



1979

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ATTACK SQUADRON TWENTY FIVE
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1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


D. J. WRIGHT

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
Director of Naval History

ATTACK SQUADRON TWENTY FIVE
COMMAND HISTORY

Based ashore at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California, Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE began 1979 with Commander Warner L. BUTLER as Commanding Officer and Commander Donald J. WRIGHT as Executive Officer. VA-25 and its complement of twelve A-7E aircraft were making final preparations for a February WESTPAC deployment, the first for VA-25 in almost three years.

During the period 9-19 January, VA-25 conducted type training aboard USS RANGER (CV-61), culminating in Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE winning the Commander Carrier Air Wing TWO bombing derby. The first of three major corrosion control inspections was completed on 30 January for pre-deployment purposes and resulted in a grade of "SAT" in all areas with no major discrepancies noted.

On 6 February, a Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CTPI) was successfully completed, once again resulting in a grade of "SAT" in all areas with no major discrepancies noted.

Deploying to WESTPAC on 21 February aboard RANGER, VA-25 participated in many major exercises scheduled for the deployment. The first was designated TRANSITEX 3-79 and was completed on 20 March when RANGER docked at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

Commander W. L. BUTLER was relieved as Commanding Officer on 26 March by Commander D. J. WRIGHT with Commander J. A. LOCKARD assuming the duties of Executive Officer.

VA-25 participated in COPE THUNDER 79-6 from 10-12 May and again during the period 3-18 June in COPE THUNDER 79-7. Supporting MULTIPLEX Exercises 4-79 and 5-79, Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE significantly increased CVW-2 airwing striking capabilities. VA-25 provided data to Commander Naval Air Systems Command on the ALE-41 chaff dispenser, enabling recommendations for further use in the fleet during this same period.

The First of the Fleet moved ashore, assuming the CVW-2 Cubi Point beach detachment duties from 24 June - 11 August. The squadron's Foreign Object Damage Prevention Program proved its worth during this period ashore with VA-25 being the only CVW-2 squadron to have no engines lost to FOD. A mid-cruise corrosion control inspection was completed; our third discrepancy-free inspection of the year. Exercises during the beach detachment were BEAVER SNARE 12-79 and 13-79, COPE THUNDER 79-8, and MULTIPLEX 6-79, the latter being conducted with eight A-7E's at Kadena, AFB, Okinawa.

Mid-September was an important period for VA-25, culminating in the successful completion of the Navy Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI) with a perfect score.

Enclosure (1)

During the WESTPAC deployment of 1979, the First of the Fleet completed over 800 carrier evolutions, resulting in 1,421 accident-free shipboard flight hours and a total of 781 carrier arrested landings. A .902 boarding rate during shipboard operations resulted in no major or minor accidents.

Returning to Lemoore, California on 22 September, VA-25 completed the 79 WESTPAC cruise ready to continue training and increase readiness during the turnaround period. The post-deployment corrosion control inspection went well, evaluated as Satisfactory in all areas.

Participation in a Maritime Air Superiority Exercise (MASEX) on 25 and 26 October provided airwing strike training with fighter aircraft from CVW-2 squadrons contributing to increased overall airwing effectiveness for the next deployment. Another major exercise for VA-25 was READIEX 1-80, conducted on 17 and 18 November.

Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE completed its annual command inspection by Commander, Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet on 20 November with an overall performance evaluation of "SAT".

Early December saw a VA-25 detachment at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona for use of the Air Combat Maneuvering Range, (ACMR). The squadron was also tasked to provide video film for use in Extended Range Data Link (ERDL) Walleye II training films developed for the Light Attack Weapons School, Pacific.

During the week of 10-14 December, VA-25 conducted a human resources availability seminar, highlighting squadron awareness of individual problems and needs of squadron personnel.

1979 saw CDR J. A. LOCKARD, LT [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], and CWO2 [REDACTED] report to the First of the Fleet. Departing the squadron during the year were CDR W. L. BUTLER, CWO4 [REDACTED], LT's [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Participating in NORAD exercises and close air support with Marine Forces from 11 to 13 December proved to be valuable training during the closing days of a very safe operating year. The First of the Fleet completed 3,622 accident free hours for the year. Total accident free hours as of 31 December 1979 were 15,745 over a three and a half year period.