



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN FPO MIAMI, 34099

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5700 Ser 00/C02 16 February 1985

L (Unclassified upon removal of classified enclosures)

From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron 15 To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

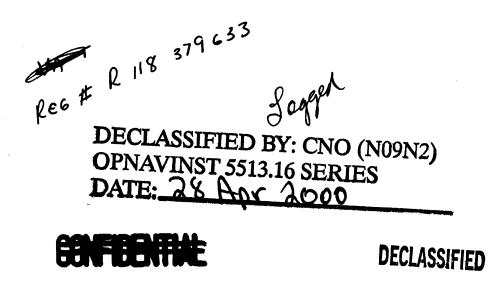
COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT SYMBOL 5750-1) (U) Subj:

- (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D Ref:
 - ATKRON FIFTEEN INST 5750.12C **(b)**
- Encl: (1) Attack Squadron 15 Command History Cover Letter (U)
 - (2) Chronological History for CY 1984 (U)
 - (3) Narrative History for CY 1984 (U)
 - (4) Flight Statistics for CY 1984 (U)
 - Ordnance Expediture for CY 1984 (U) (5)
 - Aircraft Received/Transferred for CY 1984 (U) (6)
 - (7) Advancement/Retention Statistics for CY 1984 (U)
 - (8) Officer Roster for CY 1984 (U)
 - Enlisted Roster for CY 1984 (U) (9)
 - (10) Commanding Officer's Biography (U)

 - (11) Commanding Officer's Photograph (U)
 (12) Picture of CORSAIR II A-7E VALION Aircraft (U)
 - (13) VA-15 December 1984 Familygram (U)
 - (14) Change of Command Program 01 June 1984 (U)
- In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (14) are forwarded. 1.

L. G. KAPPEI

Copy to: Director, Naval History (OP-09B9)







ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN COMMAND HISTORY COVER LETTER

Attack Squadron FIFTEEN, homeported at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida, flies the VOUGHT A-7E CORSAIR II.

Nineteen Eighty-Four was a fast-paced year for the VALIONS of VA-15. The beginning of the year found the squadron deployed aboard the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) supporting the Multi-national Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon, followed by participation in Exercise "TEAMWORK '84" in the North Atlantic.

After completing the deployment in early April the squadron initiated turnaround training after a brief standdown. Embarked workups for the upcoming Indian Ocean deployment were shortened due to the brief turnaround period and lasted from the first of August until mid-September. By the sixteenth of October the VALIONS were underway again, enroute to the Indian Ocean. While enroute they conducted operations with Egyptian Naval and Air Forces in Exercise "SEA WIND". Also, while operating in the North Arabian Sea, VA-15 conducted Exercise "BEACON FLASH" with Oman. The year ended with an unexpected but welcome port call to Singapore.

VA-15 is under the administrative command of COMLATWING ONE and Tactical Wings Atlantic Fleet. Operationally, the squadron is under CVW-6 and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62).

VA-15 is currently under the command of Commander Leslie G. Kappel, who assumed command from Commander Byron L. Duff on 01 June 1984 at Cecil Field, Florida. The squadron's Executive Officer is Commander Philip C. Landon.

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CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOR 1984

JANUARY

- 01-03 CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA IN SUPPORT OF MULTI-NATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, LEBANON
- 04-05 TRANSITED TO NAPLES, ITALY
- 06-12 PORT CALL, NAPLES, ITALY
- 13 USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) DEPARTED NAPLES, ITALY
- 14-15 CONDUCTED FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN IONIAN SEA INCLUDING A SHRIKE FIRING AND SINKEX
- 18 ON STATION OFF BEIRUT. BEGAN AROUND THE CLOCK FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND ALERT POSTURE IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES MULTI-NATIONAL FORCES

FEBRUARY

- 02 CEASED FLIGHT OPERATIONS THAT COMMENCED 18 JANUARY.
- 03-05 TRANSITED TO ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- 05 TRANSITED DARDANELLES AND SEA OF MARMARA
- 06 PORT VISIT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, SCHEDULED TO END 10 FEBRUARY 1984
- 07 EMERGENCY RECALL. USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) RETURNED TO "BAGEL STATION" FOR POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF MULTI-NATIONAL FORCES
- 10 ON STATION. FLIGHT OPERATIONS CONSIST OF NORMAL ALERTS/SSSC FLIGHTS. CONTINUED ROUND THE CLOCK FLIGHT FOR REMAINDER OF MONTH

MARCH

- 02 RECEIVED TRANSIT ORDERS USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) TO PROCEED TO EXERCISE "TEAMWORK '84"
- 02-06 CONDUCTED WESTERNLY TRANSIT OF MEDITERRANEAN
- 07 OUTCHOPPED MEDITERRANEAN EMBARKED COMCARGRU EIGHT IN ROTA
- 07-11 EMCON TRANSIT NORTH THROUGH THE IRISH SEA TO RENDEZVOUS POINT OFF TRONDHIEM, NORWAY
- 11 BEGAN PARTICIPATION IN "TEAMWORK '84"
- 12 SUPPORTED PRACTICE AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS IN TRONDHEIM AOA



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MARCH (continued)

- 13-16 CONDUCTED HEAVY FLIGHT OPERATIONS DURING OPPOSED TRANSIT NORTH TO TROMSO AOA
- 16-19 CAS MISSIONS FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF US/UK MARINE AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS IN TROMSO AOA. DURING THIS SAME TIME PERIOD VA-15 FLEW NUMEROUS WAR-AT-SEA STRIKES AGAINST ORANGE FORCES.
- 22 "TEAMWORK '84" ENDED PARTICIPANTS IN "TEAMWORK '84" INCLUDED: 150+ SHIPS FROM 13 NATIONS 300+ AIRCRAFT 50,000+ TROOPS
- 23-24 TRANSITED TO PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND VIA THE ENGLISH CHANNEL
- 24-30 INPORT PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND
- 31 BEGIN WESTERNLY TRANSIT HOME TO NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

APRIL

- 01-11 WESTERNLY TRANSIT OF ATLANTIC OCEAN
- 10 SQUADRON AIRCRAFT FLOWN OFF ENROUTE TO NAS CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA
- 12-15 STANDDOWN
- 23 TURNAROUND TRAINING FOR INDIAN OCEAN CRUISE 84-85 BEGAN

<u>MAY</u>

01 COMMAND INSPECTION BY COMLATWING ONE

JUNE

- 01 CHANGE OF COMMAND, CDR L. G. KAPPEL RELIEVED CDR B. L. DUFF
- 01-08 PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION "QUICK THRUST"
- 04-08 CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY INSPECTION
- 13-15 YUMA SHRIKE DETACHMENT
- 15-30 FALLON WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT. CONDUCTED SQUARON TRAINING IN WEAPONS DELIVERY, TACTICS, CAS, RESCAP, LOW LEVEL FLYING AND COORDINATED STRIKES

JULY

01-04 STANDDOWN FROM CVW-6 FALLON WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT

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JULY (continued)

- 06-30 TURNAROUND TRAINING AND PREPARATIONS FOR PHASE I TRAINING CONDUCTED WITH FLEET CARRIER LANDING PRACTICE AT NAVAL AIR STATION CECIL FIELD AND WHITEHOUSE.
- 11-15 REFRESHER CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS HELD ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)
- 20 NATOPS EVALUATION
- 31 VA-15 DEPARTED FOR NOB NORFOLK, VIRGINIA TO BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)

AUGUST

- 01-10 CONDUCTED CQ/ACLS/REFTRA/PHASE I TRAINING IN VACAPES, CHARLESTON, AND JACKSONVILLE OPERATING AREAS.
- 11 RETURNED TO NAVAL AIR STAITON, CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA
- 19-20 DEPARTED NAS CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA FOR NOB NORFOLK TO BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)
- 21
- 21-31 CONDUCTED ABBREVIATED PHASE II/ORE TRAINING IN JACKSONVILLE AND PUERTO RICO OPAREAS. CONDUCTED NUMEROUS SORTIES AGAINST VIEQUES RANGE AND ORANGE UNITS. DUAL CARRIER OPERATIONS WITH USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69)

SEPTEMBER

- 01-13 PHASE II/ORE
- 14 RETURNED TO NAVAL AIR STATION, CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA
- 14-30 PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT (POM) PERIOD

OCTOBER

- 02-14 HARM EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT TRANSFERRED TO VA-15, INTENSIVE MAINTENANCE/AIRCREW TRAINING IN HARM SYSTEMS
- 03 PRE-DEPLPOYMENT CORROSION CONTROL AUDIT
- 15 DEPARTED NAVAL AIR STATION, CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA FOR NOB NORFOLK, VIRGINIA TO BOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)
- 16-23 TRANSITED ATLANTIC ENROUTE INDIAN OCEAN
- 23 INCHOPPED MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- 26-31 INPORT PALMA DE MALLORCA, SPAIN





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NOVEMBER

- 01 DEPARTED PALMA DE MALLORCA ON EASTERNLY TRANSIT ACROSS MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- 02-03 CONDUCTED KC-135 TANKING QUALS WITH U.S. AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT FROM GERMANY
- 04-07 USS INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP WITH CVW-6 EMBARKED CONDUCTED EXERCISE "SEA WIND" WITH EGYPT
- 08 TRANSITED SUEZ CANAL
- 09-11 TRANSITED RED SEA
- 12-18 INCHOPPED INDIAN OCEAN AND PROCEEDED TO NORTH ARABIAN SEA STATION
- 19-31 CONDUCTED OPERATIONS IN NORTH ARABIAN SEA. UNIT TRAINING, SSSC, WAR-AT-SEA EXERCISES, AND SIMULATED STRIKES AGAINST U.S., BRITISH, AND FRENCH NAVAL UNITS IN THIS AREA

DECEMBER

- 01-07 NORTH ARABIAN SEA OPERATIONS
- 08-11 EXERCISE "BEACON FLASH" WITH OMANI AIR FORCE
- 12-20 NORTH ARABIAN SEA OPERATIONS
- 21-28 TRANSITED INDIAN OCEAN THROUGH STRAIT OF MALLACA FOR PORT VISIT TO SINGAPORE
- 24 CLASS ALPHA FLIGHT MISHAP. AIRCRAFT 300 LOST AT SEA. PILOT RECOVERED BY HELO
- 29-31 INPORT SINGAPORE







NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR 1984 (U)

The year began with USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) on station in the Eastern Mediterranean supporting the Multi-national Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon.

On the fourth of January the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) departed station enroute to a port visit in Naples, Italy. The port call in Naples lasted from the sixth to the twelfth.

Upon leaving Naples the Airwing conducted flight operations in the Ionian Sea. Squadron pilots participated in attacks on a target hull, expending a shrike anti-radar missile and sinking the hull with MK-82 Inert bombs. Back on station in the Eastern Mediterranean, the squadron conducted around the clock flight operations from the eighteenth of January until the second of February.

On the third of February, CV-62 with the Airwing embarked, departed for a much needed rest in Istanbul, Turkey. The port visit, scheduled to last from the sixth until the tenth of February, was interrupted hours after entering port. USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) was recalled to station and remained on station until receiving orders on the second of March to proceed to the North Atlantic for participation in "TEAMWORK '84."

The USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) arrived off the coast of Trondheim, Norway on the eleventh of March. Flight operations included close air support in the Trondheim Amphibious Operating Area (AOA). This initial stage of "TEAMWORK '84" lasted from the eleventh to the thirteenth of March. On the thirteenth of March, the "Blue Forces" began a northwesternly transit which met with heavy opposition from "Orange Forces." Flight operations were extensive and included, in addition to exercise missions, numerous intercepts of Soviet reconaissance flights. On the sixteenth of March USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) arrived on its new station off the coast of Tromso, Norway. Squadron pilots flew in support of U.S./UK Marine Amphilous landings in the Tromso AOA as well as War-at-Sea strikes against "Orange Forces." Strikes were also conducted against land targets in Norway. "TEAMWORK '84" drew to a close on the twenty-second of March.

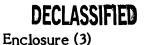
With the exercise completed, the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) pulled into Portsmouth, England for a six day port call. Upon completion of the port visit the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) began it westernly transit home. On the eleventh of April the Airwing disembarked from the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) with VA-15 returning to Naval Air Staion, Cecil Field, Florida.

Almost immediately upon returning from their 1983-1984 Mediterranean deployment, VA-15 began to conduct training in preparation for the upcoming 1984-1985 Indian Ocean deployment. In addition to this training, VA-15 also underwent a Comand Administrative Inspection, a Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection and were involved in Operation "QUICK THRUST", a joint U. S. Military exercise.

With the arrivial of June the paced picked up around VA-15. On the first of June a Change of Command was held with Commander B. L. Duff being relieved by Commander L. G. Kappel. On the thirteenth to the fifteenth of June, VA-15 departed on a Yuma Shrike Deployment. This was quickly followed by a two week Weapons detachment to Fallon, Nevada. During this detachment the VALIONS built proficiency in weapons delivery tactics, close-air-support, RESCAP, low level training and coordinated strikes. The detachment ended on the thirtieth of June and the month of July was spent at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida with turnaround training in preparation for the upcoming embarked workups.

By the first of August, VA-15/CVW-6 was once again embarked on board the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). While operating in the VACAPES, Charleston and Jacksonville







NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR CY 84 (continued)

Operating Areas, VA-15 conducted carrier qualifications, REFTRA, and PHASE I Training. On the eleventh of August, the VALIONS returned to Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida.

After a break of just more than a week, VA-15 again flew aboard CV-62 to begin an abbreviated Phase II and Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE). This evolution was conducted in the Jacksonville and Puerto Rican Operations Areas. Numerous sorties were conducted against the Naval Weapons Range Vieques, Puerto Rico and "Orange Units" in the area. These operations included dual CV operations in conjunctions with USS EISENHOWER (CVN-69). By the thirteenth of September, VA-15 had disembarked from the USS INDEPENDENCE and returned home to Florida.

Upon returning from Norfolk, VA-15 entered its Preparation for Overseas Movement (POM) period. During the POM period Attack Squadron FIFTEEN, on short notice, added HARM (high-speed anti-radiation missile) to its weapons delivery capability. With just two weeks to deployment, VA-15 trained its ground personnel and pilots and accepted five (5) HARM compatable A-7E's. Once on cruise, HARM was quickly integrated into CVW-6 tactics.

On October sixteenth, the VALIONS departed Norfolk, Virginia enroute to the Indian Ocean to relieve the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) and assume duty in the North Arabian Sea. On the twenty-third of October, the USS INDEPENDENCE inchopped the Mediterranean and came under operational control of CTF-60. The USS INDEPENDENCE Battle Group proceeded to its first port visit of Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Only light flight operations had been conducted up to this point.

After a port call from 26 to 31 October in Palma De Mallorca, Spain, the VALIONS were underway, transiting east. From the second to the third of November VA-15/CVW-6 aircrews underwent KC-135 tanking qualifications with U.S. Air Force aircraft flying out of bases in Germany. Aircrews qualified in both night and day tanking. Upon completing this evolution the USS INDEPENDENCE and accompanying Battle Group moved to point just north of Egypt in preparation for Exercise "SEA WIND."

Exercise "Sea Wind" was a joint U.S. Navy and Egyptian Air Force/Navy exercise. CVW-6 aircraft, flying preplanned routes, conducted strikes against inland and coastal targets. Egyptian F-16's, Mirage's, MIG 21's, and F-4's opposed these strikes. Throughout the period 04-07 November, numerous war at sea strikes were conducted which involved both U.S. and Egyptian Naval forces.

Immediately upon completing the exercise with Egypt, the CV-62 battle group proceeded through the Suez Canal. After transiting the canal on the 8th the Independence moved into the Red Sea for a three day transit to the Indian Ocean.

On the 12th of November, having shifted from CTF-60 to CTF-70 control, Independence battle group proceeded towards their N. Arabian Sea station.

From the 19th of November until the seventh of December VA-15/CVW-6 conducted operational and training flights in the North Arabian Sea with a "five fly day/two no-fly day" rotation. On the 8th of December the USS INDEPENDENCE began exercise "Beacon Flash;" the first of two such exercises to be conducted by VA-15/CVW-6. For the next three and a half days VA-15 conducted numerous low level navigation flights and practice weapons deliveries against Omani targets at Rubkut Range, using practice and live ordnance. Coordinated strikes on the last day were opposed by Omani Jaguars and Hawker Hunters.

With the exercise completed, the Independence again resumed its North Arabian Sea





NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR CY 84 (continued)

station. On the 20th of December, after a surprise decision relayed from CTF-70, the Independence Battle Group proceeded eastward for an unscheduled port call to Singapore.

Just prior to leaving station VA-15 experienced a Class C Flight Related Mishap. On the 19th of December while conducting normal flight operations one of the aircrews inadvertantly launched an AIM-9 Sidewinder missile. No damage was incurred during this mishap.

On the 24th of December while in transit to Singapore the VALIONS also experienced a Class A Flight Mishap. Aircraft 300 was lost at sea after being launched from USS INDEPENDENCE. The pilot immediately ejected and was rescued by the aircrew of a HS-15 helicopter.

The VALIONS arrived in Singapore on the 29th of December after fifty-eight continuous days at sea. VA-15 remained inport the remainder of the year.





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FLIGHT STATISTICS FOR CY 1984

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YEARLY TOTALS:

Number of hours flown:	4281.0
Number of sorties:	2550.0
Number of carrier hours:	2789.1
Number of arrested landings:	1652.0

EXERCISE STATISTICS:

- 15-18 DEC 1. Sorties flown: Beacon Flash I
 - A. Training sorties -- 58
 - B. Operational sorties -- 14
 - C. Total sorties -- 72
- 5-7 NOV 2. Sorties flown: Seawind
 - A. Training sorties -- 48
 - B. Operational sorties -- 6
 - C. Total sorties -- 54

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ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES CY 1984

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Ordnance expenditures

TYPE	ALLOWANCE	EXPENDED	% OF ALLOWANCE
20MM/HEI	6691	6691	100
20MM/TP	13624	13624	100
AIRFOIL LGB MK 83	4	4	100
AIRFOIL LGB MK 83	4	4	100
MK 20 ROCKEYE	12	12	100
MK 82	386	386	100
MK 83	140	140	100
MK 106/BDU 48	588	<i>5</i> 88	100
MK 76	6294	6294	100
MK 82 (INERT)	72	72	100
MK 376 FUZE	36	36	100
MK 46 (DECOY FLARE)	365	365	100
RR 129 (CHAFF)	648	648	100
RR 171 (CHAFF)	18	18	100
RR 144 (CHAFF)	65	6 <i>5</i>	100
MK 58	518	518	100
MK 82 CONFIN	455	455	100
MK 344 FUZE	20	20	100
M 904 E	517	517	100
MK 52 MINE	2	2	100
MK 55 MINE	2	2	100
MK 45	342	342	100
ATM 45	1	1	100

(C) SQUADRON CEP BY TYPE DELIVERED

A-6-R 24	METERS
A-6-RN26	METERS
A-7-R 22	METERS
A-8-R 22	METERS
A-11-R 15	METERS
A-14-R 60	METERS

(C) MISSILE FIRINGS

- NO. <u>TYPE</u>
- 1 ATM-45 FIRED AS PART OF SINKEX IN EAST MED WITHIN LETHAL RADIUS OF TGT SHIP.

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ACFT RECEIVED AND TRANSFERRRED 01 JAN 84 - 01 JAN 85

AIRCRAFT RECEIVED

BUNO	FROM	MO/YR	CURRENTLY ASSIGNED BUNOS
159294	SPEC REWK	ALVERCA 02/84	<u>B01403</u>
159652	VA-105	4-84	159971
159640	VA-105	5-84	158831 (HARM)
159268	VA-105	06-84	158825 (HARM)
159285	MIDTERM	06-84	160558 (HARM)
158819	MIDTERM	07-84	160613 (HARM)
160738	SDLM	08-84	160879
158831	VA-82	10-84	159285
160553	VA-82	10-84	160553 (HARM)
150558	VA-82	10-84	
158825	VA-82	10-84	
160613	VA-83	10-84	

AIRCRAFT TRANSFERRED

<u>BUNO</u>	<u>T0</u>	MO/YR
159285	MIDTERM	04-84
158819	MIDTERM	05-84
160859	SPEC REWK	05-84
160738	SDLM	05-84
159294	MIDTERM	06-84
159652	SDLM	06-84
1 <i>5</i> 9640	SDLM	07-84
160859	SDLM	09-84
159652	VA-105	02-84
1 <i>5</i> 9640	VA-105	03-84
160869	VA-83	10-84
159283	VA-83	10-84
1 <i>5</i> 9268	VA-82	10-84
160865	VA-82	10-84
160873	VA-82	10-84
1 <i>5</i> 8819	VA-82	10-84
158831	VA-82	10-84

NOTES: WE HAVE PROCESSED TWENTY-NINE AIRCRAFT THROUGH ATKRON FIFTEEN IN THE PAST YEAR. WE CURRENTLY HAVE EIGHT (8) AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED.

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ADVANCEMENT/RETENTION STATISTICS FOR CY 1984 (U)

AVERAGE MONTHLY SQUADRON MANNING LEVEL FOR CY 1984

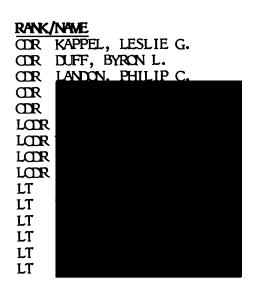
Onboard average -- 240 Avg Manpower Authorization -- 240

Reenlistments:

Number of personnel eligible for reenlistment -- 46 Number of reenlistments -- 35

Awards and recommendations presented to Attack Squadron Fifteen: Navy Unit Commendation Medal (11 April 1984) Battle Efficiency Award for CY 1983

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN OFFICER ROSTER 1984



RANK/NAME LT LT LT LT LT LT LT LT LTJG LTJG LTJG ENS 01104 01104 0104

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ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN OFFICER RECEIPTS/LOSSES FOR 1984

1984 OFFICER RECEIPTS	DATE	1984 OFFICER LOSSES	DATE
OR LANDON, PHILIP C.	84 JUNI 5	ODR DUFF. BYRON L.	84JUN01
LCDR	840CT04	CDR	84APR27
LCDR	84MAR20	CIR	840CT03
LT	84ALG14	LT	84JUL09
LTJG	840CT10	LT	84JUL09
ENS	84JUN22	LT	840CT19
CWO3	84 JUN 08	LT	840CT16
		LTJG	84JUL30
		CWO4	84JUL13