



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
FPO AP 96801-6203

1992 ←

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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MAR. 12 1993

From: Commanding Officer, VFA 25
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Change of Command Program

1. Per reference (a), the Command History for VFA 25 during the calendar year 1992 is submitted.
2. All questions should be directed to LT Don Braswell, VFA 25 PAO, NAS Lemoore, CA 93246, v949-1916, com (209) 998-1912.


C. A. SIMMONS, JR.

Logged



STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
1992 HISTORY

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

MISSION

The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron Twenty Five is to maintain maximum air combat readiness in the Carrier Striking Forces and to utilize that readiness as a deterrent against any and all enemies of the United States of America as may be directed by higher authority. The primary function of Strike Fighter Squadron Twenty Five within that mission is to conduct offensive air-to-air and air-to-surface strike operations.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

VFA 25 is one of thirteen FA-18 fleet squadrons under the functional command of Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet (CSFWP) based ashore at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. Operational Control is provided by Commander Carrier Air Wing Fourteen (CVW-14).

COMMANDING OFFICER: COMMANDER DONALD B. FENNESSEY, USN
27 Sep 91 - 5 Nov 92

Commander Donald B. Fennessey is a native of Pelham, Massachusetts and was commissioned in the Navy upon graduation from the NROTC program at Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. He arrived at VT 1 at NAS Saufley Field, Pensacola, Florida for flight training in July 1972 followed by VT 26 and VT 25 at NAS Chase Field, Beeville, Texas. He earned his Naval Aviator wings in October 1973 and reported to VA 122 NAS Lemoore, California for Replacement Pilot Training in the A-7E Corsair II. His first fleet assignment was with VA 27 from June 1974 to March 1977 where he served as First Lieutenant, Landing Signal Officer, Educational Services, Comm/Nav, Personnel and Quality Assurance Officer. During his tour with the "Royal Maces" he deployed on two WESTPAC cruises aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN-65), including Operation "Frequent Wind" supporting the evacuation of Saigon in May 1975.

Commander Fennessey next reported to HT-8 at NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Florida for helicopter transition training prior to Personnel Exchange Program duties with the Royal Air Force flying the Harrier GR MK3. Initial training was at 233 OCU at Wittering, England from September 1977 to March 1978. He reported to No.3(F) SQN at RAF Gutersloh, West Germany for service as a combat ready pilot in support of British Forces Germany from April 1978 to April 1980. While there he participated in several NATO exercises and field deployments.

Returning to VA 122 as an instructor Pilot from June 1980 until August 1982, he served as the Familiarization Stage, Ground Training and Assistant Operations Officer. Commander Fennessey's Department Head tour was spent from November 1982 to July 1985 with the VA 146 "Blue Diamonds" where he was assigned as Safety, Administrative, Maintenance and Operations Officer. While attached to the squadron he made a WESTPAC/Indian Ocean cruise aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

Commander Fennessey's next assignment was to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Information Technology, graduating with distinction. Subsequent duty was aboard USS MIDWAY (CV-41), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, where he held the billets of Strike Operations Officer and Air Operations Officer during several deployments from May 1987 to July 1989.

He returned to Lemoore for FA-18 Hornet Replacement Pilot training in VFA 125 from September 1989 to March 1990 and joined the VFA 25 "Fist of the Fleet" in May 1990. He assumed command of VFA 25 in September 1991.

COMMANDING OFFICER: COMMANDER CARLTON A. SIMMONS, JR.
5 NOV 92 - Present

Commander Carlton A. Simmons, Jr., a native of Massachusetts, graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in January 1974. In May 1976 he was commissioned an Ensign through the Aviation Officer Candidate Program and was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1977. In January 1979, after replacement pilot training in VA 122 flying the A-7E Corsair, he reported to VA 22 where he made two WESTPAC deployments from 1979-1982.

Following his tour with the Redcocks, Commander Simmons was assigned to the Pilot Exchange Program with the U. S. Air Force at Hill Air Force Base, Utah where he flew the F-16A Falcon. While assigned to the 421st TFS Blackwidows from March 1982 - December 1984, he made deployments to Panama, Egypt and Norway. In March 1985 after completion of his Air Force exchange tour, CDR Simmons reported for duty as Flag Secretary to the Commander, Middle East Force on the USS LaSalle (AGF-3), permanently deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

Commander Simmons reported to VFA 125 in April 1986 for transition training in the F/A-18 Hornet and joined VFA 113 as a Department Head in September 1986. Completing his tour with the "Stingers", CDR Simmons reported to the Strike Fighter Weapons School, Pacific as Executive Officer in December 1988 and assumed command in August 1990. He joined VFA 25, "Fist of the Fleet", in September 1991 and assumed command in November 1992.

CHRONOLOGY

16-27 MAR VFA 25 goes to Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada where they support the U. S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School F-15 Eagle division. The FIST work for two weeks providing airborne threats for the Air Force students and practicing division (4 plane) tactics.

6 April FIST pilots visit with former President Reagan. The FIST had flown a five plane formation for President Reagan's Library opening ceremony in November 1992, and the President wanted to thank the pilots personally.

11-22 May VFA 25 joined CVW-14 at Roswell, New Mexico to participate in Exercise Roving Sands. As an integrated air wing, CVW-14 flew sixty plane strikes against the most sophisticated Air Defense in the world, the United States Air Force fighter aircraft and United States Army Patriot and Hawk surface-to-air systems.

8-19 JUNE VFA 25 and her sister squadron (VFA 113) return to Las Vegas and the USAF Fighter Weapons School during the Mission Employment Phase. FIST pilots plan and execute 20 plane sorties in

offensive and defensive roles. At the same time, FIST pilots demonstrated the utility of night NVG tactics to the Air Force fighter community.

22 Jun-24 Jul VFA 25 flies several sorties to the Southern California operating area to support the U. S. Navy's RIMPAC exercise. The FIST flew fighter aggressor missions to test the Fleet's Air Defenses.

20-22 JULY After two months of intense preparation, VFA 25 completes a flawless Navy Tactical Proficiency Inspection. The inspection covered several areas of administrative preparation, pilot training, and the loading of special weapons.

25-27 August The command assessment team from Commander Strike Fighter Wing Pacific completed their inspection of VFA 25. The inspection looked at every aspect of the squadron's Administration Department, and VFA 25 earned commendatories in twenty-three of fifty areas inspected.

26 Aug - 1 Sep & 4-6 Dec VFA 25 worked with the USS Nimitz to carrier refresh all squadron pilots. The detachments also gave several maintenance troops their first look at operations at sea.

6-19 Sept VFA 25 took part in the 1992-4 Cope Thunder Exercise as a part of CVW-14. The exercise included Air Force units from Canada, United States Air Force units from Germany, CVW-14, and several other units. As part of the exercise, VFA 25 planned and executed several strikes simulating strike warfare against sophisticated air-to-air and surface-to-air threats.

9 Sep Robert W. Stevenson, III passes away during a night Close Air Support training mission. He is survived by his wife Lee Ann, and sons Robert, John, and William.

5 Nov Commander Carlton A. Simmons, Jr. relieves Commander Donald B. Fennessey as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 during a traditional Change of Command ceremony on board Naval Air Station Lemoore.

16-20 Nov VFA 25 completes a full week of Total Quality Leadership training. When deployed in 1994, the USS CARL VINSON Battle Group will be the first to deploy with Total Quality management.

NARRATIVE

In 1992, the FIST of the Fleet continued land-based operations to improve their air-to-air proficiency and coordinated strike planning and execution. The FIST utilized every opportunity to increase operational readiness during a time of fiscal restraint and limited sea time.

They worked closely with the United States Air Force Fighter Weapons School to improve and evaluate their tactics against sophisticated air threats. Over a period of four weeks, the FIST flew more than thirty missions in multi-plane scenarios and utilized the Nellis TACTS range to fully debrief each mission. These missions allowed the pilots to fully utilize the Hornets air-to-air assets with outstanding feedback from both the Fighter Weapons School and the Air Force's TACTS range.

In addition, VFA 25 worked closely with CVW-14 during two major exercises, Exercise Roving Sands in May and Operation Cope Thunder in September. These exercises enabled the FIST to integrate their capabilities with the Navy Air Wing and to work closely with the Air Force and Army in Joint Operations.

During 1993, the FIST of the Fleet will utilize this training to prepare for the upcoming deployment on the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) as an integral part of Carrier Air Wing 14.