



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15

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From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publication Division,
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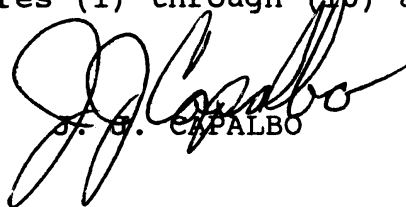
Subj: CY-1992 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E
(b) U. S. Navy Regulations Rev, 1990
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 Series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology of Recent Turnaround
(3) Narrative History of 1992
(4) Commanding Officer's biography and picture
(5) Executive Officer's biography and picture
(6) Strike Fighter Squadron 15 History
(7) Squadron aircraft photo
(8) Strike Fighter Squadron Notice 1301 dtd 23JUL92)
(9) Enlisted Roster)
(10) Monthly Aviation Statistic Summary

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ACT INFO

1. Per ref (a), enclosures (1) through (10) are forwarded.


J. G. CAPALBO

Fogger

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron Fifteen is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness as a deterrent or strike capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America, as may be directed by higher command authority. The primary function of VFA-15 within that mission is to conduct offensive air superiority and air-to-surface attack operations.
2. Strike Fighter Squadron Fifteen is organized in two primary levels; command and department. The organizational structure has been established within the framework of primary billets authorized by the Chief of Naval Personnel and within the guidelines established in references (b) and (c). In this particular application, the organizational structure and billet descriptions depicted in reference (c) have been tailored, as necessary, to fit the structure of a deployable aviation command.
3. Strike Fighter Squadron Fifteen is based at NAS Cecil Field, Fl, commanded by CDR Joseph J. Capalbo and has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Command/Operational Control | Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eight NAS Norfolk, VA |
| B. Administrative Control (embarked)
(ashore) | Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eight
Commander, Light Attack One NAS Cecil Field, Fl |
| C. Technical Material | Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic/Naval Air Systems Command
Washington, D.C. |
| D. Support Control | Commander, Light Attack Wing One |

4. The ten (10) FA-18C HORNET aircraft assigned to the squadron have AJ tail code markings. The Bureau number breakdown is as follows:

AIRCRAFT	BUREAU NUMBER
300	164689
301	164631
302	164643
303	164646
304	164655
305	164661

306	164666
307	164669
310	164673
311	164680

5. Strike Fighter Squadron Fifteen consists of 178 enlisted members and 23 officers.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF 1992 TURNAROUND CYCLE

Orange Air Det to Roosevelt Roads PR. in support of USS Saratoga BG	31 JAN - 10 FEB 92
CQ refresher on board CV-67	9 FEB - 23 FEB 92
10 plane SFARP Det to Key West	8 MAR - 20 MAR 92
Squadron receive msg notification of the COMNAVAIRLANT Battle "E" Award	8 MAR 92
COMNAVAIRLANT presents VFA-15 Silver Anchor Award.	1 APR 92
ADMAT Inspection by CLAW-1 NAS Cecil Field	18 MAY - 19 MAY 92
ACFT 314 lost as a result of a catastrophic bird strike and ejection seat failure, LT Keith Maitland, (call sign "VIKTOR"), USNR, killed in mishap near Gainesville, Fl on routine low level mission.	28 MAY 92
Change of Command, CDR S. A. Kunkle is relieved by CDR J. J. Capalbo at NAS Cecil Field Fl.	3 JUN 92
ISE on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) with 4 day port visit to St Thomas	6 JUN - 22 JUN 92
Night Attack Readiness Program (NARP)	6 JUL - 29 JUL 92
Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI)	15 JUL 92
REFTRA on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71)	7 AUG - 22 AUG 92
Air Wing Eight Strike Det at NAS Fallon NV	12 SEP - 4 OCT 92
CQ DET TO FORT LAUDERDALE	7 OCT - 23 OCT 92
COMPTUEX on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) with 4 day port visit to St Thomas (SPMAGTF joins on 6 DEC)	12 NOV - 18 DEC 92

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 1992

1. Calendar year 1992 was a very productive year for the VALIONS in preparation for the 1993 Med deployment. The objective this year as in years past, was to maintain our high state of combat readiness and power projection capability while maintaining an unequalled reputation of excellence in the Strike Fighter Community. In addition to this, we wanted to validate the new night capabilities of the FA-18 gives and expand on the success that was achieved during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.
2. The new year began with the VALIONS taking place in an Orange Air Detachment from 31 January to 10 February at NAS Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico. During this time the VALIONS provided adversary support for the USS Saratoga Battle Group. From there the VALIONS went directly into CQ refresher onboard the USS Kennedy (CV-67) from 9-23 February.
3. From 8-20 March, the VALIONS took all ten planes down to NAS Key West to participate in Strike Fighter Attack Readiness Program (SFARP). During this time the VALIONS trained extensively in the air-to-air mission of the FA-18 with VF-45 providing support as the bogeys.
4. During SFARP, a message came out awarding the COMNAVAIRLANT Battle "E" Award to the VALIONS for the year 1991. This achievement was significant considering the events that took place during the 1991 year. In addition to the Battle "E" award, the Valions were awarded the Silver Anchor Award from COMNAVAIRLANT.
5. On the 28th of May, tragedy struck the VALIONS when LT Keith "VIKTOR" Maitland was killed in a mishap near Gainesville, Fl. LT Maitland was conducting his last flight in a VFA-15 FA-18A jet when he struck a large bird on a low-level route into the Pinecastle target complex. The bird strike caused catastrophic damage, forcing LT Maitland to eject but fatal injuries were sustained when the ejection seat parachute failed to deploy. As a result of this mishap, significant deficiencies were discovered in the FA-18A by the mishap board and changes to correct these are currently in progress.
6. On the 3rd of June, CDR Joe Capalbo relieved CDR Steve Kunkle as Commanding Officer of VFA-15 in a ceremony that took place in Hangar 815C at NAS Cecil Field.
7. The training continued as the VALIONS participated in an independent steaming exercise onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt from 6-22 June . During this time, the VALIONS flew CQ refresher flights as well as several air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. A three day port visit to St. Thomas was enjoyed by all.

8. In July, the VALIONS developed tactics to employ with the new night attack capabilities of the HORNET. The Night Attack Readiness Program (NARP) was structured so that all pilots could participate in it regardless of experience. These tactics were continuously trained to throughout the year and are now the standard for the entire Air Wing.

9. The turnaround training continued with the Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI), which was completed on 15 July. On August 7th, the VALIONS were back at sea for refresher training (REFTRA) onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. During this time, the VALIONS sold the idea of NARP tactics to the Air Wing. The two-week training period included both unit level and airwing level training in preparation for the upcoming airwing det to Fallon, Nevada.

10. From 12 September to 4 October the VALIONS were at NAS Fallon conducting Air Wing Strike Training. During this time, extensive planning was done for several different strike scenarios. The VALIONS once again proved to be the leaders of the Air Wing by setting the pace for tactics to be employed. Upon completion of the det in Fallon, a few pilots and maintenance personnel participated in a CQ Det in Fort Lauderdale, FL from 7-23 Oct.

11. After a brief rest from sea the VALIONS were back at it for COMPTUEX training onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt from 12 November to 18 December. The VALIONS revisited St. Thomas for Thanksgiving and also welcomed aboard the Special Marine Air to Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF). Although unknown at the time, this was to become the configuration that the Roosevelt was to cruise with in early 1993.

12. Although there was no cruise in 1992, the VALIONS spent there fair share of time away from Cecil Field. The workup cycle was extremely busy and saw many changes for VFA-15, both in personnel and tactics. One thing that didn't change, was the constant drive for the VALIONS to set the standard of excellence in the Strike Fighter Community.