

1980



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**ATTACK SQUADRON TWENTY FIVE**  
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96601**

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From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE  
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History

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Encl: (1) Events of 1980

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

*J A Lockard*  
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Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
Director of Naval History

## EVENTS OF 1980

Attack Squadron Twenty Five began 1980 based ashore at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California with Commander Donald J. Wright as Commanding Officer and Commander J. A. Lockard as Executive Officer. The squadron has maintained 12 A7-E Corsair II aircraft which are manufactured by LTV of Dallas Texas.

On 12 January the squadron deployed to NAS Fallon Nv. to participate in the Air Wing Two Weapons Deployment. The Fists completed this most successful deployment on the 26th after winning the CVW-2 Bombing Derby Trophy and amassing 26 individual E's in COMPEX events.

The remainder of January and most of February was devoted to weapons and departure training and aircraft preparation for the upcoming carrier qualification periods on 11-15 February and 2-7 March. Also during Feb. eight close air support missions in support of the U.S. Marine Corps were flown, one pilot completed LAWES and two more individual E's were won in A-20-R COMPEX.

Day and night refresher training aboard USS Ranger and training in ACM and Weapons Delivery were the emphasis areas for March.

Refresher Training from 8-30 April aboard USS Ranger dominated the month. May and June were particularly active for the squadron. Participation in several at sea periods, flying some 70 COMPEX events, NOREX and MINEX events were upstaged only by receipt of an "outstanding" for the CTPI held on the 13th and 14th of May. The squadron was selected to participate in a QUAFT drop on June 11. The results of this exercise were recorded as being the 3rd best in twelve years. In late June one AIM 9G Sidewinder was expended as an annual training allowance and a mini detachment was deployed to MCAS Yuma for SHRIKE training on the ACMR.

The ORE was conducted during July and missions in the areas of War-at-Sea, Air Wing Strikes, KOMAREX, NOREX B, Photo Recon, SHRIKE and SSC were flown on a regular basis while conducting cyclic ops. Two aircraft and pilots were given high scores in an EWTPI held at EWTES, China Lake, CA.

On 29 July Commander Wright was relieved by Commander Lockard as Commanding Officer in ceremonies held at NAS Lemoore. Commander R. W. Leone assumed the duties as Executive Officer.

August was spent preparing for the pre-cruise corrosion inspection and participating in a ten day refresher training period aboard the Ranger.

West Pac/I.O. Cruise 80-81 began on 10 September with the squadron embarked in USS Ranger (CV-61). Before departing CONUS two days were spent in the SOCAL operating area conducting refresher training.

Upon arrival in the Hawaii operating area the squadron participated in Cope Rainbow Exercises. The three days spent flying strikes opposed by USMC, USAF and US Navy aircraft provided excellent coordinated air strike training for the airwing.

After a three day inport period at Pearl Harbor Transitex 2-80 was conducted until 14 October. During this exercise the squadron concentrated on day and night bombing and live ordnance expenditure while in the Guam operating area on 7 and 8 October.

Enclosure (1)

Once in the Subic Bay area cyclic operations were flown. SSC, AIC, SAREX, day and night conventional weapons delivery missions were carried out utilizing the available target assets of the Subic complex.

While USS Ranger was moored at Subic Bay from 15-24 October VA-25 conducted regular flight operations with six squadron aircraft based at NAS Cubi Pt. Low Level Navigation, day and night bombing and FCLP were emphasised.

Cyclic operations on 24, 25 and 26 Oct. were conducted in the Subic Op area. In addition to bombing, AIC and ACM sorties, a MINEX was conducted in Binanga Bay. Enroute to a 30 Oct. transit of the Straits of Malacca "Blue water" cyclic operations were conducted.

November 7th marked arrival of USS Ranger and VA-25 to the "Gonzo Station Modloc". Operations including SSC, Tanker, War at Sea, AIC and day bombing were conducted as well as participation in the JCS exercise "Rawhide". Participation in joint service flights were flown including tanking from KC-135 and escort of B-52's.

After being at sea for sixty one days Ranger set course on 24 Dec for Mombasa, Kenya. Enroute the traditional "crossing the line ceremonies" were duly performed on 28 Dec. before the 29 Dec. anchoring in Mombasa.

During 1980 the "Fist of the Fleet" extended its accident free record to 4 years and 21,727.5 hrs. while flying 5981.6 hours and amassing 2,088 carrier arrested landing during the year. The squadron won top honors in landing grades in two of four competitive periods during the Westpac/IO cruise.

Attack Squadron Twenty Five finished the year being nominated by Commander Carrier Air Wing Two for both the CNO Safety Award and the RADM Clarence Wade McClusky Award.

Enclosure (1)