



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15  
FPO MIAMI, FL 34099-6201

1986  
LOGLED

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5700  
Ser 008  
10 MAR 1987

**From:** Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 15  
**To:** Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05H)  
**Subj:** **COMMAND HISTORY (OPNAV REPORT SYMBOL 5750-1)**

**Ref:** (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D  
(b) STRKFITRON 15 INST 5750.12E

**Encl:** (1) Narrative History for CY 1986 (U)  
(2) Chronological History for CY 1986 (U)  
(3) Flight Statistics for CY 1986 (U)  
(4) Ordnance Expenditure for CY 1986 (U)  
(5) Aircraft Received/Transferred for CY 1986 (U)  
(6) Advancement/Retention Statistics for CY 1986 (U)  
(7) Officer Roster for CY 1986 (U)  
(8) Commanding Officer's Biography (U)  
(9) Commanding Officer's Photograph (U)  
(10) Picture of CORSAIR II A-7E VALION Aircraft (U)

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) through (10) are forwarded.

  
J. W. CURTIN

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

**STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15**  
**NARRATIVE HISTORY FOR CY 1986 (U)**

Strike Fighter Squadron 15, homeported at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida, flies the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18A HORNET.

Nineteen Eighty-Six was a fast-paced year for the VALIONS of VFA-15. The year began with the squadron deployed to Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, as a component of Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) and the 1st Marine Air Wing. During this deployment and until October, the VALIONS were operating under the designation of Attack Squadron 15 (VA-15) and flying the Vought A7-E CORSAIR II light attack aircraft.

Working as a component of MAG-12, the VALIONS operated in all phases of weapons delivery, including air-to-air, air-to-ground, low level interdiction and coordinated strike training. After detachments to Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan, in late January, the VALIONS deployed to Yechon Air Base, Republic of South Korea, participating in Exercise "TEAM SPIRIT 86". During TEAM SPIRIT, the largest free-world exercise of its kind, the VALIONS were the only squadron achieving a 100% sortie completion rate.

With Exercise "TEAM SPIRIT 86" successfully completed, the VALIONS deployed to Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines. Operating from NAS Cubi Point during April, the VALIONS participated in Exercise "COPE THUNDER 5-86". Upon completion of this 14-day exercise, conducted by the U. S. Air Force, the VALIONS conducted an air combat maneuvering detachment in conjunction with the NAS Cubi Point based adversary squadron (VC-5).

The VALIONS returned to MCAS, Iwakuni, in early May, and began preparations for the return to Cecil Field, Florida. On 10 June, 12 VALION A-7E aircraft departed MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan, on the return TransPacific journey that included stops at Wake Island, MCAS, Kanoeha Bay, Hawaii, and NAS Lemoore, California. On 13 June 1986, the VALIONS returned to Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida, completing a successful six-month forward deployment with the United States Marine Corps.

After a 30-day standdown/leave period, VA-15 began transition to the Navy's new F/A-18A HORNET strike fighter aircraft. On 1 October 1986, ATTACK SQUADRON 15 (VA-15) was officially redesignated STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15 (VFA-15).

The VALIONS of VFA-15 continued F/A-18 transition training during October, November and December 1986 with delivery of the VALIONS' first F/A-18A aircraft expected in January 1987. The VFA-15 VALIONS are presently based ashore at Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida, assigned to Commander, Light Attack Wing 1 for F/A-18 transition.

Enclosure (1)

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOR 1986 (U)

### JANUARY

- 01-17 SQUADRON BASED AT MCAS, IWAKUNI, JAPAN. CONDUCTS ROUTINE TRAINING MISSIONS INCLUDING CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND LOW LEVEL INTERDICTION STRIKES AT TARGETS IN OKINAWA, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA.
- 18-31 SIX AIRCRAFT DEPART FOR KADENA AIR FORCE BASE, OKINAWA, JAPAN. DETACHMENT CONDUCTS AIR-TO-AIR AND AIR-TO-GROUND WEAPONS DELIVERY TRAINING.

### FEBRUARY

- 02 KADENA DET RETURNS TO MCAS IWAKUNI.
- 03-28 SQUADRON CONTINUES ROUTINE MISSION TRAINING AND BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR EXERCISE "TEAM SPIRIT 86".

### MARCH

- 01-11 SQUADRON CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH KOREA.
- 12 SQUADRON DEPLOYS TO YECHON AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA, FOR EXERCISE "TEAM SPIRIT 86". TAIL DETACHMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONNEL REMAINING AT MCAS, IWAKUNI.
- 14-25 SQUADRON PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE "TEAM SPIRIT 86". OPERATIONS INCLUDE AIR-TO-AIR, AIR-TO-GROUND AND COORDINATED STRIKES ON SOUTH KOREAN TARGETS. SQUADRON ACHIEVES 100% RATE.
- 26-28 SQUADRON CONDUCTS PACK-UP FOR DEPARTURE FROM YECHON AIR BASE.
- 29-30 SQUADRON DEPARTS YECHON AIR BASE FOR NAVAL AIR STATION, CUBI POINT, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.
- 31 SQUADRON IN PLACE AT NAS CUBI POINT, R.P.

### APRIL

- 01-13 SQUADRON CONDUCTS AREA FAMILIARIZATION MISSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR EXERCISE "COPE THUNDER 5-86".
- 14-25 SQUADRON PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE "COPE THUNDER 5-86". OPERATIONS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC WARFARE MISSIONS AND COORDINATED AIR STRIKES.
- 26-30 SQUADRON CONDUCTS AIR COMBAT MANEUVERING TRAINING WITH CUBI POINT BASED ADVERSARY SQUADRON (VC-5).

## **MAY**

- 05 ACM TRAINING COMPLETED.
- 06 SQUADRON RETURNS TO MCAS IWAKUNI.
- 07-31 SQUADRON CONTINUES ROUTINE TRAINING MISSIONS, BEGINS TANKER QUALIFICATIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR TRANSPACIFIC RETURN TO NAS, CECIL FIELD.

## **JUNE**

- 07 SQUADRON MAIN PERSONNEL BODY DEPARTS MCAS, IWAKUNI FOR RETURN TO NAS CECIL FIELD. MAIN BODY ARRIVES SAFELY AT NAS CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA ON SAME DAY (CROSSING OF INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE).
- 10 SQUADRON TRANSPAC TEAM WITH 12 AIRCRAFT DEPART MCAS, IWAKUNI, JAPAN AND ARRIVE SAFELY AT WAKE ISLAND AIR FORCE BASE.
- 11 SQUADRON DEPARTS WAKE ISLAND AND ARRIVES SAFELY AT MCAS, KANOEHE BAY, HAWAII ON 10 JUNE (CROSSING OF INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE).
- 12 SQUADRON DEPARTS HAWAII AND ARRIVES SAFELY AT NAS LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA.
- 13 SQUADRON DEPARTS NAS LEMOORE AND ARRIVES SAFELY AT NAVAL AIR STATION, CECIL FIELD, FLORIDA. TRANSPAC COMPLETE AND SQUADRON IN PLACE AT NAS CECIL FIELD.
- 14 SQUADRON BEGINS 30 DAY STANDDOWN/LEAVE PERIOD.

## **JULY**

- 01-31 SQUADRON UNOFFICIALLY BEGINS F/A-18 TRANSITION.

## **AUGUST**

- 01-31 SQUADRON OFFICIALLY BEGINS F/A-18 TRANSITION.

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 22-30 SQUADRON PILOTS BEGIN F/A-18 FLIGHT TRAINING AT VFA-106.

## **OCTOBER**

- 01 ATTACK SQUADRON 15 (VA-15) OFFICIALLY REDESIGNATED STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15 (VFA-15).
- 02-31 F/A-18 TRANSITION CONTINUES.

**NOVEMBER**

01-30 F/A-18 TRANSITION CONTINUES.

**DECEMBER**

01-31 F/A-18 TRANSITION CONTINUES.

FLIGHT STATISTICS FOR CY 1986 (U)

YEARLY TOTALS

Number of hours flown:	2,279.2
Number of ashore hours:	2,272.3
Number of sorties:	1,255
Number of carrier hours:	6.9
Number of arrested landings:	50

EXERCISES AND OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR CY 1986

EXERCISE "TEAM SPIRIT 86"

DATE: 13-28 MARCH 1986

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN: 174  
TRAINING SORTIES: 174  
OPERATIONAL SORTIES: 0  
SERVICE SORTIES: 0

EXERCISE "COPE THUNDER 5-86"

DATE: 14-26 APRIL 1986

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN: 112  
TRAINING SORTIES: 112  
OPERATIONAL SORTIES: 0  
SERVICE SORTIES: 0

ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES CY 1986 (U)

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>% OF ALLOWANCE</u>
BDU 45	450	369	82 PERCENT
MK 45	216	116	54 PERCENT
MK 46	160	66	41 PERCENT
RR 129	3000	1460	49 PERCENT
MK 76	5300	3619	68 PERCENT
MK 77 FIRE BOMB	12	28	233 PERCENT
MK 82	150	246	164 PERCENT
MK 83	33	49	148 PERCENT
MK 83 (INERT)	32	21	64 PERCENT
MK 106	500	314	63 PERCENT
20MM/TP	18,000	15,788	88 PERCENT

Enclosure (4)

AIRCRAFT RECEIVED AND TRANSFERRED CY 1986 (U)

AIRCRAFT RECEIVED

<u>BUNO</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>MO/YR</u>	<u>CURRENTLY ASSIGNED BUNOS</u>
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NONE

AIRCRAFT TRANSFERRED

<u>BUNO</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>MO/YR</u>
157489	VA-81	OCT/86
157586	VA-72	OCT/86
158026	VA-72	DEC/86
158652	VA-81	JUL/86
158819	VA-72	DEC/86
158839	VA-174	OCT/86
159263	VA-81	JUL/86
159291	VA-81	JUL/86
159294	VA-174	SEP/86
160551	VA-46	SEP/86
160617	VA-174	OCT/86
160712	VA-72	NOV/86

NOTE: WE HAVE PROCESSED TWELVE AIRCRAFT THROUGH ATKRON FIFTEEN IN THE PAST YEAR. WE HAVE NO AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1986.



**ADVANCEMENT/RETENTION STATISTICS FOR CY 1986 (U)**

**AVERAGE MONTHLY SQUADRON MANNING LEVEL FOR CY 1986**

Onboard average: 206

Average Manpower Authorization: 209

**Reenlistments:**

Number of personnel eligible for reenlistment: 58

Number of reenlistments: 41

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15 OFFICER ROSTER 1986 (U)

JANUARY 1, 1986

RANK/NAME

CDR LANDON, PHILIP C.  
CDR CURTIN, JOHN W.  
CDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
CAPT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]

RANK/NAME

LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
CWO4 [REDACTED]  
CWO4 [REDACTED]

DECEMBER 31, 1986

CDR LANDON, PHILIP C.  
CDR CURTIN, JOHN W.  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LCDR [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]

LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LT [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
LTJG [REDACTED]  
CWO4 [REDACTED]