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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN
FPO MIAMI 34099-6239

5750
Ser 10/077

28 FEB 1988

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
To: Chief of Naval Information (OI-211)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY
Ref: (a) COMNAVAIRLANTINST 5750.1 Series
Encl: (1) Command History of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 for
period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 1987
(2) Photo and Biography of Commanding Officer

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


B. J. DYSART

Copy to:
CNO (OP-05D2)



STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 137
COMMAND HISTORY
1987

NICKNAME

"KESTRELS"

Kestrels is the name of several members of the falcon family. Kestrels live in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Also known as the Windhover, this bird hovers in the air while it searches the ground for its prey. The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon, measuring 10 inches in length, with reddish-brown body and tail and greyish-blue wings.

MISSION

As a Strike Fighter Squadron, VFA-137 is tasked with both fighter and light attack missions. VFA-137's primary mission is the destruction of targets at sea and ashore in a power projection role. In this role, the F/A-18 can deliver a wide range of conventional weapons including precision-guided munitions. The FA-18 is also capable of delivering nuclear weapons. In the fighter role, the F/A-18 provides fighter support for power projection forces and fleet air defense for the battlegroup. Since completion of our standup in May 1986, VFA-137 has been assigned to Commander, Carrier Air Wing THIRTEEN, and has been deployed onboard USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) since 29 September 1987.

COMMANDING OFFICER

COMMANDER BARRY J. DYSART, USN

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS

1 January	VFA-137 based ashore NAS Cecil Field, FL. Commander R. E. Thomas, Commanding.
5 January	Pilot, LT [REDACTED] checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 24.
9 January	Aviation Maintenance Officer, ENS [REDACTED], checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 25.
10-17 January	VFA-137 sent detachment to Nellis AFB.
16 January	Received eleventh aircraft, Buno 162868.
18 February	VFA-137 on detachment to NAS Fallon, Nevada for
12 March	CVW-13 Integrated Training.

Enclosure (1)

26 February Pilot, LTJG [REDACTED], checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 26.

13 March Received twelfth aircraft, BUNO 162869.

23 March VFA-137 deployed on board USS CORAL SEA (CV 43)
07 April for Refresher Training.

08 May VFA-137 deployed on board USS CORAL SEA (CV 43)
21 May for Independent Steaming Exercises.

25 June VFA-137 deployed on board USS CORAL SEA (CV 43)
18 July for Air Wing Advanced Phase Training.

31 July Pilot, LT W. B. Ramsey, killed in automobile accident. Total number of officers - 25.

11 August VFA-137 deployed on board USS CORAL SEA (CV 43)
01 September for Battle Group Phase Training.

29 August Pilot, CDR P. G. Howard (new Executive Officer), checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 26.

03 September VFA-137 has first Change Of Command, with CDR B. J. DYSART relieving CDR R. E. THOMAS as Commanding Officer. CDR P. G. HOWARD assumes duties as squadron Executive Officer. RADM Henri B. Chase, COMSTRKFIGHTWINGSLANT served as guest speaker, and CDR R. E. THOMAS was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his performance while serving as VFA-137 Commanding Officer.

29 September VFA-137 deploys on board USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) for a scheduled 6 month Mediterranean Cruise.

30 September Squadron Legal Officer, LTJG [REDACTED] detaches from squadron, bringing total number of officers to 25.

16 October Pilot, LT [REDACTED], checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 26.

22 October USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Gaeta, Italy, VFA-137 deployed on board.

23-29 October USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Naples, Italy, VFA-137 deployed on board.

04-12 November USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Marseilles, France, VFA-137 deployed on board.

14-24 November VFA-137 sent detachment to Hyeres A.F.B.
for Air-to-Air training with the French Air Force.

21-28 November USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Cannes, France,
VFA-137 deployed on board.

03 December Assistant Maintenance Officer, LCDR [REDACTED],
detached from squadron, bringing total number of
officers to 25.

04-07 December USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Palma, Spain,
VFA-137 deployed on board.

10 December VFA-137 celebrated 2 years of "Accident-free"
Operations.

22-31 December USS CORAL SEA (CV 43) in port Naples, Italy,
VFA-137 deployed on board.

23 December Pilot, LCDR [REDACTED], detached from squadron,
bring total number of officer to 24.

30 December Assistant Maintenance Officer, LT [REDACTED], checks
on board, bringing total number of officers to 25.

31 December Squadron strength stands at 25 officers, and 181
enlisted. VFA-137 has amassed 8,200 total flight
hours (4,472 in 1987) and (1,628) arrested carrier
landings.