



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-05/D2)
Subj: Command History for 1981; 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.


D. A. SHARER

Copy to:
DIR NAVHISTCEN
COMFITWING ONE
COMCARAIRWING THREE

COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

1. Basic History

a. Chronology of Events - 1981

- 01 JAN to 13 JAN - Efforts continue to ready aircrews and aircraft to join Airwing THREE.
- 14 JAN to 18 JAN - First F-14 Det to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida - four (4) aircraft participated.
- 19 JAN to 02 FEB - F-14 FAM training and transition
- 03 FEB to 06 FEB - SEABAT Exercise conducted in conjunction with Fighter Squadron ONE ZERO ONE (VF-101) off Virginia Capes (VACAPES).
- 07 FEB to 16 FEB - Transition training continues.
- 17 FEB to 24 FEB - Second class of aircrew begin FCLP preparations for CQ.
- 25 FEB - First F-14 missile exercise - two (2) AIM 7F successfully fired (VACAPES). Results: Lethal kills
- 26 FEB to 07 MAR - First aircrew class completes F-14 transition training.
- 08 MAR to 19 MAR - Preparations continue for second aircrew class carrier qualifications.
- 20 MAR to 27 MAR - Second aircrew class carrier qualify aboard USS NIMITZ operating off VACAPES.
- 28 MAR to 03 APR - Second F-14 det to Tyndall Air Force Base - Six aircraft participated.
- 04 APR to 19 APR - Aircrew training continues. Include low levels and air combat maneuvering.
- 20 APR to 23 APR - Fleet Air Superiority Training with TOPGUN detachment at NAS Oceana.
- 24 APR to 29 APR - Aircrew training
- 30 APR - FITWING Fighter Derby Air Combat Maneuvering Competition begins.
- 01 MAY To 10 MAY - Aircrew training

11 MAY to 13 MAY	- Intergrated Weapons System Review Training
14 MAY to 26 MAY	- Fleet Fighter Air Combat Readiness Program (FFARP) with Fighter Squadron FORTY THREE (VF-43)
27 MAY	- Missile exercise - one AIM 7E-4 direct hit
28 MAY to 04 JUN	- FFARP training continues.
05 JUN	- FITWING Fighter Derby ends.
06 JUN to 10 JUN	- Completion of FFARP training
11 JUN to 28 JUN	- Fighter Squadron ELEVEN (VF-11) chops to Airwing THREE. Eight (8) aircraft detachment to Fallon, Nevada for first complete squadron detachment utilizing all assets.
29 JUN to 14 JUL	- Training continues at NAS Oceana.
15 JUL to 25 JUL	- Six (6) airplanes detach to NAS Key West, Florida for HOT PAD in conjunction with the USS INDEPENDENCE carrier quals.
26 JUL to 03 AUG	- SEA FLAG exercise aircrew also begin fleet carrier landing practice.
04 AUG to 06 AUG	- Carrier Qual on USS JOHN F. KENNEDY
07 AUG to 23 AUG	- FCLP and aircrew training NAS Oceana and command inspection
24 AUG to 28 AUG (A.M.)	- Refresher training USS JOHN F. KENNEDY-ship leaves Norfolk for VACAPES
28 AUG (P.M.) to 29 AUG (A.M.)	- USS JOHN F. KENNEDY arrives Mayport, Florida - "Ripper" airshow.
30 AUG to 13 SEP	- Refresher training continues GITMO, OPAREA, Cuba.
14 SEP	- Last VF-11 F-14 aircraft arrives NAS Oceana for acceptance - (AC #112, buno #159454).
15 SEP to 17 SEP	- Missile exercise VACAPES 4 AIM 7E fired - all successful, 2 AIM 9H fired successful, 1 failed - bad missile.

18 SEP to 21 SEP	- Shore based training
22 SEP to 24 SEP	- SEABAT Exercise VACAPES
25 SEP	- Missile exercise make-up day for 17 Sep - one (1) AIM 9H fired successfully.
26 SEP to 08 OCT	- Shore based training FCLP
09 OCT	- Fly aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY to begin Type Training ONE.
10 OCT to 17 OCT	- Type Training ONE USS JOHN F. KENNEDY - first missile exercise from USS JOHN F. KENNEDY - two (2) AIM 9H direct hits - two (2) AIM 7E-4 used, one (1) did not guide, one (1) no missile fire.
18 OCT	- Fly off from USS JOHN F. KENNEDY
23 OCT	- Change of Command - CDR D. A. SHARER relieves CDR P. W. PIERCE
19 OCT to 28 OCT	- Shore based operations and training
29 OCT	- Fly aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY to begin Type Training TWO.
30 OCT to 07 NOV	- USS JOHN F. KENNEDY flight operations - transit to Puerto Rico Caribbean operating area
08 NOV to 11 NOV	- USS JOHN F. KENNEDY inport Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands
12 NOV	- Missile exercise - two (2) AIM 7F fired.
13 NOV to 22 NOV	- Caribbean operations continue.
23 NOV	- Type Training THREE begins - USS JOHN F. KENNEDY flight operations.
25 NOV	- First VF-11 PHOENIX missile shot - two (2) AIM-54A fired - both missiles guided to lethal kills.
26 NOV to 29 NOV	- USS JOHN F. KENNEDY operations continue.
30 NOV	- Missile exercise - one (1) 9H fired at night - direct hit, one AIM 7E fired.
01 DEC	- Operational Readiness Examination (ORE) commences onboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

- 03 DEC - ORE Missile Exercise - one (1) AIM 7F fired - lethal kill, live warhead.
- 04 DEC - ORE completed.
- 05 DEC - USS JOHN F. KENNEDY drops anchor in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Weighs anchor 2400 hours.
- 06 DEC to 09 DEC - USS JOHN F. KENNEDY operations - ship transits to VACAPES.
- 10 DEC - Fly off to NAS Oceana
- 11 DEC to 31 DEC - Aircrew training, FCLP

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL HRS</u>	<u>HRS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL TRAPS D/N</u>	<u>TOTAL SORTIES</u>
JAN	98.4	84.3/14.1		66
FEB	154.5	122.9/31.6		90
MAR	198.2	174.2/24.0		118
APR	215.5	199.9/15.6		114
MAY	227.5	212.8/14.7		136
JUN	326.6	316.7/ 9.9		208
JUL	319.1	294.1/25.0		158
AUG (SHORE)	100.4	67.4/33.0		52
AUG (SHIP)	127.4	49.0/14.0	25/10	28
SEP (SHORE)	111.7	76.8/34.9		73
SEP (SHIP)	112.7	78.6/34.1	65/30	78
OCT (SHORE)	29.7	10.6/19.1		20
OCT (SHIP)	261.0	175.3/85.7	103/44	149
NOV (SHORE)	-	-		-
NOV (SHIP)	583.6	422.3/161.3	195/71	269
DEC (SHORE)	53.9	23.8/30.1		43
DEC (SHIP)	206.0	121.6/84.4	51/18	74

b. Narrative

1981 was an exciting and productive year for the "Red Rippers" as we completed our transition training from the trusty F-4 PHANTOM to the new F-14 TOMCAT. Early January found us continuing our transition training and preparing for our first detachment. This preparation included low level flights, air combat maneuvering, gun sight tracking and air intercept control missions. On the 14th of January, four (4) Fighter Squadron ELEVEN aircraft deployed to Tyndall Air Force Base Florida to train against the F-15 EAGLE. For the rest of January, aircrews continued training at NAS Oceana. The capabilities of the F-14 weapons system were proven in early February during SEABAT, an electronic warfare - war at sea exercise, giving all "Ripper" aircrews a first hand look at the electronic counter-measure capabilities of the AWG-9 weapon system in a high electronic interference environment.

Mid-February consisted of continued preparation for two important events. The second class of aircrews going through transition training began field carrier landing practice for the upcoming carrier qualifications. We also began our missile checks - a delicate phase involving extensive testing of the aircraft's weapon systems firing logic to assure success on our first missile shooting exercise. On the 25th of February, two (2) separate aircrews fired two (2) successful AIM 7F SPARROW missiles in the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) operating area. Both missiles guided to lethal kills.

At the end of February, our first transitioning class completed F-14 training in Fighter Squadron ONE ZERO ONE and began assisting our second class for the upcoming carrier qualifications. On March 20, carrier quals (C.Q.) began on the USS NIMITZ in the VACAPES operating area. By March 27th, all the "Ripper" aircrews were fully carrier qualified.

On March 28, six (6) F-14's left for our second detachment, also Tyndall AFB, Florida, to train with the Air Force's F-15 EAGLE and F-106 DELTA DART. Returning in early April to NAS Oceana, our second transition class completed training at VF-101 and the "Rippers" began intra-squadron training and preparation for joining Airwing THREE. April 20th we began Fleet Air Superiority Training with a TOPGUN detachment from the west coast. Utilizing the Air Combat Maneuvering Range in VACAPES, "Ripper" aircrews polished their skills in radar, section tactics, and ACM. Training in May was in close conjunction with Fighter Squadron FOUR THREE, the east coast fighter adversary training squadron. Conducting Fleet Fighter Air Combat Readiness Program (FFARP) for the next month, the "Rippers" were involved in intensive ACM and weapon system training. In the middle of FFARP, on May 27 our second missile shoot occurred expending one (1) AIM 7E SPARROW missile which scored a direct hit on the drone aircraft.

June 10 meant the completion of FFARP and on June 11, FITRON ELEVEN chopped to Airwing THREE. On that day, eight (8) planes departed for NAS, Fallon, Nevada to work with Airwing THREE for the first time. Fighter Squadron ELEVEN had a 96% sortie completion rate during the two week deployment. Returning on the 29th of June, the squadron remained shore based NAS Oceana for the next two weeks.

On July 15, six (6) airplanes detached to NAS Key West, Florida to provide overhead combat air patrol (CAP) services for the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV62) involved in a C.Q. evolution in the straits of Florida. During this hot pad detachment,

the "Red Rippers" had an impressive 100% sortie completion rate and also intercepted the first real threat aircraft of the year, two MIG 21 fighters from Cuba.

Returning to Virginia Beach on the 26th of July, FITRON ELEVEN participated in another SEA FLAG exercise and began FCLP in anticipation of the upcoming work-ups. From August Fourth to the sixth, FITRON ELEVEN provided support for the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) as she completed sea trials following an extensive yard period. From August 7 to August 23, we prepared for our first sea period with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) and Airwing THREE. During this time, FITRON ELEVEN also had its command inspection by Fighter Wing ONE. The final stepping stone completed, the "RIPPERS" boarded the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) on August 24 for refresher training off the east coast. Proceeding south, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) arrived in Mayport, Florida on the 28th. Here, during a dependents day cruise, the "RIPPERS" performed in an impressive airshow on the 29th. Back at sea later that day, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) sailed to the GITMO operating area off the coast of Cuba. On September 13th, the "RIPPERS" returned to NAS Oceana and received the last F-14 TOMCAT, side number 112 (BUNO #159454) on the 14th.

For the remainder of September, FITRON ELEVEN was shorebased. A highly successful missile shoot from the 15th to the 17th was indicative of the transition progress of the maintenance department. All missiles were launched successfully except one which was later diagnosed as a missile failure and not that of the weapons system. The missile was replaced and successfully fired on the 25th of September. During this period, the aircrews practiced their electronic countermeasure skills in another SEABAT Exercise.

Type Training began on October 9 as eight (8) F-14A flew aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. Operating off the east coast, the period included another missile shoot on the 16th in which both AIM-9H SIDEWINDERS and AIM 7E-4 SPARROWS were fired. USS JOHN F. KENNEDY operations ended on the 18th and the "Rippers" returned to NAS Oceana.

On 23 October, Change of Command ceremonies were rendered as CDR D. A. SHARER relieved CDR P. W. PIERCE. Later in October, the "RIPPERS" flew ten (10) TOMCAT aircraft back aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) and the final workup period, which included the Operational Readiness Examination (ORE), began. Sailing to the Puerto Rican operating area, the crews and troops spent the days preparing themselves and the aircraft for the upcoming ORE. The ship dropped anchor on November 8th in the harbor of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands for a well earned liberty period. Weighing anchor on the 11th, the ship sailed back to the Puerto Rican area. On the 12th, we had another successful missile shoot as training continued. Type Training THREE, which began on the 24th of November, was successfully initiated by the first PHOENIX (AIM-54A) missile shoot for the "Rippers." In this exercise, two (2) AIM-54A PHOENIX missiles were fired and both successfully tracked and intercepted the drone targets. Flight operations and missile exercises continued for the rest of November and on the first of December, the ORE began. In this operation, the "Rippers" completed 58 of 62 scheduled sorties in a three and a half day exercise, and earned a grade of high excellent. The "Rippers" were now fully combat ready.

With ORE complete, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV67) slowly made its way back to Norfolk, Virginia. In this transit, numerous Russian BEAR (TU-95) aircraft were intercepted and escorted as they attempted airborne reconnaissance of the carrier group. On the 10th of December, the airwing returned to NAS Oceana.

The remainder of December was that of preparation. With cruise to begin on January fourth, "Red Ripper" aircrews and troops were never far from their aircraft and closed out the year polishing their skills for 1982 and the upcoming deployment.

SQUADRON OFFICER LOSSES AND GAINS - 1981

- 09 Jan - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from Fighter Squadron ONE ZERO ONE (VF-101).
- 27 Feb - LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- 31 Mar - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR, transferred to the United States Naval Reserve (USNR).
- ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USNR, received for duty from VF-101.
- LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- 01 Jun - ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from Naval Supply College, Athens Georgia.
- 30 Jun - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- 03 Aug - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, transferred to HELLSUPRON SIX for duty.
- 20 Aug - LCDR [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- 23 Oct - CDR Peter W. PIERCE, USN, transferred to COMFITWINGONE for duty.
- CDR Donald A. SHARER, USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, transferred to USNR.
- 24 Oct - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.
- 27 Oct - ENS [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, transferred to COMFITWINGONE for duty.
- 11 Nov - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, transferred to COMFITWINGONE for TEMDU.
- 07 Dec - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], received for duty from VF-101.
- LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED], USN, transferred to COMFITWINGONE for TEMDU.
- 11 Dec - ENS [REDACTED], USN, received for duty from VF-101.