

1983



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09501

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To: Chief of Naval Operations (Op-052D)  
Subj: 1983 Command History (OPNAV 5750-1); submission of  
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.1B  
Encl: (1) Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN History (1919 - 1983)  
(2) Summary of Operations  
(3) Schedule of Events  
(4) Officer Billet Summary  
(5) Pilot/NFO Flight Hour Summary  
(6) Weapons Expended Summary  
(7) Biography of CO (CDR T. J. TERRILL)  
(8) Biography of XO (CDR C. W. SCHANTZ)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) thru (8) are forwarded.

T. J. TERRILL

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History

**TOPHATTERS**  
**FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN**  
**1919-1983**

The history of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN dates back almost to the origin of Naval Aviation. Its record of continuous active service began in September 1919 making it the Navy's oldest active squadron. Since this early beginning the squadron has flown twenty-two different type aircraft, had its designation changed fourteen times, operated from seventeen different aircraft carriers plus several battleships, and has been commanded by fifty-eight Naval Officers.

During its career the squadron has been assigned many missions including patrol and observation in its early years and scouting, attack and fighter in the years that followed when carrier based.

Its carrier career began with the U.S. Navy's first carrier, USS LANGLEY (CV-1) in 1926. The squadron, then Fighter Plane Squadron One, established a record for carrier landings in a single day. Flying TS-1 aircraft, one hundred twenty-seven landings were completed by the end of flight operations.

The TOPHATTERS proved to be a formidable foe during World War II. While aboard the USS RANGER the squadron provided air support for the invasion of North Africa in November 1942. During the four days of November 8-11, pilots destroyed sixteen enemy aircraft. Flying the SBD Dauntless dive bomber, the squadron participated in the first American naval air strike against German forces in Norway in October 1943. They destroyed 40,000 tons of enemy shipping in Norway's inner channel.

In November 1944, the squadron transferred to the Pacific Fleet and participated in the Leyte Campaign aboard the USS BUNKER HILL (CV-17). Transferring to the USS ESSEX (CV-9), the squadron bombed fortifications on Formosa in January 1945, supported the assault on Iwo Jima in February, participated in the first naval carrier strikes on Tokyo, and completed Pacific combat operations with strikes on Okinawa in early March 1945.

In 1949, the TOPHATTERS received their current designation as VF-14 with an all weather intercept mission. In May 1963 the TOPHATTERS transitioned to the F-4B Phantom II and on 23 January 1964 they became the first Phantom squadron to operate aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).

In June 1966, the TOPHATTERS again joined the Pacific Fleet and conducted air strikes and supporting missions against military targets in North Vietnam. During this combat deployment, the squadron flew 1688 hours on 967 combat sorties and delivered 651,624 pounds of ordnance in addition to fulfilling its traditional combat air patrol and fighter escort missions.

With the commissioning of the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67) in September 1968, the Navy's oldest squadron found itself on the newest carrier. After four highly successful Mediterranean deployments aboard KENNEDY, the squadron transitioned to the Navy's newest fighter, the F-14A TOMCAT in January 1974.

Between June 1975 and January 1976, the TOPHATTERS deployed aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY for the first Atlantic fleet deployment of the F-14. In October 1978, TOPHATTER aircrews set an all time, one month, F-14 flight hour record of 977 hours while deployed to the Mediterranean.

Among the many awards held by the TOPHATTERS are two Presidential Unit Citations, five battle stars, and an unprecedented three year hold on both the CNO Aviation Safety Award and CNAL Battle Efficiency "E" Award for the years 1959, 1960, and 1961. Fighting FOURTEEN received the CNO Safety award for 1978 and the CNAL Battle Efficiency "E" Award for 1979 and 1980, establishing a two year hold on the coveted battle readiness award. In January 1980, VF-14 achieved the highest grades ever awarded in the yearly Air Combat Maneuvering refresher course with VF-43 adversaries.

Commencing local carrier operations in February 1980, Fighting FOURTEEN continued its tradition of excellence by winning the "Fighter Olympics" and recording a perfect (100%) kill rate with all missiles fired during type training and readiness inspections. In August 1980 the TOPHATTERS deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with Carrier Air Wing ONE aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY.

In July 1981 the TOPHATTERS became a member of Carrier Air Wing SIX. The squadron deployed in June 1982 aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62), and in July was named "Best Fighter Squadron" by Commander Fighter Wing ONE for their superb performance in the Atlantic Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP) against VF-43 adversaries.

After a post deployment standdown in January 1983, the TOPHATTERS once again commenced fast paced flight operations during air wing detachments to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and NAS Fallon, Nevada. During the summer of 1983 the squadron operated in the Caribbean Sea during type training prior to deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

October and early November 1983 found the TOPHATTERS logging combat time in support of operations in Grenada. This was the squadron's first combat since Vietnam and the first in the F-14A Tomcat. After playing an integral part in the liberation of Grenada from Cuban insurgents, VF-14 proceeded east to the Mediterranean Sea with CVW-6 to participate in contingency operations off the coast of Lebanon.

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

### MISSION

The mission of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN is to intercept and destroy enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles in all weather conditions and to establish and maintain local air superiority.

### CONCEPT

Historically, a fighter squadron is tasked with opposing enemy aircraft. However, with the threat of potent long range missiles in the enemy arsenal, the multi-track and ECM capabilities of the F-14A/AWG-9 Phoenix Weapons System have received added importance. Consequently, the Maritime Air Superiority role of the TOMCAT and its crew has received added emphasis. During 1983, VF-14 has continued training for both threats.

### RECAP

After completing a one month standdown following an extended deployment to the Mediterranean from 7 June to 22 December 1982, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN, once again, commenced fast paced flight operations. LT's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended the TOPGUN course at the Navy Fighter Weapons School, NAS Miramar, California, from 7 January to 13 February 1983. The squadron's first detachment to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico from 6 March to 28 March 1983 found the TOPHATTERS operating as part of CVW-6 Orange forces supporting long range strikes against the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CV-69) and USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67). On 1 April 1983, just three days after returning to Oceana, the TOPHATTERS transited to NAS Fallon, Nevada for a two week air wing detachment. Training was conducted under simulated combat conditions. Aircrews flew escort on long range, low level ALPHA strikes that were opposed by VF-43 aggressors flying A-4E and F-5E aircraft.

On 6 May 1983, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN commenced a three week Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP) against VF-43 adversaries. Section tactics were emphasized against A-4E and F-5E aircraft flying standard Soviet formations and tactics. Over 120 sorties were flown and 12 aircrews qualified. Big killers were CDR [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] with a 16 to 1 kill ratio and LCDR [REDACTED] and LT [REDACTED] who registered a 15 to 4 score. The training was conducted on the Atlantic Fleet's Air Combat Maneuvering Range (ACMR) and proved invaluable in honing that "fighting edge" on aircrew combat skills.

After a rigorous period at sea from 6 June to 21 July 1983 during which USS INDEPENDENCE completed refresher training (REFTRA) and VF-14 completed Type I training, the squadron spent approximately four weeks at Oceana preparing for the final month of Type Training.

A short break was taken in the daily rigors on 4 August 1983 when CDR Tom TERRILL relieved CDR Alex RUCKER as the 58th skipper of the TOPHATTERS. From 15 August to 16 September 1983, VF-14 participated in Type II and III training and Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE). The result was a superb performance by aircrews and maintenance crews alike. The TOPHATTERS flew 650 hours in just 21 flying days with 307 carrier landings, 113 of which were at night. Six missiles were launched which resulted in 12 individual "E's". Additionally, the squadron participated in Readex 2-83 and a Harpoonex during which VF-14 aircraft flew chase on Harpoon cruise missiles launched from surface combatants. This effort translated into a grade of low outstanding during ORE. If tasked, VF-14 was ready to go into combat.

The squadron departed the Virginia Capes Operating Area with Carrier Air Wing SIX aboard USS INDEPENDENCE on 17 October 1983 to take up a position near the coast of Lebanon. A few days later the ship was diverted south to participate in Operation Urgent Fury, the liberation of Grenada from Cuban insurgents and the rescue of American citizens.

The squadron's participation in Grenada operations consisted of combat air patrol to intercept Soviet or Cuban aircraft and overland TARPS escort for VF-32. From 23 October to 1 November 1983, VF-14 flew 82 combat missions in support of Operation Urgent Fury. On 2 November 1983, INDEPENDENCE departed the Grenada area for the Mediterranean.

Operations in the eastern Mediterranean consisted primarily of combat air patrol (CAP) and overland TARPS escort in support of the Multinational Force. VF-14 and VF-32 were the first Atlantic Fleet TOMCAT squadrons to receive and deploy with the Television Camera Set (TCS) and it exceeded all operational, tactical, and maintenance expectations. TOPHATTER aircrews used TCS to visually identify potentially hostile aircraft at long ranges thereby enhancing the reaction time of the Carrier Battle Group. On one occasion LT [REDACTED] and LCDR [REDACTED] positively identified, from their CAP station, a Lebanese Hawker Hunter jet aircraft that was operating over land. This would have been an impossible task without the TCS system. An extremely reliable system with an onboard recorder, TCS proved to be easy to use and compatible with the AWG-9. There is no doubt that the TCS significantly improved the squadron's ability to employ forward quarter weapons.

When flight operations were not the order of the day, the TOPHATTERS conducted aircrew training to discuss current and proposed threats and tactics peculiar to the Eastern Mediterranean. A Strike Warfare Board was established to compile the squadron's corporate knowledge of optimum tactical applications of the F-14 in various scenarios. The immediate results of the board included the drafting of Battle Group contingency plans for F-14 TOMCAT operations against threats in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The TOPHATTERS finished the year flying 4000 accident free hours while accomplishing a 98 percent sortie completion rate.

As Fighting FOURTEEN presses on to the new year, the overall outlook is one of great promise. A strong internal relations program resulted in high retention rates in all three retention categories; first term, second term and career. With the abundance of talented and dedicated personnel on hand, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN will continue to be the dominant force in the fighter community.

### **SQUADRON SCHEDULE 1983:**

1. 8 JAN - 12 FEB: TOPGUN Det
2. 18 - 20 JAN: SOPWITH CAMEL for USS FORRESTAL
3. 24 - 25 JAN: Services for CNO Project 100
4. 2 - 4 FEB: SOPWITH CAMEL for USS SARATOGA
5. 5 - 12 FEB: CNO Project 547
6. 15 - 18 FEB: SEABAT VACAPES Area
7. 20 - 22 FEB: SOPWITH CAMEL for USS SARATOGA
8. 28 FEB - 4 MAR: FAST Training
9. 5 - 29 MAR: ORANGE AIR Det to NAS Roosevelt Roads, PR
10. 2 - 16 APR: CVW-6 Weapons Det to NAS Fallon NV/CONSTANT PEG
11. 19 - 22 APR: SEABAT
12. 12 MAY - 5 JUN: FFARP
13. 17 MAY: MISSILEX, VACAPES Op Area
14. 3 JUN: MISSILEX, VACAPES Op Area
15. 9 JUN: Underway in USS INDEPENDENCE
16. 11 - 30 JUN: AIRWING CQ and REFTRA in USS INDEPENDENCE
17. 7 - 21 JUL: TYPE TRAINING I
18. 4 AUG: Change of Command
19. 15 AUG: Underway in USS INDEPENDENCE
20. 16 - 21 AUG: TYPE TRAINING II
21. 21 AUG - 1 SEP: READEX 2-83
22. 31 AUG - 2 SEP: MISSILEX, AFWTF Op Area
23. 1 - 5 SEP: TYPE TRAINING III
24. 6 - 9 SEP: ORE
25. 7 SEP: "No-Notice" Missile Exercise, AFWTF Op Area
26. 24 SEP: Services for USS COONTZ
27. 30 SEP: MISSILEX, Jacksonville, FL Op Area
28. 3 - 7 OCT: SEABAT
29. 18 OCT: Underway in USS INDEPENDENCE for Mediterranean Deployment
30. 21 OCT: Diverted to GRENADA
31. 23 OCT - 1 NOV: On station for Operation "URGENT FURY" (Grenada)
32. 2 - 10 NOV: Enroute to Mediterranean
33. 11 NOV: INCHOP Mediterranean
34. 12 - 17 NOV: Transit to Eastern Mediterranean
35. 18 NOV - 31 DEC: On-station Eastern Mediterranean for support of Multinational Forces in Lebanon.

OFFICER BILLET SUMMARY

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
CDR	TERRILL, THOMAS J.	COMMANDING OFFICER
CDR	SCHANIZ, CURTISS W.	EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CDR		EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
LCDR		OPERATIONS OFFICER
LCDR		ASST MAINT OFFICER
LCDR		HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER/ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
LCDR		QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER
LCDR		MAINTENANCE OFFICER
LCDR		ADMIN OFFICER
LCDR		PERSONNEL OFFICER
LCDR		SAFETY OFFICER
LT		AF/CC BRANCH OFFICER
LT		LANDING SIGNAL OFFICER
LT		LEGAL OFFICER
LT		EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER/ PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
LT		ASST OPS/NFO TRAINING OFFICER
LT		AIRCRAFT DIVISION OFFICER
LT		AME/PR BRANCH OFFICER
LT		NATOPS OFFICER
LT		RIO TRAINING OFFICER
LT		COMM OFFICER/1ST LT
LT		LINE DIVISION OFFICER
LT		PILOT TRAINING OFFICER
LT		MAINTENANCE CONTROL OFFICER
LT		AV WEAPONS DIVISION OFFICER
LT		IWT BRANCH OFFICER
LT		SQUADRON FLIGHT OFFICER
LTJG		SUPPLY OFFICER
LTJG		AE BRANCH OFFICER
LTJG		P/P BRANCH OFFICER
ENS		MATERIAL OFFICER
ENS		AIR INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
CWO2		ORDNANCE OFFICER

**PILOT/NFO FLIGHT HOUR SUMMARY**

**(January - December 1983)**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>PILOT</b>	<b>NFO</b>
JAN	167.4	159.0
FEB	353.3	354.9
MAR	327.3	344.6
APR	335.6	341.6
MAY	179.6	180.6
JUN	232.2	241.7
JUL	431.8	422.2
AUG	439.2	434.4
SEP	205.3	197.9
OCT	364.5	349.8
NOV	453.6	438.3
DEC	<u>497.2</u>	<u>500.2</u>
<b>TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS:</b>	<b>3,987.0</b>	<b>3,965.2</b>



WEAPONS EXPENDED - 83

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TYPE ORDNANCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
JAN 83	NONE	NONE
FEB 83	NONE	NONE
MAR 83	NONE	NONE
APR 83	NONE	NONE
MAY 83	NONE	NONE
JUN 83	NONE	NONE
JUL 83	NONE	NONE
AUG 83	AIM-9G (Sidewinder) AIM-7E4 (Sparrow) MK-124 (Cart) 20MM(TP)	1 Missile 2 Missiles 4 Each 754 (Rds)
SEP 83	AIM-9H (Sidewinder) AIM-7E4 (Sparrow) AIM-7F (Sparrow) AIM-54A (Phoenix) MK-124 (Cart) MK-107 (Cart) 20MM(TP)	1 Missile 1 Missile 1 Missile 1 Missile 4 Each 1 Each 576(Rds)
OCT 83	20MM(TP) 20MM (HEI) MK-46 (Flare) RR-129 MK-131 MD-48	1550 (Rds) 6315 (Rds) 42 Each 17 Each 42 Each 17 Each
NOV 83	MK-46 (Flare) RR-129 (Chaff) POET (Jammer) MD-48 (Cart) MK-131 (Cart)	44 Each 132 Each 6 Each 132 Each 50 Each
DEC 83	MK-46 (Flare) RR-129 (Chaff) RR-144 (Chaff) POET (Jammer) MK-131 (Cart) MD-48 (Cart)	54 Each 126 Each 63 Each 4 Each 58 Each 189 Each