



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATTACK SQUADRON TWENTY-TWO  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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IN REPLY REFER TO  
FF12/VA-22/GAS;dd  
5750  
Ser: 364  
27 Sep 1973

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

Ref: (a) CNO ltr OP-05D2/5750.12B of 10 Aug 1973  
(b) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Officer Roster  
(2) Enlisted Muster Roll  
(3) Commanding Officer's Biographies and Photographs

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per authority of  
OPNAVINST 05513.10A

by John M. Sen  
5 JAN 78

1. In answer to reference (a) and in accordance with reference (b), the Command History is submitted for the period 1 January 1972 to 1 January 1973.

2. (C) Chronology

- 16 January 1972 - Completion of first line period of the Squadron's Sixth Combat Cruise
- 27 January to 17 February 1972 - Second line period of cruise at "Yankee Station"
- 1-13 March 1972 - Third line period of cruise at "Yankee Station"
- 23 March to 11 May 1972 - Fourth line period of cruise at "Yankee Station"
- 23 May to 11 June 1972 - Fifth line period of cruise at "Yankee Station"
- 22-30 June 1972 - Sixth line period of cruise at "Yankee Station"
- 17 July 1972 - VA-22 on board USS CORAL SEA arrived NAS Alameda completing its Sixth Combat Cruise
- 31 August 1972 - Change of Command
- October to November 1972 - Weapons Training Deployment to NAAS Fallon, Nevada
- 1-14 December 1972 - Carqual period aboard USS CORAL SEA

3. (C) Narrative: By the end of the first line period on 16 January 1972 the "Fighting Redcocks" of VA-22 had proven themselves a potent and capable fighting unit and an asset to the USS CORAL SEA/AIRWING FIFTEEN team. During

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this initial line period the squadron was called upon to make strategic and critical strikes against targets in North Vietnam as well as in South Vietnam and Laos. During this "baptism of fire" the squadron gained the skill and confidence that held them in good stead for the remainder of the deployment.

During the months of January, February and March 1972, the "Fighting Redcocks" struck highly significant interdiction targets in the Laotian "Steel Tiger" area. The pilots of the squadron combined their skills with the increased capabilities of the new A7E "Corsair II" to inflict major damage on the enemy lines of communications.

In the spring of 1972 the complexion of the war in Southeast Asia changed as the North Vietnamese began a major invasion of South Vietnam in April 1972. In support of the South Vietnamese, AIRWING FIFTEEN and VA-22 struck strategic targets in North Vietnam to slow the flow of men and material to the South. Throughout the month of April the "Fighting Redcocks" used the tactics of Armed Reconnaissance and the Alpha Strike to destroy numerous major targets in North Vietnam.

On May 9, 1972 the major port of Haiphong, North Vietnam was mined by United States Naval Forces. The "Fighting Redcocks", as well as the other two Attack Squadrons (VMA-224 and VA-94) on board USS CORAL SEA, planned and executed this daring mid-morning raid. As a result of this and other mining, the port of Haiphong and the surrounding coastal waters were closed to outside shipping, greatly reducing the North Vietnamese importation of war materials by sea.

Through the conclusion of May and June the "Fighting Redcocks" continued to lead and execute strikes into North Vietnam. The CORAL SEA soon became known in WESTPAC as the "Northern Carrier", remaining in the Northern part of the Gulf of Tonkin for the majority of the time up through and including their final line period. Again, the capabilities and versatility of the A7E was proven by striking and destroying with amazing accuracy major targets throughout North Vietnam. During the spring and early summer of 1972 the "Fighting Redcocks" added significantly to the lessening of enemy pressure on the South Vietnamese forces.

The successes were not gained, however, without losses, both in men and material. On 4 February 1972 Lieutenant D. COOPER was lost in an operational accident in the Gulf of Tonkin. On 6 May 1972 a Surface to Air Missile shot down Lieutenant M. WILES and he ejected from his aircraft but is listed as Missing in Action. On 27 June, three days prior to the conclusion of the deployment, another "Redcock" pilot and aircraft were lost over North Vietnam to unknown causes and the pilot, Lieutenant G. SHUMWAY is also listed as Missing in Action.

By the completion of the sixth combat deployment to Southeast Asia the squadron had delivered 7.5 million pounds of ordnance against the enemy in over 2000 sorties during this cruise. The squadron had spent a total of 147

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days on the line before returning to Alameda on 17 July 1972.

On 31 August 1972, Commander L. E. GIULIEMI, former Squadron Executive Officer, assumed command of the Fighting Redcocks in ceremonies held at NAS Lemoore. The guest speaker for the occasion was Rear Admiral Howard E. GREER, Commander, Carrier Division Three.

The following months of training flights at NAS Lemoore were devoted to navigation, road reconnaissance, tactics and instrument training as the combat veterans and replacement pilots trained for the forthcoming deployment. Training and comprehensive weapons work were accomplished during the last week of October and first week of November at NAAS Fallon, Nevada on a deployment with CVW-15

Efforts to ready the squadron for sea continued with day and night landing qualifications aboard USS CORAL SEA during early December. With the entire squadron on board for this period, valuable training was also achieved with the airwing and ship operating as a team again. During the remainder of December squadron pilots utilized Nevada and Southern California target ranges to continue improvement of bombing proficiencies.

The Fighting Redcocks have had an average officer complement of seventeen pilots and five ground officers and an enlisted crew of two hundred fifteen to maintain twelve A7E Corsair II aircraft.

  
G. A. SCOFFIELD

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OFFICER ROSTER

ON BOARD AS OF  
1 JAN 1972

RANK

DROPPED  
DURING 72

JOINED  
DURING 72

RANK

[REDACTED]  
COOPER, D.D.

LT

Died 4Feb72

[REDACTED]

LTJG

[REDACTED]

LTJG

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

CDR

Trf 31Aug72

[REDACTED]

LCDR

[REDACTED]

WL

[REDACTED]

ENS

GIULIANI, L.E.

CDR

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LCDR

[REDACTED]

CDR

[REDACTED]

LTJG

Trf 17Jul72

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

LTJG

[REDACTED]

LCDR

WILES, M.B.C.

LT

[REDACTED]

LT

(Jd 16Apr - Missing 6May)

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

Trf 20Jun72

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT (CAG LSO)

[REDACTED]

SHUMWAY, G.R.

LT

Missing 25Jun72

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

Trf 28Aug72

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LCDR

Trf 10Oct72

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LT

Trf 7Aug72

[REDACTED]