



1991 ✓

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE THIRTEEN
NAVAL AIR STATION MIRAMAR
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92145-5105

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5750
10
MAR 02 1992

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite 13
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT (OPNAV 5740-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Narrative
(2) Command Composition and Organization
(3) Chronology
(4) Picture of VFC-13 A-4
(5) Biography and Photograph of Commanding Officer
(6) Command Charter and Goals
(7) VFC-13 Personnel Listing 31 December 1991 - *filed separately*

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted for Calendar Year 1991.

2. Point of Contact is our Public Affairs Officer, LCDR [REDACTED], AUTOVON [REDACTED] or commercial [REDACTED].

J. S. Rampone
J. S. RAMPONE
By direction

Logger

NARRATIVE

1. History.

The "Fighting Saints" of VFC-13 trace their origins back to 1946 when VF-753 was commissioned flying F6F-5 Hellcats. Today's squadron was formed on 01 September 1973 at NAS New Orleans during the reorganization of the U. S. Naval Reserve. Initially, the squadron operated the Chance Vought F-8H "Crusader" with a compliment of 17 officers and 127 enlisted men, former members of VSF-76 and VSF-86. In April 1974, the "Saints" transitioned to the single seat A-4L "Skyhawk". As the demand for west coast adversary services and other fleet support missions increased, the squadron was permanently transferred to NAS Miramar, arriving in San Diego in February 1976. That summer, a transition was made from the A-4L to the more reliable two-seat TA-4J. 1983 marked the return of the single seat aircraft to VC-13 with the arrival of the A-4E, and in 1988, the squadron moved up to the A-4F "Super Fox", the more powerful and capable version of the Skyhawk. The change enhanced the squadron's ability to perform its adversary mission by providing a more worthy and accurate adversary aircraft.

Although the "Fighting Saints" provide target services for the regular Navy forces, the major emphasis is the development of a formidable dissimilar adversary threat. In recognition of that primary mission assignment, VC-13, on 22 April 1988 was proudly redesignated as Fighter Squadron Composite Thirteen (VFC-13). At the same time, the squadron logo was redesigned to reflect the changes undergone by the command over the past years. The new logo incorporates as its focal point, the wings worn by the highest classification of Soviet fighter pilot, the "Snipper". VFC-13 provides quality adversary training for Regular Navy Fleet and Replacement Squadrons and Air Wings, Reserve Fighter and Attack Squadrons, the U. S. Air Force, U. S. Marine Corps and Canadian Forces.

VFC-13 was instrumental in training of the East/West Coast Fighter Squadrons for participation in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm War with Iraq.

On 15 January, 1991 VFC-13 was awarded its third Excellence in Retention Award by Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing for unsurpassed retention efforts in 1990.

On 20 February, 1991 VFC-13 was distinguish as the Best Overall Environmental Compliance in Hazardous Waste Management on board NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA.

VFC-13 completed over 6 1/2 years and 32,340 accident free flight hours on 31 December 1991. These hours were flown in the most hazardous and demanding of all peacetime aviation environments: Air Combat/Tactics Maneuvering.

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. **Mission.** To provide dissimilar air combat training (DACT) for Navy and Marine Corps and other fighter/strike fighter squadrons when tasked. To provide a variety of threat simulations for air and surface units including towed or air launched targets. Specific services include:

- a. Air Combat Maneuvering Training
- b. Air to Air Tactics
- c. Air to Air Gunnery Exercise
- d. Air to Air Missile Exercise
- e. Air Intercept and Radar Tracking Training
- f. CNO Special Projects
- g. Surface to Air Gunnery Exercises
- h. Surface to Air Missile Exercises

2. **Chain of Command.** The "Fighting Saints" are led by Commander Jerry M. Harris, USNR, Commanding Officer and Commander Walter L. Baker, USNR, Executive Officer. VFC-13, base at NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA, is under the administrative and operational control of Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing located at NAS Dallas, TX, who reports to Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force, New Orleans, LA. Commander, Fighter Airborne Early Warning Wing U. S. Pacific at NAS Miramar, CA, is the senior command on board NAS Miramar and provides logistical support and scheduling authority.

3. **Manning.** VFC-13 is manned with 243 personnel, 34 SELRES, 7 TAR, 1 USN Officers, 87 SELRES, 114 TAR Enlisted. SELRES and TAR aircrew are hand picked for their expertise, professionalism and their instructional abilities. All aircrew have extensive fleet/adversary experience and average over 2800 flight hours.

4. **Aircraft.** VFC-13 maintains and flies a total of 13 McDonnell Douglas A-4 series aircraft including eight A-4F "Super Fox's" and five TA-4J's. The TA-4J aircraft were modified with the installation of the P-8 engine for better thrust to weight. FA-18's are tentatively slated to replace the Skyhawks by 1994. All aircraft carry a tactical grey paint scheme and are assigned the tail code of Uniform Xray (UX). Previous designations and aircraft assigned are listed below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>
1946	VF-783	F6F-5 Hellcat
1946-1949	VF-53L	FG-1D Corsair
1949-1955	VF-821	F4U-4 Corsair, F9F Panther
1955-1958	VF-821	AD-4NA Skyraider
1958-1968	VF-821	F9F-8B Cougar, FJ-3 Fury, A-4A/B Skyhawk
1968-1970	VSF-75X1	A-4B Skyhawk
1970-1973	VSF-76/VSF-86	A-4B/C Skyhawk, F-8H Crusader
1973-1974	VC-13	F-8H Crusader
1974-1988	VC-13	A-4L, TA-4J, A-4E Skyhawk
1988-1992	VFC-13	A-4F, TA-4J Skyhawk

CHRONOLOGY

1. Significant Events.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
31 January 1991	Awarded Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing Retention Award
20 February 1991	Awarded NAS Miramar's Best Overall Environmental Compliance in Hazardous Waste Management
21 September 1991	CDR J. M. Harris relieved CDR M. A. Rantfle as Commanding Officer during ceremonies held at NAS Miramar, Hangar 2
30 September 1991	VC-885 (VFC-13's Augment Unit) decommissioned
31 December 1991	VFC-13 Completed 6 years 7 months and 32,347.1 flight hours accident free

2. Detachments. The "Fighting Saints" spend a considerable time at other sites in support of fleet training. The following detachments were completed during Calendar Year 1991:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Type/Support</u>	<u>Hrs/Flts</u>
MCAS Yuma, AZ	13 Jan - 24 Jan	DACT/VFA-125	81/50
NAS Fallon, NV	03 Feb - 08 Feb	DACT/CAG-11	60/24
NAS Fallon, NV	28 Feb - 08 Mar	DACT/CAG-7	115/92
NAS Whidbey, WA	07 Apr - 12 Apr	DACT/MAWS	58/22
NAS Whidbey, WA	02 May - 09 May	DACT/MAWS	75/31
NAS Fallon, NV	17 Jun - 27 Jun	DACT/CVWR-30	109/90
Cold Lake, Canada	02 Jul - 07 Jul	DACT/433 Sqd	35/29
NAS Fallon, NV	28 Jul - 09 Aug	DACT/CAG-1	163/115
Tyndal AFB, FL	25 Aug - 30 Aug	DACT/1st TFTS	91/61
Dobbins AFB, GA	07 Sep - 16 Sep	DACT/128 TFS	99/52
NAS Fallon, NV	07 Oct - 18 Oct	DACT/CAG-17	105/83
NAS Key West, FL	26 Nov - 02 Nov	DACT/VFA-305	151/100
NAS Fallon, NV	12 Nov - 21 Nov	DACT/MAG-31	104/92