

1985 ✓



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ATTACK SQUADRON TWO TWO
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601-6202**

IN REPLY REFER TO
5750
Ser ADMIN/ 110
25 Mar 86

From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron 22
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-5750-1)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Officer Roster
(2) Commanding Officer and Executive Officer Biographies
(3) Copy of VA-22 Short History

1. In accordance with reference (a), VA-22's Command History is submitted for the period of 1 January through 31 December 1985.
2. During this time period, VA-22 was assigned to Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN. The squadron's mission remained to locate and destroy enemy units on land or sea, in order to establish and maintain sea control, perform power projection and provide close air support for U.S. and Allied ground forces.
3. Chronology of events, 1 January - 31 December 1985:

January 85

07	Transferred A7E 156861 to NARF
22	Transferred A7E 157487 to NARF
23	Received A7E's 157508, 158677 and 158674 from VA-146
24	Received A7E 160537 from VA-122
30	Transferred A7E 157492 to NARF

The Redcocks began the new year fresh having just completed a WESTPAC Deployment the previous month. January marked the beginning of a twelve month turn-around cycle in preparation for the next deployment on the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in January 1986.

February 85

01	Transferred A7E 157536 to VA-122
09	Transferred A7E 156876 to VA-122
12	Received A7E 160726 from VA-192
14	Received A7E 158821 from VA-122
26	Received A7E 158675 from VA-146
	Transferred A7E 156857 to VA-122
20-22	ADMAT Inspection

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The Squadron was assigned an overall grade of satisfactory for the ADMAT Inspection with several commendatory programs noted.

March 85

01	Transferred A7E 157441 to VA-122
14	Received A7E 158013 from VA-146
19-21 APR	Sgt. York Exercise

During the Sgt. York Exercise VA-22 simulated enemy air tactics for a variety of combat scenarios. By providing the support for test and evaluation of the U.S. Army system, the Fighting Redcocks were given the opportunity to explore Soviet air tactics and train in the low level, close air support regime. The squadron was commended by Major General G. J. Tuttle, Commander U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Agency for our role in the exercise.

April 85

02	Received A7E 158017 from VA-122
11	Transferred A7E 160537 to NARF
28-17 MAY	NAS Fallon Weapons Detachment
30	Transferred A7E 158677 to NARF

During the weapons detachment the Fighting Redcocks flew more hours than any other CVW-11 squadron while maintaining aircraft availability at 100%. The squadron pilots COMPEXED in 112 events scoring 74 "E's" and 29 quals.

May 85

24-28	Carrier Qual Detachment Aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
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June 85

06	Received A7E 158019 from VA-97
11-12	Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI)
13	Received A7E 158883 from VA-97
14	Received A7E 159651 from VA-97
24	Transferred A7E 160726 to NARF

The squadron completed the NTPI with zero major and minor discrepancies, thus continuing the Redcock tradition of excellence.

July 85

08-20	Refresher Training aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
20	Received A7E 158821 from NARF
22	Received A7E 158012 from NARF
24-26	Participated in systems test of Improved 2.75 Inch Rockets
25	Received A7E 160537 from NARF
30-09 AUG	SOCAL Air Operations aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)

VA-22 helped test the Improved 2.75 Inch Rocket System. The reliability of the Improved 2.75 Inch Rocket was established during tests throughout the month of July at NAS Lemoore in preparation for a shipboard test later in the turn-around.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

August 85

02 Received A7E 158677 from NARF
11 Received A7E's 157460 and 158675 from NARF
29 Received A7E 160726 from NARF

September 85

11-13 Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI)
14 Received A7E 158674 from NARF
23-11 OCT COMPTUEX 1986 on board USS ENTERPRISE

VA-22 scored the highest overall score of any LATWINGPAC squadron for the CWTPI. The loading crews had no major or minor discrepancies and the pilot examination score of 97.6% was the highest in LATWINGPAC.

October 1985

06 Transferred A7E 156814 to VA-174
10 Practice Mining Readiness Certification Inspection (PMCRI)
17 BDU Parachute Test
18 Electronic Warfare Technical Proficiency Inspection
19-24 NAF El Centro Weapons Detachment
21 Transferred A7E 156856 to NARF
31 Transferred A7E 157460 to VA-82

The practice MCRI put the Redcocks in the spotlight as they once again had the best drops in Air Wing scoring 5 "E's" and 1 qual out of 6 drops with no loading discrepancies. Squadron pilots also tallied 38 "E's" and 18 quals in 56 events during the El Centro Weapons Detachment.

November 1985

02-05 Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) on board the USS
ENTERPRISE
04 Mining Readiness Certification Inspection
05-21 READIEX 86 on board USS ENTERPRISE
24 One year accident free

This month was a busy one for the Fighting Redcocks with the successful completion of ORE in preparation for the upcoming deployment. The squadron had a sortie completion rate of 100%, which proved to be the highest in the air wing. The FMC/MC rate was also 100%/100% putting the squadron at the top of the air wing. The MRCI was a mirror reflection of the previous month's practice with no loading discrepancies and six drops producing 3 "E's" and 3 quals.

December 85

06 1 AGM (HARM Missile) fired from A-7E BUNO 158674 at NWC China
Lake
10-12 Pre-deployment Maintenance Material Condition Inspection
19 Transferred A7E 156804 to NARF
21 Received A7E 159647 from VA-122

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The Redcocks fired the first AGM 88 by a Fleet West Coast squadron, the second fleet firing in the Navy. This was the first firing of an AGM 88 that was built up in a ship's magazine and actually launched from the carrier. The scenario incorporated in the HARM shoot explored the AGM 88 low altitude launch envelope and the missile's ability to flex from one emitter to another. The firing was an unmitigated success, lending pilots more confidence in the HARM system and exploring tactics against the specific emitter used in the firing. The Pre-deployment Maintenance Material Condition Inspection went well as the squadron received an overall grade of satisfactory. The squadron's daily preservation program was evaluated as "the strongest in the community." December marked the end of one of the squadron's safest years in recent history continuing through ten years without a maintenance related mishap, accumulating over 49,000 hours during this time frame. It should be noted that with the firing of the HARM missile, the squadron secured its place in the annals of aviation weaponry. All of the achievements of the turnaround cycle are even more impressive when balanced against the fact that 8 of the Redcock pilots are non-cruise experienced nuggets. Unmatched in their enthusiasm and professionalism, the VA-22 Redcocks continue to set the standards in Air Wing ELEVEN and Light Attack Wing, Pacific.


R. J. BURNS

VA-22 SQUADRON HISTORY

Attack Squadron TWO TWO, also known as the "Fighting Redcocks", is led by CDR Richard J. Burns. The Lemoore, CA based squadron is made up of 225 enlisted men and twenty three officers. Their mission is to maintain, fly, and fight the A-7E Corsair II aircraft.

VA-22's history dates back to July 1948, when it was commissioned as Fighter Squadron 63 at NAS Norfolk, Virginia. It was not until July, 1959, that the Fighting Redcocks gained their present designation as Attack Squadron TWO TWO.

The first Redcock aviators flew the F-8F "Bearcat". Succeeding pilots have progressed through the F-4U "Corsair", F-9F "Panther", F9F-6/8 "Cougar", FJ-4B "Fury", A-4 B/C/F "Skyhawk", and currently the A-7E "Corsair II."

Over the Last 37 years the Fighting Redcocks have been called into action during the Korean and Vietnam wars, with three combat deployments to Korea and six to Vietnam. During their last combat cruise in 1972, VA-22 participated in the mining of Hai Phong Harbor as well as intensive air strikes over North Vietnam.

The Fighting Redcocks have responded to peacetime crises including readiness maneuvers for the Pueblo Crisis of 1968, the evacuation of Saigon in 1974, the rescue of the Mayaguez in 1975, and the search and rescue of Southeast Asian refugees in the Western Pacific and South China Sea during both the 1979/80 and 1981 deployments.

Attack Squadron TWO TWO received back to back COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency "E" Awards for its performance from January 1979 to July 1980 and July 1980 to December 1981, making the Redcocks the holder of the Battle "E" for three consecutive years. Additionally, VA-22 earned the FY-81 CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Retention Award for deployable squadrons of the Pacific Fleet, and the COMLATWINGPAC John L. Nicholson Retention Award for both FY80 and FY81. The squadron won the RADM Clarence Wade MacClusky Award for CY81 as the best Attack Squadron in the United States Navy.

The Fighting Redcocks were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for service while attached to Commander Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN and ashore at NAS Lemoore, California from 1 May 1979 to 23 November 1981 for unprecedented fulfillment of the Navy wide goals of combat readiness and personnel retention.

On 15 January 1982, VA-22's Operational Command was changed from Airwing FIFTEEN to Airwing ELEVEN which is currently deployed aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Attack Squadron TWO TWO was named the COMNAVAIRPAC nominee for the RADM Clarence Wade McCluskey Award for CY 83. In addition, the prestigious LTJG Bruce Carrier Award for excellence in aviation maintenance was bestowed upon the Redcocks in February 1984 for their efforts during the previous calendar year.

The squadron once again made history on December 6th, 1985 by successfully launching an AGM 88, or HARM (High-speed Anti-radiation Missile) making it only the second fleet firing in the Navy and the first for a west coast squadron. This was the first firing of an AGM-88 that was built-up in a ship's magazine and launched from the carrier.

VA-22 recently finished a year long turnaround in January of 1986 and is deployed on board the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65).