



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE THIRTEEN
NAVAL AIR STATION FALLON
FALLON, NV 89496-5000

1996

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3500

Ser 00\ 081

13 FEB 1997

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite THIRTEEN
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH), Naval Historical Center

Subj: VFC-13 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY-96

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) Commanding Officer's picture and biography

(includes 3.5" diskette)

1. Per reference (a), VFC-13's command history for CY-96 is submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization:

Fighter Squadron Composite THIRTEEN (VFC-13) is one of two professional adversary squadrons serving the Navy. As one of eight squadrons in Carrier Air Wing Reserve TWENTY (CVWR-20), VFC-13 is charged with providing adversary support to F-14 and FA-18 Fleet Replacement Squadrons (FRSs), Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Programs (SFARPs) and Carrier Air Wings as directed by Commander, CVWR-20. Squadron aircrew provide realistic simulation of threat aircraft, pilots and tactics.

Based at NAS Fallon, NV and commanded by CDR D.W. Eisenhart, VFC-13 currently flies 22 Northrop F-5E/F "Tiger II" aircraft sporting the tail code "AF". The squadron consists of 77 Navy personnel including 16 Regular Navy Officers, six Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officers, 22 Selected Reserve (SELRES) Officers and 33 enlisted personnel. F-5E/F maintenance support is provided through contract with McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Services Corporation (MDASCO). The squadron's unique blend of Regular Navy and Reserve aircrew complement each other allowing the "Fighting Saints" to execute the most prolific flight hour program in the history of Naval Reserve tactical aviation.

3. Chronology:

a. General Operations. VFC-13 flew 5350 sorties and 5949.8 flight hours in Calendar Year 1996, representing 79% of the original flight hour program which allotted six months of F-18 funding and a full year of F-5 funding (98% of adjusted flight hour program). 3682 sorties and 4118.8 hours were in direct support of the fleet.

b. Detachments. Seven total for 1996.

(1) Adversary (FA-18); 14-26 Jan, NAF El Centro, 9 aircraft, 29 aircrew, 201 sorties, 276.2 hours. Supported VF-213, VAW-116, VF-2, VAW-117, VF-31 and VF-11 during SFARP.

(2) Adversary (FA-18); 26 Feb - 02 Mar, NAS Fallon, 4 aircraft, 9 aircrew, 43 sorties, 50.1 hours. Supported CVWR-20 during air wing weapons detachment.

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(3) Adversary (F-5); 03-26 May, NAS Cecil Field and NAS Key West, 4 aircraft, 14 aircrew, 145 sorties, 170.0 hours. Supported VFA-106 (east coast FA-18 FRS) with VFC-12.

(4) Adversary (F-5); 14 Jun - 03 Jul, NAS Key West, 8 aircraft, 24 aircrew, 318 sorties, 367.8 hours. Supported VF-101 (east coast F-14 FRS) and VFA-106.

(5) Adversary (F-5); 05-15 Aug, NAS Key West, 8 aircraft, 15 aircrew, 256 sorties, 318.8 hours. Supported VFA-106.

(6) Adversary (F-5); 20 Sep - 04 Oct, NAS Key West, 4 aircraft, 11 aircrew, 101 sorties, 139.6 hours. Supported VFA-106.

(7) Adversary (F-5); 09-20 Dec, NAS Key West, 3 aircraft, 12 aircrew, 85 sorties, 130.9 hours. Supported VFA-106.

c. Significant Local Operations

(1) Adversary; 1-5 Apr, NAS Fallon, 16 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 83 sorties, 83.0 hours. Supported CVW-11 during pre-deployment weapons training detachment.

(2) Adversary; 8-19 Apr, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 220 sorties, 205.7 hours. Supported VFA-125 (West coast FA-18 FRS).

(3) Adversary; 20 May-6 Jun, NAS Fallon, 17 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 183 sorties, 177.2 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(4) Adversary; 22 Apr-10 May, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 358 sorties, 361.9 hours. Supported VFA-137, VFA-151 and VMFA-323 during CVW-2 SFARP.

(5) Adversary; 13-21 May, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 199 sorties, 220.4 hours. Supported VFA-15 and VFA-87 during CVW-8 SFARP.

(6) Adversary; 22 May-14 Jun, NAS Fallon, 17 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 153 sorties, 156.4 hours. Supported CVW-3 during pre-deployment weapons training detachment.

(7) Adversary; 7-19 Jul, NAS Fallon, 15 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 216 sorties, 192.1 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(8) Adversary; 21 Aug-13 Sep, NAS Fallon, 14 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 151 sorties, 157.8 hours. Supported CVW-2 during pre-deployment weapons training detachment.

(9) Adversary; 18-30 Aug, NAS Fallon, 14 aircraft, 24 aircrew, 155 sorties, 150.0 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(10) Adversary; 30 Sep-12 Oct, NAS Fallon, 12 aircraft, 29 aircrew, 117 sorties, 117.6 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(11) Adversary; 7-25 Oct, NAS Fallon, 12 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 120 sorties, 128.8 hours. Supported CVW-8 during pre-deployment weapons training detachment.

(12) Adversary; 28 Oct-15 Nov, NAS Fallon, 8 aircraft, 23 aircrew, 292 sorties, 323.3 hours. Supported VFA-146, VFA-147, VMFA-314 during CVW-9 SFARP.

(13) Adversary; 13-27 Nov, NAS Fallon, 8 aircraft, 23 aircrew, 127 sorties, 132.9 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(14) Adversary; 21 Oct-22 Nov, NAS Fallon, 2 aircraft, 2 aircrew, 32 sorties, 34.7 hours. Supported two VFC-13 pilots during NSAWC (N7) Adversary Course.

(15) Adversary; 3-20 Dec, NAS Fallon, 5 aircraft, 21 aircrew, 144 sorties, 171.7 hours. Supported VFA-82 and VFA-86 during CVW-1 SFARP.

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- (16) Completed IUT training for 11 new F-5E/F pilots.
- (17) Qualified 11 squadron pilots as Level II adversaries.
- (18) Qualified 9 squadron pilots as Level III adversaries, including two via the NSAWC (N-7) Adversary Course.

4. Narrative:

During 1996 the "Saints" of Fighter Squadron Composite Thirteen (VFC-13) proved their mettle in the face of many significant challenges and the tragic loss of a squadron mate. A homeport relocation from NAS Miramar, CA to NAS Fallon, NV, a simultaneous transition from the FA-18A Hornet to the F-5E/F Tiger II aircraft, the detailing of over 200 enlisted personnel as part of the conversion to contract maintenance, and the integration of 16 Regular Navy aircrew into the Saint Ready Room were successfully accomplished.

On 8 February 1996, the Saints experienced the tragic loss of LCDR Richard T. "Gumby" Ryon during an F-5 transition training mission over the NAS Fallon range complex. In honor of this fallen comrade, the squadron established the LCDR Richard T. Ryon Excellence in Leadership Award. This award will be presented annually to the CVWR-20 Adversary Instructor Pilot who best exemplifies the outstanding character, professional maturity and leadership qualities of LCDR Ryon.

Despite this set back, the squadron continued to provide the highest level of Fleet Adversary (Contributory) Support available. The "Saints" completed 99% of scheduled sorties and flew 98% of their adjusted flight hour program while operating two different types of aircraft in the same year. Following their stand-up at NAS Fallon, the Saints flew an unprecedented 777 sorties and 854 hours during their second month of operations in the F-5E/F aircraft. During this transition year, the squadron conducted seven detachments while supporting a wide variety of customers including four carrier air wings, 12 fleet replacement squadron detachments, and five SFARPs for both east and west coast F-14 and FA-18 strike fighter squadrons. The superb performance of the command's enlisted personnel was pivotal to this year's success. The MDASCO maintenance contractors integrated quickly with the reserve team and worked tirelessly to support over thirty aircrew and a continuous flow of demanding operations. VFC-13 successfully integrated a unique mix of Selected Reserve, TAR, Regular Navy and civilian contract personnel into a cohesive and highly effective team that stands ready to continue providing the finest training possible to fleet strike fighter aircrews.

The Saints overcame many significant challenges in 1996 to remain the finest adversary squadron in the United States Navy. A change of homeport, transition to a new aircraft, reduction in enlisted manning from 253 to 33 personnel, adjustment to contract maintenance, and expansion of our wardroom from 26 to 44 Officer billets, was accomplished without the slightest degradation to customer support. The Saints flew 5350 sorties and 5949.8 hours, both CVWR-20 records, while continuing to provide the absolute finest in adversary services to the fleet. The Saints are unmatched in mission accomplishment, character, credibility and "can do" spirit.


D. W. EISENHART