skills in preparation for a 2003 deployment. During a time of increased international tensions, VFA-15 stepped up the pace of its Inter Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) to prepare for an expected early deployment in 2003.

The VALIONS returned home late from cruise in 2001, arriving just in time for the holidays. After a recovery period and some unit level training, the squadron was tasked to support the Top Gun course at the Naval Strike Air Warfare Center (NSAWC). To help groom some of the Navy's newest tactics experts, the squadron sent several aircraft and maintenance personnel to Fallon during the month of May. During this period, the squadron also supported CVW-1 and the USS George Washington battle group during their COMPTUEX in Puerto Rico. The VALIONS flew Orange Air and conducted unit level training at Vieques. This detachment also provided VFA-15's first opportunity to work with the other squadrons of CVW-8 since the previous deployment.

In early May, VFA-15 had the chance to return to its shipboard roots with a three day refresher Carrier Qualification Detachment onboard USS Harry S. Truman.

A detachment to a Maple Flag exercise in June proved to be a superb training opportunity for VALION pilots. During the course of this multi-national exercise headquartered at Cold Lake, Canada, the VALIONS flew missions with forces from Canada, Germany, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Singapore, and the USAF. This provided some of the VALIONS' new pilots with exposure to large force exercises and integration with other nations' forces.

CDR A. L. Lewis took command of VFA-15 in August 2002, and the first phase of pre-deployment workups began right away. During the Air-to-Air phase of the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP), the VALIONS honed their skills in a challenging array of air-to-air employment scenarios. The VALIONS continued their unit training in Air-to-Ground SFARP in Fallon in September.

The CVW-8 air wing detachment to Fallon began in late October. Air Wing Fallon events started with unit level flights and steadily increased in complexity, culminating with large-scale strikes testing the capabilities of the entire air wing. VFA 201, a reserve squadron, was introduced to the air wing for the first time. CVW-8 would now deploy with VFA-15, VFA-87, VFA-201, VF-213, VAW-124, VAQ-141, VS-24, and HS-3. After Thanksgiving, the VALIONS joined CVW-8 on the USS Theodore Roosevelt for TSTA I and II. The VALIONS, in conjunction with the rest of the air wing, performed superbly and finished out the year on a high note.

The VFA-15 Maintenance Department did an excellent job all year of consistently providing fully mission capable aircraft. Highlighting this superb performance was a 98% average sortie completion rate for 2002. In recognition of sustained superior performance, the VFA-15 Maintenance Department was officially recognized as the Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic maintenance department of the year.