

1994 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 15

FPO AA 34099-6201

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750

Ser 10/ 0138

05 April 1995

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN  
To: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publication Division,  
Naval Historical Center

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E  
(b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990  
(c) OPNAVINST 3120.32 series

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization  
(2) Chronology of 1994  
(3) Narrative History of 1994  
(4) Commanding Officer's biography and picture  
(5) Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN History  
(6) Squadron Aircraft Photograph  
(7) Yearly Aviation Statistic Summary

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (7) are submitted.

  
T. N. BRANCH

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The mission of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is to maintain a maximum state of air combat readiness in the Carrier Strike Forces and to utilize that readiness as a deterrent or striking capability against any and all enemies of the United States of America, as may be directed by higher command authority. The primary function of Strike Fighter Squadron 15 within that mission is to conduct offensive air superiority and air-to-surface attack operations.

2. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 is organized in two primary levels; command and department. The organizational structure has been established within the framework of primary billets authorized by the Chief of Naval Personnel and within the guidelines established in references (b) and (c). In this particular application, the organizational structure and billet descriptions depicted in reference (c) have been tailored, as necessary, to fit the structure of a deployable aviation command.

3. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 based at NAS Cecil Field, FL and commanded by CDR William E. Gortney, USN, for calendar year 1994 and has an immediate external command relationship as outlined below:

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Command/Operational Control                   | Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT NAS Norfolk, VA   |
| b. Administrative Control (embarked)<br>(ashore) | Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT<br>Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, ATLANTIC NAS Cecil Field, FL |
| c. Technical Material                            | Commander, Naval Air Force ATLANTIC/Naval Air Systems Command Control NAS Norfolk, VA             |
| d. Support Control                               | Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, ATLANTIC  |

4. The twelve (12) FA-18C HORNET aircraft assigned to the squadron have AJ tail code markings. The bureau number breakdown is as follows:

AIRCRAFT	BUREAU NUMBER
300	164627
301	164631
302	164643

COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION (CONT)

303	164646
304	164655
305	164661
306	164666
307	164669
310	164673
311	164680
312	164629
314	164678

5. Strike Fighter Squadron 15 consists of 192 enlisted members and 23 officers.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF 1994

ADMAT Inspection	Jan 18 - 20
Orange Air Detachment, NAS Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico	Feb 09 - 18
Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) Detachment	Jan 04 - Feb 16
Carrier Qualification (CVN-71)	Apr 17 - 20
Strike Fighter Advanced Attack Readiness Program NAS Key West, FL	May 15 - 27
NATOPS Unit Evaluation	Jun 16
TSTA 1, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)	Jun 21 - 27
TSTA 2, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)	Jul 20 - 27
NAVOSH Inspection	Aug 08 - 11
NAS Fallon Detachment	Aug 19 - Sep 10
Carrier Qualification, USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)	Oct 20 - 21
COMPTUEX/JTG 94, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)	Nov 02 - Dec 15

## NARRATIVE HISTORY OF 1994

1994 was an extremely successful year for the Valions of Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN. The Valions excelled and continued to maintain their unequalled reputation of excellence within the Strike Fighter Community and Naval Aviation. The majority of missions conducted this calendar year were in preparation for the Med '95 deployment.

Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN's primary goal for 1994 was Safety. The squadron had an exceptional year with zero flight or ground mishaps. Although the squadron experienced a turnover of 65% of pilots, 67% of ground officers, and 70% of maintenance personnel, the Valions, through strong emphasis on safety, were able to reach the milestone of two years and 10,000 hours class "A" Mishap Free. In addition, VFA-15 promulgated safety concerns throughout the fleet by submitting three changes to the FA-18C Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures (NATOPS) Manual, 30 Hazardous Material Reports (HMR's), 2 Quality Deficiency Reports (QDR's), 21 Technical Publication Deficiency Reports (TPDR's), 21 Explosive Mishap Reports (EMR's), and 22 Engineering Investigations (EI's).

Operationally during the calendar year the squadron participated in ten detachments, operating away from NAS Cecil Field six out of twelve months in preparation for the upcoming Med '95 deployment. 3800 flight hours were flown by squadron pilots in 1994 with 1150 hours embarked on board Navy aircraft carriers. The squadron was embarked aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) four times during the year. A total of 1091 carrier arrested landings were made by squadron aircraft, 743 day and 348 night landings. Squadron pilots participated in numerous training missions delivering in excess of 200 tons of ordnance. In addition, two missile shoots were conducted in which VFA-15 pilots safely and effectively delivered 1 AIM-120 AMRAAM, (Advanced Medium Range Air-Air Missile), 5 AIM-7 Sparrows, and 7 AIM-9 Sidewinders. In addition to a successful year of aviation, two squadron pilot's submitted professional articles which were published in the Navy's prestigious TOP GUN Journal.

In 1994 the squadron transitioned from 10 to 12 aircraft. The Maintenance Department did a tremendous job accepting the increased responsibility and exceeded the CNO maintenance goal by maintaining Full Mission Capable (FMC) aircraft at a rate of 60.5% for the year. The Valion Ordnance Shop distinguished itself for efficiency and safety by winning the Spirit of Santa Barbara Award from Commander, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT. During COMPTUEX, the Ordnance Shop safely loaded over 448,000 lbs of conventional weapons, 5 Walleye, 3 Maverick and 5 MK-20 Rockeye.

The Administration Department underwent a comprehensive ADMAT Inspection in January of 1994. The squadron's administrative programs passed all inspections with first rate results.

Because the command's philosophy is that the squadron is only as good as its people, Strike Fighter Squadron 15 places great emphasis on the military and professional development of its personnel. Even in a downsizing Navy with decreased advancements, the Valions, through a extensive advancement education program, were able to advance its members at a 24.1 percent rate, one of the highest in the Navy. Also, indicative of the positive experience by members of this command, the Career Retention rate was 93 percent.

As one of the oldest squadron's in the Navy, the Valions historically have been one of the premier squadrons in Naval Aviation and 1994 was no exception. VFA-15 excelled as a result of a professional mind set which pervades throughout the command to motivate every member to strive towards "Valion Excellence."