

1978

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	IN REPLY REFER TO FF12/VA22/JDG:dmh 5750 Ser 084		
To: Chief of Naval Operation (OP-05D2) Department of the Navy Washington, DC 20350			

Fold STANDARD REFERENCES AND ENCLOSURES, IF ANY: TEXT AND SIGNATURE BLOCK

Subj: 1978 Command History; submission of (U)

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Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
 (b) COMNAVAIRPAC San Diego CA 280118Z DEC 78
 (c) COMLATWINGPAC Lemoore CA 052315Z JAN 79

Encl: (1) Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO Command History

1. (U) Enclosed is Attack Squadron Twenty-Two's 1978 Command History, submitted in accordance with reference (a) and (b). This command does not hold reference (c).

S. E. Davis
 S. E. DAVIS
 By direction

Fold

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

COPY TO

Director of Naval History
 CINCPACFLT
 COMNAVAIRPAC (Code 012)
 COMLATWINGPAC (w/o encl)

From:

Commanding Officer
 Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO
 FPO San Francisco 96601

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2/27/79

FF12/VA22/JSZ:dmh
5750
Ser C-1
16 February 1979

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From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History OPNAV Report 5750.1; submission of (U)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B
Encl: (1) Officer Roster
(2) CO and XO Biography

1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), the command history is submitted for the period 1 January 1978 through 31 December 1978.

2. (C) Chronology

1 January 1978 NAS Lemoore, CA
21 March 1978 [REDACTED]
13 April 1978 Third Anniversary, Accident Free Flying
19-30 April 1978 CVW-15 Fallon Weapons Deployment
6 July 1978 CDR J. D. Grice relieves CDR L. B. Cargill
15-28 July 1978 CVW-15 Fallon Weapons Deployment
21 July 1978 CVW-15 Bombing Derby
22 August 1978 Romeo Redcock III, dead at age 7
7 September 1978 COMLAWINGPAC Bombing Derby
19-20 September 1978 USS Lexington (CVT-16) Carrier Quals
13 November - 1 December 1978 REFTRA
7-12 December 1978 FLEETEX 1-79
14 December 1978 Romeo Redcock IV received on board

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5750
16 February 1979

3. (C) NARRATIVE: The Fighting Redcocks started the new year flying the A-7E Corsair II, and enjoying a long turnaround cycle at NAS Lemoore as they prepared for a 1979 cruise.

With the reorganization of Carrier Air Wing Fifteen, and the addition of F-14's to its assets, the wing will be deploying on the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) in the future.

[REDACTED]

The beginning of April saw VA-22 complete 3 years of accident free flying. Later that month the Redcocks and her sister squadron the Shrikes (VA-94) journeyed to Fallon, NV for a weapons detachment. This major evolution was very demanding from a maintenance standpoint with 306 sorties scheduled. Fighting Redcock maintenance personnel were not only able to meet this goal, but exceed it by launching 312 individual sorties. The deployed aircraft were kept at 90% operational readiness and 74% full systems capable, allowing squadron pilots to amass a grand total of 322.9 flight hours.

VA-22 pilots complexed in 81 events during their stay in the Silver State, scoring in Day Dive, Night Dive, strafing, loft, and laydown deliveries. E's were won in 62 of the 81 events, with two Redcock pilots, LCDR [REDACTED] and LT(jg) [REDACTED] winning E's in all 5 of these categories. Another outstanding performer at Fallon was LT [REDACTED] who scored 91 hits on a single strafing run, a new record for NAS Fallon.

On 6 July CDR John D. Grice relieved CDR Lee B. Cargill as Commanding Officer of the squadron. CDR Jerry D. Palmer assumed the duties of Executive Officer.

The following week found the squadron once again at NAS Fallon, NV cratering the bullseyes during an Airwing Weapons Deployment.

The VA-22 maintenance effort continued at its outstanding level with a 90% up status for the Redcock airforce and squadron pilots took advantage of this to rack up 250 hours of flight time.

Complexing was completed in three categories. Out of the 10 radar bomb complex events, nine E's were scored, and in the close air support competition, nine E's were also awarded out of the 10 missions flown. Finally the squadron participated

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in 6 search and rescue exercises, and provided combat escorts to helos as they rescued a dozen downed aviators from the clutches of the enemy and the scorching desert sun. The Redcocks scored an E in this complex event as well.

An Airwing Bombing Derby was held on 21 July with VA-22, VA-94, VA-95, and believe it or not, VS-21 competing. Redcock pilots took the planes and systems which the VA-22 maintenance team provided and went out to take three out of four events. The Fighting Redcocks won the best squadron laydown bombing competition, and LT [REDACTED] was the best individual dive bomber in the Airwing scoring a bullseye and a 10 foot hit on his rump.

The second week at Fallon was devoted to coordinated airwing strikes against simulated targets. CDR John D. Grice led one such raid which employed every air wing asset available in a 30 plane strike against a simulated armored column.

On 22 August tragedy struck the squadron. Romeo Redcock III, VA-22 beloved mascot, succumbed to a long illness in his sleep. He was 7 years old. Cause of death was attributed to hard, fast living. The noted Rooster laid in state (Talons Up) for a week as the grief stricken squadron considered options to dispose of the fowl remains. Suggestions to forward Romeo to Colonel Sander, or to catapult the frozen cadaver from the deck of the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) for one last flight were vetoed by higher authority. So after an impressive ceremony at the NAS Lemoore incinerator, Romeo Redcock III was cremated and his ashes placed in a San Miguel beer bottle. This temporary resting place will be utilized until such time that a proper burial at sea can occur with full military honors.

The Fighting Redcocks received some good news in August, VA-22 finished second overall on base in the 1977-78 Captain's Cup Sports competition.

On 7 September the COMLAWINGPAC Bombing Derby took place with Fighting Redcock pilot LT Phil Mills taking 1st place in the individual dive bombing competition. The squadron took 4th place overall.

On the 19th and 20th of September, VA-22 had a tremendously successful Carrier period on the USS Lexington (CVT-16). Redcock pilots launching out of NAS Kingsville, TX compiled 66 day traps and 34 night traps on the LEX. By the end of the evolution the Redcocks had 12 pilots qualified for day carrier landings and 9 for night traps.

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In December VA-22 completed its mission planning requirements with a grade point average of 97.43%, the highest in the COMLAT-WINGPAC community.

Romeo Redcock IV a fiesty young rooster was welcomed aboard to take over the duties of squadron mascot on 14 December.

The year ended with the squadron preparing to start workups for a 1979 cruise to the Western Pacific on the USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63).

J. D. GRICE

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OFFICERS ONBOARD IN 1978

*CDR CARGILL, Lee
CDR GRICE, John
CDR PALMER, Jerry

*LCDR
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CAPT [REDACTED] (USAF)

*LTJG
LTJG
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LTJG

*ENS
CWO4

* Denote Officers transferred in 1978.

ENCLOSURE (1)