



# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 25  
FPO AP 96601-6203

5750  
Ser VFA25 00/057  
29 Mar 2002

IN REPLY REFER TO

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY 2001

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 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 7 September 2001 was CDR Dan Dixon, followed then by CDR Richard Butler. 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	164645	XIV
412	164262	XIII
413	164266	XIII

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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, JSOW and SLAMER. 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 2001

a. January

01-11	Operation SOUTHERN WATCH
12-16	In-port, Perth, Australia
17-20	WESTPAC 2000-Transit to Hobart, Australia
18-25	In-Port, Hobart, Australia
26-31	WESTPAC 2000-Transit Pacific Ocean

b. February

01-07	WESTPAC 2000-Transit Pacific Ocean
08	Return from WESTPAC 2000
09-12	Tiger Cruise
13-16	Squadron Day Off
17-28	Local Training/Leave Period One

c. March

01-03	Local Training/Leave Period One
04-17	Local Training/Leave Period Two
18-31	Local Training/Leave Period Three

d. April

01-30	Local Training
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e. May

01-18	Alaska Det-Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK
19-31	Local Training

f. June

01-30	Local Training
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g. July

01-31	Local Training
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h. August

01-27 Local Training  
28-30 Local Training/TACEX-NAS Fallon  
31 Local Training

i. September

01-06 Local Training  
07 Squadron Change of Command  
08-10 Local Training  
11 World Trade Center Tragedy  
12-17 Local Training  
14-21 Operation NOBLE EAGLE-NAS Point Mugu  
18-30 Local Training/SFARP Ground School-NAS  
Lemoore

j. October

01-02 Local Training/SFARP Ground School-NAS  
Lemoore  
03-08 Local Training  
09-26 SFARP-NAS Fallon  
27-31 Local Training

k. November

01-21 Local Training  
22-25 Thanksgiving Leave Period  
26-29 Local Training  
30 TSTA-USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)

l. December

01-13 TSTA-USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)  
14-31 Local Training/Holiday Leave Period

4. Narrative

a. During the month of January, VFA-25 began the transit across the Pacific Ocean back to the United States while aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72). In the transit back, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN and CVW-14 made stops in Perth and Hobart, Australia.

b. February 8<sup>th</sup> was the official return from WESTPAC 2000. During the month of February, VFA-25 conducted local training, and took the much needed leave after WESTPAC 2000.

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c. During the months of March and April, VFA-25 conducted local training sorties 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 detachment to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

d. In the first two and half weeks of May, the Fist of the Fleet participated in several air-to-air missions against the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons of the United States Air Force in Elmendorf, Alaska. The Fist of the Fleet were able to see up close how well the F/A-18C Hornet out maneuvered their Air Force brethren and their F-15 Eagles.

e. In the months of June, July and August, the emphasis was again on local training and qualifying several pilots on their Section Lead Qualifications in preparation for the upcoming work up cycle and WESTPAC.

f. September was a busy month for the Fist of the Fleet. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, CDR Richard Butler relieved CDR Dan Dixon as Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 25. On the morning of 11 September, America was attacked for the first time on American soil since Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1942. In turn, VFA-25 was put on high alert to intercept any future attacks on the western United States. In addition, VFA-25 sent several F/A-18C Hornets and pilots to NAS PT. Mugu to participate in Operation NOBLE EAGLE from 14 September to 21 September. Pilots not participating in Operation NOBLE EAGLE, were attending Strike Fighter Air Readiness Program (SFARP) Ground School and participating in several local training missions which were tailored towards the SFARP training curriculum.

g. In mid October, VFA-25 along with VFA-113, VFA-115 and VF-31, participated in SFARP at NAS Fallon, NV. The squadron performed various missions including air-to-air, air-to-ground and several self escort strikes against F-5 Tigers from VFC-13 and adversary aircraft from NSAWC and Top Gun (F/A-18's and F-14's).

h. Once returning from SFARP in late October, November gave ample opportunity for the Fist of the Fleet to do local training and do the necessary preparation for shipboard operations for the Tailored Ships Training Assessment (TSTA) detachment.

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i. Once leaving NAS Lemoore on 30 November, VFA-25 would conduct operations aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) for TSTA. In this exercise, the assets of Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN (CVW-14), conducted coordinated defense exercises against simulated adversaries from MCAS Miramar (F/A-18's) and NAS Lemoore (F/A-18's).

j. In addition, several self escort strikes against ground targets at San Clemente Island were conducted with complete success. After returning to NAS Lemoore on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the squadron continued to operate locally in preparation for the upcoming Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) detachment in January of 2002.