

1976



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN**  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

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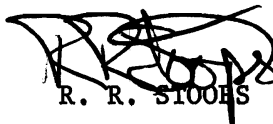
From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History for 1976; forwarding of (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History Report

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

  
R. R. STOOPS

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## COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

### I. Basic History

#### A. Chronology of Events-1976

- 01 JAN to 30 JAN - Prepared for ACM training at NAS Oceana.
- 31 JAN to 20 FEB - Conducted ACM training at NAS Miramar.
- 21 FEB to 16 MAR - Prepared for type training at NAS Oceana.
- 17 MAR to 19 MAR - Embark on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) at Norfolk.
- 20 MAR to 29 MAR - On board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) enroute to Mayport, Fl.
- 30 MAR to 01 APR - Conducted operations at NAS Cecil, Fl.
- 02 APR to 09 APR - Conducted type training on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59). Aircraft and crew lost at sea 07 APR.
- 10 APR to 14 APR - Returned to Mayport, Fl. Memorial services conducted.
- 15 APR to 06 MAY - Conducted type training on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59).
- 07 MAY to 09 MAY - Type training successfully completed, the RED RIPPERS returned to NAS Oceana.
- 10 MAY to 11 JUN - Conducted Radar Intercept, Conventional Weapons and Instrument training.
- 12 JUN to 23 JUN - Fly on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) for a brief deployment in the Atlantic and Carribean. Aircraft lost at sea, crew successfully recovered.
- 24 JUN to 03 JUL - Returned to NAS Oceana for training.
- 04 JUL to 08 JUL - Participate in the International Bicentennial Naval Review on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) in New York City.
- 09 JUL to 14 AUG - Conducted aircrew training in preparation for an ACM detachment at NAS Key West, Fl.
- 28 AUG to 11 SEP - Returned to NAS Oceana and conducted normal flight operations.
- 12 SEP to 20 SEP - Deployed 6 aircraft on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59), off the Virginia Capes, for a missile shoot and firepower demonstration for NATO observers.
- 21 SEP to 03 NOV - The squadron conducted aircrew training at NAS Oceana. Aircraft and crew lost 11 OCT on routine training flight. 13 OCT RED RIPPERS command assumed by CDR R. R. STOOPS.

Enclosure (1)

04 NOV to 10 DEC - Conducted normal Radar Intercept, CW and Low Level Navigation operations. One crew and aircraft deployed to Naval Fighter Weapons School, NAS Miramar, San Diego, Ca.

11 DEC to 31 DEC - Conducted limited flying and celebrated Christmas.

B. NARRATIVE

Nineteen hundred and Seventy-six marked the forty-ninth year the RED RIPPERS have continuously operated as a fighter squadron.

January found the RED RIPPERS sharpening their air skills in preparation for an Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM) Detachment with Carrier Air Wing Seventeen, to be held at NAS Miramar, Ca.

On 30 January the squadron detached to NAS Miramar with ten aircraft. In the next two and a half weeks the RED RIPPERS flew 168 ACM sorties. The crews utilized the ACMR range and prepared to conduct competitive exercises.

Fighter Squadron Eleven left NAS Miramar on 21 February and returned to NAS Oceana for type training. During the month of February, the squadron broke the previous sortie flying record, flying a total of 264 sorties and logging 360 hours. The RIPPERS were busy day and night at NAS Oceana as they put maximum effort into the task of being prepared for deployment on USS FORRESTAL (CV-59).

On March 17th the squadron loaded aboard USS FORRESTAL at Norfolk. While the carrier was enroute to NAS Mayport, Fl. sixteen fighter crews were requalified in carrier landing and all personnel "synched" with the pace of the ship.

While USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) was berthed at Mayport, the RIPPERS conducted limited flight operations out of NAS Cecil, Fl. On April 1st, USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) with CVW-17 aboard, departed Mayport, Fl. and commenced Type Training phase I. On April 7th, RIPPER aircraft 113, crewed by pilot LT Charles P. Jackson and RIO LT James W. Piehl, was lost while conducting a night carrier landing. LT Piehl was lost at sea and LT Jackson died of injuries sustained in the accident. On 10 April, USS FORRESTAL (CV-59), returned to Mayport, Fl. and memorial services were held.

On 15 April, USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) once again left Mayport, Fl. with the RIPPERS aboard. During the remainder of April and throughout the first week of May, the squadron completed type training phase II and III and conducted their Operational Readiness Evaluation, receiving a grade of EXCELLENT. A total of 214 day traps and 88 night traps were accumulated during this training period.

The RIPPERS remained at NAS Oceana just long enough to become accustomed to long, warm showers and conduct Radar Intercept training in preparation for a planned missile shoot. On 12 June, the squadron once again left NAS Oceana and recovered aboard USS FORRESTAL (CV-59), for operations in the Caribbean. On 19 June, RIPPER 105, piloted by CDR R.K. Kauber with LTJG [REDACTED] as RIO, developed difficulties and an uncommanded ejection of both crew members occurred. Both were successfully rescued a short time later. During the brief deployment the squadron flew over 129 hours and completed 90 day traps. The deployment

was climaxed by the firing of a Sparrow AIM-7 missile and three AIM-9 Sidewinders.

During July the nation celebrated its two-hundredth birthday. The highlight of the Bicentennial was the International Naval Review (INR) at New York on 4 July. The INR feature attraction was "Operation Sail", the pass in review of tall sailing ships up New York Harbor. USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) was the principal reviewing ship; the RED RIPPERS and representative Air Wing-17 aircraft were aboard. A RIPPER detachment of 50 officers and men, with Skipper Kauber commanding, embarked in USS FORRESTAL (CV-59), from Hampton Roads on 2 July, arriving in New York Harbor the morning of the 3rd. On the Fourth-of-July celebration, CDR Kauber was the escort for CINCLANTFLT, ADM Issac C. Kidd, and the Executive Officer CDR R.R. Stoops, escorted Mr. W. Lunds, Secretary-General of NATO. President Gerald Ford and the Vice President were also aboard. During the next few days, the ship was toured by thousands of public visitors and the RED RIPPERS sponsored a static display of the squadron aircraft. Return to homeport was effected 8 July, concluding a remarkable and worthwhile mission in tribute to the Bicentennial of the United States of America. The rest of the squadron, back at NAS Oceana, was preparing itself for an Administrative Material inspection and looking forward to an ACM detachment at NAS Key West, Fl.

On 15 August the RED RIPPERS started ACM training at NAS Key West with ten RIPPER aircraft and 160 personnel. During the next twelve days the squadron flew 132 ACM sorties with crews competing, both offensively and defensively. All crews also had the opportunity to participate in one versus many ACM hops.

Once again the squadron returned to NAS Oceana and from 28 August to 11 September the RIPPERS continued to fly and sharpen their combat skills. It was a busy period for the aircrews as they trained for another missile shoot and firepower demonstration. On 12 September the squadron deployed with six aircraft aboard USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) operating off the Virginia Capes. Led by Skipper Kauber, the RIPPERS dropped live MK 82 500 pound bombs and fired three AIM-9 Sidewinders as a part of the Air Wing fire power demonstration for NATO observers on the ship.

Ashore again, the RIPPERS conducted intensive training in Radar Intercepts, Conventional Weapons and Low Level Navigation. On 11 October, while on a routine training flight, LTJG John M. Mallan and LTJG Wallace R. Franklin lost their lives, when their aircraft (103) crashed on takeoff at Ft. Campbell, Ky. On 13 October CDR R.R. Stoops assumed command of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN, the 49th skipper of the RED RIPPERS.

In October, the squadron completed the final missile shoot of the year. LTJG [REDACTED] and LTJG [REDACTED] were awarded a double "E" for their outstanding performance, while the RIPPER crew of CAPT [REDACTED] (USAF Exchange Officer) and LT [REDACTED] were awarded an "E" for their high score.

From 4 November until 11 December, the squadron conducted normal flight operations. During this time period, LT [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED], deployed with one aircraft to NAS Miramar for six weeks advanced Air Combat Maneuvering training at the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN).

In late December the RIPPERS conducted limited flight operations, and prepared for an Air Wing Weapons deployment to Roosevelt Roads, and spent the holidays

with their families.

Fighter Squadron ELEVEN looks back on 1976 as a year filled with outstanding achievements. It is to their credit that professionalism and resolve enabled the RIPPERS to prevail over any situation. The squadron looks forward to the fiftieth anniversary celebration. The RED RIPPERS anticipate a continuation of the history and fame which signifies their surname; "WORLD FAMOUS."

II. Operations Summary

<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	270.1	236.1/34	-----	118 / 40
FEB	359.1	317.1/42	-----	215 / 49
MAR	487.0	325.0/162	106 / 32	133 / 132
APR	408.9	313.7/95.2	123 / 66	150 / 78
MAY	261.5	231.5/30	300 / 151	131 / 24
JUN	243.6	236.4/7.2	207 / 0	174 / 3
JUL	92.4	89.5/2.9	-----	60 / 2
AUG	245.0	243.1/1.9	-----	233 / 2
SEP	239.1	206/33.1	60 / 6	166 / 22
OCT	131.6	112.8/18.8	-----	81 / 13
NOV	229.3	176.5/52.8	-----	115 / 28
DEC	74.8	59.6/15.2	-----	40 / 9

III. Squadron Officer Losses and Gains

05 JAN 76	████████████████████	LT	USN	1310
	REC FOR DUTY from VF-121 NAS MIRAMAR CA.			
05 FEB 76	██████████████████	LT	USN	1320
	REC FOR DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA			
10 FEB 76	██████████████████	LT	USN	1320
	REC FOR DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA			
29 FEB 76	████████████████████	LCDR	USN	1310
	TRF to VT-86 NAS PENSACOLA FL for DUTY			

31 MAR 76	[REDACTED]	LTJG	USN	1310	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
08 APR 76	PIEHL, James W	LT	USN	1320	DIED from aircraft accident on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59).
11 APR 76	JACKSON, Charles P.	LT	USN	1310	DIED from aircraft accident on board USS FORRESTAL (CV-59).
14 APR 76	[REDACTED]	LTJG	USNR	1325	TRF to NAVSTA NORFOLK VA for separation.
14 APR 76	[REDACTED]	LT	USN	1310	TRF to NAF, ANDREWS AFB WASHINGTON DC for DUTY.
24 MAY 76	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	LTJG	USN	1310	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
03 JUN 76	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	LT	USN	1310	RELEASED to INACTIVE DUTY in U.S. Navy Reserve.
07 JUN 76	[REDACTED]	LT	USN	1350	TRF to VC-6 NAS NORFOLK VA for DUTY.
09 JUN 76	[REDACTED]	LTJG	USN	1320	TRF to VF-43 NAS OCEANA VA for DUTY.
30 JUN 76	[REDACTED]	LCDR	USN	1320	TRF to NAVWARCOL NEWPORT RI for DUTY.
01 JUL 76	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	LT	USN	1310	TRF to USNA ANNAPOLIS MD for DUTY.
12 JUL 76	[REDACTED]	LCDR	USN	1320	TRF to AFSC NORFOLK VA for DUTY.
29 JUL 76	[REDACTED]	LT	USN	1520	REC for DUTY from VC-2 NAS OCEANA VA.
30 JUL 76	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	LTJG	USN	1320	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
30 JUL 76	[REDACTED]	LTJG	USN	1320	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
11 AUG 76	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	LT	USN	1310	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
11 AUG 76	[REDACTED]	LTJG	USNR	1315	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.
12 AUG 76	MARRS, Alton D	LT	USN	1310	DIED of injuries incurred from automobile accident.

21 SEP 76	██████████ ██████████	LCDR	USN	1310
	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.			
11 OCT 76	MALLAN, John M	LTJG	USNR	1315
	DIED of injuries incurred from aircraft crash.			
11 OCT 76	FRANKLIN, Wallace R	LTJG	USNR	1325
	DIED of injuries incurred from aircraft crash.			
13 OCT 76	██████████ ██████████	LT	USN	1320
	TRF to VT-10 NAS PENSACOLA FL for DUTY			
19 OCT 76	KAUBER, Rodney K	CDR	USN	1310
	TRF to COMNAVAIRLANT NORFOLK VA for TEMDU for further assignment by BUPERS.			
08 NOV 76	██████████ ██████████	CDR	USN	1310
	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.			
30 DEC 76	██████████ ██████████	LTJG	USNR	1325
	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.			
30 DEC 76	██████████ ██████████	LT	USN	1310
	REC for DUTY from VF-101 NAS OCEANA VA.			