



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FIGHTER SQUADRON FOURTEEN  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
NEW YORK 09504-6103

5750  
PAO  
07 MAR 1990

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: 1989 Command History (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Biography of Commanding Officer, Commander  
Peter B. Strickland  
(2) Biography of Executive Officer, Commander  
Douglas J. Law  
(3) List of Officers and Billets held on 31 DEC 89  
(4) List of Aircraft held by VF-14 on 31 Dec 89  
(5) Deployments/Major Operations Schedule  
(6) Milestone Events/Awards Received  
(7) Maintenance Goals  
(8) Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN Command History  
Narrative (1919-1989)  
(9) Aircraft 101 Photo.

1. Commander Peter B. Strickland was the Commanding Officer, and Commander Douglas J. Law was the Executive Officer for the entire year of 1989. Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN deployed on USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) as one of two fighter squadrons in Carrier Air Wing THREE.

2. The mission of Fighter Squadron FOURTEEN is to establish and maintain shore and maritime air superiority. This mission is accomplished by intercepting and destroying enemy aircraft and anti-ship cruise missiles at a range outside the threat aircraft weapons release envelope.

3. Calendar year 1989 was a very memorable, productive, and successful one for the Tophatters. The Squadron celebrated it's 70th year of operation, classifying it as the United States Navy's oldest continuously active Aviation Squadron.

4. The Tophatters enjoyed their third mishap free year in 1989.

  
P. B. STRICKLAND

Logged

PRIMARY AND COLLATERAL DUTY ASSIGNMENTS OF OFFICERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRIMARY DUTY</u>	<u>COLLATERAL DUTY</u>
CDR STRICKLAND, Peter, B.	Commanding Officer	Morale
CDR LAW, Douglas J.	Executive Officer	Retention
LCDR [REDACTED]	CVW-3 ASUW	
LCDR [REDACTED]	Administrative Officer	CACO/CMD SEC MGR DD-214 Control
LTJG [REDACTED]	Public Affairs Officer	ESO/Forms Mgmt/COMM Officer/Official Mail Control Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Legal Officer	
LT [REDACTED]	Facility MGR (1st LT)	Energy Conservation/Damage Control/Trans/Physical Plant Integrity
LT [REDACTED]	Personnel Officer	Overseas Diplomacy Coord./CMD Training/Race Relations Team Officer/DD-214 Control
LCDR [REDACTED]	Operations Officer	
LT [REDACTED]	Asst Operations Officer	ASST CMD SEC MGR/Senior Watch Officer/Training Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Flight Officer	Schedules/Navigation Officer/FLT Publication/Electronic Warfare Officer/ADP/ADP Security Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Asst Flight Officer	DAPA/OPS DATA/OPS ADMIN
LT [REDACTED]	Landing Signal Officer Pilot Training Officer	HURREVAC Officer/NWP Officer
LT [REDACTED]	RIO Training Officer NATOPS (Weapons Sys)	Asst CMS Custodian ASUW Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	Air Intelligence Officer	CMS Custodian/TSCO/CMCO
ENS [REDACTED]	Air Intelligence Officer	CMS Custodian/TSCO/CMCO

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRIMARY DUTY</u>	<u>COLLATERAL DUTY</u>
LCDR [REDACTED]	Combat Safety/Aviation Safety Officer	NAVOSH Coordinator/ORD Cert. Board Chairman
LT [REDACTED]	NATOPS (Pilot)	Voting Assistance Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Maintenance Officer	
LCDR [REDACTED]	Asst Maint Officer	Survey Officer/ATSS
LT [REDACTED]	Maintenance/Material Control Officer	
LTJG [REDACTED]	Material Control Officer	
LT [REDACTED]	Quality Assurance	Officer Hazardous Material/Safety/MILCAP/Asst HURREVAC Officer
LT [REDACTED]	A/C Division Officer	Gas Free Engineer/Confirmed Space Entry/Asst CMS Custodian
LT [REDACTED]	Power Plants Branch Officer	Welfare & Recreation Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Airframes Branch Officer	Weight Control/Athletic Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	Corrosion Control Off.	Coffee Mess Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	PR Branch Officer AME Branch Officer	AME Branch Officer/Respiratory Protection/Survival Officer/
LT [REDACTED]	AV/ARM Division Officer	
LT [REDACTED]	AE Branch Officer	Personal Protective Equipment
CWO2 [REDACTED]	Ordnance Branch Officer	
LT [REDACTED]	IWT Branch Officer	Asst CMS Custodian
LT [REDACTED]	Line Division Officer	FOD Prevention/Hearing & Sight Conservation Officer
LT [REDACTED]	Ground Safety Officer	

Enclosure (3)

Aircraft assigned to VF-14 on 31 DEC 89

<u>Side Number</u>	<u>Bureau Number</u>
100	162700
101	162691
102	159457
103	160386
104	160396
105	161145
106	160897
107	160906
110	160393
111	160917
112	160909
114	159615
117	159016

VF-14 Received the following Aircraft

<u>Date</u>	<u>Side Number</u>	<u>Bureau Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>
18 AUG	103	160386	VF-142
30 JUN	104	160396	VF-142
09 JUL	111	160917	VF-74

VF-14 Transferred the following Aircraft

<u>Date</u>	<u>Side Number</u>	<u>Bureau Number</u>	<u>Transferred To</u>
05 APR	110	159449	NARF, Norfolk
02 JUN	104	159444	NARF, Norfolk

DEPLOYMENTS/MAJOR OPERATIONS SCHEDULE

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
01-31 JAN	Deployment	CV-67 (Mediterranean)
06-24 APR	FLTEX 3-89/Orange Air	Puerto Rico OP Area
11-20 MAY	DACT/Gunnery Training	NAS Key West, Florida
01-30 JUN	FFARP	
24 JUL-19 AUG	Airwing SLATS/OAST/FIST	NAS Fallon, Nevada
25 AUG-01 SEP	JFK CQ	JAXOA, VCOA
02 SEP	Dependent's Day Cruise	
03 OCT-13 OCT	CAG CQ/ISE	CV-67 (VACAPES OA)
13-16 OCT	PVST - Portland, ME	
16-17 OCT	Transit to Norfolk, VA	
30 OCT-17 NOV	CQ Refresher	CV-67 (VACAPES OA)
29 NOV-11 DEC	REFTRA	CV-67 (JAX OA)

## Milestone Events

1. A. Total Sorties Ashore (D/N): 1451/254
- B. Total Sorties Embarked (D/N): 250/179
- C. Total Hours: 3355.2
- D. Total Embarked Hours (D/N): 522.9/288.4
- E. Total Ashore Hours (D/N): 2223.5/320.4
- F. Total Day Traps: 315
- G. Total Night Traps: 200
- H. Contributions to Weapons System Development
  - (1) Developed and executed several difficult MISSILEX scenarios obtaining numerous data points with a 100 percent firing success rate.
- I. Contributions to Tactics Development
  - (1) Developed tactics against low-slow flyers for Detection and Monitoring Operations allowing covert night interception of suspected drug smuggling aircraft.
  - (2) Submitted a change to the NATOPS Tactical Manual for AIM-54 Normal Active Launch Logic.
  - (3) Evaluated water-based tactical paint schemes at Fallon, Nevada.
  - (4) Worked with VX-4, TOPGUN, and Strike Fighter Weapons School in developing Outer Air Battle/ Escort tactics for new Soviet Threats.
- J. General Contributions to Individual Community
  - (1) 1989 Grand Slam Award Winner establishing VF-14 as the premier missile firing squadron in the Atlantic Fleet.
  - (2) Attended F-14 OAG Conference.
  - (3) Achieved a 10.5:1 Kill Ratio in FFARP, the leading score for F-14A squadrons.
  - (4) Attained 58 Individual E's for battle readiness in all phases of the fighter mission.

Enclosure (6)

K. List of NATOPS Changes Submitted

- (1) 08 MAR - Extension of IFR probe by cockpit handpump.
- (2) 05 APR - Revision of AUX Brake system.
- (3) 31 MAY - AUX Flap failure airspeed increase
- (4) 30 JUN - Revision of "Landing Gear Malfunction Emergency Landing Guide".
- (5) 31 AUG - Addition of AOA/Airspeed check to Landing Checklist.
- (6) 05 OCT - Definition of GO/NO-GO Lights during Fire Detection System Check in Emergency Procedures.

L. Number of Pro-of-the-Week/Safety Articles Submitted

- (1) Pro-of-the-Week 1
- (2) Safety Articles 2

M. Dates of Squadron Safety Stand-downs

- (1) 10 MAR
- (2) 02 MAY
- (3) 06 JUL
- (4) 05 SEP
- (5) 16-17 NOV
- (6) 26 DEC

N. Dates of Outside Safety Surveys

- (1) 05 JUL

Enclosure (6)

O. Advancements - Total Number Eligible, Advanced, PNA

(1) Total Eligible 98

(2) Total Advanced 29

(3) Total PNA 67

P. Number of Hazard Reports (3750)

(1) VF-14 Hazard Reports 2

Q. HMR'S (16); QDR'S (2); TPDR'S (1); EMR'S (10);  
EI RQSTS (5); ADR'S (2).



MAINTENANCE STATISTICS

<u>JANUARY</u>		<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
FMC	81.3	FMC	76.6
MC	91.3	MC	81.3
FLIGHT HOURS	353.4	FLIGHT HOURS	115.2
DMMH	69.0	DMMH	95.2
MAF/SAF ERROR	---	MAF/SAF ERROR	---
A-799 IMA	9.5	A-799 IMA	7.8
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	29.0	CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	34.2
FOD	---	FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	15.6	CANNIBALIZATION	21.7
SORTIES	172	SORTIES	56

  

<u>MARCH</u>		<u>APRIL</u>	
FMC	52.2	FMC	73.3
MC	62.5	MC	82.3
FLIGHT HOURS	321.9	FLIGHT HOURS	292.7
DMMH	65.3	DMMH	56.1
MAF/SAF ERROR	12.8	MAF/SAF ERROR	8.9
A-799 IMA	13.8	A-799 IMA	12.7
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	24.1	CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	28.1
FOD	---	FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	50.6	CANNIBALIZATION	23.5
SORTIES	207	SORTIES	168

  

<u>MAY</u>		<u>JUNE</u>	
FMC	62.5	FMC	57.1
MC	73.2	MC	65.0
FLIGHT HOURS	274.9	FLIGHT HOURS	265.5
DMMH	68.8	DMMH	81.9
MAF/SAF ERROR	7.2	MAF/SAF ERROR	4.6
A-799 IMA	7.6	A-799 IMA	12.2
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	25.9	CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	22.0
FOD	---	FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	24.7	CANNIBALIZATION	57.6
SORTIES	189	SORTIES	236

Enclosure (7)

JULY

FMC	67.5
MC	72.1
FLIGHT HOURS	264.7
DMMH	61.3
MAF/SAF ERROR	5.7
A-799 IMA	8.3
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	29.2
FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	31.0
SORTIES	171

AUGUST

FMC	61.4
MC	69.3
FLIGHT HOURS	370.7
DMMH	49.7
MAF/SAF ERROR	5.0
A-799 IMA	8.7
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	19.2
FOD	1
CANNIBALIZATION	25.2
SORTIES	244

SEPTEMBER

FMC	60.2
MC	71.0
FLIGHT HOURS	365.1
DMMH	72.6
MAF/SAF ERROR	5.6
A-799 IMA	7.9
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	26.7
FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	23.3
SORTIES	195

OCTOBER

FMC	53.9
MC	58.0
FLIGHT HOURS	261.0
DMMH	65.2
MAF/SAF ERROR	3.1
A-799 IMA	9.9
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	20.2
FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	22.2
SORTIES	189

NOVEMBER

FMC	66.3
MC	72.8
FLIGHT HOURS	279.1
DMMH	49.3
MAF/SAF ERROR	2.5
A-799 IMA	8.7
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	16.4
FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	32.2
SORTIES	188

DECEMBER

FMC	52.6
MC	59.4
FLIGHT HOURS	294.6
DMMH	49.1
MAF/SAF ERROR	2.0
A-799 IMA	17.9
CORR CONT DOCUMENTATION	12.8
FOD	---
CANNIBALIZATION	7.1
SORTIES	155

TOPHATTERS  
FIGHTING FOURTEEN

1919 - 1989

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 its inception, 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 sixty-two Naval Officers.

In the past, the squadron has been assigned many different missions including patrol and observation in its early years, and scouting, attack, and fighter when associated with carrier based operations.

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

The TOPHATTERS proved to be a formidable foe during World War II. While embarked in USS RANGER (CV-4), the squadron provided air support for the invasion of North Africa in November of 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's inner channel.

In November 1944, the squadron transferred to the Pacific Fleet and participated in the Leyte Campaign embarked in 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 of 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 1,688 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 (CV-67) in September 1968, the Navy's oldest squadron found itself on the newest carrier. After four highly successful Mediterranean deployments, 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 (CV-67) for the first Atlantic fleet deployment of the F-14A. In October 1978, TOPHATTER aircrews set an all time, one month, F-14 flight hour record of 977 hours while deployed in the Mediterranean.

Commencing local carrier operations in February 1980, Fighting FOURTEEN continued its high tradition of excellence by winning the "Fighter Olympics" with the highest grades ever awarded by the VF-43 adversaries 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 (CV-67). During this deployment, VF-14 won the COMNAVAIRLANT Silver Anchor Award and the 1980 COMNAVAIRLANT Battle "E", establishing a two year hold on the coveted Battle Readiness Award.

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.

October and early November 1983 found the TOPHATTERS logging combat time in support of operation "Urgent Fury" in Grenada. This was the Squadron's first combat since Vietnam, and the first in the F-14 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. In early December 1983, the TOPHATTERS were again called upon to provide combat air patrol and fighter escort support for elements of the Multi-national forces in Beirut, proving once again, that the oldest active squadron is always ready to fulfill its traditional mission.

On April 1, 1985, VF-14 TOPHATTERS returned to USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) and Carrier Air Wing THREE, completing four and one-half years of successful operations with USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62) and CVW-6. The TOPHATTERS spent the rest of 1985 on a turnaround schedule that included eleven detachments to various parts of the United States and Canada. In June, VF-14 participated with the Air Force in RED FLAG 85-4, the most realistic overland aerial war games to date. In August, during the annual Fleet Fighter ACM Readiness Program (FFARP), VF-14 was the first to fight

against the newest adversary aircraft in the Navy's inventory, the Israeli Aircraft Industry F-21A KFIR.

On August 18, 1986, the TOPHATTERS and the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) departed on their Mediterranean Cruise, which extended for a month due to the Lebanon Hostage Crisis. Upon their return, the TOPHATTERS completed a highly successful missile shoot as well performing the best of any fighter squadron in the 1987 FFARP program.

In February 1988, the squadron detached to NAS Fallon, Nevada, and began the extensive workup phase for the 1988 Mediterranean Cruise. While on cruise, VF-14 played a major role in several successful exercises including National Week, Operation Seawind with Egypt, the joint NATO Exercise, and Display Determination 88.

Currently, having finished workups aboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), the TOPHATTERS have successfully completed an Orange Air Exercise and missile shoot in the Puerto Rico Operating Area, a superb gunnery detachment to NAS Key West, as well as a July-August CVW-3 detachment to NAS Fallon. Flying with CVW-3, and embarked in USS Kennedy, VF-14 is ready to do business wherever duty may call.

Among the many awards held by the TOPHATTERS are two Presidential Citations, the Navy Unit Commendation, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, five battle stars, and an unprecedented three year hold on both the CNO Aviation Safety Award and CNAL Battle Efficiency "E" for the years 1959, 1960, and 1961. Fighting FOURTEEN also received the CNO Safety Award for 1978 and the CNAL Battle Efficiency "E" for 1979 and 1980.

In 1989, VF-14 was presented with the CINCLANT "Grand Slam" Award for a perfect missile firing record. The competition for the award included all East coast fighter, and fighter/attack (F/A-18) squadrons. This was the first time a Tomcat squadron won the award since the F/A-18 Hornets entered the competition.