

1969

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Attack Squadron FIFTEEN
FPO New York 09501

VA15/26/HMG:hg

5750
Ser 68

5 MAR 1970

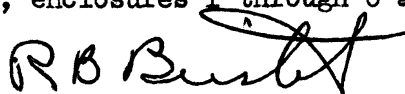
From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron FIFTEEN
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Brief chronology for 1969.
(2) Narrative history for 1969.
(3) Roster of officers.
(4) Roster of enlisted men.
(5) Photographs of CDR R. B. BRISTOL and CDR L. C. CHAMBERS.
(6) Biographies of CDR R. B. BRISTOL and CDR L. C. CHAMBERS.

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures 1 through 6 are submitted.



R. B. BRISTOL

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

Brief Chronology - 1969

- August 1968 - - - - - Attack Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN was established 1 August 1968 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida.
- November 1968 - - - - - ATKRON 67's first Commanding Officer, CDR Lawrence C. CHAMBERS assumed command 6 November 1968.
- March 1969 - - - - - -ATKRON 67 was officially detached from VA-174 10 March 1969 with two aircraft, 13 officers, and 218 enlisted men. On 11 March operational control of VA-67 was transferred from COMFAIRJAX to COMATKCARAWING SIX. The squadron was brought up to full strength as additional pilots reported from VA-174. ATKRON 67 provided a display aircraft at NAS Kingsville, Texas.
- April 1969 - - - - - -Shore based training went into high gear. VA-67 aircraft participated in airshows at NAS Kingsville, NAS Chase Field, and NAS Norfolk.
- May 1969 - - - - - -Intensive type training continued. ATKRON 67 joined CVW-10 May 21st and 22nd for the exercise EXOTIC DANGER, involving air strikes against the Navy's amphibious fleet, on maneuvers off the coast of Florida. The squadron also participated in OPERATION DOVETAIL, a close air support exercise with the Air Force at Eglin AFB. VA-67 aircraft provided displays at McCall AFB and NAS Sherman Field, Pensacola. On 25 March the squadron sent a detachment aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) to provide carrier landings for ship's company training.
- June 1969 - - - - - - On 1 June the old Attack Squadron FIFTEEN was disestablished, and on 2 June VA-67 was redesignated as the new VA-15 with no changes or transfer of personnel. The new VA-15 remained in Carrier Air Wing SIX. In its short history VA-67 logged 976 hours, 658 sorties, and 24 traps. VA-15 participated in a HINEX June 16-19 and provided A-7s for CVW-7's air power demonstration aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62). One aircraft was flown to Wisconsin for the Milwaukee Air Age Show. On June 29th the squadron held an Open House for dependents and friends.

enclosure (1)

- July 1969 - - - - VA-15 carrier qualified aboard USS ROOSEVELT July 8-11. LCDR R. [REDACTED] logged the 176,000th landing aboard the ship.
- August 1969 - - - On 1 August VA-15 departed Mayport, Florida, with CVW-6 for an eight week shakedown cruise aboard USS ROOSEVELT. The squadron flew both shore and carrier based sorties in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, area.
- September 1969 - - - After a port call at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, extensive flight operations were conducted for two weeks at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. On 4 September LCDR Donald M. BENNETT, CVW-6 staff, was lost at sea after a mid-air collision of two squadron aircraft near St. Thomas. LTJG [REDACTED] logged the 177,000th landing aboard USS ROOSEVELT. VA-15 returned to Cecil Field 28 September.
- October 1969 - - - After a brief stand-down, training resumed for the following month's Operational Readiness Inspection. VA-15 participated with other Cecil Field attack squadrons in SITTING DUCK, the sinking of an old destroyer.
- November 1969 - - - VA-15 deployed 3 November aboard USS ROOSEVELT for buildup training prior to the ORI. On 12 November LTJG P. L. PASQUARELLA was killed when his aircraft struck the water at night. The ORI took place 17-20 November and on the 21st, Air Wing SIX gave an air power demonstration for foreign naval dignitaries. VA-15 returned to Cecil Field November 22nd.
- December 1969 - - - Heavy flight and maintenance schedules prevailed during December as VA-15 prepared for its Mediterranean Cruise.
- January 1970 - - - On 2 January USS ROOSEVELT deployed to the Mediterranean from Mayport with Air Wing SIX embarked. Flight operations commenced in earnest with a DEEP SIX exercise off the southern coast of France. On January 14th LCDR [REDACTED] logged the 181,000th landing aboard the carrier. USS ROOSEVELT made a port call at Barcelona, Spain, for the last ten days of January.
- February 1970 - - - VA-15 flew search and strike missions during NATIONAL WEEK V, a surface surveillance exercise 3-5 February. On 12 February CDR Robert B. BRISTOL relieved CDR Lawrence C. CHAMBERS while the carrier was at Fleet anchorage at Valletta, Malta.

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

Squadron History - 1969

The history of Attack Squadron FIFTEEN for the past year properly begins with that of Attack Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN, for the "new" VA-15 was originally established 1 August 1968 as VA-67. When the "old" VA-15, an A-4 squadron just returned from a Mediterranean cruise, fell to the fiscal axe on 1 June 1969, VA-67 fell heir to the VA-15 designation and the proud "Valion" tradition.

Attack Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN was established 1 August 1968 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida. Three months later the nucleus was formed in VA-174, the A-7 Corsair II training squadron, and on 6 November CDR Lawrence C. CHAMBERS became VA-67's first Commanding Officer. The squadron was assigned the A-7B light attack aircraft, the newest aircraft in the Navy's inventory. Officers reported on board after completion of training in VA-174. Training was conducted in all phases of attack aviation's mission with special emphasis on low level navigation, weapons delivery, and carrier operations.

On 10 March, 1969, Attack Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN was officially detached from VA-174 with two aircraft, thirteen officers, and 218 enlisted men. On 11 March operational control of VA-67 shifted from COMFAIRJAX to Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing SIX. The squadron was brought up to full operational strength as additional pilots reported from VA-174.

In April VA-67 received the last of its twelve aircraft and embarked on an ambitious training program. Only seven out of twenty-one pilots had prior experience in jet aircraft. During April VA-67 provided aircraft for display at NAS Kingsville, NAS Chase Field, and NAS Norfolk.

In the absence of other Corsair II squadrons at Cecil Field during the months of May and June, VA-67 became the duty A-7 squadron, tasked with several exercises, displays, and demonstrations. ATKRON 67 joined CVW-10 for EXOTIC DANCER, May 21st and 22nd, an exercise involving simulated air strikes against the Navy's amphibious fleet, on maneuvers off the coast of Florida. The squadron also participated in OPERATION DOVETAIL, a close air support exercise with the Air Force at Eglin AFB. VA-67 aircraft provided displays at McMill AFB and NAS Shorman Field, Pensacola. On 25 March the squadron sent a detachment aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) to provide carrier landings for ship's company training.

On 1 June the old Attack Squadron FIFTEEN was disestablished, and on 2 June VA-67 was redesignated as the new VA-15 with no changes or transfer of personnel. Whereas the old VA-15 had been a component of CVW-17, the new VA-15 remained in Carrier Air Wing SIX. In its short three-month history VA-67's pilots logged 976 hours, 658 sorties, and 24 arrested landings.

enclosure (2)

VA-15 participated in a highly successful MINEX June 16-19, proving the exceptional minelaying capability of the A-7. Also on June 19th VA-15 provided A-7s for CVA-7's fire power demonstration for congressmen aboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62). The following week one aircraft was flown to Wisconsin for the Milwaukee Air Age show. On June 29th the squadron held an Open House for dependents and friends. VA-15 logged 319 hours, 233 sorties, and 25 arrested landings during the month.

During July the "Valions" commenced carrier qualifications aboard ROOSEVELT in anticipation of the upcoming shake down cruise to the Caribbean in August and September. LCDR [REDACTED] logged the 176,000th landing aboard ROOSEVELT during the carqual period, 8-11 July. For the month of July, VA-15 logged 416 hours, 313 sorties, and 180 traps.

On August 1st 1969 the "Valions" departed Mayport, Florida, with Carrier Air Wing SIX for an eight week shake down cruise aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). Despite the ship's heavy training schedule which allowed flight operations only twice or three times a week during August, VA-15 logged 391 hours, 248 sorties, and 31 arrested landings flying from Leeward point and off the carrier in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba area.

September commenced with a long weekend port call at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. For the following two weeks extensive flight operations were conducted at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. On 4 September LCDR Donald M. BONNETT, CW-6 LSO, was lost at sea after a mid-air collision of two squadron aircraft near St. Thomas. The "Valions" returned to Cecil Field September 28th after a fine operating period in which the squadron logged 500 hours, 306 sorties, and 280 arrested landings, including the 177,000th landing aboard ROOSEVELT by LTJG [REDACTED]

After a brief stand-down, training resumed during the second week of October in preparation for the next month's Operational Readiness Inspection. VA-15 participated with other Cecil Field attack squadrons in SITTING DUCK, the sinking of an old destroyer. The squadron flew 295 hours in 228 sorties and made 17 arrested landings.

VA-15 deployed 3 November aboard ROOSEVELT for buildup training prior to the ORI. On 12 November LTJG P. L. PASQUARELLA was killed when his aircraft struck the water at night. The ORI was conducted 17-20 November and the "Valions" flew day and night sorties against simulated targets in northern Florida. After a night in port, Air Wing SIX presented a flawless air power demonstration for foreign naval dignitaries on November 21st. VA-15 offloaded and returned to Cecil Field on the 22nd. During November VA-15 flew 433 hours, 243 sorties, and 198 arrested landings.

Heavy flight and maintenance schedules prevailed during December as VA-15 prepared for its Mediterranean cruise. Flying 225 sorties, the squadron logged 321 hours with the emphasis on field carrier landing practice.

On 2 January USS ROOSEVELT deployed to the Mediterranean from Mayport with Air Wing SIX embarked. Following an unusually arduous Atlantic crossing and turnover with USS SARATOGA at Rota, Spain, flight operations commenced in

earnest with a DEEP SIX exercise off the southern coast of France. The French Navy provided an ex-United States LSD for weapons delivery practice and VA-15 expended Shrike, Walleye, rockets, and bombs against it. During this at sea period LCDR [REDACTED] logged the 181,000th arrested landing aboard ROOSEVELT on January 14th. The "Valions" flew 158 hours on 95 sorties and made 87 landings aboard the carrier. ROOSEVELT put in to Barcelona, Spain for the last ten days in January.

ROOSEVELT sailed from Barcelona to the Ionian Sea during the first week of February, and VA-15 flew search and strike missions during NATIONAL WEEK V, a surface surveillance exercise. CDR Robert B. BRISTOL relieved CDR Lawrence C. CHAMBERS as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron FIFTEEN on February 12th while the ROOSEVELT was at fleet anchorage at Valletta, Malta.

VA-15 OFFICER ROSTER

<u>RANK/NAME</u>	<u>BILLET</u>
*CDR L. C. CHAMBERS	Commanding Officer
CDR R. B. BRISTOL	Executive Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Operations Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Maintenance Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Administrative Officer
LCDR [REDACTED]	Asst. Ops/Training
LT [REDACTED]	Maintenance Control
LT [REDACTED]	Aviation Safety
LT [REDACTED]	Personnel Officer
LT [REDACTED]	AV/WEPS Division
LTJG [REDACTED]	Quality Assurance
LTJG [REDACTED]	Landing Signal Officer
LTJG [REDACTED]	Aircraft Division
LTJG [REDACTED]	Line Division
LTJG [REDACTED]	Airframes/Material Control
LTJG [REDACTED]	Legal
LTJG [REDACTED]	Communications
LTJG [REDACTED]	Flight
LTJG [REDACTED]	Air Intelligence
LTJG [REDACTED]	First Lieutenant
WO1 [REDACTED]	Ordnance
WO1 [REDACTED]	Electronics

* CDR L. C. CHAMBERS was relieved by CDR R. B. BRISTOL on 12 February 1970 as Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron FIFTEEN.

ROUTINE
INFO
ROUTINE

RELEASED BY
J. B. COLWELL, VADM,
USN, OP-03
COURSE, CDR
OP-301C
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COMFAIRJAX
COMATKCARAIRWING 10
COMSERVLANT
NAVAIRSYS COMHQ
NAVFACENG COMHQ
FLEWORKSTUDYGRULANT
ATTACK SQUADRON THIRTY FOUR
(VA 34)
FIGHTER SQUADRON THIRTEEN
(VF 13)

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NAVELECSYS COMHQ
NSD PHILA
NAVORDSYS COMHQ
NAVSUPSYS COMHQ
NAVSAFECEN NORVA
ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN
(VA 15)
ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY SEVEN
(VA 67)
FIGHTER SQUADRON SIXTY TWO
(VF 62)

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DISESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN NAVAIRLANT UNITS

- A. OPNAVINST 3111.14P
- B. OPNAVINST 03110.3N (NOTAL)

1. Advance changes Refs A and B.

a. Effective 1 June 1969 disestablish Attack Squadron FIFTEEN and Attack Squadron THIRTY FOUR.

b. Effective 1 October 1969 disestablish Fighter Squadron THIRTEEN and Fighter Squadron SIXTY TWO.

c. Effective 2 June 1969 Attack Squadron SIXTY SEVEN redesignated Attack Squadron FIFTEEN.

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