



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN
UNIT 60148
FPO AP 96801-6239

5750
Ser PAO/067
1 Mar 13

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
To: Naval Historical Center (Aviation History)

Subj: COMMAND OPERATIONS REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12K

Encl: (1) Command Operations Report
(2) Battle Efficiency Award Data Spreadsheet
(3) J. D. Brunn Biography
(4) Commanding Officer's Official Photograph:
"J. D. Brunn Photograph"
(5) C. N. Hurst Biography
(6) Executive Officer's Official Photograph:
"C. N. Hurst Biography"
(7) VFA-137 Patch
(8) Photograph: "Aircraft 200"
(9) Photograph: "Kestrel Final Approach CVN 72"

1. Per reference (a), the following Command Operations Report is submitted on behalf of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 for calendar year 2012.

2. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure file types are Windows based including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Excel, and JPG.

3. My point of contact is Lieutenant [REDACTED], Public Affairs Officer. He can be reached at (559) [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED]@navy.mil.


J. D. BRUNN

VFA-137 Command Operations Report
Calendar Year 2012

1. Command Data

- a. Name: Strike Fighter Squadron 137
- b. UIC: 55142
- c. Commanding Officer: Brunn, Jeremy D., CDR, USN
- d. Assumed Command: 4 November 2011
- e. Mission: On order, Strike Fighter Squadron 137 will deploy at sea and be prepared to conduct combat operations in support of national policy objectives. When required, we will destroy enemy aircraft and deliver fused ordnance on time, on target, first pass.
- f. Home Port: Naval Air Station Lemoore, California
- g. Immediate Superior: Operational – Commander, Carrier Air Wing TWO
Administrative – Commander, Strike Fighter Wing Pacific
- h. Task Force: None
- i. Forces under operational control: None
- j. Aircraft: 11 F/A-18E, 1 F/A-18F, tail code NE, bureau number breakdown:

<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Bureau number</u>
200	165897
201	165898
202	165901
203	165902
204	165903
205	165904
206	165899
207	165906
210	165907
211	165896
212	165909
213	165930

- k. Tenant Activities: None
- l. Personnel Assigned: 23 officers, 182 enlisted
- m. Point of Contact: LT [REDACTED]
Public Affairs Officer
[REDACTED]@navy.mil
(559) [REDACTED]
DSN: [REDACTED]

Commanding Officer
STRKFITRON 137
Unit 60148
FPO AP 96601-6239

n. Organizational Structure:

Commanding Officer –	CDR J. D. Brunn (Jan-Dec)
Executive Officer –	CDR C. N. Hurst (Jan-Dec)
Command Master Chief –	CMDCM (AW/SS/SW) B. T. Howat (Jan-Dec)
Administrative Officer –	LCDR [REDACTED] (Oct-Dec) LTJG [REDACTED] (Jan-Oct)
Operations Officer –	LCDR [REDACTED] (Jan-Jun) LCDR [REDACTED] (Jun-Oct) LCDR [REDACTED] (Oct-Dec)
Maintenance Officer –	LCDR [REDACTED] (Jan-Jun) LCDR [REDACTED] (Jun-Dec)
Safety Officer –	LCDR [REDACTED] (Jan-Oct) LCDR [REDACTED] (Oct-Dec)

2. Commander's Assessment

The Kestrels of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 faced and overcame many challenges in 2012. Through hard work, innovative problem solving and a commitment to excellence, VFA-137 personnel were consistently mission ready and greatly enhanced the combat effectiveness of Carrier Air Wing TWO (CVW-2) and Carrier Strike Group NINE. VFA-137 successfully met or exceeded every operational requirement throughout a year that defined the term "high operational tempo." During 2012, the Kestrels deployed for an eight month surge deployment that was originally scheduled to last only five months. VFA-137 spent a total of six months supporting combat operations over Afghanistan, flying nearly 500 combat sorties with impeccable results while contributing significantly to a combined combat sortie completion rate of 100 percent for CVW-2. Additionally, the Kestrels supported joint exercise "Shamal," testing U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force integration in the Arabian Gulf. The Kestrels also functioned as the lead agency during joint exercise Eastern Angler, an air wing detachment to Qatar that was critical to regional stability and partnership development. Returning from deployment, the Kestrels continued to hone valuable combat skills in all aspects of tactical employment, including a four week BFM training syllabus with a focus dedicated to strike fighter weapons and tactics (SFWT) progression. The following highlights summarize of a truly successful year for VFA-137:

Safely executing flight operations both afloat and ashore, VFA-137 amassed 6,191 flight hours during 2,502 sorties, of which 5,585.2 flight hours and 2,045 sorties were embarked. During this high operational tempo, the Kestrels maintained a 98 percent sortie completion rate, an 85 percent mission capable rate and a 76 percent full mission capable rate. The Kestrel maintenance department saved \$4 million dollars during the year by operating 13.1 percent (\$654 per flight hour) below the benchmark cost per flight hour.

The beginning of the year saw VFA-137 embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) supporting combat operations over Afghanistan. The Kestrels flew 472 sorties and 2,970 flight hours, providing invaluable close air support to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) coalition ground forces. As a true testament to squadron maintainers and their awe-inspiring teamwork, the Kestrels filled 21 spare sorties enabling an unprecedented 100% combat sortie completion rate for CVW-2. This relentless pursuit of excellence was again evident as VFA-137 participated in two international and joint exercises, executing 27 sorties dedicated to these important missions while simultaneously sustaining combat operations. Although VFA-137's combat expenditure was limited, the Kestrels executed to perfection when required. In all, the Kestrels flew 1,704 sorties in both the Fifth and Seventh Fleet areas of responsibility, maintaining an impressive 99% sortie completion rate. Throughout deployment, VFA-137 led CVW-2 in every

maintenance metric, setting the standard for all other squadrons to follow. The Kestrels were recognized as CVW-2's "Golden Wrench" award winners for the deployment, honoring the best maintenance department in the air wing. Additionally, VFA-137's superb performance during the inter-deployment training cycle was recognized by Commander, Strike Fighter Wing Pacific with the presentation of the 2011 AOC Scott F. Kirby Ordnance Proficiency Award.

Operation Eastern Angler, a seven day joint exercise in Qatar provided another showcase for VFA-137's operational excellence and maintenance acumen. In conjunction with sustained high tempo operations over Afghanistan, VFA-137 served as the exercise lead, providing the detachment officer-in-charge, the lead intelligence officer and two fully qualified pilots to conduct dissimilar aircraft engagements with the Qatari Emiri Air Force. The Kestrels were pivotal to CVW-2's success at meeting exercise objectives by engaging simulated threat aircraft on 24 highly dynamic missions in the visual environment. The Kestrels continued to excel throughout the exercise with a 100% mission success rate. The advanced training with dissimilar aircraft honed perishable combat skills for CVW-2 and proved vital to enhancing interoperability with the Qatari Emiri Air Force while strengthening an important strategic alliance.

In the months following cruise, the Kestrels remained extremely active with unit level training. In a compressed four week BFM syllabus, the Kestrels completed 32 SFWT syllabus events, rapidly progressing six pilots towards their SFWT Level III designations.

2012 was a monumental year for advancement and individual qualifications in VFA-137. Despite the challenging operational requirements and demanding schedule, the Kestrels advanced 52 Sailors during the March navy-wide advancement exam cycle. The command-wide commitment to sailorization and professional development resulted in an amazing 49% advancement rate and selection of four new chiefs. Additionally, 84 Kestrels earned their enlisted aviation warfare specialist qualifications.

On February 11, 2013, Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific recognized the Kestrels' stellar performance for calendar year 2012, with the presentation of the Battle Efficiency (Navy "E") award. This prestigious award recognizes one VFA-E/F squadron that has epitomized battle efficiency and excelled in all areas of leadership, tactical acumen, and combat preparedness during an era with constant pressure to do more with less. The Battle "E" is a huge honor for the squadron and directly reflects the hard work and esprit de corps each Kestrel demonstrated during 2012.

The Kestrels were presented with a number of unique and demanding challenges throughout the year, all of which were met with confidence and great effectiveness. VFA-137 successfully accomplished every task assigned during an extended combat deployment to multiple areas of responsibility. Displaying the same professionalism and dedication that has become synonymous with the Kestrel team, VFA-137 exceeded all expectations throughout its numerous evolutions during 2012. Through their outstanding performance, the Kestrels have earned the trust and respect of the entire F/A-18 community and are the premier strike-fighter squadron in naval aviation.

3. Chronology and Narrative

2012 JAN 05 – 2012 JAN 09: Port of Call in Pattaya, Thailand

2012 FEB 02 – 2012 FEB 06: Port of Call in Manama, Bahrain

2012 FEB 16 – 2012 FEB 16: Beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom sorties

2012 MAR – 2012 MAR: Port of Call in Manama, Bahrain

2012 APR – 2012 APR: Port of Call in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2012 MAY – 2012 MAY: Port of Call in Manama, Bahrain

2012 JUN – 2012 JUN: Port of Call in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2012 JUL 09 – 2012 JUL 09: End of Operation Enduring Freedom sorties

2012 JUL – 2012 JUL: Port of Call in Antalya, Turkey

2012 AUG 03 – 2012 AUG 03: Aircraft depart CVN 72 off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida.

2012 AUG 04 – 2012 AUG 04: Squadron departs CVN 72 at NS Mayport, Florida and returns to NAS Lemoore, California completing an eight month around-the-world cruise.

4. Supporting Reports

a. Statistical Data:

i. Hours Flown

Ashore:	606	Embarked:	5585
Total:	6191		

ii. Sorties

Ashore:	457	Embarked:	2045
Total:	2502		

iii. Carrier Landings:

Day:	2548	Night:	685
Total:	3233		

b. "Battle Efficiency Award" submissions

5. Published Documents

a. Professional Articles

i. "Kestrels commence world-wide deployment," LT [REDACTED], *The Hook*, Spring 2012

ii. "VFA-137 receive Scott Kirby Award," LT [REDACTED], *Golden Eagle*, February 24, 2012

iii. "VFA-137 Earns the Golden Wrench Award," LT [REDACTED], *Navy.mil*, April 28, 2012

iv. "VFA-137 wins CVW 2's Golden Wrench," LT [REDACTED], *Golden Eagle*, May 18, 2012

b. Command Website

i. http://vfa-137.ahf.nmci.navy.mil/Main_Page.htm

ii. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VFA-137-Kestrels/103181329729303>

c. Biography of Commander: "CDR J. D. Brunn, USN"

d. Biography of Commander: "CDR C. N. Hurst, USN"

6. Photographs

a. Commanding Officer's Official Photograph: "CDR J. D. Brunn, USN"

- b. Executive Officer's Official Photograph: "CDR C. N. Hurst, USN"
- c. VFA-137 Patch
- d. Aircraft 200
- e. Kestrel Final Approach to CVN 72

FY 2012 Battle E Performance Data Input

Squadrons: Fill in the **BLUE** blocks only. Do not enter data in any other blocks!
 Data entered by CSFWP/CSFWL in GREEN blocks.

CSFWPINST 1650.3E/
 CSFWLINST 1650.3L
 Encl. 3,
 Para. #

Squadron: **137**

COST-WISE READINESS METRICS

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Actual # RFT Aircraft	7.88	4.5	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	7.88	4.5	5.63
Entitlement	7.88	4.5	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	7.88	4.5	5.63
Monthly score	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
3.a Aircraft Material Readiness:	100.00%											

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
Quarterly Reported SPI	1	1	1	80.92
3.b Schedule Performance Index:	0.75	1	1	0

PERFORMANCE READINESS METRICS

	1st Line Prd	2nd Line Prd	3rd Line Prd	4th Line Prd
Squadron Landing Grade	3.455	3.433	3.557	3.546
Air Wing Landing Grade	3.494	3.46	3.555	3.498
Line Period Index	0.988838008	0.992196532	1.000562588	1.014302059
(Count)	4			
4.a.1 Final Landing Grade (Index)	1.00			

	1st Line Prd	2nd Line Prd	3rd Line Prd	4th Line Prd
Squadron Day Boarding Rate	95.2	96	98.6	97.8
Air Wing Day Boarding Rate	97.3	97.1	98.1	97.4
Line Period Index	0.978417266	0.988671473	1.00509684	1.004106776
(Count)	4			
4.a.2 Final Day Boarding Rate (Index)	0.99			

	1st Line Prd	2nd Line Prd	3rd Line Prd	4th Line Prd
Squadron Night Boarding Rate	91.7	95.7	96.9	98.5
Air Wing Night Boarding Rate	94.2	96.6	97.3	96.2
Line Period Index	0.973460722	0.99068323	0.995889003	1.023908524
(Count)	4			
4.a.3 Final Night Boarding Rate (Index)	1.00			

	2nd Fleet	3rd Fleet	5th Fleet	6th Fleet	7th Fleet
Deployed Operational Missions	12	61	1562	27	162
4.a.4 Total Deployed Operational Missions	1824				

	2nd Fleet	3rd Fleet	5th Fleet	6th Fleet	7th Fleet
Operational Mission Completion Rate (%)	100.0%	98.9%	98.7%	100.0%	97.6%
(Count)	5				
4.a.5 Average Mission Completion Rate	99.0%				

4.a.6 Total embarked hours	5,585.20
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4.a.7 Total night carrier landings	685
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	Bombs	Bullets	A-G Missiles	A-A Missiles
Actual Combat Expenditure				
Number expended	4	361	0	0
(Points per weapon)	1	0.02	2	5
4.a.8 Total Points	11			

	Exer/Det #1	Exer/Det #2	Exer/Det #3	Exer/Det #4	Exer/Det #5	Exer/Det #6	Exer/Det #7
Non-FRP Exercises & Detachments							
Mission completion rate (%)	77.0%	100.0%	90.0%				
(Count)	3						
4.b.1 Total participation/success	89.0%						

	IR MSL	RDR MSL	LGB	SLAM ER	JDAM	JSOW	HARM	MAV
Aircrew assigned	20							
Number of weapons expended	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Ordnance expenditure requirement for M2	2	2	14.0	1	1	1	1	1
Below required expenditure	-1	-2	-12.0	-1	1	-1	-1	-1
Type-point penalties (one point max per type)	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
4.b.2 Weapons training efficiency (100 max, 92 min)	93							

4.b.3 Simulator Hours Executed	156.2
Simulator Hours Scheduled	177.1
Simulator Utilization (%)	88.2%

4.b.4 Number of SFWT advancements	14
Aircrew assigned (from 4.b.2 above)	20
SFWT Progress (%)	100.0%

4.c.1 NATOPS Unit Evaluation (100 or 0)	100.0	Enter N/A if no NATOPS unit eval in FY
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4.c.2 CWTPPI Score (100 or 0)	N/A	Enter N/A if no CWTPPI in FY
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	On Track	NMA	Off Track
Maintenance program status (number of each)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Points per program	2	1	0
4.d.1 AMI score	0.0%		

	Total Inspected	Pass	Fail
Maintenance program status (number of each)	2	2	0
Points per program		2	0
MCI score	100.0%		

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Cannibalization Rate (per 100 fit hrs)	5.54	25.92	17.83	9.62	5.74	5.98	2.61	7.31	8.73	9.81	2.92	9.09
Average Cannibalization Rate	9.26											

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
NEC Fit												
NEC Entitlement												
Monthly score	72.80%	73.90%	79.50%	78.10%	77.40%	76.70%	75.30%	74.00%	73.30%	69.50%	67.80%	67.10%
NEC Fit Score	73.67%											

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
QPT Fit												
QPT Entitlement												
Monthly score	97.80%	95.60%	93.40%	90.10%	93.40%	91.50%	89.70%	89.70%	88.90%	84.60%	90.00%	90.30%
QPT Fit Score	91.38%											

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
Retention			
Number of personnel at EAOS	27	9	15
Number of personnel that Reenlisted	15	2	7
Zone rate	55.56%	22.22%	46.67%
Average Retention Rate	47.1%		

	E-4	E-5	E-6
Advancement			
# Advanced on Spring Exam	35	10	6
# Taking Spring exam	58	20	15
# Advanced on Fall Exam	9	6	2
# Taking on Fall exam	45	21	19
Total Advancement Rate	37.4%		

	E-4	E-5	E-6
Passed Not Advanced			
# PNA on Spring Exam	22	10	9
# Taking on Spring exam	58	20	15
# PNA on Fall Exam	34	15	17
# Taking Fall exam	45	21	19
Total PNA Rate	60.9%		

	Fall	Spring
Physical Readiness Standards		
Total passed within standards	190	197
Total eligible personnel	191	198
Cycle Percentage	99.5%	99.5%
Final/average Percentage	99.5%	

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Medical Readiness Score												
Monthly Score	93.50%	92.30%	96.70%	98.10%	98.00%	93.90%	93.90%	95.50%	88.30%	95.70%	92.10%	94.70%
Average Score	94.39%											

Health Promotion Score	100.00%
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4.f.1	Number of Class Alpha Mishaps Score	0 100
4.f.2	Number of Class Bravo Mishaps Score	0 100
4.f.3	FOD Occurences	0
4.f.4	Number of HAZREPS submitted	7
4.f.5	NATOPS Changes submitted	0
4.f.6	NATOPS Changes accepted	0
4.f.7	Safety Articles submitted	5
4.f.8	Safety Articles published	0
4.f.9	Number of NAMDRP reports submitted	50
4.g.1	Tactical Documents submitted	0
4.g.2	Tactical Documents published	0
4.g.3	Tactical Projects completed	0
4.g.4	TACMAN Changes submitted	0
4.g.5	TACMAN Changes accepted	0
4.g.6	Professional Articles submitted	14
4.g.7	Professional Articles published	9
4.h.1	Bomb Derby participant? (yes=1, no=0)	0
4.h.2	Bomb Derby Winner? (yes=1, no=0)	0