

1992 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN

FLEET POST OFFICE

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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B4), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.


J. W. SNYDER

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COMMAND HISTORY

1. Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN serves as one of two carrier-borne F-14A TOMCAT squadrons assigned to Carrier Airwing THREE. Its primary mission is to provide air superiority for the carrier battle group and attached amphibious forces operating ashore. Secondary missions include strike, ground attack and close air support. The current commanding officer is CDR Jonathan W. Snyder, current executive officer is CDR Emmitt D. Dickens. When ashore, FITRON FOURTEEN is permanently based at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Embarked operations are from USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67). Nine F-14A TOMCAT aircraft are assigned with tailcodes "AC 1xx."

2. The following is a chronology of significant events during 1992:

03-14 FEB, TASS (TOMCAT Advanced Strike Syllabus) training
20 FEB, "COASTAL CARNAGE" Airwing Excercise
20-29 FEB, Operation "RADIANT AMETHYST", NAS Fallon, NV
01-20 MAR, CARAIRWING THREE WEAPONS DET, NAS Fallon, NV
01-15 APR, REFTRA, CV-67, Cherry Pt Oparea
09-11 MAY, "OCEAN VENTURE", Cherry Pt Target Complex, NC
10-28 MAY, "Fleet Week", New York City, NY
13 JUL-10 AUG, COMPTUEX, CV-67, Puerto Rican Oparea
09-18 SEP, FLEETEX, CV-67, Cherry Pt Oparea
07 OCT-31 DEC, Mediteranean Deployment, CV-67
08-09 NOV, Operation "MINOR MANOR" (Tunisia)
13-19 NOV, Operation "SEAWIND" (Egypt)
20-28 NOV, Volkel Detachment (Netherlands)
07-16 DEC, Operation "AFRICAN EAGLE" (Morroco)

The TOPHATTERS began 1992 based ashore at NAS Oceana undergoing training in preparation for a fall 1992 deployment. Since it first entered fleet service, the F-14 has had the capability to serve as a self-escorted strike-fighter. While not utilized in the past, 1992 saw the introduction of dedicated programs (Low Altitude Training and TASS (TOMCAT Advanced Strike Syllabus)) to hone these specific skills. January was spent training aircrew in the low altitude/strike environment.

In February, the TOPHATTERS participated in TASS, a two week exercise utilizing various low level navigation routes in conjunction with bombing ranges along the East coast to simulate both medium and long range strikes. The TOPHATTERS were able to use this training while hosting the first "COASTAL CARNAGE" excercise of the year. By drawing participants from every CVW-3 squadron, and adversary "orange air" assets from VF-43, VF-14 led the airwing through a simulated opposed strike into the Dare County and Piney Island, NC, Target complex. During this same period, three VF-14 aircraft deployed early to NAS Fallon in support of Naval Space Command's Project "RADIANT AMETHYST."

March saw a continuation of the strike-fighter program as the TOPHATTERS accompanied the airwing to NAS Fallon, NV, for three weeks of overland strike training. Many of the newly

reported aircrew were able to have their first look at a fully operational airwing along with the multitude of target services the Fallon Range complex could provide (ECM, bombs, guns, ACM). The training culminated with a day long simulated amphibious assault during which all TOPHATTER aircrew were pushed to the limit while conducting both air superiority and flexible close air support missions.

In April, the TOPHATTERS made their first 1992 det to USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). The two week deployment was dedicated to REFTRA (Refresher Training) during which aircrew reestablished their carrier qualifications. Additionally, the squadron participated in Sparrow and Sidewinder missile shoots.

In May, VF-14 participated in the joint services exercise "OCEAN VENTURE" contributing two days of strikes, close air support and air cover for Marine forces in the Cherry Pt Target Complex, NC. Immediately following completion of OCEAN VENTURE, the TOPHATTERS embarked CV-67 enroute New York City. Once in New York, JFK participated in "Fleet Week", a six day open house affording the public an opportunity to get a personal look at both the aircraft onboard and the men who fly them.

During July and August, VF-14 deployed to the Caribbean Sea for COMPTUEX. This exercise combined all aspects of naval power projection which included opposed strikes into the Vieques Target range as well as Sparrow, Sidewinder and Phoenix missile shoots. While enjoying a brief rest in St. Thomas, USVI, the TOPHATTERS underwent an emergency recall and unscheduled deployment in response to ongoing tensions with Iraq. Five days later, CV-67 was recalled back to the Caribbean to complete COMPTUEX training.

The final training evolution prior to deployment was FLEETEX which consisted of ten days in September off the coast of North Carolina. Operations consisted of strikes ashore and close air support for the attached amphibious group. Upon successful completion, the JFK/CVW-3 team were ready for cruise.

In October, the TOPHATTERS departed Norfolk on the start of a Mediterranean Deployment. Following an eleven day transatlantic and relief of USS Saratoga (CV-59)/CVW-17 Battle Group, JFK immediately proceeded to the Adriatic Sea in support of United Nations operation "Provide Promise" in the former Yugoslavia.

November provided the TOPHATTERS several chances to exercise with foreign air forces. The first was a two day operation "MINOR MANOR" with the Tunisian Air Force. Several DACT (dissimilar air combat training) missions and a War-at-Sea exercise were executed. Mid-November saw the TOPHATTERS travel further east for Operation "SEAWIND". This consisted of seven days of airwing strikes into Egyptian military airfields and target complexes, low level navigation flights through the Sahara Desert, air combat and War-at-Sea exercises with Egyptian aircraft. Upon completion of "SEAWIND", three aircraft detached to the Netherlands for ten days as part of a NATO-wide training evolution. TOPHATTER aircrew were able to compare and evaluate the tactics and capabilities of our northern NATO allies.

The training continued in December, this time with the Royal Moroccan Air Force. Operation "AFRICAN EAGLE" saw a series of airwing strikes flown against Sidi Slimane, a Moroccan airfield defended by both RMAF and USAF assets. Additionally, multiple low level routes were flown through the Atlas Mountains along the northern coast. Once complete, two days of DACT were flown against the Spanish Air Force as CV-67 headed north. As the year came to a close, the VF-14 TOPHATTERS spent the Christmas Holiday season in Marseille, France.

4. The following is the operational summary for 1992:

	DAY HOURS	NIGHT HOURS	DAY SORTIES	NIGHT SORTIES	DAY TRAPS	NIGHT TRAPS
JAN	135	22	105	13	0	0
FEB	106	13	70	8	0	0
MAR	293	64	195	44	0	0
APR	200	28	139	31	81	31
MAY	171	20	108	20	68	10
JUN	194	56	132	37	0	0
JUL	254	86	156	72	125	57
AUG	153	68	83	43	53	33
SEP	250	65	143	58	110	42
OCT	127	113	82	74	79	67
NOV	303	70	168	70	144	70
DEC	206	47	108	38	110	36
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