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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
 FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN  
 FLEET POST OFFICE  
 NEW YORK 09501-6103

1987

DECLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
 5757  
 ADMIN/C-001

07 MAR 1988

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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron 14  
 To: Director of Naval History (Op-09BH)

Subj: SUBMISSION OF 1987 COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV 5750-1) (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer (CDR D. M. CHOPP) (U)  
 (2) Photo of Squadron Aircraft (U)  
 (3) Officer's & Enlisted Roster (U)  
 (4) End of Cruise Release (U)  
 (5) Family Grams (U)

1. (U) Command Composition and Organization.

a. (U) Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN, nicknamed the TOPHATTERS, is part of Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE deployed aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). VF-14 is home based at Naval Air Station, Oceana and has 12 F-14A TOMCATS assigned.

b. (U) The mission of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN is to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles in all weather conditions and to establish and maintain local air superiority.

c. (U) Newer long range aircraft with long range air-to-surface as well as surface-to-surface missiles have continued to be a large concern for Battle Group Commanders. The F-14A TOMCAT with its multi-track radar and sophisticated ECCM capabilities plus the AWG-9/PHOENIX weapon system is the platform most capable to oppose these threats now and in the near future. Throughout 1987, VF-14 continued to train for such threats and to maximize the capabilities of the F-14.

2. (C) Chronology:

01 - 02 JAN:	Inport - Palma de Mallorca, Spain
03 - 05 JAN:	Enroute port visit, Cannes, France
06 - 15 JAN:	Inport - Cannes, France
16 - 28 JAN:	MED OPS
25 JAN:	MISSILEX-AIM-9L
29 - 30 JAN:	Inport - Malaga, Spain
01 - 05 FEB:	MED OPS with USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)
06 - 11 FEB:	Inport - Haifa, Israel
13 - 21 FEB:	MED OPS with USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)
22 FEB:	Outchop MED
23 FEB - 02 MAR:	TRANSLANT, return NAS Oceana
03 MAR - 01 APR:	Squadron Standdown, Post-Cruise Leave
02- 30 APR:	Turnaround Training

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01 - 11 MAY:	MISSILEX, Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico 2 AEM-54A 2 AIM-7F/M 2 ATM-7F/M 5 ATM-9L/M
12 MAY - 13 JUL:	Turnaround Training
14 JUL - 07 AUG:	FFARP vs VF-43 Challengers
08 - 27 AUG:	Turnaround Training, Field Carrier Qualification
28 AUG - 16 SEP:	CV OPS, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), in support of Boston, MA and Portland, ME detachment
19 - 26 SEP:	CONSTANT PEG, NAS Fallon
22 OCT:	Change of Command, CDR D.M. Chopp relieves CDR P.W. Bower as Commanding Officer, VF-14
26 OCT:	QUICK THRUST, Charleston OP area
07 - 08 NOV:	SAND EAGLE, NAS Pensacola
15 - 23 NOV:	CV/ISE OPS, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) VACAPS OP area
05 - 17 DEC:	CV/REFTRA, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67)

3. (U) Narrative VF-14:

a. (U) Began 1987 enjoying their holiday inport period in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The squadron completed several NATO exercises during their first 4 months in the MED, applying their ACM excellence against the U.S., Italian, French, and Turkish air forces.

b. (U) On January 3, 1987, during night recovery operations while embarked onboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) in the central Mediterranean Sea, aircraft 106, BUNO 159431, drifted right on a long bolter. AC 106 impacted an A-6 spotted on the bow and crashed at sea. Fourteen to twenty foot seas and 35 knot winds hampered rescue efforts, but both aircrew were recovered with minor injuries. Class "C" damage was incurred by the A-6. No flight deck injuries were sustained and the small flight deck fire was extinguished.

c. (U) Revisited Cannes, France onboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) prior to conducting joint operations with her replacement, USS NIMITZ (CVN-68).

d. (U) Completed a flawless, no-notice ATM-7F (Sparrow) missile shoot. This missile culminated the IWSR exercise for the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67).

e. (U) Earned an Outstanding during the Mid-cruise corrosion/material audit. This is especially significant because VF-14 flies some of the oldest Tomcats in the inventory.

f. (U) During the hostage crisis in Lebanon, the TOPHATTERS and the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) rejoined the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) in the Eastern Mediterranean. After a show of force with a 2 Carrier Battle Group presence, the KENNEDY departed the MED to arrive in Norfolk on March 3rd, two weeks after her original scheduled arrival date.

g. (U) Worked multi-mission sorties to maximize limited flight time (reduced tempo of OPS per airwing directive to conserve OPTAR).

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- h. (U) Received the FOD awareness award for the cruise.
- i. (C) Performed several gunnery banner tows from USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67). These events required careful planning between the ship and airwing team, as well as Fighter Wing ONE certifying officials.
- j. (U) Attained several distinctive aviation milestones; CDR Dan Chopp recorded his 1000th Carrier Arrested Landing, as well as his 2500th F-14 flight hour. CDR Phil Bower surpassed the 3000 hour total flight time plateau. LCDR J.W. Orrison recorded his 400th KENNEDY trap and his 2000th Tomcat flight hour. Also, LCDR Terry Parsons, LCDR Rick Neidlinger, and LT Bill Ermolovich recorded their 1500th F-14 Tomcat flight hour.
- k. (U) Placed second in the Airwing "Tophook Competition" with a 3.43 squadron hook score for the cruise.
- l. (C) Forwarded several innovative recommendations in reply to a request by the Naval Fighter Weapons School, NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA.
- m. (C) Successfully fired eleven for eleven missiles during a May 1987 missile shoot at Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. The shoot consisted of 2 Phoenix, 4 Sparrow, and 5 Sidewinder missiles.
- n. (U) Placed first during the Fighter Derby portion of the Annual Fighter Fling, compiling the best kill ratio of all east coast F-14 squadrons against a 2 vs 6 scenario with the VF-43 "Challengers."
- o. (U) Was recognized by COMFITWING ONE for having 12 UP jets and zero NORS during turnaround training.
- p. (U) Embarked for CV operations onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) in support of Boston, MA and Portland, Maine detachment 28 AUG - 16 SEP 88.
- q. (C) Engaged in advanced ACM training against Air Force F -4's and F-5's as part of CONSTANT PEG, NAS Fallon.
- r. (C) Participated in the Orange Air exercise QUICK THRUST in October at the Charleston OP area.
- s. (C) Portrayed Third World fighters and used Soviet tactics against the U.S. Air Force as a part of the SAND EAGLE exercise at NAS Pensacola and Eglin AFB, Florida.
- t. (C) Completed highly successful Carrier Qualification detachments in November and December. Fighter support helped the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY successfully complete the air intercept/ground control training aspects of REFTRA.
- u. (U) Hosted Five Star Production Company during November CQ detachment as the ABC TV movie "SUPERCARRIER" was being filmed.
- v. (U) Flew over 3550 accident free hours for the calendar year 1987.

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4. (U) Statistics and Supportive Documents (CALENDAR YEAR 1987)

a. (U) Flight Hours.

- (1) (C) Total Hours Flown: 3576.0
  - (a) Day: 2895.4/80.90%
  - (b) Night: 680.6/19.10%
  - (c) Primary Missions: 3518.1/98.3%
  - (d) Sorties Completion Rate: 2128 scheduled / 2046 flown: 96.1%
- (2) (C) Total Hours Ashore: 2470.5
  - (a) Day: 2071.2/83.8%
  - (b) Night: 399.3/16.2%
- (3) (C) Total Embarked Hours: 1105.5
  - (a) Day: 745.0/67.3%      20.7% total
  - (b) Night: 360.5/32.7%    10.0% total
- (4) (C) Total Sorties Ashore: 1546
  - (a) Day: 1315/85%
  - (b) Night: 231/15%
- (5) (C) Total Sorties Embarked: 612
  - (a) Day: 385/63%
  - (b) Night: 227/37%

b. (U) Shipboard Landings.

- (1) (C) Total Carrier Arrested Landings: 947
  - (a) Day: 622/67.5%
  - (b) Night: 325/32.5%
- (2) (U) Carrier Landing Grades.
  - (a) Day Grades/Boarding Rate: 3.220/90.91%
  - (b) Night Grades/Boarding Rate: 3.314/90.38%
  - (c) Overall Grade/Boarding Rate: 3.252/90.73%

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c. (U) Achievements in Aviation Safety.

- (1) Date of last Alpha Flight/Flight Related Mishap: 03 January 1987
- (2) Flight Hours since last Alpha Flight/Flight Related Mishap: 3,556.0
- (3) Alpha Flight/Flight Related Mishaps: 1
- (4) Bravo Flight/Flight Related Mishaps: 1
- (5) Alpha Ground Mishaps: 0
- (6) Hazard Reports Submitted: 4
- (7) NATOPS Changes Submitted: 8
- (8) Accidental Fatalities/Injuries:  
ALFA, LIMA, UNIFORM: 0  
BRAVO: 0  
CHARLIE: 0
- (9) Number of QDR'S Submitted: 7
- (10) Number Safety Related Articles Submitted/Published: 1/1
- (11) Number of Flight Violations: 0
- (12) Number of Explosive Ordnance Mishaps Submitted: 0
- (13) Number of PROS of the Week: 0
- (14) Number of Safety Standdowns/Reviews Conducted: 10
- (15) Safety Survey by Outside Organization: 0
- (16) Special Awards Received: 1
- (17) Other Safety Related Items:  
Hazardous Material Reports - 8  
TECH Pub Deficiency Reports - 9  
Engineering Investigation Requests - 9  
FOD Free Days: 184 Days (last FOD 01 July 87)

d. (C) Missile Firing by BUNO.

AIRCRAFT	TYPE MISSILE	RESULT/REMARKS
159014	AIM-9L	Direct Hit
162691	ATM-9L	Lethal Miss
162691	AEM-54A	Lethal Miss
162701	ATM-9L	Direct Hit
162691	AIM-7M	Lethal Miss
159453	AEM-54A	Lethal Miss
159433	ATM-9M	Direct Hit
159453	AIM-7F	Lethal Miss
161145	ATM-9M	Lethal Miss
162701	ATM-9L	Direct Hit
162701	ATM-7F	Lethal Miss
159463	ATM-7F	Miss
159463	ATM-7F	Lethal Miss
161145	AIM-7F	Miss

e. (C) Ordnance Expenditure 1987

	<u>Number Allocated</u>	<u>Number Fired</u>
20mm TP	N/A	15,949
20mm HEI	N/A	1,227

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f. (U) Total Number of FOD Occurrences:

- (1) 1 FOD
- (2) FOD Rate: 0.28 per 1000 flight hours

g. (U) Combat Readiness Inspections and Exercises.

(1) Inspection Results.

- (a) ORE - N/A
- (b) Command Inspection - CFW-1 ADMAT: SAT
- (c) Corrosion Control
  - 1 CFW-1 Post cruise - SAT/EXCELLENT
  - 2 CFW-1 Turnaround- N/A
- (d) CWTPI - N/A
- (e) NTPI - N/A
- (f) IWSR - SAT
- (g) MRCI - N/A
- (h) CNAL Maint Advisory Team: SAT/24 April 87
- (i) Command NATOPS Evaluation:
  - 1 Boldface: 3.8
  - 2 Closed Book: 3.3
  - 3 Open Book: 4.0
  - 4 Comments: EXCELLENT, No Discrepancies

5. (U) Enclosures (1) through (5) are forwarded for supporting documents.

*D. M. Chopp*  
D. M. CHOPP

Classified by OPNAVINST 5510.1G  
Declassify on OADR

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OFFICER BILLET SUMMARY

NAME	RANK	BILLET
CHOPP, DANIEL M.	CDR	Commanding Officer
STRICKLAND, PETER B.	CDR	Executive Officer
LANDRY, HENRY G. JR	LCDR	MAINT Material Control
MILLER, EDWARD M.	LCDR	Personnel Officer
NASH, RONALD J.	LCDR	Asst Maintenance Officer
NEIDLINGER, ERIC C.	LCDR	Safety Officer
ORRISON, JOHN W.	LCDR	Operations Officer
PARSONS, TERRY L.	LCDR	Maintenance Officer
SMITH, SHAWN M.	LCDR	Administration Officer
BAUR, PETER C.	LT	Schedules Officer
BRANDT, THOMAS E.	LT	RIO Training Officer
CLEMENTE, MARK N.	LT	Asst Operations Officer
DENNENY, DOUGLAS J.	LT	AV/WPS Division Officer
DOYLE, PATRICK W.	LT	Asst Safety Officer
GULLIVER, JON S.	LT	Aircraft Division Officer
LAWRENCE, DAVID L.	LT	Maintenance Control
MARCHIONE, ANTHONY M.	LT	Pilot Training Officer
MENZ, KEITH B.	LT	Legal Officer/PAO
REDDEN, JEFFREY S.	LT	First Lieutenant Officer
RICE, CHRISTOPHER W.	LT	LSO/NATOPS
RICH, MARKHAM K.	LT	Training Officer
ROACH, RANDALL D.	LT	Quality Control Officer
ROGNESS, MARK E.	LT	Airframes Branch Officer
SMITH, JEFF B.	LT	Line Division Officer
VALEN, MICHAEL J.	LT	PR Branch Officer
WOODS, JOHN C.	LT	IWT Branch Officer
DOWNING, THOMAS M.	LTJG	Power Plants Branch Officer
HUNTER, JEFFREY T.	LTJG	AE Branch Officer
McHUGH, KEVIN G.	LTJG	Coffee Mess Officer
MLIKAN, MARK E.	LTJG	Material Officer
PAISLEY, WILLIAM M.	LTJG	Asst Operations Officer
WITTROCK, ROCKNE W.	LTJG	Educational Services
MOORE, VICTOR W.	ENS	Tactical Intelligence
MANER, CHARLES R. H.	CWO2	Ordnance Officer

Enclosure (3)

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FIGHER SQUADRON FOURTEEN

## OFFICERS

CDR DANIEL M. CHOPP, USN -- COMMANDING OFFICER

CDR PETER B. STRICKLAND, USN -- EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LCDR TERRY L. PARSONS  
LCDR JOHN W. ORRISON  
LCDR SHAWN M. SMITHLCDR RONALD J. NASH  
LCDR ERIC C. NEIDLINGER  
LCDR HENRY G. LANDRY JR.LT RANDALL D. ROACH  
LT MARK N. CLEMENTE  
LT JEFFREY S. REDDEN  
LT JON S. GULLIVER  
LT ANTHONY M. MARCHIONE  
LT JEFF B. SMITH  
LT PATRICK W. DOYLE  
LT MARKHAM K. RICHLT CHRISTOPHER W. RICE  
LT KEITH B. MENZ  
LT MICHAEL J. VALEN  
LT PETER C. BAUR  
LT THOMAS E. BRANDT  
LT MARK E. ROGNES  
LT DOUGLAS J. DENNENY  
LT JOHN C. WOODSLTJG THOMAS M. DOWNING  
LTJG MARK E. MLIKAN  
LTJG KEVIN G. McHUGHLTJG JEFFERY T. HUNTER  
LTJG ROCKNE W. WITTRICK  
LTJG WILLIAM M. PAISLEY

ENS VICTOR W. MOORE

CWO2 CHARLES R. T. MANER

MASTER/SENIOR/CHIEF  
PETTY OFFICERSAVCM CARL C. PAYNE JR. - COMMAND MASTER CHIEF  
AFCM LARRY K. SINK - MAINTENANCE MASTER CHIEF

AECS(AW) JAMES W. KADLECICK

ADCS(AW) BARRY D. WOOD

YNC(AW) BRIAN L. BODOH  
AMSC CHARLES J. W. CHAN  
ADC(AW) VINCENT C. COOK  
ATC(AW) EDWARD W. GOODWIN  
AMHC EDWARD F. HOFFMAN JR.  
AEC(AW) DONALD T. JACKSONAMSC ROBERT D. KINGERY  
AQC ROBERT J. MAY  
YNC SCOTTY R. MAYNER  
AOC(AW) GLENN B. NEWSOME  
AOC RANDY J. TROUT

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## FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

1987 SAILOR OF THE YEAR -- AZ1 WILLIAM L. WATERS

AD1 WILLIAM T. AYARS	AQ1 ALLAN M. MONTGOMERY
AME1 CARL E. BLIMLINE	AT1 MICHAEL NERINO
AMH1 RAYMOND BORRERO	AO1 JOHN T. PEENEY
AD1 CLIFTON C. BRANDES	AD1 RICHARD R. PLAN
NC1 (AW) MERRILL K. BUNING JR.	AQ1 MAURICE E. RALSTON
AE1 RANDELL L. CRAIG	AMH1 MICHAEL "R" REDMAN
AO1 MICHAEL A. FASHION	AMS1 LARRY D. ROBERTS
AE1 ELVIN FERRER	YN1 JAMES M. TISHKO
AMS1 NESTOR G. GONZALES	AZ1 WILLIAM L. WATERS
AK1 STEPHEN L. GUGLIELMINI	PN1 JOHN A. WHEELER JR.
AMH1 (AW) DAVID W. KITTLE	PN1 WILLIAM B. ZELNER
AE1 KEN "A" KOCH	

## SECOND CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

AO2 KEITH A. ADCOCK	PN2 (AW) BRIAN A. KOVALCHIK
AMS2 FLOYD W. J. BAKER	AE2 DAVID B. KYLE
AMS2 (AW) PATRICK L. BENOIT	AD2 PAUL M. LABBE
AQ2 JAMES P. BRAY	AO2 LEROY LATASA
AK2 DALE E. CAMPBELL	AME2 MARK E. MANNING
AK2 WALTER W. CORYELL	AMH2 JOHN S. MATTIE
AMH2 STEPHEN D. CRUNKILTON	AE2 SAMUEL R. MCLAUGHLIN
PR2 GEORGE V. DAVIS	AT2 JAMES G. MCNEIL
AMS2 MAURICE DEVONSHIRE	AZ2 STEPHEN P. MILLER
MS2 BRIAN W. EMBRY	AD2 MARVIN J. POCHE
OS2 WAYNE S. FERNANDEZ	AMH2 MARK B. PREVETTE
AQ2 BENNY J. FIGGS	AD2 CLARENCE E. RARICK
MS2 TY A. FRY	AMH2 THOMAS W. RYDZEWSKI
AT2 RITCHIE A. GILBERT	AQ2 CLAUDE N. SALISBURY JR.
AZ2 (AW) BERNARD B. GOAD	AO2 MICHAEL W. SCOTT
AO2 KENNETH B. GREEN	AT2 JEFFREY A. SHATTUCK
AD2 DEVIN R. HALL	AK2 GERALD L. SHOBLOCK
AD2 DAVID J. HENDERSON	AO2 KEITH SMITH
AQ2 RICHARD E. HERMAN	DK2 MICHAEL A. SMITH
HM2 REGINALD HINSON	AT2 WILLIAM J. SYDE
AMH2 VINCENT C. HIX	AK2 MICHAEL VONCANON
AD2 KEVIN HOLLOWAY	AMS2 (AW) MICHAEL T. WILLIAMS
AO2 STEVEN G. HUDSON	AMH2 RALPH E. WILLIAMS
AME2 WILLIAM R. HUFF	AT2 (AW) GORDON T. WOOD
AME2 TONEY D. JENKINS	

Enclosure (3)

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THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

AD3 CECIL T. ALEXANDER  
MS3 JOHN D. ALEXANDER  
AD3 EDDIE A. AURELIO  
AE3 ADRIAN BOTELLO  
AE3 JAMES G. BRANTON  
AMH3 PAUL A. BROWN  
AZ3 DANIEL S. BROWNE  
AMS3 DAVID G. CARTER  
AMS3 JEFFREY W. COLVIN  
AK3 JOHN M. COYLE  
AMS3 GREGG R. CURTIS  
AMS3 DOUGLAS L. DANGLER  
AMS3 GARY S. EHLIN  
AO3 STEVEN G. EVANS  
AD3 RAMON S. GALIBUT  
AT3 CHRISTOPHER A. GRIFFIN  
AMH3 ANDREW HELLMANN  
AME3 LEMUEL A. HENRY  
AMS3 ROY A. HERRING  
AT3 THOMAS C. HESS  
AME3 PETER HRISTOV JR.

AQ3 STEVEN D. HUFF  
AO3 ANTHONY E. JOHNSON  
AMH3 MARK J. LAROSA  
AD3 DAVID A. LEGARD JR.  
AMS3 STEVEN T. MABRY  
AD3 ELMER B. MARQUEZ  
AE3 KENNETH D. MILLER II  
YN3 MARION NOWLIN JR.  
AK3 MILES D. PAGE  
AMS3 WILLIAM E. PENDLETON  
MS3 TODD M. PRICE  
AZ3 JERRY K. RAMSAY  
AMH3 ERIC D. ROUSH  
AQ3 RAYMOND E. RUSSELL  
AD3 KARL J. SEILER  
AMS3 DANIEL J. SHARPE  
AD3 ERIC J. THOMPSON  
AE3 JOSEPH G. TRACEY  
AE3 ANGEL VILLALPANDO  
AZ3 MICHAEL L. WATKINS  
AMH3 BODE A. YOUNGKEN

Enclosure (3)

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NON-RATED PERSONNEL

AMSAA KEVIN D. AHLERS  
ADAN JEFFREY T. ALFORD  
PRAN DURWARD H. ALLEN  
ATAN CHARLES E. ALLISON  
AN TIMOTHY K. ALLMAN  
YNSN TERRY R. ANDREWS  
AN HENRY G. ASISTIN  
AA HERBERT Y. BAUTISTA  
AN ALAN J. BENNETT  
AOAA ERIC S. BLOOM  
AN ROBERT C. BOSICK  
AN REGINALD W. BROWN  
AMHAN LESTER D. BURNETTE  
AN NATHAN COSTON  
AMEAN SEBASTIANO L. DIMONDA  
AN CHARLES C. ELDER JR.  
AN MARK A. FOSTER  
AN DAVID "S" FUENTES  
AOAA DAVID A. FURIN  
AN MARK W. GAMBLE  
AN JAMES E. GEE III  
AA JOSEPH L. GILES  
AOAN WILLIAM E. HALL  
AA MITCHELL L. HUNT  
AA PAUL E. ISAAC  
AN AN JAMES L. ISRAEL  
AKAR SUNG H. KIM  
ATAN ANTHONY K. KISER  
AQAN JOHN L. KOVAR  
AN STEVEN L. LABADIE  
ADAA JAMES LONGWELL II  
AN ANTHONY R. MAUCK  
AQAN SCOT A. MCCALL

AA RONALD E. MCGRATH  
AN LELAND B. MCNEIL  
ADAN JOHN V. MICKAVICZ JR.  
AMEAN WILLIAM R. MIDWOOD JR.  
AA KURT D. MOSELER  
AR BRADFORD J. MUNSEY  
AA CURTIS O. NORMAN  
AN THOMAS E. ODOM JR.  
AA LENNIE B. PERRY  
AOAN ROBERT "L" PETERMAN  
AOAA DAVID A. PIZER  
AOAN ROY N. PLUMLEE  
AN GOVERNOR L. ROBINSON  
AN TERENCE T. RUDD  
AA KIRK A. SANDERS  
AN WILLIAM D. SAVAGE JR.  
AMSAN DARYL J. SAVKO  
PRAN LEONARD F. SCHRAEDER  
AMHAA HASSAN Y. SHARPE  
ADAA ROBERT L. SHEPPARD  
AN WILLIAM J. SINGSANK  
ADAN RANDOLL G. SLOAN  
ATAN JOHN A. STOCKTON  
AN DEXTER S. TATUM  
AN HAROLD R. UPTON  
AMEAN DANIEL L. VAVRIK  
AR JAMES A. WALDRON  
AEAN WILLIAM O. WHEELER  
AN DARREN WHITE  
AZAA ERIC M. WINGROVE  
AN ALFRED J. WINTHROP  
AN LAWRENCE M. YOUNG  
AA EDWARD I. ZIRKLE

Enclosure (3)

END OF CRUISE RELEASE

In the wake of hurricane Charley, the VF-14 TOPHATTERS of CVW-3 and the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) departed Norfolk/Virginia Beach on August 18, 1986, for a 6 month Mediterranean cruise. After the crossing of the Atlantic, the Kennedy dropped anchor in Rota, Spain and conducted a three day turnover with her predecessor the USS AMERICA (CV-66).

After conducting some routine operations and a port call in Benidorm, Spain, and Toulon, France the TOPHATTERS participated in the highly successful NATO exercise "Display Determinations 86." VF-14 flew a number ACM sorties versus French F-8's and Super Entendards, (from their aircraft carrier Foch) Italian F-104's and Turkish F-4's, F-5's and F-104's. Throughout this exercise VF-14 entertained officers from the Italian and French Navies. The TOPHATTER Aircrew were able to brief and debrief the foreign officers on tactics used on missions involving their respective countries.

Sandwiched between visits to Haifa, Israel, and Trieste, Italy was the exercise "Seawind." This exercise was predominantly low level strike escorts over Egypt.

A few more days of normal operations and a quick stop in Naples, Italy preceeded "Operation Poopdeck." This exercise pitted VF-14 and CVW-3 against the Air Forces of Spain and the United States. The Spanish flew F-18's and Mirage F-1's while the United States Air Force opposed with F-16's and F-15's. Morocco was next in the exercise "African Eagle." The Moroccans flew Mirage F-1's, F-4's, F-5's and were aided by Air Force F-15's. The flying, which was predominatly ACM, proved invaluable for all participants in this November exercise.

Cannes, France was the Thanksgiving port of call! During December the TOPHATTERS conducted routine Mediterranean operations, visiting Naples, Italy and then Palma de Mallorca, Spain for the Holidays.

Throughout the cruise a number of TOPHATTER aircrew attained various aviation milestones. CDR Dan Chopp, the Executive Officer, recorded his 1000<sup>th</sup> Career Arrested Landing, a feat achieved by only a select few. CDR Chopp also became a "Quadruple Centurion with his 400<sup>th</sup> USS JOHN F. KENNEDY "trap" while recording his 2500<sup>th</sup> F-14 Tomcat hour. CDR Phil Bower, the Commanding Officer, surpassed the 3000 hour total flight time plateau as well as becoming a "Centurion" with 100 JFK arrestments.

LCDR J. W. Orrison became a "Quadruple Centurion" with his 400<sup>th</sup> Kennedy trap. LCDR Terry Parsons and LT Bill Ermolovich became "Triple Centurions." LT Ermolovich also recorded his 1500<sup>th</sup> F-14 Tomcat flight hour. LCDR Rick Neidlinger recorded his 1500<sup>th</sup> Tomcat hour and became a "Centurion" while LCDR Al Myers surpassed 1000 F-14 hours becoming a JFK "Centurion". The following TOPHATTERS became USS JFK "Centurions:" LCDR Gary Jack, LCDR Kurt Smith, LCDR Shawn Smith, LT Mike Sottung, LT Niel Golightly, LT Al Pritchard, LT Al Oka, LT Don Brady, LT Jon Gulliver, LT Mark Marchione, LT Dennis Cohan, LT Jeff Smith, LT Steve Leslie, LT Pat Doyle, LT Mark Rich, LT Chris Rice, LT Mike Valen, LT Pete Baur, LT Tom Brandt, and LTJG Mark Rogness.

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VF-14 faired extremely well in the "Tophook Competition" for the first line period. The TOPHATTERS placed second in the Airwing with a 3.43 squadron hook score. LT Don Brady finished among the top ten individuals of CVW-3 with a score of 3.62.

Maintenance wise the TOPHATTERS continue to own some very impressive records. VF-14 has recorded over 600 consecutive FOD free days, a feat equalled by few. The TOPHATTERS also earned an Outstanding on the recent Mid-cruise Corrosion/material Audit. This is especially significant because VF-14 fly some of the oldest Tomcats in the inventory.

VF-14 maintained the highest state of readiness throughout the cruise. The TOPHATTERS were always poised to operate near and below the "Line of Death."

Enclosure (4)

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