

1991



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN
FPO MIAMI 34099-6239

5750
Ser 10/118
31 MAR 1992

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.1E

Encl: (1) Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Nash", is positioned above the typed name.

C. T. NASH

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VFA-137 KESTRELS
COMMAND HISTORY

Part I

Strike Fighter Squadron ONE THREE SEVEN.
Mission: Fleet power projection and air superiority.
Immediate Senior: Commander, Carrier Air Wing SIX
Commanding Officer: Commander Charles T. Nash
Aircraft assigned: 10 F/A-18 Hornet
Tail Code: AE 4 _ _

Part II

Deployed NAS Fallon, NV 02 Jan - 10 Jan 1991
Deployed USS FORRESTAL (CV 59) 31 Jan - 15 Feb 1991
Deployed USS FORRESTAL (CV 59) 18 Apr - 5 May 1991
Deployed USS FORRESTAL (CV 59) 30 May - 22 Dec 1991

May - October 1991 Operation Provide Comfort
28 September 1991 Change of Command
CDR Charles T. Nash relieved CDR C. B. Henderson
October 1991 Exercise Display Determination
November 1991 Exercise "Iles D' Or"

Squadron earned Joint Meritorious Unit Award, National
Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (2 awards),
Sea Service Ribbon, Letter of Commendation from Commander,
Carrier Group SIX

Part III

The KESTRELS deployed in January aboard FORRESTAL for an accelerated workup cycle in preparation for deployment to Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf conflict. On 30 May 1991, VFA-137 embarked in FORRESTAL for the ship's final operational deployment. The squadron flew numerous sorties into Northern Iraq in support of Operation Provide Comfort following Operation Desert Storm. The KESTRELS and CVW-6 also participated in the NATO exercises "Display Determination" and "Iles D' Or". Both operations provided realistic multi-national scenarios and excellent training opportunities. 28 September 1991, CDR Charles T. Nash relieved CDR Craig B. Henderson as Commanding Officer in a ship board ceremony in port Antalya, Turkey. CDR Michael R. Groothousen assumed the duties as Executive Officer. The squadron returned home to Jacksonville, FL 22 December 1991. VFA-137 has accumulated 23,000 accident free flight hours and is currently slated for a port change to NAS Lemoore, CA in October 1992.