

VF-11  
05 1974

Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
Fleet Post Office  
New York 09501

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APR 07 1975

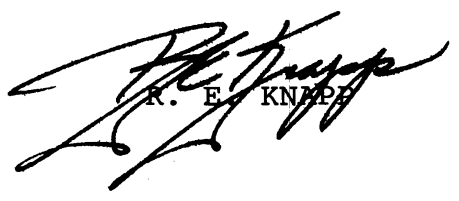
From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History Report; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History Report

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.



R. E. KNAPP

Copy to:  
CNO (OP-09B9)

## I Basic History.

### A. Chronology of Events.

- 01 JAN to 07 JAN - The squadron prepared for type training in Oceana.
- 08 JAN to 31 JAN - Type training one through three concluded with operational readiness evaluations.
- 01 FEB to 19 FEB - At Oceana the squadron prepared to go aboard USS FORRESTAL for refresher carquals.
- 20 FEB to 21 FEB - Squadron participated in a missile shoot.
- 22 FEB to 03 MAR - Training continued for the Med Cruise.
- 04 MAR to 05 MAR - Flew aircraft aboard USS FORRESTAL.
- 05 MAR to 10 MAR - The squadron prepared for Med Cruise.
- 11 MAR to 19 MAR - The squadron transited the Atlantic enroute to the Mediterranean.
- 20 MAR to 21 MAR - The squadron visited Rota, Spain.
- 22 MAR to 28 MAR - The squadron operated in the Mediterranean.
- 28 MAR to 01 APR - The squadron visited Cannes, France.
- 02 APR to 09 APR - The squadron operated in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- 09 APR to 22 APR - The squadron visited Palma de Mallorca, Spain.
- 22 APR to 05 MAY - The RIPPERS operated in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- 06 MAY to 11 MAY - The squadron visited Athens, Greece.
- 12 MAY to 09 JUN - The squadron operated off the Canary Islands.
- 10 JUN to 16 JUN - The RED RIPPERS visited Corfu.
- 17 JUN to 20 JUN - The squadron operated in the Mediterranean.
- 21 JUN to 05 JUL - The squadron visited Palma, de Mallorca, Spain.

- 06 JUL to 03 AUG - The squadron operated off the coast of Cyprus with a missile shoot on the 13th and 14th.
- 04 AUG to 12 AUG - The squadron visited Naples, Italy.
- 13 AUG to 02 SEP - The squadron operated in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- 03 SEP to 05 SEP - The RIPPERS visited Rota, Spain for a turnover to the USS INDEPENDENCE.
- 06 SEP to 10 SEP - The squadron transited the Atlantic enroute to the United States aboard USS FORRESTAL.
- 11 SEP to 12 SEP - The squadron flew off the USS FORRESTAL and returned to the United States.
- 13 SEP to 30 SEP - The squadron conducted limited flight operations.
- 01 OCT to 14 OCT - The RIPPERS conducted CW training and low level navigation flights.
- 14 OCT to 15 OCT - The squadron flew low level navigation enroute to Key West.
- 15 OCT to 30 OCT - The squadron conducted intensive ACM training along with the fulfillment of an alert commitment in Key West.
- 01 NOV to 03 NOV - The squadron flew back to Oceana, Va.
- 04 NOV to 08 NOV - The squadron conducted an Integrated Weapons Systems Review.
- 09 NOV to 20 NOV - The squadron conducted an Electronic Warfare School for all aircrews. One crew was also sent to Fighter Weapons School for instruction in advanced Air Combat Maneuvering Training.
- 21 NOV to 24 NOV - The RED RIPPERS conducted a missile shoot.
- 25 NOV to 27 NOV - The FITWING conducted an Administration Material Inspection.
- 28 NOV to 20 DEC - The squadron conducted Carrier Qualifications aboard USS FORRESTAL.
- 20 DEC to 31 DEC - The squadron conducted limited flying and celebrated Christmas.

## B. NARRATIVE

Nineteen Seventy Four marked the Forty-Seventh year the RED RIPPERS have been in continuous operation as a Fighter Squadron. It was another challenging and exciting year for the officers and men of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN.

The year began with the squadron and Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN loading aboard the USS FORRESTAL. The ship departed Norfolk and began a three week period of air operations off the coast of Virginia and Florida. These training operations afforded the Air Wing an opportunity to work together and prepare for the forthcoming March deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. The type training exercises were culminated with an operational readiness exercise. The inspecting team found the squadron to be in a high state of combat readiness. On 31 January the ship and the Air Wing returned to Norfolk.

February was spent completing final preparations of aircrews and aircraft. Additionally, a highly successful missile shoot was conducted on 20 and 21 February.

On 11 March, the RED RIPPERS aboard FORRESTAL departed Norfolk for the Mediterranean Sea. The majority of the time during the crossing was spent conducting ground training and completing administrative type tasks. On 18 March, two Russian Bear Aircraft attempted to overfly the ship. Both aircraft were successfully intercepted by a RIPPER Phantom flown by LCDR [REDACTED] and Ensign [REDACTED] prior to the Bears reaching the ship. Valuable pictures and drawings were provided by the crew for air intelligence study and review. On 20 March the ship pulled into Rota, Spain and officially relieved the USS ROOSEVELT. The remainder of March was spent conducting air operations in the Mediterranean Sea.

During the latter part of March the ship and the RED RIPPERS made their first port call in Cannes, France. The ship, after a brief stay, returned to sea. The Air Wing participated in two NATO exercises, "Operation Dark Image" and "Operation Dawn Patrol". These missions afforded excellent aircrew training and some great flying.

From 9 through 22 April, the ship and RIPPERS enjoyed a much deserved rest in our favorite port, Palma. After leaving Palma we were once again involved in NATO exercises. The next stop was Athens, Greece where we stayed from 5 through 11 May. The ship left Athens and headed out of the Mediterranean Sea and conducted air operations off the coast of Africa near the Canary Islands. After this exercise the ship returned to Corfu, Greece for a few days. The ship then sailed to Palma for a two week visit. The long inport period afforded squadron personnel an opportunity to return to the U. S. and also enabled many dependents to fly to Palma to visit with their husbands.

Due to the political situation that developed in Cyprus, the FORRESTAL returned to the Eastern Mediterranean and for many weeks maintained a position off the coast of Cyprus. Because of the uncertainty of the situation in Cyprus, many port calls had to be cancelled. On 18 July, CDR R. E. KNAPP relieved CDR J. E. TAYLOR as Commanding Officer of the RED RIPPERS in ceremonies conducted aboard the FORRESTAL. CDR KNAPP became the Forty-Seventh Commanding Officer to head this Command.

The first few weeks in August were spent following the events that were taking place in Cyprus. As the situation eased, the ship visited Naples from 4 through 12 July. The ship again returned to a position off the coast of Cyprus and conducted air operations for the remainder of the month.

On 3 September, the FORESTAL pulled into Rota, Spain for a turnover with the USS INDEPENDENCE. On 5 September, after six months operating in the Mediterranean, the ship turned West toward the U.S. All aircraft flew off on 11 Sept. followed the next day with the docking of the FORRESTAL at Norfolk. The fly off marked another accident free deployment for the RIPPERS.

During the remainder of September, the squadron conducted limited flight operations thus giving personnel an opportunity to spend time with their families.

October was another outstanding month for the RIPPERS. The first two weeks were spent flying low level routes and conducting conventional weapons training. On 13 October, the squadron launched eight aircraft to N.A.S. Key West for a two week deployment. To gain additional training, all aircraft flew the entire distance at low level. On 14 October the squadron officially took over the alert commitment. This commitment required that two aircraft be maintained in a ready alert status. The other six aircraft were utilized in an intensive Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) training program. Fighter Squadron Forty Three deployed A-4 aircraft to act as opposition. Defensive and offensive ACM competitive exercises were completed by all aircrews in an outstanding manner, and with an exceptionally high overall squadron score.

On 1 November the RIPPERS returned to Oceana to continue the training program. During the first week of November, an integrated weapons systems review was conducted. This provided outstanding "on the job" training for our enlisted personnel and also valuable classroom training for the aircrews. The next week all aircrews attended Electronic Warfare School. Also during this week one aircraft and one aircrew were deployed to N.A.S. Miramar Fighter Weapons School where they received advanced air combat maneuvering training.

During the latter part of November, the squadron participated in a Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection. The Ordnance Division received an outstanding grade for their performance in weapons loading.

Two designated aircrews took part in a comprehensive conventional weapons examination. All participants received outstanding scores.

The November training was completed with a missile shoot. Both Sparrow and Sidewinders were expended. All missiles were 100 per cent successful. November ended with an Administrative Material Inspection conducted by the Functional Wing. The overall squadron grade was excellent.

Most of December was spent preparing aircrews for refresher carrier qualifications which were conducted during the middle of December. The RIPPERS closed out 1974 with the Christmas leave period.

All the RED RIPPERS can look back with pride on the accomplishment and achievements completed in 1974. The squadron looks forward to meeting the many challenges that 1975 will bring.

SQUADRON OFFICER LOSSES AND GAINS

|           |   |      |      |
|-----------|---|------|------|
| 31 JAN 74 | ██████████ ██████████ ██████████                  | LTJG | USNR |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 05 FEB 74 | ██████████ ██████████ ██████████                  | LT   | USN  |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 20 FEB 74 | ██          | LCDR | USN  |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 26 FEB 74 | ██          | ENS  | USNR |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 08 APR 74 | ████████████████████ ██████████ ██████████        | LCDR | USN  |
|           | TRF to NATTC NAS MEMPHIS MILLINGTON TN for DUTY   |      |      |
| 01 JUL 74 | ██          | LCDR | USN  |
|           | TRF to NAVAL WAR COLLEGE NEW PORT RI for TEMDUINS |      |      |
| 19 JUL 74 | TAYLOR James E.                                   | CDR  | USN  |
|           | TRF to STAFF COMCARGRU THREE SFRANS CA for DUTY   |      |      |
| 30 JUL 74 | ██          | LT   | USN  |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 31 JUL 74 | ██          | LT   | USNR |
|           | TRF to NRD ATLANTA GA for SEPARATION              |      |      |
| 05 AUG 74 | ██          | CDR  | USN  |
|           | REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA            |      |      |
| 15 AUG 74 | ██          | LT   | USN  |
|           | TRF to NAS PENSACOLA FL for TEMDITOTINS           |      |      |
| 07 OCT 74 | ██          | LTJG | USN  |
|           | TRF to TRARON TEN NAS PENSACOLA FL for DUTY       |      |      |
| 08 OCT 74 | ██████████ ██████████ ██████████                  | LT   | USN  |
|           | TRF to TRARON TEN NAS PENSACOLA FL for DUTY       |      |      |
| 23 OCT 74 | ██          | LT   | USNR |
|           | TRF to VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA for DUTY              |      |      |
| 31 OCT 74 | ██          | LT   | USNR |
|           | RELEASED to INACTIVE DUTY in USNR                 |      |      |
| 04 NOV 74 | ██          | LTJG | USNR |
|           | TRF to VF-124 NAS MIRAMAR CA for DUTY             |      |      |

30 NOV 74 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LT USNR  
TRF to TRARON EIGHTY SIX NAS PENSACOLA FL for DUTY

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LT USNR  
TRF to VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA for DUTY

02 DEC 74 [REDACTED] LT USNR  
REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA

06 DEC 74 [REDACTED] LCDR USN  
REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA

16 DEC 74 [REDACTED] LTJG USNR  
[REDACTED] ENS USNR  
[REDACTED] ENS USNR  
REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA

23 DEC 74 [REDACTED] LT USNR  
RELEASED to INACTIVE DUTY in USNR

31 DEC 74 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] LCDR USN  
TRF to BUPERS WASHINGTON D. C. for DUTY



| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>TOTAL HRS</u> | <u>HRS D/N</u> | <u>TOTAL TRAPS D/N</u> | <u>TOTAL SORTIES D/N</u> |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| JAN 74       | 463.9            | 355.5/108.4    | 167/70                 | 218/80                   |
| FEB          | 198.5            | 149.5/49.0     | 20/12                  | 79/38                    |
| MAR          | 213.6            | 177.6/36.0     | 101/22                 | 101/22                   |
| APR          | 386.5            | 336.7/49.8     | 152/42                 | 152/43                   |
| MAY          | 390.9            | 327.9/63.1     | 188/48                 | 188/48                   |
| JUN          | 303.8            | 252.4/51.4     | 139/32                 | 142/34                   |
| JUL          | 545.4            | 421.5/123.9    | 238/82                 | 238/82                   |
| AUG          | 348.6            | 326.0/22.6     | 178/20                 | 188/20                   |
| SEP          | 71.0             | 71.0/0.0       | 0/0                    | 41/0                     |
| OCT          | 321.0            | 303.5/17.5     | 0/0                    | 231/9                    |
| NOV          | 135.1            | 88.0/47.1      | 0/0                    | 55/32                    |
| DEC          | 210.0            | 104.6/105.4    | 45/24                  | 70/104                   |