



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3500
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MAR 09 1998

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

Subj: VFC-13 COMMAND HISTORY FOR CY-97

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

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

1. Per reference (a), VFC-13's command history for CY-97 is submitted.

2. Command Composition and Organization

Fighter Squadron Composite 13 is one of two professional adversary squadrons remaining in the Navy. As one of eight squadrons in Carrier Air Wing Reserve TWENTY (CVWR-20), the Naval Reserve Air Wing located at NAS Atlanta, Marietta, GA, the "Saints" of VFC-13 are charged with providing threat representative aircraft, tactics and weapons systems for fleet strike fighter pilots to oppose during Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) detachments, Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Programs (SFARPS) and Air Wing detachments. Based at NAS Fallon, NV VFC-13 currently flies 22 Northrop F-5E/F "Tiger II" aircraft sporting the tail code "AF". The squadron consists of 77 total Navy personnel including 16 Regular Navy Officers, six Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officers, 22 Selected Reserve (SELRES) Officers and 33 enlisted personnel. The Commanding Officer during CY-97 was CDR D. W. "Ike" Eisenhart. He will be relieved by CDR M. Q. "Beads" Whittle on 14 March 1998. F-5E/F maintenance support is provided through contract with the Boeing Company. The 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 4474 sorties and 5007.4 flight hours in Calendar Year 1997. 2839 sorties and 3019.7 hours were in direct support of the fleet.

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b. Detachments. Eight total for 1997.

- (1) Adversary; 21-28 Feb, NAS Miramar, 4 aircraft, 11 aircrew, 72 sorties, 73.2 hours. Supported VFC-13 aircrew for IUT Syllabus training.
- (2) Adversary; 7-10 Mar, NAS Ft. Worth, 4 aircraft, 4 aircrew, 16 sorties, 18.4 hours. Supported VF-201 for DACT flights.
- (3) Adversary; 5-16 May, NAS New Orleans, 3 aircraft, 9 aircrew, 61 sorties, 76.9 hours. Supported VFA-106 (east coast FA-18 FRS) with VFA-204.
- (4) Adversary; 9-20 Jun, NAS Key West, 6 aircraft, 10 aircrew, 178 sorties, 179.5 hours. Supported VFA-106 (east coast F-18 FRS) in their DACT syllabus.
- (5) Adversary; 14 Jul-8 Aug, NAS Key West, 8 aircraft, 15 aircrew, 268 sorties, 275.5 hours. Supported VFA-106 and VFA-125.
- (6) Adversary; 15-26 Sep, NAS New Orleans, 3 aircraft, 3 aircrew, 42 sorties, 46.3 hours. Supported VFA-106.
- (7) Adversary; 6-11 Oct, NAS Key West, 4 aircraft, 6 aircrew, 40 sorties, 50.1 hours. Supported VFA-34/83 /SFARP.
- (8) Adversary; 9-20 Dec, NAS Key West, 3 aircraft, 12 aircrew, 83 sorties, 97.2 hours. Supported VFA-106.

c. Significant Local Operations

- (1) Adversary; 6-17 Jan, NAS Fallon, 16 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 83 sorties, 83.0 hours. Supported VFA-125 (West coast F/A-18 FRS).
- (2) Adversary; 3-14 Feb, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 220 sorties, 205.7 hours. Supported VFA-125 FWT syllabus and VF-102 SFARP.
- (3) Adversary; 17 Feb-06 Mar, NAS Fallon, 17 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 183 sorties, 177.2 hours. Supported CVW-1 for their airwing training.
- (4) Adversary; 17-28 Mar, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 82 sorties, 87.7 hours. Supported VFA-125.
- (5) Adversary; 17 Mar-04 Apr, NAS Fallon, 18 aircraft, 28 aircrew, 199 sorties, 220.4 hours. Supported CVW-9 for their airwing training.
- (6) Adversary; 7-25 Apr, NAS Fallon, 17 aircraft, 30 aircrew, 153 sorties, 156.4 hours. Supported VFA131/136 SFARP.
- (7) Adversary; 28 Apr-09 May, NAS Fallon, 15 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 216 sorties, 192.1 hours. Supported VFA-125.
- (8) Adversary; 10-23 May, NAS Fallon, 14 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 151 sorties, 157.8 hours. Supported VF-103 SFARP.
- (9) Adversary; 9-20 Jun, NAS Fallon, 14 aircraft, 24 aircrew, 155 sorties, 150.0 hours. Supported VFA-125.

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(10) Adversary; 14-25 Jul, NAS Fallon, 12 aircraft, 29 aircrew, 117 sorties, 117.6 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(11) Adversary; 11-29 Aug, NAS Fallon, 12 aircraft, 26 aircrew, 120 sorties, 128.8 hours. Supported VFA-25/113/115 SFARP.

(12) Adversary; 1-12 Sep, NAS Fallon, 8 aircraft, 23 aircrew, 127 sorties, 132.9 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(13) Adversary; 15 Sep-31 Oct, NAS Fallon, 8 aircraft, 23 aircrew, 227 sorties, 232.9 hours. Supported CVW-14 for their airwing training.

(14) Adversary; 13-24 Oct, NAS Fallon, 5 aircraft, 21 aircrew, 144 sorties, 171.7 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(15) Adversary; 24 Nov-05 Dec, NAS Fallon, 8 aircraft, 23 aircrew, 135 sorties, 137.5 hours. Supported VFA-125.

(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 NSA WC (N-7) Adversary Course.

4. Narrative

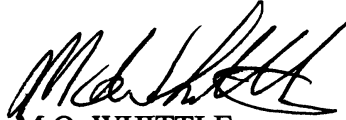
During 1997 the "Saints" of Fighter Squadron Composite Thirteen (VFC-13) proved their mettle in the face of many significant challenges.

VFC-13 continued to provide the highest level of Fleet Adversary Support possible during 1997. The "Saints" completed 99% of scheduled sorties and flew 98% of their adjusted flight hour program while operating the F-5E Tiger II aircraft. During this year, the squadron conducted eight detachments while supporting a wide variety of customers, including three carrier air wings and five Strike Fighter ACM Readiness Programs (SFARP) 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 McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Company (MDASCO)/Boeing Company 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.

In recognition of their outstanding achievements, the VFC-13 Saints were selected as winners of the 1997 Noel Davis ("Battle E") Trophy for mission effectiveness and the 1997 Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force Safety "S" award for the safe execution of the adversary mission.

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Despite a significant reduction in F-5E/F availability due to continuing tail and wing structural problems, the Saints flew 5350 sorties and 5949.8 hours while continuing to provide the absolute finest in adversary services to the fleet. With constant emphasis on safe and highly disciplined operations, Saint aircrew continued their reputation as the finest air combat training instructors in the world. The Saints are unmatched in mission accomplishment, character, credibility and "can do" spirit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.Q. Whittle', written in a cursive style.

M.Q. WHITTLE

By direction