



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


1480

VF 11

00:PWP:dwg
5750
Ser 103
3 MARCH 1981

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: Command History for 1980; 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.


J. W. COMBS
Acting

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COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

I. Basic History

A. Chronology of Events - 1980

- 01 JAN to 02 JAN - USS FORRESTAL transits to Naples, Italy
- 02 JAN to 04 JAN - USS FORRESTAL at anchor, Naples, Italy; safety shutdown conducted 01 JAN to 03 JAN.
- 05 JAN to 07 JAN - USS FORRESTAL weighs anchor for cyclic operations in the Tyrrhenian Sea.
- 08 JAN to 13 JAN - Inport, Naples, Italy
- 14 JAN to 20 JAN - USS FORRESTAL weighs anchor for the Eastern Mediterranean. USS FORRESTAL proceeds to operating area north of Crete. Missile exercise was conducted on 18 JAN. One AIM 7E2 and two AIM-9G missiles were fired, all guided.
- 21 JAN to 26 JAN - USS FORRESTAL continues cyclic operations in transit to Alexandria, Egypt.
- 27 JAN to 30 JAN - USS FORRESTAL anchors off Alexandria, Egypt. Aircrews visit Egyptian fighter base where MIG-21's are demonstrated.
- 31 JAN to 05 FEB - USS FORRESTAL departs Alexandria for operations south of Crete.
- 06 FEB to 09 FEB - USS FORRESTAL anchors at Haifa, Israel. LCDR [REDACTED] awarded Golden Tailhook for highest individual landing grades for JAN.
- 10 FEB to 13 FEB - USS FORRESTAL departs Haifa for operations enroute to Athens, Greece.
- 14 FEB to 18 FEB - USS FORRESTAL anchors at Athens, Greece.
- 19 FEB to 23 FEB - USS FORRESTAL is underway and conducting five days of cyclic operations enroute to Naples, Italy.
- 24 FEB to 05 MAR - USS FORRESTAL anchored in Naples, Italy.
- 06 MAR to 14 MAR - USS FORRESTAL departs Naples for operations in the Tyrrhenian Sea. On 14 MAR three aircraft fly-off for ACM DET at Sigonella, Sicily.

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- 15 MAR to 26 MAR - USS FORRESTAL pierside, Palermo, Sicily for maintenance. Four aircrews continue ACM training in Sigonella with VA-83.
- 27 MAR to 03 APR - USS FORRESTAL departs Palermo for operations enroute to Toulon, France. Two aircraft fly-off on 03 APR for ACM DET, Istres, Letube.
- 04 APR to 09 APR - USS FORRESTAL anchored at Toulon, France.
- 10 APR to 15 APR - USS FORRESTAL underway. During the period 12 APR to 15 APR USS FORRESTAL participated in NATO exercise "DASIX" with French fighter squadrons.
- 16 APR to 21 APR - USS FORRESTAL at anchor, Barcelona, Spain.
- 22 APR to 24 APR - USS FORRESTAL departs Barcelona for Rota, Spain.
- 25 APR to 26 APR - USS FORRESTAL anchored Rota, Spain.
- 27 APR to 06 MAY - USS FORRESTAL departs Rota, Spain for transiting Atlantic. Nine aircraft fly-off for NAS Oceana, Virginia on 05 MAY.
- 07 MAY - USS FORRESTAL pierside Mayport, Florida.
- 08 MAY to 15 JUN - Squadron stands down from cruise. Aircraft are prepared for transfer.
- 16 JUN - First class of transitioning F-14 aircrew begins work with Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE.
- 17 JUN to 26 JUN - Fighter Squadron ELEVEN continues transitioning effort.
- 27 JUN - Change of Command; CDR PIERCE relieves CDR WISE.
- 28 JUN to 27 JUL - Squadron continues to prepare for F-14A aircraft.
- 28 JUL - Second group of aircrew begin studies with Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE.
- 29 JUL to 01 OCT - Aircrews continue F-14 training.

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- 02 OCT - First F-14A arrives; BUNO # 159017.
- 03 OCT to 04 NOV - Transition continues.
- 05 NOV - First F-14A sortie with a squadron aircraft is flown.
- 06 NOV to 20 NOV - Transition continues.
- 21 NOV to 09 DEC - First class of aircrew begin FCLP work in preparation for carrier qualification.
- 10 DEC to 16 DEC - First class of aircrew qualify in F-14A aboard USS AMERICA.
- 17 DEC to 21 DEC - Effort continues to ready aircrews and aircraft to join AIRWING THREE.

Enclosure (1)

B. NARRATIVE

With the new decade of the eighties the RED RIPPERS ushered in their fifty-third year as the oldest continuously operated fighter squadron.

January began with the RED RIPPERS aboard the USS FORRESTAL as she weighed anchor in Marselle, France enroute to Naples, Italy. This period of time was utilized for the new year's safety stand down.

In and out of Naples the RED RIPPERS worked up with Air Intercept and CAP sorties in preparation for a missile shoot. The shoot was conducted on the 18th of January with one AIM-7E and two AIM-9G missiles successfully guiding.

In transit to ports east, the RED RIPPERS conducted training in air-to-ground delivery, AIC, ACM, and Maritime-Air-Superiority missions. On the 28th the men of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN entertained an Egyptian Airforce Squadron who returned the gesture by giving a tour of one of their MIG-21 airbases near Cairo.

February began with cyclic operations south of Crete enroute to Haifa, Israel. LCDR [REDACTED] was awarded the Golden Tailhook Award for the highest individual landing grades for the month of January. Cyclic operations continued into Athens, Greece on the 14th of February. Out of Athens, the RED RIPPERS conducted CAP missions and ACM training enroute to their anchorage on the 24th at Naples.

In March the RED RIPPERS conducted air-to-ground, AIC, and ACM flights in the Tyrrhenian Sea. On the 14th, three aircraft flew off with crews for an ACM detachment in Sigonella, Sicily working various scenarios with the A-7's of Attack Squadron EIGHTY-THREE. The USS FORRESTAL was pierside in Palermo, Sicily for maintenance. On the 27th the USS FORRESTAL departed for Toulon, France and the ACM detachment aircraft returned to the ship. March was the RED RIPPERS best month for the year in terms of total hours flown, many of which were ACM hours.

The RED RIPPERS began April with AIC and ACM sorties in preparation for the NATO exercise "DASIX". Two aircraft were launched to the French airbase at Istres, France for ACM flights against the French Airforce. From the 12th to the 15th the RED RIPPERS participated as fighter escorts during DASIX and saw numerous engagements with French Mirage F-1 and F-3 aircraft. Cyclic operations continued for the rest of the month with stops in Barcelona, Spain and an anchorage at Palma, Spain for staff transfer with the USS SARATOGA.

On the 24th of April the USS FORRESTAL left the Mediterranean theater for the transatlantic with a stop in Rota, Spain. The Wing gathered together here for one last awards ceremony and banquet prior to the termination of the cruise.

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The last few hours of cruise flight time was flown in the first week of May prior to the fly-off. The fly-off took place on the 5th of May when nine aircraft returned home to Oceana and the crowd of welcoming families and friends.

The RED RIPPERS flew the last fifty hours in the F-4 Phantom in the month of May as the aircraft were prepared for transfer back to the Fleet.

In June the squadron began to break-up as the transition to the F-14A aircraft approached and aircrew not involved were transferred.

On June 16th the first group of transitioning aircrew began classes with Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE. Extensive ground schooling on aircraft systems and many hours in the flight simulator were completed by the F-14 RIPPERS. The maintenance crews were concurrently being trained through the Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE FRAMP syllabus.

On the 27th of June a Change of Command Ceremony was held in which CDR Aubrey L. WISE was relieved by CDR Peter W. PIERCE. The ceremony was held in hangar 500 with CAPT Edwin KOHN, Jr, Commanding Officer, USS FORRESTAL, as guest speaker.

By July the first group of aircrew began flying the new aircraft and developing their radar system skills. The maintenance team began trickling back to the squadron spaces from Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE at this time as we prepared for our new aircraft. On the 28th the final group of aircrew began their classes with the RAG.

August and September were spent increasing aircrew proficiency and gearing up for the arrival of our first F-14A.

October was a history making month for the RED RIPPERS of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN as the first F-14A aircraft, BUNO # 159017, was received on the 2nd. As the maintenance team began work on the new aircraft, the aircrew continued their studies on F-14 Weapons Systems and Electronic Warfare Equipment. The first F-14A hours in a RIPPER aircraft with RIPPER aircrew were compiled this month.

Through the month of November the transition effort continued well on schedule. Aircrews were completing required sorties and the maintenance teams were nearing a full compliment. The first scheduled flight for our F-14A occurred on the 5th. With most of the basic work done, the first class began FCLP work on the 21st in preparation for carrier qualification.

December was a very successful month as the RED RIPPERS compiled over sixty hours in their new aircraft. Maintenance continued to massage out the initial problems of the new bird and maintained a viable weapons platform.

The first group of aircrew reached a major milestone in the training from the 10th to the 16th as they qualified together on the USS AMERICA.

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As the year drew to a close the RED RIPPERS took some well deserved time to relax with their families and enjoy the Christmas holiday at home.

The year 1980 was an extremely successful year for the RED RIPPERS. A sense of pride and professionalism on cruise and ashore earned many accolades for sortie completion rate and services provided. The RIPPERS have demonstrated to the Navy their ability to make smooth the transition from Phantoms to Tomcats and though they miss the days of the F-4, they are eagerly perfecting their skills with the F-14A in preparation to join Carrier Air Group THREE. The new decade has begun in standard RIPPER spirit.

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	310.5	246.6/63.9	149/47	201
FEB	304.8	240.3/64.5	150/40	192
MAR	330.4	263.7/66.7	134/46	220
APR	272.9	247.7/25.2	181/27	187
MAY	17.4	17.4/0	2/0	11
MAY(SHORE)	50.4	50.4/0	N/A	23
JUNE				
JULY				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT	3.2	3.2/0	N/A	3
NOV	42.8	33.0/9.8	N/A	30
DEC	68.4	62.5/5.9	N/A	32

Enclosure (1)

III. Squadron Officer Losses and Gains - 1980

- 23 JAN - LTJG [REDACTED], USN transferred to NAS Pensacola, Florida for duty.
- LCDR [REDACTED], USNR received for duty from Fighter Squadron 171.
- 07 APR - ENS [REDACTED], USNR received from AFAITC Lowry, AFB for duty.
- 11 JUN - CW02 [REDACTED], USN, received for duty. Appointed CW02 this date from enlisted status.
- 27 JUN - CDR Aubrey L. WISE, USN transferred to National Defense University, Washington, D. C. for duty.
- CDR [REDACTED], USN, transferred to CHNAVMAT, Washington, D. C. for duty.
- LCDR [REDACTED], USN transferred to FITRON 43, NAS OCEANA, Virginia for duty.
- LCDR [REDACTED], USN transferred to AKTRON 45, NAS Key West, Florida for duty.
- LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to Fighter Squadron 171, NAS Oceana, Virginia for duty.
- LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to FITRON 43, NAS Oceana, Virginia for duty.
- LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to CMDR, 522 Tactical Fighter Squadron, Cannon AFB, New Mexico for duty.
- LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to TRARON 22, NAS Kingsville, Texas for duty.
- LT [REDACTED], USN transferred to TRARON 10, NAS Pensacola, Florida for duty.
- LCDR [REDACTED], USN transferred to COMFITWING ONE, NAS Oceana, Virginia for duty.
- CW02 [REDACTED], USN, transferred to Fighter Squadron 101, NAS Oceana, Virginia.
- 02 JUL - CDR [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from Fighter Squadron 101, NAS Oceana, Virginia.
- 07 JUL - LCDR [REDACTED], USN, transferred to COMDT, AFSC, Norfolk, Virginia for duty.
- 29 JUL - LT [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 101, NAS Oceana, Virginia.

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- CW02 [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 101, NAS Oceana, Virginia.
- 31 JUL - LT [REDACTED], [REDACTED], USN released to inactive duty in USNR. Effective date 31 July 80.
- 12 AUG - CW02 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], USN received for duty from PATRON 30, NAS Jacksonville, Florida.
- 26 SEP - CW02 [REDACTED], USN, transferred to NAVAVSCOLSCOM, NAS Pensacola, Florida for TEMDUINS FFT To: Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX, Norfolk, Va for duty.
- 31 OCT - ENS [REDACTED], [REDACTED], USN received from Fighter Squadron 101 for duty.
- 06 NOV - LT [REDACTED], USN received for duty from Fighter Squadron 101.

Enclosure (1)