



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25
FPO AP 96601-6203

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750
Ser 00/038
05 Apr 01

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 25
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: **COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 2000**

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) One 3.5" diskette []

1. Per reference (a), the Command History for Strike Fighter Squadron 25 is forwarded.

2. Command Composition and Organization

a. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 (VFA-25) is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness, originating from the sea aboard a Carrier Battle Group, serving as a deterrent against all potential enemies of the United States of America. The primary function of VFA-25 within that mission is to conduct offensive air-to-air and air-to-surface strike operations as directed by national command authority.

b. VFA-25 is home based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, under the functional command of the Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Operational command is provided by Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN (CVW-14). The Commanding Officer until 22 May 2000 was CDR Peter Murphy, followed then by CDR Dan Dixon. VFA-25 maintained twelve FA-18C Hornets, carrying the tail code "NK". Bureau numbers are as follows:

<u>Side #</u>	<u>Bureau #</u>	<u>Build Lot</u>
400	164633	XIV
401	164635	XIV
402	164637	XIV
403	164664	XIV
404	164642	XIV
405	164639	XIV
406	164654	XIV
407	164660	XIV
410	164676	XIV
411*	164681	XIV
412	164262	XIII
413	164266	XIII

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*Lost At Sea 29 September 2000

c. All aircraft are night vision goggle compatible and are capable of delivering the latest self designated precision laser guided weapons as well as JDAM and JSOW. Additionally, they carry the AIM-120 AMRAAM, AIM-7 Sparrow, and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles in the air-to-air role.

3. Chronology squadron events for CY 2000

a. January

Holiday leave period
Local training

b. February

Local training
21 Jan-11 Feb COMPTUEX - CVN 72

c. March

Local training
Air Wing Det - NAS Fallon

d. April

Air Wing Det - NAS Fallon
Local training

e. May

Local training
16 May-1 Jul - RIMPAC 2000 - CVN-72

f. July

POM leave period
Local training

g. August

Local training
WESTPAC 2000 - CVN-72, SOCAL OPAREA

h. September

WESTPAC 2000 - Transit Pacific/Indian Oceans
WESTPAC 2000 - Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (Arabian Gulf)

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i. October

Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (Arabian Gulf)
In-port, Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates
Operation SOUTHERN WATCH

j. November

1-30 Operation SOUTHERN WATCH

k. December

Operation SOUTHERN WATCH
In-port, Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates

6. Narrative

During the month of January and early February, VFA-25 participated in COMPTUEX aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72). In this exercise, the assets of Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN conducted coordinated strikes against ground targets at MCAS Yuma and NAS Fallon, as well as air-to-air training against units from NAS Lemoore.

February was a local training period for VFA-25, which included numerous air-to-ground missions from NAS Lemoore to bombing ranges in Superior Valley and Fallon, NV. Air-to-air training was accomplished using simulated adversaries from the Fresno Air National Guard (F-16's), as well as other squadrons from NAS Lemoore (F/A-18's). This training was also in preparation for the upcoming Air Wing Detachment to NAS Fallon.

Early March and April saw the Fist of the Fleet travel to NAS Fallon for the Air Wing Detachment, a series of coordinated strikes and air-to-air engagements for the squadrons of Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN.

The Fist of the Fleet departed for RIMPAC 2000 on 16 May onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72). Following several days of carrier qualification in the Southern California (SOCAL) operating area, the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Battle Group set out for Pearl Harbor, HI. After operating for two weeks in the area south of Hawaii, the Battle Group pulled into Pearl Harbor for a week of liberty. Following that week, the Battle Group officially commenced RIMPAC, matching the Battle Group against

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the navies of several other countries, as well as air assets from the Hawaii Air National Guard (HANG). After several weeks of exercises, the Fist of the Fleet returned to NAS Lemoore on 3 July, and commenced local operations in preparation for their upcoming WESTPAC deployment.

On 20 August, after several weeks of local training operations and leave, the Fist of the Fleet again deployed aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), this time for WESTPAC 2000. Following another week of carrier qualification in the SOCAL operating area, the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Battle Group set a course for the Far East, conducting joint flight and Battle Group operations on the way. Prior to reaching the first planned port visit of Hong Kong, a typhoon forced the Battle Group south, canceling the first stop.

Preparations for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH continued, as the Fist of the Fleet made their way westward, preparing for the next planned port call of Phattya, Thailand. Prior to that visit, however, the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Battle Group was directed to report directly to the Arabian Gulf, relieve the GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group, and assume the duties of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

On 22 September, the Battle Group entered the waters of the Arabian Gulf, and immediately began flight operations in the Gulf, as well as Kuwait and southern Iraq. During the morning hours of 29 September, VFA-25 pilot LT Bruce Donald was lost at sea in aircraft 411. Several days later, a memorial service was held for LT Donald, who was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Fist of the Fleet continued the high tempo pace of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH throughout the month of October. Due to the bombing of the USS COLE (DDG 67), security measures in the Arabian Gulf peaked in the last quarter of 2000. The port visit in early October would be the last for the Fists until the last week of December.

In support of UN Security Resolutions, VFA-25 pilots dropped several bombs on selected tactical targets in southern Iraq, and continued to patrol the skies in the Arabian Gulf until the New Year.


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