DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ATTACK SQUADRON TWENTY-TWO
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

IN REPLY REFER TO
VA22/RCY:rgr
5750
Ser 69
22 March 1984

From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-5750-1)

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Officer Roster
        (2) Commanding Officer and Executive Officer Biography
        (3) Copy of VA22 Short History

1. In accordance with reference (a), VA-22's Command History is submitted for the period of 1 January through 31 December 1983.

2. During this time period VA-22 was assigned to Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN with the mission to locate and destroy enemy units on land or sea, in order to establish and maintain sea control, perform power projection and provide close air support for U.S. and Allied ground forces.

3. Chronology of events, 1 January - 31 December 1983.

January 83

        01   Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders visit CV-65
        05-08 Weapons Week
        09-10 Participated in Operation Rainbow Reef
        18-19 Participated in Operation Beacon South
        20-26 Inport Fremantle, Australia

January found the Redcocks still stroking after a month on "Gonzo Station." Weapons week provided superb training with multiple targets including SEPTAR, SINKEX hulk, and MQM 74 drones launched from Diego Garcia. In addition, SAREX'S, MINEX'S and coordinated air strikes were flown on the main island. The Australia port visit was the best liberty of the cruise; the nice weather, sunny beaches, beautiful countryside and of course, friendly natives were welcomed by all.

February 83

        06   VA-22 Flyoff to NAS Cubi PT
        10-11 Operation Newboy
        07-26 CVN-65 Inport Subic Bay, R.P.I.
        12-26 Cope Thunder
        28-1MAR CQ

After a couple of relaxing days including a squadron picnic in Subic Bay, the Redcocks/CVW-11 were involved in Cope Thunder for the remainder of the month with elements of the Air Force. At least 2 major strikes per day, in addition to numerous other flights, were staged out of NAS Cubi Point, RP during this time.

March 83

    01   Fly on
    05-20   Operation Team Spirit
    22-26   Import Sasebo, Japan
    31-3Apr Sea of Japan OPS

The joint service exercise, Team Spirit, saw the Redcocks involved in close air support of amphibious operations. Dual - CV Battle Group exercises with USS Midway highlighted the Sea of Japan Operations.

April 83

    04-17   Fleetex 83-1
    19-26   Transpac
    24   LCDR ████████ 400th Enterprise trap
    27   12 aircraft fly off
    28   CVN-65 inport Alameda

FLEETEX 83-1 involved joint NAVY/USAF assets in many exercises in the North Pacific Area. USS Coral Sea joined with USS Enterprise and USS Midway to commence the three carrier portion of the exercise. VA-22 pilots logged many hours in support of operations, sometimes requiring refueling from USAF KC-10's and KC-135's. The remainder of the month involved little flying while enroute to Alameda. The long deployment was over after 1800 traps and 3950 flight hours.

May 83

            Postcruise standdown NAS Lemoore
    27   Several squadron members travel to Nellis AFB for Soviet threat
            brief

A period of intense leave or liberty as the Redcocks relaxed after a long successful deployment now past.

June 83

    17   Advance party to MCAS Yuma AZ for weapons det
    19   Det personnel and 4 A7E aircraft to Yuma
    24   A-7's arrive back at Lemoore

A weapons detachment/shrike compex to MCAS Yuma, AZ highlighted the month of June. Much ACM training was achieved against VA-127 adversary aircraft. Employment of the "TACTS Pod" enabled all pilots to fire and score a simulated shrike missile at the range.

July 83

    06-08   Admat inspection
    26-27   NTPI inspection

A real paperwork nightmare of a month featured the ADMAT and the NTPI. The NTPI was passed with zero discrepancies and zero comments. The ADMAT received a grade of "outstanding" overall.

August 83

      09   4 A7E participated in Apam drop/sinkex near Santa Rosa Island

September 83

      07   Soviet threat brief/tour at Nellis AFB
      12-23 Weapons Det to NAS Fallon, NV
      20   VA-22 wins CVW-11 "Bombing Derby"
      23   Returned to NAS Lemoore
      27   Start FCLP
      21-26 LT ███████ onboard Enterprise for certification of ships ACLS equipment

The Redcocks began to prepare early for their upcoming spring deployment on USS Enterprise with a weapons detachment to NAS Fallon, NV. VA-22 won the CVW-11 "Bombing Derby" during this intensive and competitive period.

October 83

      07-13 CQ ops CVN-65
      13   Topgun Strike R-2508
      19   Begin FCLP's
      19-21 Safety Survey of VA-22 hangar spaces conducted by students of Naval Postgraduate School (no major discrepancies)

A CQ detachment to USS Enterprise highlighted month the of October. VA-22's three new first tour pilots did well while being exposed to carrier ops for the first time. A new USS Enterprise record was achieved for number of traps per day.

November 83

      02   Fly aboard CVN-65
      02-21 REFTRA
      22   CVN-65 pulls back into Alameda

A three - week "Refresher Training" period aboard Enterprise occupied most of the month, valuable training was achieved in virtually all aspects of Naval Warfare, and the tactical employment of the A-7 in many different "war at sea" scenarios.

December 83

      10   VA-22 pilots and personnel take the CTPI exam

A month of preparation for the upcoming January "workups." After spending the previous Christmas on Gonzo Station, the Redcocks enjoyed the holidays at home with their loved ones.

R. C. YORK

VA-22 SQUADRON HISTORY

Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO, also known as the "Fighting Redcocks" is led by CDR Russell C. York. The Lemoore, CA based squadron is made up of 250 enlisted men and twenty one officers. Their mission is to maintain, fly, and fight the A-7E Corsair II Aircraft.

VA-22's history dates back to July 1948, when it was commissioned as Fighter Squadron 63 at NAS Norfolk, Virginia. It was not until July, 1959, that the Fighting Redcocks gained their present designation as Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO.

The first Redcock aviators flew the F-8F "Bearcat". Succeeding pilots have progressed through the F-4U "Corsair", F-9F "Panther", F9F-6/8 "Cougar", FJ-4B "Fury", A-4 B/C/F "Skyhawk", and currently the A-7E "Corsair II."

Over the Last 32 years the Fighting Redcocks have been called into action during the Korean and Vietnam wars, with three combat deployments to Korea and six to Vietnam. During their last combat cruise in 1972, VA-22 participated in the mining of HaiPhong Harbor as well as intensive air strikes over North Vietnam.

Peacetime crises responded to by the Fighting Redcocks have included readiness maneuvers for the Pueblo Crisis of 1968, the evacuation of Saigon in 1974, the rescue of the Mayaguez in 1975, and the search and rescue of Southeast Asian refugees in the Western Pacific and South China Sea during both the 1979/80 and 1981 deployments.

During the January '79 and '80 and the July '80 to December '81 competitive cycles Attack Squadron TWENTY-TWO received the COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency "E", thus holding it for three consecutive years. Additionally, VA-22 earned the FY-81 CINCPACFLT Golden Anchor Retention Award for deployable squadrons of the Pacific Fleet, and the COMLATWINGPAC John L. Nicholson Retention Award for both FY80 and FY81. The squadron won the RADM Clarence Wade MacClusky Award for CY81 as the best Attack Squadron in the United States Navy.

The Fighting Redcocks were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for service while attached to Commander Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN and ashore at NAS Lemoore, California from 1 May 1979 to 23 November 1981 for unprecedented fulfillment of the Navy wide goals of combat readiness and personnel retention.

On 15 January 1982, VA-22's Operational Command was changed from Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN to Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN. Since that time, the Fighting Redcocks have been assigned to USS ENTERPRISE, and were aboard for the 1982-1983 WESTPAC/NORPAC/Indian Ocean Deployment.

On 27 April 1983, after completing an eight month cruise which included port calls at five different nations (Phillippines, Singapore, Kenya, Australia and Japan), the Fighting Redcocks conducted a flawless squadron fly-off and returned to NAS Lemoore, California for a post cruise standdown.