

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
NAVAL AIR FORCE  
Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
Fleet Post Office  
New York 09501

VF-11/PAO/jff  
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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

Subj: Command History Report; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) Chronology of Events  
(2) Narrative History  
(3) Documentary Annexes

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

R. C. MILLER

Copy to:

→ CNO (OP-09B9)  
CINCLANTFLT (PAO)  
COMNAVAIRLANT (PAO)  
COMFAIRNORFOLK (PAO)  
CO, NAS OCEANA (PAO)

COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

1. Chronology of Events

1 Jan to 5 Jan 1970 The Red Rippers visited Cannes, France through the Holidays.

5 Jan to 10 Jan 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the eastern Mediterranean.

10 Jan to 20 Jan 1970 The squadron visited Valletta, Malta.

20 Jan to 27 Jan 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea. An aircraft was lost at sea with no casualties.

27 Jan to 31 Jan 1970 USS FORRESTAL anchored at Souda Bay. The squadron detached four aircraft ashore for Air Combat Maneuvering training.

31 Jan to 6 Feb 1970 Exercise National Week was conducted with USS F. D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). On 5 February an aircraft made a barricade arrestment on board USS FORRESTAL with no casualties.

6 Feb to 16 Feb 1970 The squadron visited Athens, Greece.

17 Feb to 21 Feb 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea.

21 Feb to 1 Mar 1970 The squadron visited Trieste, Italy.

2 Mar to 9 Mar 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Western MED.

10 Mar to 19 Mar 1970 The squadron visited Barcelona, Spain.

19 Mar to 25 Mar 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Western Mediterranean. A Navy League Cruise was held on 19 March.

26 Mar to 1 Apr 1970 The squadron visited Cannes, France.

1 Apr to 9 Apr 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea.

9 Apr to 15 Apr 1970 USS FORRESTAL anchored at Argostoli Bay, Greece.

15 Apr to 20 Apr 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea.

20 Apr to 30 Apr 1970 The squadron visited Valletta, Malta.

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1 May to 7 May 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea with the British Carrier, HMS HERMES.

7 May to 17 May 1970 The squadron visited Athens, Greece.

17 May to 24 May 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea.

24 May to 27 May 1970 USS FORRESTAL anchored at Argostoli Bay, Greece.

28 May to 2 June 1970 The squadron visited Corfu, Greece.

3 June to 11 June 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the Ionian Sea and participated in Exercise Dawn Patrol.

12 June to 18 June 1970 Aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated off the coast of Israel and Egypt during the Jordanian Crisis.

18 June to 21 June 1970 USS FORRESTAL enroute to Naples, Italy.

21 June to 24 June 1970 The squadron visited Naples, Italy.

25 June to 28 June 1970 The squadron visited Barcelona, Spain.

28 June to 8 July 1970 USS FORRESTAL enroute to Norfolk. The traditional Air Wing fly off occurred on 7 July.

9 July to 15 Nov 1970 The squadron was based ashore at NAS Oceana. The Change of Command was held on 31 July, with CDR Ronald C. MILLER relieving CDR William E. GREER.

13 Aug to 30 Aug 1970 The squadron deployed a detachment to NAS Key West for alert duty.

6 Sep to 11 Sep 1970 The squadron deployed a detachment to Pt. Mugu, California to participate in a VX-4 AGILE Missile project.

3 Oct to 5 Oct 1970 The squadron CARQUALED aboard USS FORRESTAL.

17 Oct to 20 Oct 1970 The squadron CARQUALED aboard USS FORRESTAL.

16 Nov to 7 Dec 1970 Based aboard USS FORRESTAL, the squadron operated in the western Atlantic.

8 Dec to 31 Dec 1970 The squadron was based ashore at NAS Oceana.

Enclosure (1)

## Basic Narrative

### World Famous Red Rippers--Fighter Squadron ELEVEN 1970

The history of the World Famous Red Rippers began in 1927. Though having had several designations, the Red Rippers remain the oldest continuously operating fighter squadron in the Navy. While originally designated as Fighter Squadron FIVE they have kept the original name and insignia. The Red Ripper insignia consists of a boar's head adopted from the Gordon's gin bottle, a string of bologna, and a dark shield beneath the boar's head emblazoned with a red lightning bolt and two red balls. This insignia is familiar to both military and civilian personnel at home and abroad. For forty-four years, squadron plaques and insignias have been left wherever the Red Rippers have traveled.

Achieving many awards, setting countless records, and establishing themselves as professional aviators, the Red Rippers have become truly World Famous. The Red Rippers of 1970 have continued to add to this fine history.

Deployed to the Mediterranean in USS FORRESTAL, the Red Rippers celebrated Christmas and New Year's 1970 while anchored in Cannes, France. On the 5th of January the ship departed Cannes for Malta, conducting flight operations enroute. After visiting Malta, operations were resumed in the Ionian Sea. On the 20th of January, an aircraft was lost at sea due to hydraulic failure of both Power Control systems. The pilot, LCDR [REDACTED] and the Radar Intercept Officer, LCDR [REDACTED] ejected safely over the Northern Ionian Sea. During the same period of operations, the Commanding Officer, CDR W. E. GREER, and his Radar Intercept Officer, LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] made the 148,000th arrested landing on USS FORRESTAL.

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On the 27th of January, at anchor in Souda Bay, Crete, the squadron sent a detachment of aircraft ashore for air-to-air combat training with Attack Squadron TWO ONE SIX's A4-E's. Early in February USS FORRESTAL with VF-11 aboard participated in a joint exercise with USS ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). On the 5th of February after loss of a right wheel, LT [REDACTED] and Radar Intercept Officer, LTJG [REDACTED], made a barricade engagement on board USS FORRESTAL. No injuries were involved. In the next port of call, Athens, Greece, the squadron held a party for all the officers and their wives. On 16 February USS FORRESTAL departed Athens and continued operations in the Ionian Sea, concentrating on air intercept training. At the end of February, USS FORRESTAL anchored at Trieste, Italy.

The beginning of March found USS FORRESTAL conducting operations in the Ionian Sea while proceeding west through the MED enroute to Barcelona, Spain. A Navy League Cruise was conducted on the 19th, and subsequently, operations were continued in the western MED. Many service hops were conducted in order to provide important training for USS FORRESTAL's defenses. During this period AMH3 [REDACTED] spotted a submarine trailing the ship, and was commended by RADM HOUSE, COMCARDIV FOUR, for his alertness on watch. The end of March and the beginning of April found the squadron enjoying another visit to the fascinating port of Cannes. While in port, United States Senators Strom Thurmond, Birch Baye, and Charles Percy visited the ship. The ship departed Cannes on the 1st of April and operated in the Ionian Sea. Just prior to entering anchorage at Argostoli, Greece, on the 9th, a detachment from the squadron was sent to NAF Signonella, Sicily, for more air-to-air combat training. Over-land and over-water low level NAV/ATTACK routes were flown in conjunction with ACM training and on the last day a coordinated Alpha strike was conducted against Panchino target. The operation proved

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highly successful and provided necessary training that could not have been provided during normal shipboard operations. During the last of April and throughout the month of May, operations were conducted in the Ionian Sea with the British Carrier HMS HERMES. A short anchorage in Argostoli was followed with a port visit to Athens from the 7th to the 17th of May. After operating in the Ionian Sea from the 17th to the 28th of May, the Red Rippers enjoyed a port visit in Corfu, Greece until the 3rd of June. Operations commenced again in the Ionian Sea, and the Red Rippers participated in Exercise Dawn Patrol which included units from many NATO countries.

With the rise of the Jordanian Crisis, USS FORRESTAL moved east and conducted operations off the coast of Israel and Egypt. As the crisis quieted down, USS FORRESTAL proceeded first to Naples, Italy, for a three day visit, and then to Barcelona, Spain, arriving the 24th of June. The turnover to USS SARATOGA (CVA-60) was conducted on June 28th and USS FORRESTAL proceeded back to the United States.

On the 7th of July, CDR GREER led Fighter Squadron ELEVEN in the traditional fly-off to NAS OCEANA. USS FORRESTAL arrived in Norfolk on the 8th of July and the squadron moved ashore to NAS OCEANA the following day. Very few flights were conducted during the remainder of the month of July due to the squadron stand-down. During this period air crews attended various schools in an effort to increase their professional knowledge.

On the 31st of July, CDR R. C. MILLER relieved CDR W. E. GREER at a Red Ripper Change of Command ceremony held at NAS OCEANA. The position of Executive Officer was filled by CDR A. M. LINDSEY.

Unable to obtain additional quotas for the West Coast "Top Gun" School, the junior officers of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN decided to create their own syllabus of air-to-air combat tactical training--"Mini Top Gun." On the 13th

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of August the Red Rippers sent a detachment to NAS Key West for "hot pad" duty. While there, much of the "Mini Top Gun" ground training was conducted to prepare the Red Ripper air crews for the concentrated air-to-air combat training scheduled to follow. Air operations at Key West were considered highly successful; fifty valuable training sorties oriented towards air combat were completed.

September began with the Red Rippers sending a detachment to Point Mugu, California to take part in a VX-4 Agile Missile Development Project. The Red Rippers were the only East Coast squadron to participate. The project was conducted on the Pacific Missile Range and exercised employment of Phantom II fighter tactics against F-86H aircraft simulating Soviet Bloc aircraft. With this project culminating the "Mini Top Gun" program, the detachment returned to NAS OCEANA on the 11th of September.

In September LCDR [REDACTED] of the Red Rippers completed liaison efforts with the U.S. Air Force at Langley AFB, and an Air Combat Training Syllabus involving the Air Force F-106's commenced. The Red Rippers were the first in the OCEANA area to participate in air-to-air combat with U.S. Air Force F-106's. The "Mini Top Gun" project and the F-106 ACM syllabus greatly enhanced the air crew's proficiency and professionalism in air combat maneuvering. During the last of September, with fewer outside commitments and increased aircraft availability, the squadron was able to conduct a conventional weapons and field carrier landing practice syllabus.

In response to the October Mid-East crisis, the Red Rippers carrier-qualified all pilots during the first week of the month while on sea-trials, rather than during the latter part of the month as was previously scheduled. The shipboard commitments afforded an opportunity to complete the air intercept syllabus. Efforts were hampered by low aircraft availability and ship-

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board scheduling problems. During the end of October and the beginning of November the majority of training was devoted to conventional weapons and field carrier landing practice in preparation for the short deployment scheduled for the end of November and early December. During this period of time USS FORRESTAL operated in the western Atlantic. On the 7th of December MAJ [REDACTED], Air Force Exchange pilot (member of the Red Rippers), landed on board USS FORRESTAL with LTCOL [REDACTED] [REDACTED], also an Air Force Exchange pilot (member of Commander-U. S. Second Fleet STAFF.) This was the first time aboard USS FORRESTAL, and possibly the first time aboard any attack carrier, that an all Air Force crew landed an F-4 Phantom II on a carrier.

On the 18th of December, LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was commended and awarded the Navy Achievement medal for coordinating the air-to-air combat training between COMFAIRNORFOLK and the Air Force at Langley AFB. Training was minimal in December due to low aircraft availability and Christmas leave, which began on the 18th. During this period the Red Rippers relaxed and enjoyed the holidays with their families. On the 28th the squadron resumed flight operations, and concentrated heavily on field carrier landing practice. With the closing of the year Fighter Squadron ELEVEN was ready for the MED deployment scheduled for early January of 1971 aboard USS FORRESTAL.

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a) FLIGHT INFORMATION

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>DAY HOURS</u>	<u>NIGHT HOURS</u>	<u>TOTAL HOPS</u>	<u>DAY HOPS</u>	<u>NIGHT HOPS</u>	<u>CARRIER DAY</u> / <u>LANDINGS NIGHT</u>	<u>CATAPULT SHOTS</u>
JAN	341.4	254.9	86.5	238	184	54	159 / 53	216
FEB	295.3	208.4	86.9	189	150	39	147 / 37	185
MAR	349.9	265.4	84.5	229	169	60	156 / 60	216
APR	443.1	343.9	99.2	298	227	71	178 / 78	256
MAY	354.7	259.7	95.0	228	147	81	180 / 64	244
JUN	274.6	245.4	29.2	172	149	23	124 / 23	152
JUL	96.7	96.7	0	58	58	0	0 / 0	0
AUG	164.7	150.3	14.4	128	117	11	0 / 0	0
SEP	290.8	264.8	26.0	267	241	26	0 / 0	0
OCT	225.7	140.6	85.1	208	100	108	117 / 19	124
NOV	228.8	143.3	85.5	200	94	106	44 / 35	91
DEC	220.1	163.3	56.8	169	96	73	56 / 21	77

e) Ordnance Expended

January 1970 through December 1970

<u>Type Ordnance</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CHAFF (RNDS)	590
MK-24 FLARES	62
MK-45	12
MK-76	975
MK-81	12
MK-82	58
MK-83	24
9mm (RNDS)	240
5.00 ZUNI RKT	6
2.75 RKT	85
AIM 9B	9
AIM 7D	6
AIM 7E	11

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f) Radar Availability

January 1970 through December 1970

<u>Month</u>	<u>Radar Availability</u>
JANUARY	32%
FEBRUARY	48%
MARCH	41%
APRIL	60%
MAY	54%
JUNE	62%
JULY	67%
AUGUST	40%
SEPTEMBER	41%
OCTOBER	29%
NOVEMBER	53%
DECEMBER	75%

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