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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN

FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

VF-14  
1973

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**21 JUN 1974**

**[REDACTED]** (Unclassified upon removal of enclosures)

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP 05D2)  
Subj: Command History; submission of OPNAV Report 5750-1  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B  
Encl: (1) VF-14 Command History for Calendar Year 1973  
1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1)  
is submitted.

*J. T. McHugh*  
J. T. MCHUGH

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP 09B9)

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FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN (VF-14)

Nineteen Seventy-Three proved to be an exciting and challenging year for the "TOPHATTERS" of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN. An extended Mediterranean Deployment coupled with preparations for the squadron's scheduled transition to the F-14A "Tomcat" highlighted the year.

New Year's Day 1973 found the squadron based ashore at NAS Oceana undergoing preparations for a scheduled combat deployment to Southeast Asia. On 13 January the "TOPHATTERS" moved aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA 67) and commenced the first of four pre-deployment work-up periods. On 16 January carrier refresher qualifications were begun and completed during the second work-up which commenced on 30 January. Additionally, cyclic operations were begun with aircrew training being conducted in the areas of Air Intercepts, Tactics, and Air to Ground Weapons Delivery.

After a three day return to Pier TWELVE the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA 67) sailed south on 13 February for an Operational Readiness Evaluation off the east coast of Florida. Fighting FOURTEEN received the highest grade in the Air Wing with an overall adjective grade of "Low Outstanding." Returning to NAS Oceana on 22 February, the "TOPHATTERS" conducted shore based training operations for approximately one month prior to returning aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA 67) on 24 March for the final work up period in the Vacapes Operating Area.

Signing of the Vietnam Ceasefire Agreement changed CVA-67's scheduled deployment to Southeast Asia to a Mediterranean cruise with the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY departing CONUS on 16 April 1973. "TOPHATTER" aircrews participated in a navy first by flying every day during the Atlantic transit, conducting refresher landing practice and preparing for a fire power demonstration in honor in Prince Juan CARLOS of Spain. After a one day anchorage at Naval Station, Rota, Spain, on 24 April, our first air demonstration was conducted on 26 April. Entering the Mediterranean for the first time in 1973 on 27 April, training operations were conducted for a week prior to arriving in Barcelona, Spain on 4 May. In addition to Barcelona, the ship visited the ports of Palma, Spain; Gaeta, Italy; and Cannes, France during May and early June. Flight

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operations were conducted in the Western and Central Mediterranean in support of the SIXTH Fleet when not in-port. While in-port at Gaeta on 11 June, Vice Admiral D. J. MURPHY relieved Vice Admiral G. E. MILLER as Commander SIXTH Fleet onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA 67). On 17 May, the air wing provided an aerial demonstration for the Queen Elizabeth II while she and the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY were steaming in company east of Majorca. Fighting FOURTEEN participated in a highly successful missile firing exercise at the NAMFI Missile Range north of Crete on 19 and 20 June with squadron aircrews firing ten AIM-7E-2 and four AIM-9D missiles. A kill probability of 80% was achieved with the "Sparrow III" which is noteworthy when compared to the overall AIRLANT average of 31%. The day following the missile shoot found the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY in Rhodes, Greece for four days followed by six days in Athens.

July proved to be an extremely busy month with the ship at sea from 2 July until 27 July with the exception of two days in Livorno, Italy. From 19 July to 23 July, the squadron participated in Exercise International Week I, flying operations in support of SIXTH Fleet and Allied Units.

On 27 July the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY anchored in Palma, Spain for the beginning of a two week mid-cruise "Standdown" highlighted by the arrival of the dependent's charter flight and the squadron Change of Command. Onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY Commander John T. MCHUGH relieved Commander Theodore D. KUJAWSKI on 31 July and became the fiftieth "TOPHATTER" Skipper.

On 12 August the ship left Palma for three days of operations before anchoring in Barcelona once again. Departing Barcelona on 20 August the "TOPHATTERS" operated at sea until 30 August. This at sea period was highlighted by a missile exercise conducted in an open ocean area west of Sardinia. Squadron aircrews fired four AIM-7E-2 missiles achieving a kill probability of 75%. The RMU-8 launcher and TDU-22B tow target were employed by Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN with a 100% success rate in both missile exercises conducted during the cruise and in support of eight (8) point defense surface-to-air missile exercises conducted by the ship. On 30 August the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA 67) once again returned to Palma for a two week in-port period.

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Our last port visit during the 1973 Mediterranean cruise was Malaga, Spain, arriving on 15 September for a four day visit. Before leaving the Mediterranean, "TOPHATTER" aircrews participated in Exercise Redeye with the Spanish Air Defense Force and Ground Radar Defense Net.

On 24 September the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY left the Mediterranean for the first time and anchored at Naval Station, Rota, Spain. Following the traditional OUTCHOP ceremonies at the Rota Officer's Club, the ship set sail for the Bay of Biscay where the "TOPHATTERS" participated in Exercise Magic Sword. This exercise demonstrated the support capability of carrier air power for European Allied Forces.

Upon completion of Magic Sword the squadron moved immediately to another exercise as the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY steamed north for NATO Exercise Swift Move. Operating in the Norwegian and North Seas, at times above the Arctic Circle, Fighting FOURTEEN aircrews flew extensively in support of this multi-nation exercise, flying ninety-two (92) sorties for a total of 163 hours. Because of the intense Russian surveillance, Alert Five remained in effect during daylight hours until completion of the exercise on 8 October. Squadron aircrews intercepted eighteen (18) Soviet aircraft including twelve (12) TU-95 Bears and six (6) TU-16 Badger aircraft.

The USS JOHN F. KENNEDY anchored at Edinburgh, Scotland upon completion of Swift Move for a most enjoyable four day visit. On 13 October the ship weighed anchor for what was expected to be the last time during her 1973 cruise. Due to increasing tensions in the Middle East, however, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY was ordered to delay indefinitely her return to CONUS. Assuming station west of Gibraltar, Air Wing ONE conducted proficiency flying operations in anticipation of orders to return to the Mediterranean. On 25 October those orders arrived and the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY assumed station south of Crete.

A high tempo of around-the-clock flight operations began as the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY operated with the USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA 62) and the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA 42) as all U. S. Forces in the Mediterranean maintained a high alert posture. The USS JOHN

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F. KENNEDY's readiness status was precipitated by the National Alert ordered in response to the Middle East crisis.

"TOPHATTER" aircrews maintained a continuous five minute alert posture throughout this period and intercepted several Soviet AN-12 "Cub" and AN-22 "Cock" transport aircraft involved in the resupply of Arab countries. Flight operations continued almost uninterrupted until 15 November when the ship anchored in Souda Bay, Crete. As normality slowly returned to the Middle East, the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY once again headed west on 18 November. Two weeks later, on 30 November 1973, "TOPHATTER" aircraft were flown off to NAS Oceana as Fighting FOURTEEN concluded the 1973 Mediterranean cruise.

The month of December was a period of intense activity for the squadron as preparations were made for the upcoming squadron transition to the F-14A "Tomcat". During December all twelve F-4B "Phantom" aircraft and their associated support equipment were transferred to various units throughout CONUS. This execution was achieved in the record time of two weeks and was prefaced by the squadron receiving the highest evaluation of excellent during the post deployment Material/Corrosion Control Inspections. In addition, the majority of squadron personnel were transferred to new commands while many of the few personnel remaining with the squadron began leaving for NAS Miramar to commence F-14 transition training. AS the year drew to a close, the "TOPHATTERS" of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN looked back on a job "Well Done" in 1973 while eagerly anticipating the challenges of 1974 and the "Tomcat". Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN remains the "First and Foremost" fighter squadron in the fleet.

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES

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- (2) 1973 Flight Statistics
- (3) Ordnance Expenditures
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- (5) Commanding Officer's Biography
- (6) Commanding Officer's Photograph
- (7) Photograph of Squadron Aircraft
- (8) Photograph of Squadron Officers

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1973 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

01 JAN - 12 JAN Based ashore at NAS Oceana  
13 JAN - 15 JAN Aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY, Pier 12,  
Norfolk  
16 JAN - 24 JAN Operations, Vacapes area  
25 JAN - 29 JAN Pier 12, Norfolk  
30 JAN - 08 FEB Operations, Vacapes area  
07 FEB - LT [REDACTED] detached from VF-14  
09 FEB - 12 FEB Pier 12, Norfolk  
13 FEB - 21 FEB Operations off east coast of Florida  
22 FEB - 23 MAR Based ashore, NAS Oceana  
16 MAR - LT [REDACTED] detached from VF-14  
19 MAR - LT [REDACTED] reported aboard  
24 MAR - 27 MAR Pier 12, Norfolk  
28 MAR - 04 APR Operations, Vacapes area  
05 APR - 15 APR Pier 12, Norfolk  
16 APR - 23 APR Enroute Mediterranean  
24 APR - 25 APR Anchored, Naval Station, Rota, Spain  
26 APR - Operations, Gibraltar approaches  
27 APR - INCHOP Mediterranean  
28 APR - 03 MAY Operations, Western Mediterranean  
04 MAY - 08 MAY Inport, Barcelona, Spain

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1973 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (CONT'D)

09 MAY - 11 MAY Operations, Western Mediterranean  
12 MAY - 16 MAY Inport, Palma, Spain  
14 MAY - LT [REDACTED] detached from VF-14  
17 MAY - 19 MAY Operations, Western Mediterranean  
20 MAY - Inport, Gaeta, Italy  
21 MAY - 29 MAY Operations, Central Mediterranean  
30 MAY - 31 MAY Inport, Gaeta, Italy  
01 JUN - Enroute, Cannes, France  
02 JUN - 08 JUN Inport, Cannes, France  
09 JUN - Enroute, Gaeta, Italy  
10 JUN - 12 JUN Inport, Gaeta, Italy  
11 JUN - Vice Admiral D. J. MURPHY relieves  
Vice Admiral G. E. MILLER as Commander  
SIXTH Fleet  
13 JUN - 16 JUN Operations, Central Mediterranean  
17 JUN - Anchored, Souda Bay, Crete  
18 JUN - 20 JUN Operations, Eastern Mediterranean  
21 JUN - 25 JUN Inport, Rhodes, Greece  
26 JUN - 01 JUL Inport, Athens, Greece  
02 JUL - 13 JUL Operations, Eastern Mediterranean  
07 JUL - LT [REDACTED] detached from VF-14  
14 JUL - 16 JUL Inport, Livorno, Italy

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1973 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (CONT'D)

17 JUL - 24 JUL Operations, Eastern Mediterranean  
18 JUL - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reported aboard  
21 JUL - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14  
25 JUL - Anchored, Augusta Bay, Sicily  
26 JUL - Enroute, Palma, Spain  
27 JUL - ENS [REDACTED] reported aboard  
27 JUL - 11 AUG Inport, Palma, Spain  
31 JUL - CDR John T. MCHUGH relieves CDR  
Theodore D. KUJAWSKI as Commanding  
Officer of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN  
12 AUG - 15 AUG Operations, Western Mediterranean  
16 AUG - 19 AUG Inport, Barcelona, Spain  
19 AUG - LTJG Homer E. SNOW reported aboard  
20 AUG - 24 AUG Operations, Western Mediterranean  
25 AUG - 26 AUG Anchored, Hurd Bank, Malta  
27 AUG - 29 AUG Operations, Western Mediterranean  
30 AUG - 13 SEP Inport, Palma, Spain  
14 SEP - Enroute, Malaga, Spain  
15 SEP - 19 SEP Inport, Malaga, Spain  
17 SEP - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14

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1973 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (CONT'D)

18 SEP - ENS ██████████ reported aboard  
20 SEP - 22 SEP Operations, Western Mediterranean  
23 SEP - OUTCHOP Mediterranean  
24 SEP - Inport, Rota, Spain  
25 SEP - Enroute, Bay of Biscay  
26 SEP - 30 SEP Operations, Bay of Biscay  
01 OCT - 03 OCT Operations, North Sea  
04 OCT - 10 OCT Operations, Norwegian Sea  
11 OCT - LTJG ██████████ detached from VF-14  
11 OCT - 14 OCT Inport, Edinburgh, Scotland  
15 OCT - 17 OCT Enroute, Rota, Spain  
18 OCT - Anchored, Rota, Spain  
19 OCT - 25 OCT Operations, Gibraltar approaches  
26 OCT - INCHOP, Mediterranean  
27 OCT - 17 NOV Operations, South of Crete  
31 OCT - CWO3 ██████████ detached from VF-14  
18 NOV - 29 NOV Enroute CONUS  
30 NOV - Aircraft fly-off to NAS Oceana  
01 DEC - Pier 12, Norfolk  
02 DEC - 31 DEC Based ashore at NAS Oceana

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1973 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (CONT'D)

- 20 DEC - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14
- 31 DEC - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14
- 31 DEC - LT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14
- 31 DEC - LCDR [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14
- 31 DEC - LTJG [REDACTED] [REDACTED] detached from VF-14

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FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN STATISTICS  
01 JANUARY 1973 THRU 31 DECEMBER 1973

TOTAL FLIGHT TIME	2402
NIGHT TIME	632
AVERAGE HOURS/PILOT (14 PILOTS)	171.7
TOTAL CARRIER LANDINGS (DAY/NIGHT)	1202/347
AVERAGE DAY CVA LANDINGS/PILOT	86
AVERAGE NIGHT CVA LANDINGS/PILOT	25
TOTAL INTERCEPTS	3468
AVERAGE INTERCEPTS PER CREW	247
ACM ENGAGEMENTS	288
AVERAGE ACM ENGAGEMENT PER CREW	21
CW SORTIES	142
AVERAGE CW SORTIES/CREW	10
INFLIGHT REFUELINGS	1044

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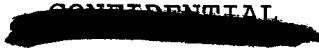


FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN 1973 ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES

<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
1. MK-76	729
2. 5" FFAR ZUNI	16
3. MK-82 LDGP	24
4. MK-24/45 FLARE	46
5. 20 MM TP	2138
6. AIM-7E	22
7. AIM-9 D/G	6
8. CHAFF	958
9. MK-58	23

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FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN OFFICERS AND BILLETS HELD  
31 DEC 1973

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
CDR J. T. MCHUGH	COMMANDING OFFICER
LCDR F. L. LEWIS	EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ACTING)
LCDR [REDACTED]	OPERATIONS OFFICER
LCDR [REDACTED]	MAINTENANCE OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	AIRCRAFT DIVISION OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	LANDING SIGNAL OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	PERSONNEL OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	SAFETY OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	MAINTENANCE/MATERIAL CONTROL OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	E. W. TRAINING OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	WEAPONS TRAINING OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	LINE DIVISION OFFICER
LT [REDACTED]	AVIONICS/ARMAMENT DIVISION OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	FIRE CONTROL BRANCH OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	POWER PLANTS BRANCH OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	FLIGHT OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	FIRST LIEUTENANT
LTJG [REDACTED]	AVIATION EQUIPMENT OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	ELEC/INSTRUMENT BRANCH OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	ASS'T MAINTENANCE CONTROL OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	LEGAL OFFICER
LTJG [REDACTED]	AIRFRAMES BRANCH OFFICER
ENS [REDACTED]	ED SERVICES/RETENTION OFFICER
ENS [REDACTED]	AIR INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
CWO2 [REDACTED]	ARMAMENT BRANCH OFFICER

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