

1979



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

00:ALW:dwg  
5750  
Ser 25  
12 MAR 1979

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)  
Subj: Command History for 1979; 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.

*A. L. Wise*  
A. L. WISE

Copy to:  
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COMFITWING ONE  
COMCARAIRWING SEVENTEEN

## COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

### I. Basic History

#### A. Chronology of Events - 1979

- 01 JAN to 01 FEB - Prepared for ACM Coventional Weapons delivery at NAS Roosevelt Roads.
- 02 FEB to 22 FEB - Conducted ACM training and Coventional Weapons delivery at NAS Roosevelt Roads.
- 23 FEB to 25 MAR - Conducted Radar Intercept, Conventional Weapons, Low Level Navigation, and Instrumental training.
- 26 MAR to 19 APR - Prepared for REFTRA aboard the USS FORRESTAL.
- 20 APR - Change of Command. CDR Wise takes command.
- 21 APR to 26 APR - Prepared for REFTRA.
- 27 APR to 12 MAY - Conducted CQ aboard the USS FORRESTAL during REFTRA.
- 13 MAY to 05 JUN - Prepared for TYT-1.
- 06 JUN to 18 JUN - Conducted CQ and Cyclic Operations on USS FORRESTAL during TYT 1.
- 19 JUN to 05 JUL - Prepared for ACM training in FFARP.
- 06 JUL to 26 JUL - Conducted ACM training in FFARP.
- 26 JUL to 13 AUG - Prepared for COMTUEX aboard the USS FORRESTAL.
- 14 AUG to 30 AUG - Conducted COMTUEX TYT2 aboard the USS FORRESTAL.
- 31 AUG to 18 SEP - Prepared for TYT3 ORE.
- 19 SEP to 19 OCT - Conducted TYT3 aboard the USS FORRESTAL Aircraft 100 experienced a ramp strike 21 Sep. ORE was conducted 12-14 Oct.
- 20 OCT to 16 NOV - Prepared for Mediterranean Cruise.
- 17 NOV to 20 NOV - Conducted REFTRA aboard the USS FORRESTAL.
- 21 OCT to 26 NOV - Final Preps for Med Cruise.
- 27 NOV to 08 DEC - FORRESTAL conducts Atlantic Crossing.
- 09 DEC to 13 DEC - Inport Rota, Spain.

Enclosure (1)

14 DEC to 20 DEC - Conducted Cyclic Operations aboard  
USS FORRESTAL.

21 DEC to 31 DEC - In port Marseille, France.

## B. NARRATIVE

Nineteen hundred and seventy-nine marked the fifty-second year the RED RIPPERS have continuously operated as a fighter squadron.

During the month of January the RED RIPPERS prepared for their upcoming detachment to Roosevelt Roads by flying many bombing and ACM sorties. ACM sorties consisted of 2V1 and 2V2 missions against F-15s from Langley AFB and F-14s from NAS Oceana. Conventional weapons sorties were made at Dare County bombing range south of Oceana.

On the 2nd of February VF-11 flew 9 aircraft to NS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. For the next three weeks the squadron participated in an intensive dissimilar ACM program against A-4s and F-5s and live conventional weapons delivery at the target on the island of Vieques.

Upon return to NAS Oceana, the RED RIPPERS had a chance to relax flying a number of low level routes through the mountains of Virginia when the weather permitted. Soon they would have to get back to the business of flying aboard the ship.

On the 26th of March the RED RIPPERS started FCLP training at Fentress airfield in preparation for workups. However, the squadron continued to fly low level and ACM flights as well as a missile shoot in which 2 AIM 7F Sparrows were fired.

On the 20th of April a change of command ceremony was held in which CDR Kent Kilby was relieved of command by CDR Aubrey Wise. The ceremony was held outdoors, climaxed by a four plane diamond flyover led by LT [REDACTED]. Guest speaker of the ceremony was Captain Thomas P. Scott.

On the 28th of April it was time to fly aboard the USS FORRESTAL for REFTRA. She had set sail for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where she operated for the next few days. Due to problems maintaining the bow catapults and having to fly off one day early because of no helo availability, only four crews were able to carrier qualify before the ship pulled into Mayport on the 12th of May.

The next three weeks were spent sharpening combat skills, flying training intercepts, and simulated shipboard landings in the FCLP pattern at Fentress in preparation for TYT-1.

On the 6th of June VF-11 flew aboard the USS FORRESTAL to complete carrier qualifications. Within 3 days all the crews had qualified, so cyclic operations began. Day after day the ship and the airwing worked together and improved until by the 16th they were a fighting unit, ready to take on Air Force raiders in a "War at Sea" exercise. The squadron held its own well, taking many bogies for every friendly lost. The flyoff took place on the evening of 18 June.

Returning to NAS Oceana VF-11 had three weeks to prepare for upcoming FFARP (Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program) with the aggressor squadron VF-43. On the 6th of July the ACM sorties began, first 1V1 F-4 against F-5s and A-4s and then graduating to 4V4 in the last week. Despite bad weather and poor VACAPES ACMR availability the RED RIPPERS flew 104 sorties during the 3 weeks, losing only one to maintenance. Radar availability was also at an outstanding level of 81%.

Upon completion of FFARP VF-11 prepared to go back to the ship, flying numerous FCLP sorties at Fentress. The flyoff for TYT-2 took place on the 14th of August and once again for 3 days the squadron concentrated on getting all its air crews carrier qualified. On the 4th day cyclic operations began, leading up to the "War at Sea" exercise with the Air Force. After 7 days the "war" was over, so the RIPPERS flew off on the 30th of August.

TYT-3 and the ORE lay ahead, so VF-11 took advantage of the time ashore to prepare its airplanes, its maintenance crews and aircrews for the coming at sea period.

The 19th of September found the RIPPERS flying aboard the USS FORRESTAL with cyclic operations beginning immediately. On the 3rd night, aircraft 100 experienced a ramp strike, shearing the starboard mainmount. Dual ejection was initiated by LTJG [REDACTED] in the rear seat. LCDR [REDACTED] was picked up in the water sustaining minor injuries while LTJG [REDACTED] sustained major internal injuries when he landed on the flight deck and became trapped under the burning aircraft. He was released from the hospital several weeks later.

The USS FORRESTAL sailed south to the warm waters off Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico where it would operate for the duration of TYT-3. In preparation for the ORE, a MISSILEX was held in which two AIM-7 Sparrows guided successfully. On the 12th of October VF-11 was ready. For two days another "War at Sea" scenerio raged, during which VF-11 flew 48 sorties, and shot 2 successful out of 3 unannounced missile shoots. The RED RIPPERS earned an overall grade of High Excellent. The next three days were spent at anchorage in Puerto Rico. USS FORRESTAL started back to Mayport on the 17th of October via the Windward Passage. On the 18th the RIPPERS flew off home to NAS Oceana.

Four weeks remained to prepare for the Mediterranean Cruise. A brief REFTRA was conducted on the 17th to the 20th of November and on the 27th the USS FORRESTAL left Mayport for the Mediterranean ~~and~~ a five month cruise.

VF-11 flew sorties every day during the ten day Atlantic crossing. Four days between the 9th and 13th of December were spent in port in Rota, Spain.

On the 14th of December the USS FORRESTAL entered the Mediterranean with VF-11 flying CAP missions during cyclic operations. The 21st of December found USS FORRESTAL pier-side in Marseille, France for the Christmas holiday and ushering in of the New Year.

The year of 1979 was a very successful year for Fighter Squadron ELEVEN. An unprecedented maintenance effort has supported an amazing sortie rate, made possible by the RED RIPPERS Can-do spirit and pride in the squadron. The RED RIPPERS look forward to yet another successful year in 1980.

## II. Operations Summary

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL HRS</u>	<u>HRS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL TRAPS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL SORTIES</u>
JAN	235	217/18	N/A	155
FEB	311	285/26	N/A	228
MAR	270	245/25	N/A	181
APR	156	92/64	11/2	139
MAY	184	148/36	62/42	141
JUN	339	259/80	116/38	218

Operations Summary (CONT'D)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL HRS</u>	<u>HRS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL TRAPS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL SORTIES</u>
JUL	175	175/-	N/A	171
AUG	451	351/100	160/41	296
SEP	164	119/45	52/21	105
OCT	465	230/235	120/78	279
NOV	202	137/65	51/19	147
DEC	291	232/59	124/43	188

III. Squadron Officer Losses and Gains - 1979

- 15 January - LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to NAVFIT-WEAPSCOL NAS Miramar San Diego CA for duty.
- 31 January - LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to TRACON TEN NAS Pensacola FL for duty.
- 28 February - LT [REDACTED] USN discharged effective 28 February 1979.
- 19 March - LTJG [REDACTED], USNR received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 29 March - LCDR [REDACTED] USN transferred to COMFITWING ONE NAS Oceana VA for duty.
- 17 April - CDR [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 20 April - CDR [REDACTED], USN transferred to USS AMERICA for duty.
- 10 May - LT [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 15 May - LTJG [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 15 May - LTJG [REDACTED], USNR received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 16 May - LTJG [REDACTED] USN transferred to HUMRESMANSCOL NAS Memphis Millington TN for TEMDUINS FFT to: HUMRESMANCEN Norfolk VA for duty.

Squadron Officer Losses and Gains (CONT'D)

- 21 May - LT [REDACTED] USN transferred to ROMOSCOL NAS Pensacola FL for TEMDUINS FFT to: NAVCRUIT-DIST Long Island NY for duty.
- 4 June - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN transferred to 58th Tactical Training Wing Luke AFB AZ for TEMDUINS FFT to: 426 Tactical Fighter Squadron Luke AFB AZ for duty.
- 4 June - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN transferred to Fighter Squadron 43.
- 11 July - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR transferred to AIRTEVRON FOUR NAS Point Mugu CA for duty.
- 13 July - LTJG [REDACTED] USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 13 July - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USNR received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 22 October - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 22 October - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USNR received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 22 October - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 13 November - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 21 November - LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 17 December - LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USN transferred to Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk VA for duty.