



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON TWENTY-FIVE
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Encl: (1) Events of 1984

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


J. C. LESLIE

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CINCPACFLT
Director of Naval History



EVENTS OF 1984

Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE maintains twelve F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, which were manufactured by McDonnell Douglas of St. Louis, Missouri.

During 1984, the squadron served under Captain Jack Zerr, Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN. The functional Wing Commander was Commodore D. B. Cargill, Commander, Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

The squadron began the year under the command of CDR S. L. Webb with CDR J. C. Leslie serving as the Executive Officer. Other officers serving with VFA-25 during the year were: CDR [REDACTED], CDR [REDACTED], CDR [REDACTED], LCDR [REDACTED], LCDR [REDACTED], LCDR [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LT [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], LTJG [REDACTED], ENS [REDACTED], and CWO3 [REDACTED]. The "FIST" started the year with 4 new F/A-18's and received their full compliment of 12 in April.

On 17 March, VFA-25 flew 8 aircraft to participate in Green Flag. The exercise, a derivative of Red Flag, emphasizes electronic warfare including radar and communications jamming. The squadron took full advantage of the detachment to further understand the strength and weaknesses of its air to air radar, communications radio, and other avionics that might be affected by electronic jamming. VFA-25 acted as the "Red Force" opposition to the Air Force "Blue Forces". The squadron was tasked with evaluating the effectiveness of various Blue Force tactics and strategies, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of our own offensive and defensive tactics with the new F/A-18 Strike Fighter. The detachment returned to Lemoore on 31 March.

The squadron also sent 1 aircraft to the Naval Fighter Weapons School, TOPGUN, at NAS Miramar from 12 March to 13 April.

On 7 April, VFA-25 flew 6 aircraft on board USS Constellation, CV-64, for the ship's Independent Steaming Exercise. The aircraft returned to Lemoore on the 11th.

From 1 to 25 May both squadron Officers and Enlisted men alike enjoyed REFTRA operations off the coast of Southern California. The squadron had eight aircraft onboard.

June was a busy month for the First of the Fleet. On the 9th, the squadron detached to Fallon, Nevada for air to ground COMPLEX events. The squadron COMPLEXed using all squadron aircraft and pilots in nine events which included: day high dive, minimum altitude release, pop up attack, lay down, loft, over the shoulder, strafe, night high dive and radar bomb. Pilots COMPLEXed in a total of 162 events and scored "E's" in 110 of them. The squadron returned to Lemoore on the 16th to exact final preparations for the upcoming ADMAT Inspection. The squadron's ADMAT Inspection took place on the 28th with the ensuing debrief on the 29th. The squadron's performance during the inspection was exemplary, receiving eleven commendatory comments and zero major discrepancies.

In July the squadron was back out for SOCAL operations from the 10th to the 24th. Upon return to Lemoore two aircraft were detached to San Diego to participate in Hey Rube. The exercise evolved to develop outer air battle tactics, vector logic, within a heavy communications and radar jamming environment. The exercise was from the 26th to the 31st of July.

On 7 August the squadron was back onboard USS Constellation, CV-64, for more SOCAL operations. The Airwing practiced more high tempo Battle Flex Deck operations with increasing ordnance requirements. VFA-25 returned to Lemoore on the 16th. From the 18th to the 31st squadron pilots participated in Constant Peg in the Nellis range complex.

From 3 to 14 September the Fist traveled back to Fallon, Nevada for Gallant Eagle 84. The exercise involved over 500 military aircraft including those of CVW-14 to which VFA-25 is assigned. Squadron pilots flew strikes against opposed positions in California and Nevada utilizing Air Force KC-135 and KC-10 tanking assets. Pilots flew aggressor sorties opposing Air Force strikes on both Nellis and Coso ranges, SAR CAP missions, and worked with Air Force, Army, and Marine Corp CAS units at Fort Irwin, Hunter Liggett, Nellis, and Navy Fallon. The squadron flew over 700 hours during the month of September.

In October the squadron embarked on the USS Constellation for Fleetex 85. From 2 to 12 October pilots worked SOCAL OPAREAS before turning north towards San Francisco for Fleet Week 84 from the 13th to the 16th. On the 17th Connie left San Francisco for the Hawaiian Islands for a week of island operations before tying up at Pearl Harbor for 1½ days of liberty. Connie left Pearl on the 2nd and the squadron returned to Lemoore on the 9th of November. During this at sea period Connie worked joint carrier operations with the USS Carl Vinson, CVN-70. The "FIST" won the first CVW-14 Tailhook competition and flew its second consecutive 700 hour month.

November was a month of minimal operations as the squadron prepared for the upcoming change of command and NTPI. On 16 November, CDR J. C. Leslie relieved CDR S. L. Webb as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE.

On 7 December the Fist was back at sea. Squadron pilots worked with Marine Corps FACS on CAS sorties to Camp Pendleton and San Clemente Island. The squadron returned to Lemoore on the 15th. The squadron stood the first VFA squadron NTPI on the 20th and 21st, receiving zero major and zero minor discrepancies.

The squadron has flown 37,187 accident free hours and went 3 1/2 years FOD free, an record unsurpassed in TACAIR aviation. The "FIST" were the COMLATWINGPAC nomination for the Arliegh Burke Award, runner-up in the COMLATWINGPAC Battle "E" Award, had the COMLATWINGPAC Sailor of the Year for the second year in a row, and AIRPAC first alternate for Sailor of the Year for 1984.

The squadron's superb operational performance and enviable safety record has set VFA-25 at the top of the Strike Fighter Community. The Fist of the Fleet looks forward to leading Airwing Fourteen through its upcoming WESTPAC deployment in February of 85.