

1991



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 22
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601-6202

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser PAO/C 001
9 MAR 92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (5)

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 22
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750.1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

DECLASSIFIED

- Encl:
- (1) Command Composition and Organization
 - (2) Strike Fighter Squadron 22 Chronology for 1991
 - (3) Strike Fighter Squadron 22 Narrative for 1991
 - (4) Supporting Documentation
 - (5) Statistical Data

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted per reference (a).

C. R. Rondestvedt
C. R. RONDESTVEDT

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

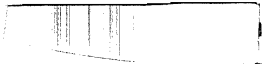
**STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 22
COMMAND COMPOSITION & ORGANIZATION**

Strike Fighter Mission: Carrier based FA-18 Strike Fighter Squadron. Primary mission is putting ordnance "on target" in support of land and sea power projection. Secondary missions include Fleet Air Defense, Strike Fighter Cover, Strike Rescue, Mining, and Surface Search and Control.

IMMEDIATE SENIOR IN COMMAND:

Operational: Commander, Carrier Air Wing 11

Administrative: Commander, Carrier Air Wing 11

Commanding Officer: Commander Christian R. Rondestvedt, USN, 

Homeport: Naval Air Station Lemoore, California

Aircraft: 10 FA-18C Lot XII: Tailcode NH3XX

Callsign: Beefeater

Nickname: Fighting Redcocks

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 22 CHRONOLOGY FOR 1991

January 1991

- 01-12 Advanced Attack Readiness Program (AARP) Detachment to NAF El Centro
- 13-31 Ashore Operations at NAS Lemoore, California
- 24 Conventional Weapon Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI) test for squadron pilots
- 29 NWAI

February 1991

- 03 Fly-off to NAS Fallon for CVW-11 detachment
- 15 First captive carry of an AGM-65E "Maverick" IR missile
- 20 Squadron returns to NAS Lemoore from CVW-11 detachment

March 1991

- 05 Squadron NATOPS evaluation
- 10 Advance detachment arrives aboard USS Abraham Lincoln
- 11 Main body arrives aboard USS Abraham Lincoln
- 14-15 Squadron aircraft fly aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln
- 23 Aviation Maintenance Evaluation (AME)
- 25 Electronic Warfare Technical Proficiency Inspection (EWTPI)

April 1991

- 01-04 Advanced Tactical Assessment (ATA)
- 11 Squadron returns to NAS Lemoore
- 29 Squadron departs for Battle Group Exercise (BGE) USS Abraham Lincoln

May 1991

- 04-06 Battle Group Exercise (BGE) USS Abraham Lincoln
- 09 At sea period complete, squadron returns to NAS Lemoore
- 16-22 COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC ADMAT Inspection

May 1991 (continued)

- 26 Advanced detachment to USS Abraham Lincoln
- 27 Main body arrives aboard USS Abraham Lincoln
- 28 USS Abraham Lincoln/CVW 11 departs Alameda for Western Pacific/Indian Ocean Cruise
- 30 Lincoln departs coastal waters

June 1991

- 03 Entered Hawaiian operating area
- 06 Departed Hawaiian operating area for the Philippines
- 11 Inchooped Seventh Fleet
- 17 Arrived Cubi Point
- 24 Departed the Philippines for Singapore
- 28 Arrived Singapore Op area
- 30 Inport Singapore

July 1991

- 13 Completed Hormuz transit and began limited flight ops after a brief turn over with the USS Nimitz off of the coast of United Arab Emirates
- 24 Combined forces exercise in light of increasing Iraqi failures to comply with the U.N. resolutions

August 1991

- 11 Dissimilar Air Combat training with Saudi Arabian Air Force. Air Combat training detachment fly off to Shaika Isa, Bahrain
- 12-17 Inport Dubai, United Arab Emirates for liberty
- 18 Underway
- 24 Aircraft 304 lost at sea off of catapult. Pilot ejects safely
- 27 Combined forces strike exercise

September 1991

- 01 Dissimilar Air Combat training flown with Saudi Arabian Air Force
- 08 CVW-11 assets conduct War-at-Sea exercise against coalition forces
- 09-10 Anchor off Bahrain (no liberty)
- 15-20 Anchor off Dubai, United Arab Emirates for liberty

September 1991 (continued)

- 21 Underway flight operations resume
- 25 Live ordnance exercise conducted at Gibbs Range, Kuwait
- 27 Transit Straits of Hormuz, enter Gulf of Oman
- 28-30 Beacon Flash 91 exercise

October 1991

- 02 Beacon Flash 91 ends
- 03 Troops leave for Shaikh Isa detachment
- 04 Aircraft fly off for Shaikh Isa detachment; Transit Straits of Hormuz and enter Arabian Gulf
- 05-11 Anchor off Dubai, United Arab Emirates for liberty
- 12 Underway; detachment fly aboard; Transit Straits of Hormuz and enter Gulf of Oman
- 16 British Omani Passex; Official Turnover with USS Eisenhower (CVN 69); USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Inchopt to Seventh Fleet
- 20 Dissimilar Air Combat Training with Malaysian Air Force
- 26-30 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) pier side Alava Pier, Subic Naval Base for liberty
- 30 Underway

November 1991

- 01-04 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) anchors in Hong Kong Harbor for liberty
- 05 Underway

November 1991 (continued)

- 08-11 Annuaalex
- 18 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) enters Hawaiian Op area
- 19 Departed Hawaiian Op area
- 24 VFA 22 aircraft fly off for NAS Lemoore
- 25 At 0830, WESTPAC 91 concluded the Maiden Cruise of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), all Redcocks return safely from cruise

December 1991

- 04 Post Cruise Safety Stand Down
- 05 Flight Ops commence
- 12 Change of Command, Commander Rondestvedt commanding
- 16 Four day work week commences due to NAS Lemoore base fiscal restraints

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 22 NARRATIVE FOR 1991

1991 began with Strike Fighter Squadron 22 in El Centro, California participating in Advanced Attack Readiness Program (AARP) 1-91 conducted by Strike Fighter Weapons School, Pacific. The squadron had its Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPPI) test for pilots on 24 January and then began intensive preparation for the CVW-11 detachment to Fallon. Most of the month of February was spent in Fallon, Nevada, training with the Air Wing during the detachment. The squadron finished out the rest of the month in Lemoore preparing for a unit evaluation and upcoming at sea period in March.

Additional information to that listed below can be found in enclosure (4) and (5) supporting documentation and statistical data. Especially noteworthy in enclosure (4) is the submission package for the 1991 CNO Aviation Safety Award which is a comprehensive listing of VFA 22's achievements in 1991. Statistical data, including flight hours and missions flown, can be found in enclosure (5) under weekly and monthly training reports.

Highlights of the year include:

January

VFA 22 started the month of January at NAS El Centro participating in AARP 1-91. Inclement weather hindered training but the squadron was still able to complete the detachment. The squadron returned to Lemoore on the 12th of the month and the pilots began preparing for the CWTPPI on the 24th.

February

February saw VFA 22 deployed to Fallon, Nevada in support of the CVW 11 detachment. Numerous multi squadron Airwing coordinated strikes were flown and the squadron was able to captive carry an AGM-65F IR missile for the first time. Returning to Lemoore on the 20th, the squadron began preparations for a unit NATOPS evaluation and upcoming at sea period in March.

March

On the 5th of March the squadron passed its NATOPS exam and evaluation with a grade of 3.985. Additionally, an intensive FCLP build-up was conducted for the pending at-sea period. The squadron embarked personnel on the USS Abraham Lincoln on the 10th of March and finished with the arrival of the last aircraft on the fifteenth. Cyclic Ops began on the 16th and continued on through the end of the month in preparation for the Advanced Tactical Assessment (ATA) and pre-Battle Group Exercise (BGE). On the 23rd of the month the squadron received its predeployment Aviation Maintenance Evaluation (AME) with an overall grade of 92%, top in CVW-11 and in the top 8 of 160 AIRPAC squadrons. The Electronic Warfare Technical Proficiency Inspection (EWTPPI) was conducted on the 25th and graded satisfactory with no discrepancies.

Encl (3)

April 1991

From the 1st to the 4th the squadron participated in the Advanced Tactical Assessment (ATA). During the ATA the squadron flew a total of 52 sorties for 103 flight hours, part of a record setting effort by CVW-11. The squadron returned to Lemoore on the eleventh for a short three days off, with preparations for the next at sea period beginning on the following Tuesday. On the 29th the squadron boarded the USS Abraham Lincoln to participate in the Battle Group Exercise (BGE).

May 1991

The beginning of the month found the squadron at sea for BGE. The at sea period ended on the 8th and the squadron returned to Lemoore on the 9th. The command ADMAT Inspection commenced on the 16th, and was concluded on the 22nd with no major discrepancies, 14 minors and 17 commendatories. On the 26th the squadron began loading aboard the Lincoln and on the 28th the ship pulled out of Alameda headed for WESTPAC/IO on its first operational cruise in the FA-18. Eight aircraft flew aboard the 28th and the other two arrived the 29th. Lincoln/CVW-11 departed U.S. coastal waters on the 30th for its extended deployment.

June 1991

The squadron began the month in transit from the Southern California Op area to the Hawaiian Islands. After the squadron left the Hawaiian Op area, it commenced a 10 day transit to the Philippines. Enroute the squadron conducted daily flight ops consisting of bombing and air combat maneuvering. Upon arriving at NAS Cubi Point, the USS Abraham Lincoln unloaded 2,000 refugees and their pets due to the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo. It was an experience that each and every sailor in the squadron will never forget. After the last refugees offloaded in Cebu, it was back to routine business. The squadron commenced normal flight ops in the South China Sea with some well deserved liberty in Singapore in the closing two days of the month. It was hot and humid, but relaxation was enjoyed by all. YCBAR!

July 1991

The 3rd month of cruise for the squadron consisted mainly of training flights to keep the pilots combat ready and on call at a moments notice. The FA-18C proved itself to be the most formidable aircraft on the flight deck, providing multi-role strike and fighter capabilities. This could not be done without the whole Redcock team going above and beyond assigned duties in the unbearable heat of the Arabian Gulf. The Strike Fighting Redcocks rose to meet every task. YCBAR!

August 1991

August found the squadron intensifying Strike Training in support of Iraqi contingency planning. Air-to-air training detachments to Shaika Isa as well as joint operations with the USAF assisted in the effort. LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

successfully ejected from aircraft 304 when it was launched with insufficient airspeed. He suffered no injuries and the squadron was absolved of blame in the accident.

September 1991

September was a month of high readiness and endless training, including combined coalition force and live ordnance operations, and a successful Beacon Flash 91 exercise. Extremely hot temperatures prevailed throughout the month. A two day anchorage off Bahrain and a one week liberty call to Dubai provided rest and recreation to all hands.

October 1991

Another month of intense training and readiness, October was the last month in the Arabian Gulf. The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Battle Group turned over Arabian Gulf presence responsibilities to the USS Eisenhower Battle Group. After inchopt to Seventh Fleet, the transit eastward saw many opportunities to conduct passing exercises with the Omani and Malaysian Air Forces. Two port calls were made during the month, one to Dubai, United Arab Emirates prior to leaving the Arabian Gulf, and one to the Philippines on the transit homeward.

November 1991

November started with an outstanding port call to Hong Kong. The intensity of flight operations is diminishing as the ship/airwing begins it's transit home. The culmination of the month occurs on the 24th and 25th as the squadron returns home from deployment with all hands. YCBAR!

December 1991

The month of December found very light flying as the squadron commenced it's post cruise stand down. Twelve December saw the command of the squadron pass to CDR C. R. Rondestvedt. Oncoming Executive Officer is CDR J. T. Knight.