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Ser VFA 25 00/

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

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 6 December 2002 was CDR Richard Butler. Following the Change of Command the Commanding Officer was CDR Craig Kauber. VFA-25 maintained twelve F/A-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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3. Squadron chronology for CY 2002

a. January

(1) Local training

(2) Comprehensive Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX)
Detachment onboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72),
17 January - 7 February

b. February

(1) Return from COMPTUEX

(2) Local training

(3) Air Wing Detachment, Fallon, Nevada,
24 February - 22 March

c. March

(1) Return from Air Wing Detachment

(2) Local training

d. April

(1) Local training

(2) NORTHERN EDGE/JTFEX Detachment, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN
(CVN 72), 14 April - 15 May

e. May

(1) Return from NORTHERN EDGE/JTFEX

(2) Local training

f. June

(1) Local training

g. July

(1) Local training/POM leave period

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(2) VFA-25 departs for 6-month Western Pacific/Indian Ocean/Persian Gulf deployment, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), 23 July, with 12 F/A-18C aircraft.

h. August

(1) Blue Water operations, Pacific Transit

(2) Port visit, Hawaii, 1-3 August

(3) Three aircraft air-to-air training detachment to Kadena AFB, Japan, 14-20 August

(4) Port visit, Sasebo, Japan, 16-19 August

(5) Port visit, Hong Kong, 23-27 August

(6) Port visit, Singapore, 31 August - 4 September

i. September

(1) Depart Singapore

(2) Blue Water operations

(3) Begin flight operations supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), 13 September

j. October

(1) Last OEF flight, 19 October

(2) Blue Water operations, transit to Persian Gulf

(3) Port visit, Bahrain, 25-28 October

(4) Begin flight operations supporting Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW), 29 October

k. November

(1) OSW flight operations

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1. December

(1) Last OSW Flight, 4 December

(2) Change of Command Ceremony, Flight Deck of
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), 6 December

(3) Port Visit, Bahrain, 6-10 December

(4) Blue Water operations

(5) Port visit, Perth, Australia, 22 - 28 December

4. Narrative

a. During the month of January, VFA-25 returned from holiday leave and continued their Inter-deployment Training Cycle (ITDC), deploying 10 F/A-18Cs aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) for COMPTUEX.

b. The squadron returned to Lemoore on 7 February before flying 10 aircraft to Fallon, NV for the next step in the workup cycle, Air Wing Detachment.

c. In April the Fist packed its cold weather dry suits and set off for Whidbey Island, Washington, using 11 squadron jets in carrier qualifications in preparation for Operation NORTHERN EDGE/JTFEX. The month long detachment saw the battle group operating for two weeks off the southern coast of Alaska and two weeks in Southern California.

d. Returning from NORTHERN EDGE/JTFEX, the Fist spent May, June, and most of July flying local sorties and making final preparations for cruise.

e. Deployed on 23 July, departing San Diego with 12 F/A-18C aircraft. After a short stop in Hawaii, CVW-14 headed to Sasebo, Japan for the first visit by a nuclear aircraft carrier in that region in over 10 years. Prior to the port visit the Fist sent three jets to Kadena AFB, Japan for an air-to-air detachment, working with the 44th Fighter Squadron's F-15s.

f. The rest of August and the early part of September were spent visiting Hong Kong and Singapore in addition to flying blue water sorties.

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g. The F18 flew OEF sorties until 19 October before transiting to the Persian Gulf for a port visit to Bahrain. On 29 October the F18 began flight operations in support of OSW over Iraq.

h. In 2002, VFA-25 flew 3,233 sorties which totalled 5,165 flight hours. The squadron had a total of 2,097 arrested carrier landings.