

1999



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FIGHTER SQUADRON ELEVEN

UNIT 60554

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

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of Outstanding Events  
(3) Narrative of Outstanding Events  
(4) Biography of CDR Douglas L. Whitener  
(5) Photo of CDR Douglas L. Whitener

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Abner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M. D. ABNER  
By direction

Copy to:  
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT  
COMCARAIRWING SEVEN  
COMFITWINGLANT (N002)

## COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

### COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR Douglas L. Whitener

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CDR Milton D. Abner

### LOCATION OF COMMAND

Naval Air Station Oceana  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

### ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL ASHORE

Commander, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN  
Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet  
Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

### OPERATIONAL CONTROL AFLOAT

Commander, Carrier Air Wing SEVEN  
Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT

### AIRCRAFT

F-14B Tomcat  
Tail Code "AG"

### CARRIER ASSIGNMENTS

USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
Homeported at Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia

### MISSION

Fleet Air Superiority and Power Projection Missions, including:  
Combat Air Patrol, Air Intercept, Maritime Air Superiority,  
Strike, Strike Escort, Forward Air Control (Airborne), Close Air  
Support and Combat Search and Rescue.

## CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

### JANUARY

01-08 Holiday Leave Period  
24-31 Red Flag Exercise, Nellis AFB

### FEBRUARY

01-06 Red Flag Exercise, Nellis AFB  
17-18 Fighter Derby, NAS Oceana

### MARCH

06-13 NAS Key West Detachment (ACM/Guns)  
20 USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN 75) Air Show

### APRIL

12-13 LINK-EX  
14-15 CWT Bomb Drop  
20-21 NAS Oceana Missile Exercise  
27-30 Air-to-Air SFARP, NAS Oceana

### MAY

01-14 Air-to-Air SFARP, NAS Oceana

### JUNE

07-18 Air-to-Ground SFARP, NAS Fallon  
21-25 FAC(A) Training, NAS Fallon

### JULY

08-23 TSTA on board USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

### AUGUST

11-31 CVW-7 Weapons Detachment, NAS Fallon

### SEPTEMBER

01-03 CVW-7 Weapons Detachment, NAS Fallon  
15-19 NAS Oceana Air Show  
25-30 COMPTUEX on board USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

### OCTOBER

01-29 COMPTUEX on board USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

### NOVEMBER

25-29 Thanksgiving Holiday Leave

### DECEMBER

03-18 JTFEX on board USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69)  
19-31 Holiday Leave Period

## NARRATIVE OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

The beginning of 1999 found the Red Rippers coming off a well-deserved holiday leave period after a busy and successful 1998. CDR Doug Whitener and CDR Milt Abner settled in as the new Commanding Officer and Executive Officer, respectively, assuming command on 4 December 1998. With a Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf deployment beginning in February 2000, the Rippers wasted no time in preparing for their upcoming schedule.

On 23 January 1999, six Ripper F-14Bs flew to Nellis Air Force Base outside of Las Vegas, Nevada to participate in Red Flag. Red Flag is an exercise that brings together many Air Force and Navy airborne platforms for large strike missions and airborne intercepts, giving aircrew an unparalleled opportunity to train with these different assets.

Returning home to NAS Oceana from Red Flag on 6 February 1999, the Red Rippers also got to practice and show the skills closer to home, participating in the annual Fighter Derby. Fighter Derby is an intense competition between all F-14 Tomcat squadrons in air intercepts and air combat maneuvering. The Red Rippers beat out the competition and took first place for the second year in a row.

The Rippers used the month of March 1999 for unit level training. This training included Night Vision Goggle flights, LANTIRN and Laser Guided Bombing missions, getting aircrew current and proficient with the lethal weapons systems of the Tomcat. This training showed itself in an early April 1999 Missile Exercise where aircrew successfully guided seven missiles to impact. In mid-April 1999, VF-11 launched into pre-deployment training, beginning with the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP). Concurrent with the initial one week Ground School, the squadron participated in three weeks of intercepts and ACM, honing the airborne fighting skills of the Ripper aircrew. Maintenance personnel provided mission capable jets on a daily basis to support the syllabus, proving once again that Red Ripper maintenance is one of the best in the entire world.

With air-to-air SFARP ending in mid-May 1999, the Rippers used the remaining weeks of the month for unit level training prior to traveling to NAS Fallon for air-to-ground SFARP. Utilizing the tremendous facilities and ranges that NAS Fallon has to offer, the Red Rippers received advanced training in Air Intercept, Strike, Strike Escort, Close Air Support and Combat Search and Rescue missions. As many Rippers returned home after three intense weeks of training, four aircrew remained for an additional week to successfully complete and earn their FAC(A) qualifications.

July 1999 opened with Field Carrier Landing Practice and continued air-to-air and air-to-ground training. VF-11 aircrew successfully carrier qualified on board their new home, the USS

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69) before their first at-sea work-up period, Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA). TSTA allowed the Rippers to work with the other squadrons of Carrier Air Wing SEVEN (CVW-7) while also grooming new aircraft systems recently introduced to the Tomcat. These systems include the Embedded GPS/INS (EGI) and Fast Tactical Imagery (FTI).

Preparing for continued turnaround training, the Rippers set out once again for the desert of NAS Fallon for the CVW-7 detachment. VF-11 continued to develop tactics for the ever increasing capabilities of the F-14B while participating and working with the other assets of the Air Wing to produce a lethal fighting force.

Back on board the Mighty "IKE" for Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), the Rippers and the rest of the CVW-7 team had to adapt their training due to the Naval range on Vieques Island being closed. The Air Wing launched strikes into ranges along the Atlantic Coast and held a missile exercise in the operating waters off the coast of Puerto Rico. VF-11 led the way in the missile exercise, successfully deploying AIM-54, AIM-7 and AIM-9 missiles. The success of this, combined with earlier missile shoot successes, earned the Rippers the "Grand Slam" Award. This award is given to the most tactical F-14 or F-18 squadron on the East Coast.

In December 1999, VF-11 completed JTFEX; the last phase of pre-deployment work-ups on board USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69). This exercise is conducted to allow the entire battle group a chance to work together one last time prior to deployment. Upon return from this exercise, the squadron began the holiday leave period.

1999 proved to be a very rewarding and successful year for the Rippers. The intense training by the aircrew and selfless dedication of the Maintenance Department ensured that the Red Rippers fly the most lethal Strike/Fighter platform in the world.