

1996 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN
UNIT 60554
FPO AE 09504-6102

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FEB 28 1997

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ELEVEN
To: Director, Naval Historical Center
(Attn: Aviation History Branch)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology of Outstanding Events
(3) Narrative of Outstanding Events
(4) Biography of CDR Ronald E. Weisbrook
(5) Photo of CDR Ronald E. Weisbrook

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are hereby submitted.


R. E. Weisbrook

Copy to:
COMCARGRU SIX
COMFITWINGLANT
COMCARAIRWING SEVEN

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

(01 Jan 96 to 22 May 96)
CDR Timothy L. Benham

(23 May 96 to Present)
CDR Ronald E. Weisbrook

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(01 Jan 96 to 22 May 96)
CDR Ronald E. Weisbrook

(23 May 96 to Present)
CDR Mark A. Vance

LOCATION OF COMMAND

Naval Air Station Miramar
San Diego, CA

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL ASHORE

Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN
Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

OPERATIONAL CONTROL AFLOAT

Commander, Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN
Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group THREE

AIRCRAFT

F-14D Super Tomcat
Tail Code "NK"

CARRIER ASSIGNMENTS

USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)
Homeported at Naval Air Station Alameda, California

MISSION

Fleet Air Superiority and Power Projection Missions, including:
Combat Air Patrol, Air Intercept, Maritime Air Superiority,
Strike, Strike Escort, Forward Air Control (Airborne) and TARPS
Reconnaissance.

Enclosure(1)

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

JANUARY

01-05 Holiday leave period.
08-30 Attack Advanced Readiness Program (AARP).

FEBRUARY

01-02 Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPPI).
02 Fightertown Awards - VF-11 1st place ECCM COMPEX and High Noon Air-to-Air Gunnery.
05-19 COMPTUEX B, On board USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).
09 First F-14 drop of MK-80 series bomb at night using NVG's (MK-82 inert).
15 Missile Exercise, 2 AIM-7 and 2 AIM-9 missiles successfully employed.
18 Class A Mishap, Aircraft 111, two fatalities: CDR Scott Lamoreaux and LT Terry Clark.
22 LT Clark Memorial Service, NAS Miramar Base Chapel.
26-27 F-14 two-day standdown.
28-29 FCLP.

MARCH

01-07 FCLP.
08-19 JTFX, on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).
09-11 CQ.
12-14 JTFX-Simulated War.
25-27 Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST).
26 Predeployment Brief.

APRIL

03-04 Material Condition Inspection (MCI).
03-19 FCLP.
23 Missile Exercise, 2 AIM-7 missiles successfully employed.
24-26 Administrative and Material (ADMAT) inspection.
30 Physical Readiness Test (PRT).

MAY

01-03 FCLP.
07 Missile Exercise, AIM-7 successfully employed versus a TALD.
14 Departed on WESTPAC '96. USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).
14-16 CQ.
22 Change of Command (Airborne Ceremony).
30-31 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.

Enclosure (2)

JUNE

01 Inport Yokosuka, Japan.
07-11 Inport Hong Kong.
16-20 Inport Singapore.
27 Missile Exercise, one AIM-9 successfully employed.

JULY

01 Inchop NAVCENT.
04-15 Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) support missions.
18-31 Operation Rugged Nautilus Training Missions.
27-30 Pierside Jabel Ali, UAE.

AUGUST

01-31 OSW support missions.
17-20 Inport Muscat, Oman.

SEPTEMBER

02-30 OSW support missions.
03 Operation DESERT STRIKE, Escort of B-52's bombing of Iraq.

OCTOBER

01 Outchop NAVCENT.
20-24 Inport Hobart, Tasmania.

NOVEMBER

03-07 Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
05-12 Tiger Cruise, CVN-70.
11 Fly-off from CVN-70 off of west coast of California to NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA.

DECEMBER

01-31 Personnel complete pack-up at NAS Miramar and start transfer of Command to NAS Oceana.
18-31 Holiday Leave Period.

NARRATIVE OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

The beginning of 1996 found FITRON ELEVEN with a short window of opportunity in its work-up cycle to conduct AARP training. This was accomplished in preparation for the remainder of work-ups and the upcoming Western Pacific deployment.

The squadron started the month of February by successfully completing CWTPI. Also, at the annual Fightertown Awards at the Miramar Officer's club, the Rippers were awarded first place honors in the previous year's competitions for the High Noon Air-to-Air Gunnery and the Electronic Counter-Counter Measures Competitive Exercises. The middle of February was spent at sea aboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) for Composite Unit Exercise B, during which the Red Rippers successfully dropped an inert MK-82 bomb at night using Night Vision Goggles (NVG's). This was a first for FITRON ELEVEN as well as the first time MK-80 series bombs had ever been dropped from an F-14D at night while using NVG's. This at-sea period also saw FITRON ELEVEN complete a missile exercise, successfully employing two AIM-7 Sparrows and two AIM-9 Sidewinders. This very productive period ended with a tragic mishap, however, as on the final day, aircraft 111 was lost taking the lives of FITRON ELEVEN's pilot LT Terry Clark and his RIO CDR Scott Lamoreaux of Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE Staff. Following this tragedy, there was a two day Navy-wide F-14 stand down during the last week of February. At the end of the month, the squadron was flying Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) sorties at NAS Miramar.

The first week in March was dedicated to FCLP sorties in preparation for the final at sea period before cruise. Joint Task Force Exercise on board CARL VINSON lasted nearly two weeks and concluded with the simulated war exercise. FITRON ELEVEN also completed FAST and held its squadron predeployment brief.

April opened with a successful MCI. This month's flying consisted of FCLP's along with a missile exercise involving the successful employment of two AIM-7 Sparrow missiles. The squadron successfully completed its ADMAT inspection and finished the month with the PRT.

During early May, in final preparation for cruise, FITRON ELEVEN continued FCLP's and completed a successful missile exercise, coordinating the dropping of a Tactical Air Launched Decoy (TALD) and subsequent employment of an AIM-7 Sparrow from another jet for a direct hit on the TALD. On 14 May, FITRON ELEVEN departed on WESTPAC '96 on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70).

On 22 May, in an airborne Change of Command Ceremony, CDR Timothy L. Benham passed control of FITRON ELEVEN to CDR

Enclosure (3)

Ronald E. Weisbrook. Nine days later, the CARL VINSON pulled into Yokosuka, Japan.

CARL VINSON left Japan on the first of June enroute to two additional inport periods prior to heading into the Arabian Gulf. The CARL VINSON was able to visit Hong Kong for five days and then Singapore for five days during June. During the last part of the month while training with the Air Wing and Battle Group, the squadron was able to successfully employ another AIM-9 Sidewinder in a training exercise.

In July, the CARL VINSON shifted to Commander, Central Forces and entered the Arabian Gulf to begin what would be a three month stint in the gulf. FITRON ELEVEN joined in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) as well as participating in training missions as part of the joint exercise Operation Rugged Nautilus. At the end of the month the CARL VINSON pulled into Jabel Ali, UAE for four days of pierside liberty.

The month of August was full of more OSW as tensions began to rise in Iraq. The CARL VINSON was able, however, to exit the gulf for five days to pull into Muscat, Oman.

The beginning of September saw the United States perform Operation DESERT STRIKE versus Iraq. The Red Rippers of FITRON ELEVEN proved ready for the task as the squadron flew escort missions in support of B-52 Bombers as they launched cruise missiles at Iraqi targets. Operation DESERT STRIKE also brought an increase in VF-11 OSW sorties throughout the remainder of the month which included enforcing the extended No-fly Zone.

CARL VINSON finally left the Arabian Gulf the first week of October to begin the voyage home. The Carrier made one detour to show the flag during a five day inport visit to Hobart, Tasmania.

The beginning of November found the CARL VINSON hurrying back to the U.S., making a stop in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to satisfy customs requirements and to pick up over 1,000 guests for Tiger Cruise' 96, and to host the Change of Command for Commander, Pacific Fleet. On the morning of 11 November, FITRON ELEVEN launched all nine of its F-14D Super Tomcats from the CARL VINSON, which was located off the coast of Southern California. The Rippers proceeded to transit the entire Continental U.S. with in-flight refueling support from Air Force tankers, to land that afternoon at NAS Oceana, the new home of Fighter Squadron ELEVEN.

December was a period of transition for FITRON ELEVEN. Part of the squadron completed the pack-up at NAS Miramar to begin the change of Homeport to NAS Oceana. Other personnel, as part of the advanced detachment to Oceana, began setting up the new squadron spaces, turning in the F-14D's to their new owners, and preparing to accept the F-14B's which will be the platform of the Red Rippers for the next turn-around cycle and deployment.

The Red Rippers look forward to 1997 as the squadron re-establishes itself at NAS Oceana, transitions to the F-14B and begins the work-up cycle with Commander, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN in preparation for deployment in 1998 aboard the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74).