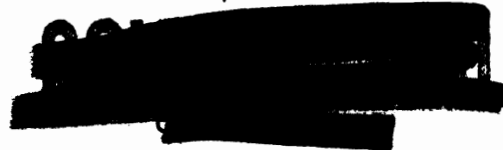




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

1983



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Ser 005
19 FEB 1984

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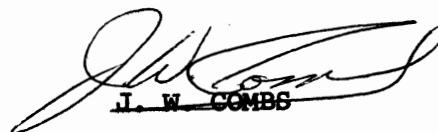
From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History for 1983 (OPNAV Report 5750-1); forwarding of (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command History Report

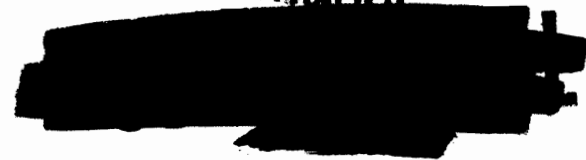
1. (U) In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded.


J. W. COMBS



Classified by: OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Declassified on: 15 Feb 86

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1983 COMMAND HISTORY

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1. (C) Schedule of Events

1-15 Jan Aircrew Training NAS Oceana

16-22 Jan CNO Project 547 conducted from NAS Cecil Field, Florida

23-31 Jan Aircrew Training NAS Oceana

28-29 Jan Change of Command (CDR J. W. COMBS relieves CDR D. A. SHARER)
and 55/56th Red Ripper Reunion held at NAS Oceana

1 Feb MISSILEX: Expended two AIM-7E-4 and two AIM-9G

2-6 Feb Ground Training NAS Oceana

7-9 Feb Sopwith Camel

10-23 Feb FCLP's at NALF Fentress

17-18 Feb Sopwith Camel

24 Feb-11 Mar REFTRA aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67)

24 Feb-2 Mar CQ/Refresher Training

12-15 Mar Port Visit Barbados, West Indies

16-24 Mar TYT I

25-30 Mar READEX 1-83

28 Mar MISSILEX: One AIM-7F, one AIM-7E-4

31 Mar-7 Apr TYT II

31 Mar MISSILEX: Two AIM-7F

1 Apr MISSILEX: Two AIM-9G

2 Apr MISSILEX: One AIM-9H

4 Apr MISSILEX: One AIM-9L

8 Apr Fly off

9-17 Apr Aircrew Training NAS Oceana

18-25 Apr FAST Ground Training and FCLP's

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20 Apr Seabat 3-83

26 Apr Fly on

27 Apr-11 May Exercise Solid Shield

6 May Fly off (Remainder of Solid Shield flown from beach)

7-15 May Sopwith Camel

15-24 May FCLP at NALF Fentress

25 May Fly on

6 Jun Exercise United Effort (Central/Eastern Atlantic)

7-17 Jun Exercise Ocean Safari (Bay of Biscay)

18-23 Jun Inport Portsmouth, England

23-30 Jun Transit to Norfolk

1 Jul Fly off

2-5 Jul Stand Down NAS Oceana

6-12 Jul Mini-FFARP with VF-43

12-15 Jul Seabat 4-83

16-19 Jul Ground Training

20-29 Jul Sopwith Camel

30 Jul-10 Aug FCLP

11 Aug Fly on

11-22 Aug TYT III

15 Aug MISSILEX: One AIM-54A, one AIM-7F

16 Aug MISSILEX: One AIM-7F

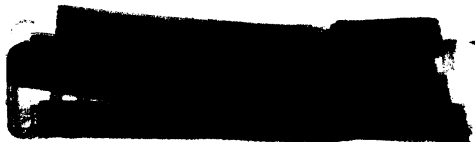
18 Aug MISSILEX: One AIM-7E-4

23-25 Aug ORE

26 Aug Transit to North Puerto Rican OPAREA

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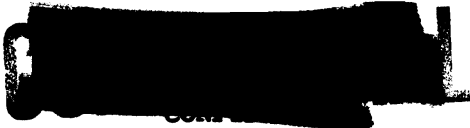


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27-29 Aug READEX 3-83
30-31 Aug Transit to Norfolk
1 Sep Fly off
2-8 Sep Ground Training NAS Oceana
14-26 Sep FCLP
27 Sep Fly on 83-84 MED Deployment
27 Sep-30 Sep CQ
1-13 Oct Transit to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1-2 Oct MISSILEX: One AIM-7F
4 Oct Bear Intercept
8 Oct Crossing the Line Ceremony - Domain of Neptunus Rex
13-17 Oct Inport Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
17-28 Oct Transit to Mediterranean Sea
17 Oct Fire Power Demonstration for Brazilian VIP's
28-31 Oct Western MED Operations
31 Oct-2 Nov CRISEX 83
3-5 Nov Transit to Eastern MED
6-28 Nov Bagel Station - Off Coast of Beirut, Lebanon
29 Nov-2 Dec Inport Haifa, Israel
3-31 Dec Bagel Station
4 Dec USS JOHN F. KENNEDY Flies Air Strike into Syrian Positions East of Beirut. LT MARK LANGE and LT [REDACTED] Shot Down in A6E. LT LANGE KIA, LT [REDACTED] CAPTURED.

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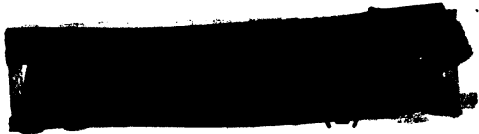


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2. (C) 1983 Operations Summary

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>	<u>Hours D/N</u>	<u>Traps D/N</u>	<u>Sorties</u>
Jan	141.1	116.7/24.4	0	90
Feb	189.9	119.7/70.2	46/36	128
Mar	674.5	466.8/207.7	187/128	302
Apr	380.4	278.1/102.3	111/34	230
May	666.2	506.6/159.6	161/37	337
Jun	438.6	370.0/68.6	172/29	194
Jul	161.5	123.6/37.9	0	138
Aug	826.4	483.9/342.5	216/124	403
Sep	166.2	116.6/49.6	43/16	125
Oct	476.2	273.1/203.1	129/114	242
Nov	608.8	283.9/324.9	127/142	269
Dec	604.7	320.8/283.9	133/116	249

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3. (U) Narrative

a. (C) 1983 found the Red Rippers preparing once again for shipboard operations aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY. Highlights of January were the squadron's participation in CNO Project 547. Flying from NAS Cecil Field, Florida, the squadron flew over 25 scheduled sorties supplying combat systems training and analysis for the Navy's New Threat Upgrade systems aboard USS MAHON (DDG 42). The squadron also held a change of command combined with the Red Ripper's 55th/56th Reunion. Commander John W. COMBS assumed command from Commander Don A. SHARER. During the reunion, past Rippers from all over the country attended an open house, air show, fighter symposium, and formal banquet. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Peter B. Booth.

b. (C) The end of January marked completion of the squadron maintenance department's participation in Fighter Wing ONE's Integrated Weapons System Review. This program culminated in a successful missile shoot on 1 February. Two AIM-7E-4 and two AIM-9G missiles were expended.

c. (U) February marked final preparations and Field Carrier Landing Practice for the squadron's fly on for REFTRA on 24 February. Refresher Training was conducted in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba operating area until the first week in March when USS JOHN F. KENNEDY transited the West Indies for its first 1983 port visit in Barbados.

d. (C) Departing Barbados, the squadron completed Type I training and subsequently participated in READEX 1-83 with USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. Type II training ensued with the squadron successfully expending one AIM-7E-4, three AIM-7F, three AIM-9G and one AIM-9L air-to-air missiles.

e. (C) The squadron returned to NAS Oceana on 8 April. During April, the squadron participated in TOPGUN's Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST) and SEABAT 3-83. More Field Carrier Landing Practice was flown and the squadron once again embarked USS JOHN F. KENNEDY on 26 April for Exercise Solid Shield. Our role in the exercise was to support amphibious landings ashore on the coast of North and South Carolina. U.S. Air Force assets opposed the landings and the squadron received extensive Air Combat Maneuvering training. The squadron flew off the ship on 6 May and completed the remaining week of exercise Solid Shield from NAS Oceana.

f. (C) The squadron flew aboard again on 25 May for NATO Exercise United Effort/Ocean Safari. During the exercise, the squadron was combined with French and British assets to safeguard and escort a multinational convoy of merchant ships and surface combatants. On completion of this phase of the exercise, the squadron combined with other CVW-3 assets to fly mock air strikes into France and West Germany while operating in the Bay of Biscay. The Rippers also took part in escorted strikes on USS AMERICA during PASEX. Several of these strikes were conducted while AMERICA was nearly 1000 miles away.

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g. (U) On June 18th, the squadron culminated their part in Exercise United Effort/Ocean Safari with a port visit to Portsmouth, England. Several formal functions were attended by both officer and enlisted personnel, reinforcing the reputation of the British as excellent hosts.

h. (U) The squadron fly off from United Effort/Ocean Safari came on 1 July. The squadron enjoyed a well deserved stand down over the July 4th weekend. The entire month of July was spent ashore at NAS Oceana in preparation for Type III training and the squadron's ORE. The highlight of this preparation was mini-FFARP (Fleet Fighter Aircrew Readiness Program) conducted with VF-43 as adversaries. Individual ACM COMPEX were included during mini-FFARP. A total of 14 aircrews were qualified with eight crews attaining a grade of excellent. The squadron also participated in Seabat 4-83 during this time. The end of July saw the squadron once again conducting Field Carrier Landing Practice in preparation for returning to USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

i. (C) August 11th marked the squadron's fly on for TYT III/ORE. During TYT III, the squadron successfully expended one AIM-54A, two AIM-7F, and one AIM-7E missiles. Type III training also marked a first for the squadron and the Navy when LTJG [REDACTED] and LCDR [REDACTED] successfully shot down a QF-86 drone with the F-14's 20MM cannon. The squadron's Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) began on 23 August. Over the three day ORE, the squadron flew 81 of 82 scheduled sorties. A one day stand down followed the ORE in preparation for READEX 3-83 which ended on 29 August. USS JOHN F. KENNEDY pulled back into Norfolk on 1 September. The first half of September was devoted to the pre-cruise corrosion audit in which the squadron was cited "outstanding" by Commander Fighter Wing ONE.

j. (C) The squadron embarked USS JOHN F. KENNEDY once again on September 27th for a seven and one half month deployment. Following CQ in the Virginia Capes area, the ship began its transit to the Puerto Rican OPAREA and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During operations in the Caribbean, the squadron successfully expended one AIM-7F and one AIM-9H. New shellbacks were initiated on 8 October as the ship entered the domain of Neptunus Rex. October 13th found the Rippers inport, Rio de Janeiro, for four days. A marvelous port, all hands were impressed with the strength of the U.S. dollar. A very successful fire power demonstration was conducted for high ranking Brazilian officials as the ship left Rio. Transit to the Mediterranean followed. Upon inchoption to the MED, the squadron participated in CRISEX 83. Flying included low-level flights, overland DACT, and overwater DACT. DACT was accomplished against Spanish Mirage F-1's and F-3's. The participation in CRISEX 83 was cut short by the requirement to transit east and join USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER on Bagel Station on November 6th in the Eastern MED. Flight operations ensued consisting mainly of Combat Air Patrol missions in support of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon. At the completion of flight operations on 27 November, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY proceeded towards Haifa, Israel for a much needed port visit. The ship departed Haifa on 2 December to return to Bagel Station. On 4 December, the squadron flew CAP missions in support of Air Strikes flown into Central Lebanon in support of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut.

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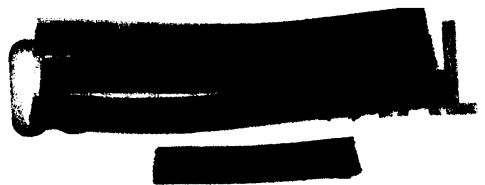
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k. (C) At the close of 1983, the Rippers of VF-11 are still on station off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon in support of our forces ashore.

l. (C) Altogether, 1983 was an extremely productive year for VF-11. The squadron flew over 5300 flight hours with over 2100 carrier arrested landings. A string of 362 straight scheduled sorties was completed in December. These successes achieved in 1983 pave the way for another successful year in 1984.

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4. Squadron Officer Losses And Gains - 1983

28 Jan 83	CDR DON A. SHARER	Transferred
4 Feb 83	CDR [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
4 Feb 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
9 Feb 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
9 Feb 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
16 Feb 83	LTJG [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
17 Feb 83	LTJG [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
22 Feb 83	LTJG [REDACTED]	Transferred
28 Mar 83	CDR [REDACTED]	Transferred
30 Mar 83	LT [REDACTED]	Resigned
31 Mar 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Transferred
9 Apr 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Transferred
9 Apr 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Transferred
11 Apr 83	LT [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
22 Apr 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
2 May 83	LT [REDACTED]	Resigned
20 May 83	LTJG [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
20 May 83	LT [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
5 Jul 83	LTJG [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
4 Aug 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
8 Aug 83	LT [REDACTED]	Transferred
15 Sep 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
21 Sep 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Reported for Duty
27 Sep 83	LCDR [REDACTED]	Transferred
17 Oct 83	ENS [REDACTED]	Transferred
10 Dec 83	LT [REDACTED]	Transferred

Enclosure (1)