

1996 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN
UNIT 60148
FPO AP 96601-6239

5750
Ser 00/105
MAY 25 1997

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: VFA-137 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded per reference (a).

J. M. McCloskey
J. M. McCLOSKEY

VFA-137 Command History
Calendar Year 1996

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Command Mission. To provide a combat ready, trained and educated force to the Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO enabling sustained, carrier based air power projection.

b. Organizational Structure:

Commanding Officer - CDR C. G. Nutter, Jan - Sep
- CDR J. M. McCloskey, Sep - Dec

Executive Officer - CDR J. M. McCloskey, Jan - Sep
- CDR S. S. Smith, Sep - Dec

Command Master Chief - AVCM(AW) R. L. Sedwick, Jan - Jul
ATCS(AW) M. S. Virgo, Jul - Oct
AVCM(AW) J. R. Okray, Oct - Dec

Command Career Counselor - AT1 [REDACTED], Jan - Dec

Administrative Officer - LCDR [REDACTED], Jan - Sep
- LCDR [REDACTED], Sep - Dec

Operations Officer - LCDR [REDACTED], Jan - May
- LCDR [REDACTED], May - Dec

Maintenance Officer - LCDR [REDACTED], Jan - May
- LCDR [REDACTED], May - Sep
- LCDR [REDACTED], Sep - Dec

Safety Officer - LT [REDACTED], Jan - Aug
- LCDR [REDACTED], Aug - Sep
- LT [REDACTED], Sep - Dec

c. Strike Fighter Squadron 137 reports to the Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO.

d. The squadron is homeported at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, California.

e. The squadron operates 12 F/A-18C Hornet Aircraft; tailcode NE.

2. Chronology:

12-27 Feb - USS CONSTELLATION deployment

11-17 Mar - Adversaries support flights

- 18 - 20 Mar - Mountain Home AFB, ID Detachment
 - 26 Mar - Surge day
- 12 - 14 Apr - Tucson, AZ Detachment
- 21 Apr - 10 May - SFARP Detachment, NAS Fallon, NV
 - 20 - 23 May - Support flights
 - 10 - 17 Jun - Roving Sands, NM Detachment
 - 2 - 3 Jul - Walleye/Maverick Missile Shoot
 - 10 - 23 Jul - TSTA I/II onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64)
- 31 Jul - 3 Aug - USS CONSTELLATION Detachment Seattle, WA
 - 1 - 7 Aug - Weapons Detachment, NAS Point Mugu, CA
 - 12 - 15 Aug - Coronet Sentry Exercise, NAS Lemoore, CA
- 23 Aug - 13 Sep - Carrier Air Wing TWO Detachment, NAS Fallon, NV
 - 19 Sep - Change of Command
- 7 Oct - 18 Nov - TSTA II/III COMPUTEX A/B ITA on board USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64)
 - 19 Oct - Family Day

3. Narrative

- 12 - 27 Feb - Seven aircraft and 140 enlisted personnel deployed aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) in support Fleet exercises conducted in the Southern California operating area. Over 540 hours and 285 carrier landings were recorded by squadron pilots.
- 11 - 17 Mar - Squadron pilots flew 30 flights as adversaries in support of fleet exercises in the Southern California operating area.
- 18 - 20 Mar - Nine aircraft, 95 enlisted personnel, and five pilots deployed to Mountain Home AFB in Idaho. The detachment acted in support of joint exercises conducted with the USAF composite wing supporting their "Turkey Shoot" wing wide competition.
 - 26 Mar - Squadron pilots flew over 50 hours in a one day period demonstrating the surge operating capability of the F/A-18C.
- 12 - 14 Apr - Four Aircraft and 35 enlisted personnel deployed to Tucson, AZ supporting exercises with the Tucson Air National Guard.

- 21 Apr - 10 May - Eight aircraft and 60 personnel deployed to NAS Fallon, NV in support of squadron exercises practicing advanced fighter tactics in the Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP).
- 20 - 23 May - Squadron pilots flew as adversaries in support of fleet exercises and the USS MERRILL (DD 976) in the Southern California operating area.
- 10 - 17 Jun - The squadron deployed 10 aircraft to Roving Sands, NM as adversaries in support of the Army's biggest joint exercise in the continental U.S.
- 2 - 3 Jul - Three aircraft participated in a precision guided missile exercise at the Utah Test Training Range in the Great Salt Lake. Squadron pilots successfully delivered Walleye and Maverick missiles to direct hits.
- 10 - 23 Jul - The squadron deployed aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) in support of TSTA I/II, flying 175 sorties and 240 hours.
- 31 Jul - 3 Aug - Two aircraft and 10 enlisted personnel participated in (CV 64) port visit to Seattle Washington for the annual Seafair Festival. Pilots and crew provided interviews on local television.
- 1 - 7 Aug - Two aircraft and 19 enlisted personnel deployed to NAS Point Mugu in support of a week long Standoff Land Attack Missile (SLAM) shoot resulting in direct hits.
- 12 - 15 Aug - The squadron participated in CORONET SENTRY, a large USAF command and control exercise near Nellis AFB which included assets from all four aviation branches.
- 23 Aug - 13 Sep - The squadron deployed with Carrier Air Wing TWO to NAS Fallon, NV participating in an intense 3 week Air Wing work up exercise. The squadron recorded 428 hours in 346 sorties.
- 19 Sep - CDR John M. McCloskey relieved CDR Christopher G. Nutter as Commanding Officer, Striker Fighter Squadron 137 in a ceremony conducted in Hangar five, NAS Lemoore, California. VADM Brown, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet served as Guest Speaker.
- 7 Oct - 18 Nov - The squadron deployed aboard USS CONSTELLATION for TSTA II/III, COMPUTEX A/B and ITA. Included in the scenario were long range strikes, mining, and air to air exercises.
- 19 Oct - The squadron flew sorties in an air power demonstration in support of Family Day aboard USS CONSETLLATION (CV 64).

4. Support Information

a. Statistical Data for 1996

(1) Total hours flown in the FA-18

Embarked Day:	757	Embarked Night:	338
Non-Embarked Day:	<u>3,400</u>	Non-Embarked Night:	<u>985</u>
Total Day:	4,157	Total Night:	1,323

Total Hours: 5,480

(2) Total CV Landings:

Day:	777
Night:	<u>320</u>
Total:	1,097