



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON FIFTEEN
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From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN
To: Director of Naval History, Aviation History Branch,
Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronological History
(3) VFA-15 Narrative History of 2000
(4) Commanding Officer's biography and picture
(5) Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN History
(6) Squadron Aircraft Photograph
(7) Battle Efficiency Award Summary

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.


S. E. SMITH

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness in the Carrier Strike Forces and to utilize that readiness as a deterrent or striking capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America, as may be directed by higher command authority. The primary function of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 within that mission is to conduct offensive air superiority and air-to-surface attack operations.

2. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is organized in two primary levels: command and departmental. 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 15, based at NAS Oceana, VA, is commanded by CDR Scott E. Smith, USN. VFA-15 has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a. Command/Operational Control | Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT NAS Oceana, VA |
| b. Administrative Control (embarked) | Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT |
| (ashore) | Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, ATLANTIC NAS Oceana, VA |
| c. Technical Material | Commander, Naval Air Force ATLANTIC/Naval Air Systems Command Control NAS Norfolk, VA |
| d. Support Control | Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, ATLANTIC |

4. The twelve (12) FA-18C HORNET aircraft assigned to the squadron have AJ tail code markings. The bureau number breakdown is as follows:

AIRCRAFT	BUREAU NUMBER
300	164627
301	164629
302	164643
303	164646
304	164655
305	164661
306	164691
307	164689
310	164673
311	164680
312	164631
314	164678

5. Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN consists of 199 enlisted members and 24 officers.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY 2000

ORANGE AIR DETACHMENT, NAS PENSACOLA, FL	20 MAR-02 APR
USS ENTERPRISE ISE 12	12 APR-20 APR
ACM DETACHMENT, NAS KEY WEST, FL	06 MAY-20 MAY
SFARP DETACHMENT, NAS FALLON, NV	17 AUG-01 SEP
TSTA II/III DETACHMENT USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)	18 SEP-05 OCT
CVW-8 WEAPONS DETACHMENT, NAS FALLON, NV	16 OCT-10 NOV
USS ENTERPRISE CQ DETACHMENT	29 NOV-05 DEC

VFA-15 NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 2000

The year 2000 proved to be one of continued success and excellence for Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN. Coming off a very successful deployment year, the VALIONS maintained an aggressive unit-level training schedule to prepare their new pilots for the upcoming workup cycle. The squadron met every operational and administrative commitment with the highest level of professionalism, while maximizing training opportunities to maintain a high level of tactical proficiency.

Operationally during 2000, squadron pilots flew 3774.5 flight hours, with 481.1 hours flown while embarked aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65). Squadron pilots logged 586 arrested landings during three different at-sea periods. VFA-15 also flew 786.7 hours while at NAS Fallon, NV, for the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) and the CVW-8 Airwing Detachment.

2000 began with an Orange Air detachment to NAS Pensacola, FL in support of Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN. The squadron's goal was to provide an accurate and professional simulation of enemy tactics, and accomplish unit-level training as time allowed. In April, squadron pilots were able to practice their carrier landings during a short at-sea period aboard USS ENTERPRISE.

In May the VALIONS went on an air combat maneuvering detachment to NAS Key West, FL. The Air Force provided F-16 Falcons from the 302nd Fighter Squadron and F-15 Eagles from the 12th Fighter Squadron as adversaries. This opportunity was an exceptional means for VALION pilots to get some valuable training against dissimilar aircraft.

After several weeks at NAS Oceana, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN headed west to NAS Fallon, NV, to complete the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP). This detachment marked the start of the inter-deployment training cycle, and provided many of the newer pilots a chance to learn fleet tactics. Shortly after returning from Fallon, the VALIONS embarked aboard USS ENTERPRISE to take part in TSTA II/III, the first major integration exercise between the ship and the airwing.

Work-ups continued two weeks after returning with the CVW-8 Airwing weapons detachment at NAS Fallon. The focus during this period was to learn the capabilities of each airwing asset and how to best integrate them based on the mission. After their return, the VALIONS again conducted some refresher carrier landing practice aboard USS ENTERPRISE, and prepared for the final phase of their workup cycle.

Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN's rich tradition of excellence as one of the oldest and finest squadrons in Naval

Aviation continued in 2000. The professional attitude and dedication of every VALION team member resulted in a remarkable year and provided a solid foundation for future success.