



# Fist of the Fleet Association

a non profit 501 (c) (19) military organization

# NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Preserving the Past Providing for Today  
Promoting the Future

## SPRING SPECIAL EDITION

By: Jerry "Ricochet" Fritze

### *Fist of the Fleet Pictorial*



Nose art for each kinetic event. '100' indicates the benchmark exceeded.



A section flight on the return leg to the boat.



A view from the cockpit of an emergency divert to Kuwait from Iraq.



CDR Scott (XO-400) and CAPT Little (CAG-402)



400 gets a new powerplant.

#### Mission Statement

Perpetuate the history of Naval Aviation Squadrons VT-17, VA-6B, VA-65, VA-25 and VFA-25,  
Remember deceased veterans and comfort their survivors,  
Conduct charitable and educational programs,  
Foster and participate in activities of patriotic nature,  
Assist current active squadron members, and  
Provide assistance to family members in times of emergency.



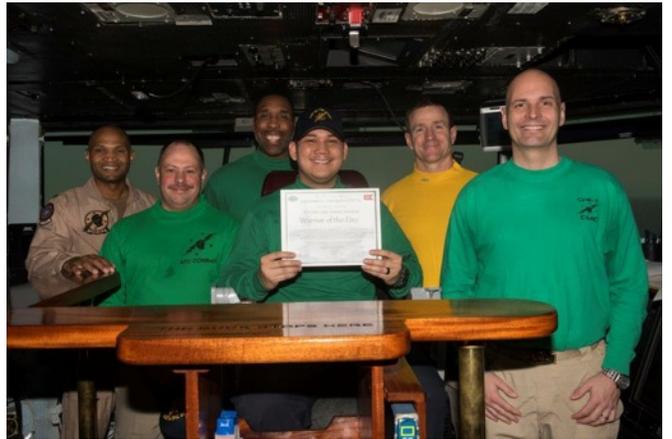
AD2 Loyd and AD2 Ramone installing a new fuel cell.



AMEAN Bice conducts an inspection of the ejection seat.



AME3 Grubbe reinstalls the panels along the top of the aircraft.



AT3 Mendiola is recognized as the TRUMAN Warrior of the Day.



AMAN Bornkessel pauses for a moment atop the jet performing an 84-day inspection.



AD3 Hall changes a critical pump to keep our aircraft full mission capable.



Fisties admiring the size of a GBU-31v4 hard target penetrator prior to a mission.



AE and AD pros work on the flight deck to repair a jet on a turn.



YN2 Burgess sorts thousands of packages looking for anything that says 'VFA-25'



AO's muster up for a photo following AO1 Parkos' reenlistment.



AM3 Heim and AN Delacruz stand ready to launch the next wave of combat aircraft.



AN Beresford (Red) and AN Steinhouse (PC) make final preps for a launch.



QA



Line



Maintenance Control



Intel and I.T.



Ground Officer



Admin



AO



Chiefs



AT and AE



Aircraft



Congratulations to Chief Mount (LDO) and Senior Chief Zarate (CWO) on your selection for commission.



LTJG Anderson's first flight as a Fistie.



LT Castillo's last flight and wetting down in March.



Officers



VFA-25 was selected the 2015 LTJG Bruce Carrier Memorial Award for Maintenance Excellence winner. Of all the F/A-18 Super Hornet squadrons in Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, US Pacific Fleet, this squadron boasts the finest maintenance department.

The squadron's ability to rapidly assimilate newly arriving Sailors into their culture of excellence and professional approach to "by the book" maintenance practices is second to none. Throughout 2015 these dedicated Sailors proved why they lead the F/A-18 community by maintaining an average readiness rate 23% above entitlement. Furthermore, they did this while simultaneously sustaining a mission completion rate throughout the entire work-up cycle of 99.4%, well above historical norms. Aside from their operational performance, their aircraft maintenance practices and demonstrated knowledge were highlighted by the #1 Maintenance Program Assist (MPA) score in CSFWP and an unprecedented 94 on the CNAF Aircraft Maintenance Inspection (#2 of 6 in CSFWP). It is well known across Carrier Air Wing SEVEN as well that they possess the highest quality aircraft and most finely groomed combat systems.

Maintenance metrics and inspection scores aside, VFA-25 clearly makes Sailor development a priority. The investment this squadron made in its people is evident by their above average advancement rates in to consecutive cycles, critical NEC management, and numerous qualifications obtained. Everyone this squadron crosses in the performance of their duties has benefited from their high level of professionalism and positive mental attitude. Additionally, VFA-25's commitment to making goodwill deposits in their Sailors' lives with friends and family has created an environment where morale is exceptionally high.

Simply put, the Fist Maintenance Department is a world class organization. I cannot think of a squadron more deserving of the recognition for the outstanding work they do maintaining aircraft and investing in their people. For this, they have earned the prestigious award as 2015 LTJG Bruce Carrier Memorial Award winner; the finest performing F/A-18 Super Hornet squadron on the West Coast!

This is a huge accomplishment and 2016 is shaping up to be even better as we continue to have the highest readiness rates in CVW-7, highest flight hour execution, and highest sortie completion rate...oh, we won Top Hook as well!

Now back to warfighting.



LTJG Bruce Carrier Award for Maintenance Excellence



VFA-25's Finest



VFA-25 earns Top Hook for the Second Line Period of cruise.



All Hands