

# Strike Fighter Squadron Histories (VFA)

## VFA-15 to VFA-305

### VFA-15

#### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTY SEVEN (VA-67) on 1 August 1968.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FIFTEEN (VA-15) on 2 June 1969.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN (VFA-15) on 1 October 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-67 designation, the second to be assigned the VA-15 designation and the first to be assigned the VFA-15 designation.

#### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron does not have a CNO approval date for the use of the lion and missile insignia. This



*The squadron adopted the lion insignia used by the first VA-15. The designation in the scroll was changed to VFA-15 in 1986.*

insignia was approved by the CNO for use by the first squadron to be assigned the VA-15 designation. When VA-67 was redesignated VA-15 on 2 June 1969, it adopted the insignia that had been used by the first VA-15, which had been disestablished on 1 June 1969. Colors for the lion insignia are: background with red upper half and blue-green lower half, the insignia and scroll are outlined in white; blue scroll with white lettering; white waves; white rocket with black markings and yellow streaks emanating from the tail; yellow lion with black markings.

Nickname: Valions, 1969-present.

#### Chronology of Significant Events

**1 Aug 1968:** The squadron began training under VA-174 in preparation for operating the A-7 Corsair II.

**19 Oct 1973:** The squadron provided maintenance personnel for Operation Nickle Grass, the transatlantic flight of A-4 Skyhawks to Israel using *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42) as an intermediate air field.

**Oct–Nov 1973:** The squadron, embarked in *Roosevelt*, operated in the vicinity of Crete in response to the Arab-Israeli war.

**Jun–Jul 1976:** Following the assassination of the American Ambassador to Lebanon on 13 June, *America* (CV 66), with VA-15 embarked, operated in the vicinity of Lebanon and flew support missions during the evacuation of non-combatants from that country.

**May 1981:** *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-15 embarked, transited the Suez Canal and maintained station in the eastern Mediterranean due to the crisis between Israel and Syria following Israeli raids against Syrian surface-to-air missile sites in Lebanon.

**25 Oct–1 Nov 1983:** In response to continued political strife and the need to protect and evacuate Americans from the island country of Grenada, VA-15 aircraft flew combat close air support and reconnaissance sorties in support of operation Urgent Fury, the landing of U.S. Marines and Army rangers on the island.

**4 Dec 1983:** In response to hostile fire against U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Syrian positions in Lebanon, VA-15 aircraft participated in coordinated strikes against Syrian radar, communications and artillery positions overlooking the Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces. One of the squadron's A-7E Corsair IIs, flown by the Air Wing Commander, Command Edward Andrews, was lost when it was hit by a Syrian surface-to-air missile. Commander Andrews ejected, was rescued and returned to *Independence*.

**Dec 1985–Jun 1986:** The squadron returned from a six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni in the western Pacific. It was assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Air Wing during the deployment. This deployment was designed to test the enhanced interoperability between Marine and Naval Air Forces, with emphasis on close air support for Marine ground operations and the sharing of other techniques used by both communities.

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Aug 1968

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Lawrence C. Chambers	06 Nov 1968
CDR Robert B. Bristol	12 Feb 1970
CDR Donald D. Brown	30 Mar 1971
CDR Forrest A. Lees, Jr.	30 Mar 1972
CDR Richard C. McClary	21 Mar 1973
CDR Harry P. Kober, Jr.	24 May 1974
CDR Gordon E. Evans	30 Jul 1975
CDR Kelvin W. Huehn	02 Oct 1976
CDR Robert S. Smith	17 Dec 1977
CDR John J. Mazach	19 Apr 1979

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John J. Coonan	26 Jun 1980
CDR Michael B. Nordeen	24 Sep 1981
CDR Byron L. Duff	01 Nov 1982
CDR Leslie G. Kappel	01 Jun 1984
CDR Philip Craig Landon	08 Oct 1985
CDR John W. Curtin	08 Jan 1987
CDR Milton W. Smith	13 May 1988
CDR Brian M. Calhoun	29 Nov 1989

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7B	10 Mar 1969
A-7E	Aug 1975
F/A-18A	06 Jan 1987



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II taking off from the deck of Independence (CV 62) in 1982.*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
02 Jan 1970	27 Jul 1970	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
29 Jan 1971	23 Jul 1971	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
15 Feb 1972	08 Dec 1972	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
14 Sep 1973	17 Mar 1974	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
03 Jan 1975	16 Jul 1975	CVW-6	CV 42	A-7B	Med
15 Apr 1976	25 Oct 1976	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
10 Jun 1977	19 Jul 1977	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	SoLant
29 Sep 1977	25 Apr 1978	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Jun 1979	14 Dec 1979	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
19 Nov 1980	10 Jun 1981	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	SoLant/IO/Med
07 Jun 1982	22 Dec 1982	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
18 Oct 1983	11 Apr 1984	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Carib/Med/NorLant
16 Oct 1984	19 Feb 1985	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med/IO
01 Dec 1985	13 Jun 1986	MAG-12	*	A-7E	WestPac
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf

\* The squadron forward deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, to provide close air support for Marine forces in WestPac. While deployed to WestPac the squadron also operated at NAF Kadena, Okinawa; NAS Cubi Point, Philippines and stations in Korea.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Aug 1968
CVW-6	AE	11 Mar 1969
COMLATWING 1		Apr 1985
MAG-12, 1st MAW*	AC*	Dec 1985
COMLATWING 1		Jun 1986
CVW-8	AJ	01 Sep 1987

\* VA-15 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Air Wing during its shore-based deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. While deployed with MAG-12 the squadron used the tail code AC on its aircraft.

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	01 Jul 1976 - 31 Dec 1980
	01 Jan 1987 - 31 Dec 1988
NAVE	01 Oct 1977 - 30 Sep 1978
	01 Oct 1979 - 30 Sep 1980
	01 Jan 1983 - 31 Dec 1983
	01 Jan 1988 - 31 Dec 1988
NEM	07 Dec 1980 - 11 May 1981
	20 Aug 1982 - 05 Sep 1982
	01 Oct 1982 - 06 Dec 1982
AFEM	24 Oct 1983 - 02 Nov 1983
	16 Nov 1983 - 22 Dec 1983
	28 Dec 1983 - 03 Jan 1984
	15 Jan 1984 - 03 Feb 1984
	09 Feb 1984 - 02 Mar 1984
HSM	20 Jun 1976 - 27 Jul 1976

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
MUC	09 Mar 1972 - 01 Dec 1972



*A flight of squadron F/A-18A Hornets in 1990.*

## VFA-22

### Lineage

Established as Fighting Squadron SIXTY THREE (VF-63) on 27 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY THREE (VA-63) in March 1956.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY TWO (VA-22) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY TWO (VFA-22) on 4 May 1990. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-22, VA-63 and VFA-22 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 9 May 1949. The background is a heraldic bar sinister shield and with cumulus clouds. Overlaying the background is a gamecock ready to strike.



*This insignia has been used by the squadron since its CNO approval in 1949. The only modification was the addition of the scroll and the VA-22 designation, which changed to VFA-22 in 1990.*

Colors for the insignia are as follows: the gamecock and bar on the shield are red with black outlines; the beak and feet of the gamecock are gold and the background of the shield and clouds are white outlined in black. The squadron continued to use the insignia following its redesignations to VA-63, VA-22 and then VFA-22. VA-22

added a scroll at the bottom of the shield. The scroll has a white background outlined in black with red lettering. On 14 September 1990, CNO approved a modification to the insignia, changing the designation in the scroll to VFA-22.

Nickname: Fighting Redcocks, 1949-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**16 Sep 1950:** The squadron participated in its first combat action, providing close air support for the amphibious landings at Inchon, Korea.

**23 Jun 1952:** VF-63, along with other units from *Boxer* (CV 21), *Princeton* (CV 37), *Philippine Sea* (CV 47), *Bon Homme Richard* (CV 31), U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps squadrons, conducted a major offensive against hydro-electric targets in North Korea.

**6 Aug 1952:** While launching combat sorties a severe fire broke out on the hangar deck of *Boxer* following the explosion of an aircraft gasoline tank. Eight people were killed and one was missing, with several seriously injured. VF-63 did not suffer any casualties, however, three of the squadron's personnel were awarded Bronze Stars for their heroic and courageous action during the fire.

**Feb 1955:** The squadron, while deployed aboard *Essex* (CVA 9), provided air support during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist from the Tachen Islands after the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

**9 May 1958:** The squadron became the first fleet unit to receive the FJ-4B Buddy Tanker package and successfully demonstrated its refueling capability.

**Mar-Apr 1961:** The squadron, while deployed aboard *Midway* (CVA 41), operated in the South China Sea due to the crisis in Laos.

**6 Mar 1963:** The squadron formed Detachment Romeo consisting of four A-4B Skyhawks, six pilots



*Squadron personnel on the deck of Valley Forge (CV 45) in February 1951. A squadron F4U-4 Corsair is in the background.*

and forty-eight enlisted personnel. Its mission was to deploy aboard ASW carriers and provide them with a limited amount of air defense.

**19 Apr–3 Dec 1963:** VA-22 Detachment Romeo was deployed to the western Pacific aboard *Kearsarge* (CVS 33) and part of CVSG-53. During the deployment it participated in the recovery of space capsule Faith 7 and astronaut Major L. Gordon Cooper, USAF, following his 22 successful orbits around the earth.

**18 Dec 1963:** VA-22 Detachment Romeo was disestablished.

**Apr 1965:** The squadron participated in its first combat operations since the Korean War and on 20 April suffered its first aircraft loss. Lieutenant Phillip N. Butler's A-4C was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire while on a night armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. He successfully ejected and became a prisoner of war.

**3 Jun 1965:** Lieutenant Raymond P. Ilg (later Vice Admiral) was shot down in his A-4C while on an armed road reconnaissance mission over northern Laos. He successfully ejected and, following three days of evading capture deep inside enemy territory, was rescued by a helicopter.

**22 Nov 1966:** Commander Henry D. Arnold, commanding officer of VA-22, received the Silver Star Medal for his actions during a strike against a Haiphong surface-to-air missile support facility.

**26 Jan 1968:** The *Ranger* (CVA 62), with VA-22 aboard, while operating on Yankee Station was ordered to the Sea of Japan following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans on 23 January 1968. *Ranger* and VA-22 operated in the area until relieved on 5 March 1968.

**9 May 1972:** Operation Pocket Money, the mining of Haiphong harbor, was launched. Aircraft from VA-22, as well as the other attack squadrons deployed aboard *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), planned and executed the mining.

**Apr–Jul 1973:** The squadron flew missions in sup-

port of Operation End Sweep, the clearing of mines from North Vietnam's coastal waters.

**29 Apr 1975:** VA-22's aircraft provided air cover for Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American citizens from Saigon. The last American helicopter to lift off the roof of the United States Embassy was escorted by an A-7E from the squadron.

**15 May 1975:** VA-22 aircraft, along with other elements from CVW-15 aboard *Coral Sea*, launched air strikes against the Cambodian mainland after the capture of the SS *Mayaguez* by Cambodian gunboats on 12 May. Squadron aircraft flew ten combat sorties and struck targets at Ream Airfield.

**27 Oct 1979:** Following the assassination of Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) was ordered to operate off the coast of Korea.

**21 Nov 1979:** *Kitty Hawk*, along with VA-22 and the rest of CVW-15, departed Subic Bay, Philippines, enroute to the Arabian Sea as a response to the 4 November Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran and the taking of over 60 American hostages.

**6 Dec 1985:** A squadron aircraft fired an AGM-88 Harm missile while operating out of NWC China Lake. This was the first AGM-88 Harm missile fired by a West Coast Fleet squadron.

**Apr–Jul 1986:** In late April *Enterprise* (CVN 65), with VA-22 onboard, transited the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea to augment carrier forces there. Earlier in the month American strikes were flown against Libyan military targets as a response to Libya's continuing support of terrorist activity.

**18 Apr 1988:** VA-22 participated in retaliatory strikes against Iranian oil platforms, gunboats and other naval ships after *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine on 14 April in international waters.

**Dec 1989:** The squadron participated in Operation Classic Resolve, providing support for the Philippine government during a coup d'etat attempt.



A formation of squadron F4U-4 Corsairs, May 1952 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II at NAS Lemoore, California, in 1975.*



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II in an unusual paint scheme, 1989.*

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Norfolk	27 Jul 1948
NAAS Oceana	20 Mar 1949
NAS Alameda	09 Aug 1950
NALF Santa Rosa	12 Jul 1951
NAS Alameda	25 Sep 1952
NAS Lemoore	28 Sep 1961



*A squadron F9F-5 Panther gets a wave-off from the Landing Signal Officer aboard Yorktown (CVA 10) during her cruise to WestPac, 1953–1954.*

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Malcolm W. Cagle	27 Jul 1948
LCDR Thomas J. Ball	13 Feb 1950
LT L. W. S. Cummins (acting)	17 Aug 1951
LCDR Ward S. Miller	20 Aug 1951
LCDR Elmon A. Miller, Jr.	31 Oct 1952
CDR Robert H. Benson	Apr 1953
CDR Howard B. Eddy	Jul 1955
LCDR William C. Chapman	07 Jun 1957
CDR John H. Lobdell	20 Mar 1959
CDR Jack D. Kendall	31 Mar 1960
CDR W. T. Laws	10 Oct 1961
CDR E. W. Abbott	29 Oct 1962
CDR R. S. Smith	12 Sep 1963
CDR C. E. Dechow	02 Oct 1964
CDR E. H. Schorz (acting)	06 Oct 1964
CDR D. M. Wyand	20 Oct 1964
CDR E. H. Schorz	1965
CDR Henry D. Arnold	20 Oct 1966
CDR Jack K. Ashmore	07 Oct 1967
CDR Richard T. Gaskill	18 Oct 1968
CDR Henry C. Holt IV	16 Oct 1969
CDR James C. Thompson	22 Oct 1970
CDR Robert G. Ehrman	1971
CDR Leonard E. Giuliani	31 Aug 1972
CDR Gary A. Scoffield	28 Jul 1973
CDR John F. Calvert	08 Nov 1974
CDR Alan M. Dundon	27 Feb 1976
CDR Lee B. Cargill	22 Apr 1977
CDR John D. Grice	06 Jul 1978
CDR Jerry D. Palmer	25 Sep 1979
CDR John E. Vomastic	09 May 1981
CDR Russell C. York	Feb 1983
CDR Raymond A. Kellett	26 Jul 1984
CDR Richard J. Burns	01 Feb 1986
CDR William H. Roberson III	31 Jul 1987
CDR Dale M. Doorly	20 Jan 1989
CDR G. Robert Darwin	09 Aug 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F8F-2	Jul 1948
F4U-4	Jan 1950
F9F-2*	14 Sep 1951
F9F-5*	Dec 1952
F9F-6	Apr 1954
F9F-8	Aug 1955
FJ-4B	30 Jul 1957
A4D-2/A-4B†	24 May 1960
A4D-2N/A-4C†	06 Oct 1961
A-4F	Jun 1968
TA-4F‡	Jun 1968
A-7E	04 Feb 1971
F/A-18C	06 Jul 1990

\* The squadron was scheduled to transition to the F9F-2 aircraft and received eight of the aircraft in September 1951, however, due to the severe lag in production of the aircraft and lack of critical spare parts, the squadron returned to flying the F4U-4 Corsair in the latter part of September 1951. It continued to fly the F4U-4 until November 1952 when it transitioned to jets. Initially it received F9F-2 aircraft in November 1952 and then switched to F9F-5 Panthers.

† In 1962 the Navy's aircraft designation system was changed and A4D-2 was redesignated A-4B and A4D-2N became A-4C.

‡ The TA-4Fs were tandem seat Skyhawks used for instrument training.



*A squadron FJ-4B Fury, circa 1958 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*



*A formation of squadron F9F-8 Cougars, 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection)*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
27 Oct 1949	22 Nov 1949	CVG-6	CVB 42	F8F-2	NorLant
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
06 Dec 1950	*	CVG-2	CV 45	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
*	09 Jun 1951	CVG-2	CV 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
07 Feb 1952	25 Sep 1952	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
03 Aug 1953	03 Mar 1954	CVG-2	CVA 10	F9F-5	WestPac
03 Nov 1954	21 Jun 1955	CVG-2	CVA 9	F9F-6	WestPac
13 Nov 1956	20 May 1957	CVG-2	CVA 38	F9F-8	WestPac
16 Aug 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-2	CVA 41	FJ-4B	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	25 Mar 1960	CVG-2	CVA 41	FJ-4B	WestPac
16 Feb 1961	28 Sep 1961	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2	WestPac
06 Apr 1962	20 Oct 1962	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2N	WestPac
08 Nov 1963	26 May 1964	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4C	WestPac
06 Mar 1965	23 Nov 1965	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jul 1966	23 Feb 1967	CVW-2	CVA 43	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
04 Nov 1967	25 May 1968	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Mar 1969	29 Oct 1969	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Apr 1970	12 Nov 1970	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
12 Nov 1971	17 Jul 1972	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Mar 1973	08 Nov 1973	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
05 Dec 1974	02 Jul 1975	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
15 Feb 1977	05 Oct 1977	CVW-15	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac
30 May 1979	25 Feb 1980	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Apr 1981	23 Nov 1981	CVW-15	CV-63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Sep 1982	28 Apr 1983	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac/IO
30 May 1984	20 Dec 1984	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/NorPac
12 Jan 1986	13 Aug 1986	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ Med/SoLant
25 Oct 1987	24 Nov 1987	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac
05 Jan 1988	03 Jul 1988	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/NorPac
17 Sep 1989	16 Mar 1990	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	World Cruise

\* On 29 March 1951 VF-63 and CVG-2 transferred from *Valley Forge* (CV 45) to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) while in port Yokosuka, Japan.

**Air Wing Assignment**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-6	C	27 Jul 1948
CVG-2/CVW-2†	M/NE*	31 Jul 1950
CVW-19	NM	01 Oct 1968
CVW-5	NF	01 Nov 1968
COMFAIRLEMOORE		08 Jan 1971
CVW-15	NL	02 Jun 1971
CVW-11	NH	15 Jan 1982

\* CVG-2's tail code was changed from M to NE in 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings and CVG-2 became CVW-2 on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
NAVE	Nov 1962 Feb 1964
	01 Jan 1979 30 Jun 1980
	01 Jul 1980 31 Dec 1981
AFEM	06 Sep 1958 10 Sep 1958
	12 Sep 1958 29 Sep 1958
	12 Oct 1958 30 Oct 1958
	11 Nov 1958 15 Nov 1958
	30 Nov 1958 12 Dec 1958
	24 Mar 1961 25 Mar 1961
	28 Mar 1961 07 Apr 1961
	09 Apr 1965 11 May 1965
	20 May 1965 28 Jun 1965





*A composite photograph of the different types of aircraft flown by the squadron between 1948 and 1965.*



*A squadron A-4C Skyhawk preparing for a launch from Midway (CVA 41) in June 1963.*

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	29 Jun 1969	
	07 Jul 1969	13 Jul 1969
	24 Jul 1969	
	03 Sep 1969	
	13 Sep 1969	14 Sep 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
	Mar 1988	
	17 Jan 1990	31 Jan 1990
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	17 May 1981	
	02 Oct 1981	
	23 Oct 1982	
MUC	03 Dec 1967	09 May 1968
	15 Feb 1988	21 May 1988
NEM	25 Nov 1979	28 Jan 1980
	25 May 1981	30 Sep 1981
	30 Apr 1986	27 Jun 1986
NUC	Apr 1951	31 May 1951
	16 Apr 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Aug 1966	01 Feb 1967
	18 Apr 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	30 Oct 1970
	15 Dec 1971	01 Jul 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	15 May 1975	
	01 May 1979	23 Nov 1981
RVNGC	05 Oct 1965	
	09 Oct 1965	
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jul 1972
VNSM	22 Jul 1965	26 Aug 1965
	11 Sep 1965	09 Oct 1965
	18 Oct 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Sep 1966	19 Oct 1966
	30 Oct 1966	04 Dec 1966
	26 Dec 1966	01 Feb 1967
	03 Dec 1967	29 Dec 1967
	06 Jan 1968	28 Jan 1968
	18 Mar 1968	12 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	09 May 1968
	17 Apr 1969	19 May 1969
	04 Jun 1969	26 Jun 1969
	31 Jul 1969	01 Sep 1969
	23 Sep 1969	09 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	26 May 1970
	01 Jun 1970	14 Jun 1970
	10 Jul 1970	29 Jul 1970
	17 Aug 1970	03 Sep 1970
	11 Sep 1970	12 Sep 1970
	26 Sep 1970	21 Oct 1970
	14 Dec 1971	

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	31 Dec 1971	17 Jan 1972
	26 Jan 1972	17 Feb 1972
	01 Apr 1972	11 May 1972
	01 Jun 1972	11 Jun 1972
	21 Jun 1972	30 Jun 1972
KPUC	15 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	Dec 1950	20 Mar 1951

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	Apr 1951	31 May 1951
	10 Mar 1952	9 Sep 1952
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	16 Dec 1950	30 Mar 1951
	15 Apr 1951	2 Jun 1951
	10 Mar 1952	9 Sep 1952
UNSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	10 Mar 1952	09 Sep 1952



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, 1990.*

## VFA-25

### Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron SEVENTEEN (VT-17) on 1 January 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIX B (VA-6B) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY FIVE (VA-65) on 27 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VA-25) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VFA-25) on 1 July 1983. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-25 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 28 September 1944. Colors for the four leaf clover, horseshoe and flying torpedo insignia were: a blue background with white shading; green four-leaf clover with black markings; white horseshoe with black markings; the wings and nose of the torpedo were yellow with black markings and the remaining part of the torpedo were white with black markings.



*The squadron's first insignia was indicative of its mission as a torpedo squadron.*

approved by CNO on 9 June 1949. Colors for the insignia are: a gold background with a black border; black fist with gold markings and a red lightning bolt. On 24 July 1959, CNO approved a modification to the insignia. The modified insignia added a scroll with the designation VA-25. The scroll was yellow with black markings and lettering.

On 24 January 1974 CNO approved another modification to the insignia, adding three black stars. When the squadron was designated VFA-25 it continued to use the fist and lightning bolt insignia but dropped the three stars.

Nickname: Fist of the Fleet, 1949-present.



*The clenched fist and lightning bolt became the squadron's second insignia and has been in use, with some modifications, since 1949.*



*This modification to the insignia was approved by CNO on 24 January 1974.*



*This is the current insignia used by the squadron.*

### Chronology of Significant Events

**10 Sep–2 Oct 1943:** The squadron was embarked in *Bunker Hill* (CV 17), enroute from Norfolk to Pearl Harbor via the Panama Canal and San Diego.

**11 Nov 1943:** The squadron flew its first combat sorties, striking targets in Rabaul.

**Nov 1943–Feb 1944:** The squadron flew numerous combat missions, striking targets in Kavieng, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Truk and Tinian.

**2 Feb 1944:** During operations over Eniwetok, the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander F. M. Whitaker, was lost in a midair collision.

**Feb 1945:** The squadron flew numerous combat missions against targets in Japan and the Bonin Islands and provided ground support for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

**19 Mar 1945:** For their actions against the Japanese Fleet in the Kure Bay area of the Inland Sea, the following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross: Lieutenant Commander W. M. Romberger; Lieutenant H. E. Clark; Lieutenant (jg)s T. J. Coghlan, H. W. Foote, H. C. Johnson, A. C. Traxler and Ensign J. Behl. Lieutenant J. A. Tew was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during this attack.

**Mar 1945:** Squadron aircraft struck Japanese ships in the East China Sea, Inland Sea and around the Ryukyu Islands and land based targets in and around Okinawa.

**7 Apr 1945:** VT-17, along with other units from the task force, attacked a Japanese naval force composed of the superbattleship *Yamato* and her escorts. Squadron aircraft scored several torpedo hits on the *Yamato* and sunk one of her destroyer escorts. For their actions in this battle the following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross: Lieutenants T. C. Durkin and S. G. Sullivan; Lieutenant (jg) J. F. Monaghan and Ensign W. F. Nickel. Lieutenant H. E. Clark, Lieutenant (jg) T. J. Coghlan and Ensign R. S. Hanlon were awarded the Silver Star for their actions.

**Apr 1945:** Combat missions were flown against tar-

gets in and around Okinawa in preparation for the invasion of that island.

**May–Jun 1945:** VT-17 aircraft struck targets in and around Okinawa, Kyushu, Shikoku and ships in the East China Sea.

**27 Oct–23 Nov 1949:** VA-65, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB 42), operated in the Davis Straits area conducting cold weather exercises.

**15 Sep 1950:** Squadron aircraft participated in combat strikes against shore defenses in and around Inchon, Korea, just before the landings at Inchon.

**1 Oct 1950:** Squadron aircraft struck the North Korean capital of P'yongyang, hitting the airfield and scoring a direct hit on a large electrical power plant.

**23 Jun 1952:** Squadron aircraft participated in a coordinated four carrier strike on North Korean hydro-electric power plants. VA-65's Skyraiders hit the Suiho power plant on the Yalu River.

**6 Aug 1952:** Embarked in *Boxer*, the squadron was preparing for routine combat operations when a fire broke out on the hangar deck. Squadron personnel assisted in removing armed ordnance from planes on the flight deck and helped fight the fire on the hangar deck. One casualty was suffered by the squadron as a result of the fire.

**Feb 1955:** While embarked in *Essex* (CVA 9) and operating in the Formosa Straits, the squadron provided air support during the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese forces from the Tachen Islands which had come under bombardment by the People's Republic of China.

**25 Aug 1958:** *Midway* (CVA 41), with VA-65 embarked, was ordered to discontinue its ORI and proceed to the vicinity of Taiwan following the shelling of the Quemoy Islands on 23 August by the Chinese Communists.

**Mar 1961:** The squadron, while embarked in *Midway*, operated in the South China Sea due to the crisis in Laos.

**Apr 1965:** The squadron engaged in its first combat operations in the Vietnam theater.

**20 Jun 1965:** Four of the squadron's Skyraiders engaged enemy fighters over North Vietnam resulting in the shoot down of a MiG-17. Lieutenant Clinton B. Johnson and Lieutenant (jg) Charles W. Hartman III were awarded Silver Stars for their actions in downing the MiG-17.

**14 Sep 1966:** While on a combat sortie near Vinh, North Vietnam, the squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. W. Stoddard, was shot down by a surface-to-air missile and lost at sea.

**Jan 1968:** Squadron aircraft provided close air support for U.S. Marines besieged at Khe Sanh, South Vietnam.

**6 Apr 1968:** The squadron returned to NAS Lemoore from a combat deployment to Vietnam, bringing to a close an era for the A-1 Skyraider. It was the last

attack squadron to deploy and operate the A-1. The A-1's last combat mission with VA-25 came to an end on 20 February when the aircraft touched down on the deck of *Coral Sea* (CVA 43).

**Apr 1969:** Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans, *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14), with VA-25 embarked, was ordered to the Sea of Japan.

**21 Nov 1970:** Squadron aircraft flew Rescue Combat Air Patrol sorties while an Army-Air Force search and rescue team landed at the Son Tay POW compound, 20 miles west of Hanoi, in an attempt to free American POWs. Unfortunately the POW compound had already been evacuated by the North Vietnamese.

**Dec 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker II Operations, heavy air strikes against targets primarily around Hanoi and Haiphong.

**15 Jan 1973:** The squadron participated with several other squadrons in a large laser bombing attack against bridge targets in North Vietnam. This coordinated strike used the A-6's Pave Knife Laser Designation System to guide laser-guided bombs dropped by A-7 aircraft.

**Jan–Feb 1973:** Following the cease fire with North Vietnam on 27 January, the squadron concentrated its attention on strikes against lines-of-communication targets in Laos until an agreement was reached with that country.

**Jul 1976:** Following the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the threatened military operations against Kenya by Uganda, the *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-25 embarked, was ordered to transit from the South China Sea to the western Indian Ocean and operate off the coast of Kenya.

**21 Feb 1985:** VFA-25 and 113, embarked in *Constellation* (CV 64), were the first to deploy with the F/A-18 Hornet. During the deployment the Hornets operated in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

**Jul 1987:** Due to the increased attacks on merchant and tanker shipping in the Persian Gulf during the Iran/Iraqi War, the United States began to escort reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers. During operation Earnest Will, VFA-25 provided air cover for reflagged tankers transiting the Straits of Hormuz.

**Aug 1990:** Due to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, *Independence* (CV 62), with VFA-25 embarked, was ordered to operate in the Gulf of Oman.

**Aug–Nov 1990:** VFA-25 flew sorties from *Independence* in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait. On 2 October *Independence* entered the Persian Gulf and operated in those waters for two days before returning to the Northern Arabian Sea and being relieved on station by *Midway* (CV 41).



*A squadron TBF-1C prepares to take off from Bunker Hill (CV 17) during its combat cruise on the carrier from October 1943 to March 1944.*

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Norfolk	01 Jan 1943
NAS Kaneohe	03 Oct 1943*
NAS Alameda	10 Mar 1944†
NAS Hilo	12 Nov 1944*
NAB Agana	28 Dec 1944*
NAS Alameda	08 Jul 1945
NAAS Fallon	Sep 1945
NAS Brunswick	01 Feb 1946
NAS Norfolk	15 Aug 1946
NAAS Oceana	05 Mar 1949
NAS Alameda	15 Aug 1950
NALF Santa Rosa	11 Jul 1951
NAS Alameda	25 Sep 1952
NAS Moffett Field	28 Sep 1961
NAS Lemoore	07 Jan 1963

\* Temporary shore assignment while the squadron conducted training in preparation for combat deployment.

† During the squadron's reforming and training cycle it operated from numerous other shore stations, including NAAS Monterey, NAAS Vernalis, and NAAS Arcata.

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Frank M. Whitaker	01 Jan 1943
LT Gordon N. Owens	02 Feb 1944
LT Jack Martin (acting)	18 Apr 1944
LCDR William M. Romberger	02 May 1944
LT Arnold C. Traxler (acting)	18 Aug 1945
LCdr William N. Janes (acting)	21 Aug 1945
CDR Rubin H. Konig	11 Oct 1945
LCDR Glen B. Butler	31 Oct 1947
LCDR Michael J. Hanley	08 Dec 1948
CDR Richard W. Phillips	01 Feb 1950
CDR Gordon A. Sherwood	31 Aug 1951
LCDR Marvin R. Novak (acting)	22 Oct 1952

### Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Harry M. Thompson	28 Oct 1952
LCDR J. A. Rapp	12 Mar 1954
CDR John R. Bowen II	15 Jul 1955
CDR William C. Bates	22 May 1957
CDR Edward V. Izac, Jr.	15 May 1958
CDR John W. Fairbanks	03 Apr 1959
CDR Warren H. Ireland	08 Apr 1960
LCDR M. E. Mann (acting)	11 May 1960
CDR William S. Hertig	16 May 1960
CDR C. R. Bradford	03 Aug 1961
CDR John A. Overn	11 Aug 1962
CDR Herman W. Presson	25 Jun 1963
CDR Ralph F. Smith	29 May 1964
CDR Harry E. Ettinger	24 May 1965
CDR C. William Stoddard	13 Apr 1966
CDR James D. Burden	14 Sep 1966
CDR Clifford E. Church	01 Oct 1967
CDR Scott L. Smith	Mar 1968
CDR Fred J. Orrik	09 Jun 1969
CDR F. M. Humphreys	26 Jun 1970
CDR Juan H. Carcaba	26 May 1971
CDR Edwin A. Greathouse	19 May 1972
CDR Paul M. Moore	02 Jun 1973
CDR George R. Vezina	05 May 1974
CDR Peter W. Ogle	08 Jul 1975
CDR James B. Hamilton	29 Oct 1976
CDR Warner L. Butler	31 Jan 1978
CDR Donald J. Wright	26 Mar 1979
CDR John A. Lockard	29 Jul 1980
CDR Robert W. Leone	07 Oct 1981
CDR Steve L. Webb	25 Apr 1983
CDR C. J. Leslie	16 Nov 1984
CDR Jeorme L. Arbiter	Feb 1986
CDR Anthony V. Colantoni, Jr.	02 Sep 1987
CDR Daniel W. Gabriel	23 Nov 1988
CDR Gregory R. Peairs	31 May 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBF-1	Jan 1943
TBF-1C	Oct 1943
TBM-1	May 1944
TBM-1C	Oct 1944
TBM-3	Feb 1945
TBM-3E	Sep 1945
SB2C-4E	Mar 1946
SB2C-5	Nov 1946
AD-1	23 Sep 1947
AD-1Q	Jul 1948
AD-4	02 Dec 1949
AD-3	14 Nov 1950
AD-2	05 Dec 1950
AD-4Q	05 Dec 1950

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-1/2/3/4	1951*
AD-4NA	03 Dec 1952
AD-4B	23 Dec 1952
AD-5	Jul 1955
AD-6/A-1H†	Jul 1955
AD-7/A-1J†	Apr 1959
A-7B	Oct 1968
A-7E	Dec 1969
F/A-18A	11 Nov 1984
F/A-18C	Jun 1989

\* Between July and December 1951 the squadron received and transferred numerous models of the AD Skyraider.

† The AD-6 and AD-7 designations were changed to A-1H and A-1J respectively in 1962.



*Photo of squadron officers aboard Philippine Sea (CV 47) in 1951. A squadron AD-2 Skyraider is in the background.*



*Major Overseas Deployments*

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Oct 1943	04 Mar 1944	CVG-17	CV 17	TBF-1C	Pacific*
02 Feb 1945	08 Jul 1945	CVG-17	CV 12	TBM-1C/3	Pacific†
04 Jan 1949	05 Mar 1949	CVG-6	CVB 41	AD-1	Med
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
06 Dec 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-2	‡	AD-2	WestPac/Korea
08 Feb 1952	26 Sep 1952	CVG-2	CV 21	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
03 Aug 1953	03 Mar 1954	CVG-2	CVA 10	AD-4B/NA	WestPac
03 Nov 1954	21 Jun 1955	CVG-2	CVA 9	AD-4/4B	WestPac
13 Nov 1956	22 May 1957	CVG-2	CVA 38	AD-6	WestPac
16 Aug 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-6	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	25 Mar 1960	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-7	WestPac
16 Feb 1961	28 Sep 1961	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-7	WestPac
06 Apr 1962	20 Oct 1962	CVG-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac
08 Nov 1963	26 May 1964	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac
06 Mar 1965	23 Nov 1965	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jul 1966	23 Feb 1967	CVW-2	CVA 43	A-1H	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Feb 1969	18 Sep 1969	CVW-16	CVA 14	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Oct 1970	17 Jun 1971	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Nov 1972	23 Jun 1973	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
07 May 1974	18 Oct 1974	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac
30 Jan 1976	07 Sep 1976	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac
10 Sep 1980	05 May 1981	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
07 Apr 1982	19 Oct 1982	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1985	24 Aug 1985	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
04 Sep 1986	20 Oct 1986	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	NorPac
11 Apr 1987	13 Oct 1987	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
01 Dec 1988	01 Jun 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
16 Sep 1989	19 Oct 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A/C	NorPac
23 Jun 1990	20 Dec 1990	CVW-14	CV 62	F/A-18C	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

\* The combat deployment time frame covers the squadron's departure from Pearl Harbor aboard *Bunker Hill* (CV 17) and its return to Pearl Harbor on 4 March 1944. The squadron detached from *Bunker Hill* on 4 March and returned to the States on 10 March 1944.

† The combat deployment time frame covers the squadron's 2 February 1945 embarkation in *Hornet* (CV 12) at Ulithi atoll and its return to the States on 8 July 1945.

‡ VA-65 deployed to Korea embarked in *Valley Forge* (CV 45). On 29 March 1951 the squadron, along with the rest of CVG-2, transferred to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) for continued operations in Korea. It returned to the States embarked in *Philippine Sea*.



*Squadron A-1H Skyraiders on the deck of Coral Sea (CVA 43) in 1966 during their deployment to Vietnam.*



### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-17/CVBG-17/ CVBG-5/CVG-6*	C†	01 Jan 1943
CVG-2/CVW-2§	M/NE‡	01 Aug 1950
CVW-15	NL	31 Mar 1967
COMFAIRALAMEDA		1968**
CVW-16	AH	1968
CVW-2	NE	1970***
CVW-14	NK	Jan 1984

\* CVG-17 was established on 1 January 1943. It was redesignated CVBG-17 on 22 January 1946 and then became CVBG-5 on 15 November 1946. The CVGB-5 designation was changed to CVG-6 on 27 July 1948.

† The tail code was assigned to CVBG-5 on 12 December 1946.

‡ The tail code was changed from M to NE in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

§ CVG-2 was redesignated CVW-2 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

\*\* During the squadron's transition to the A-7B Corsair II, its administrative superior was Commander Fleet Air Alameda. Once the transition was complete it was assigned to CVW-16.

\*\*\* CVW-2 returned from a WestPac deployment on 1 June 1970 and VA-25 was assigned to the air wing sometime in the summer or fall of 1970.

### Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	11 Nov 1943	23 Feb 1944
	16 Feb 1945	10 Jun 1945
NAVE	01 Jul 1948	30 Jun 1949
	01 Jul 1949	30 Jun 1950
	01 Jul 1964	30 Jun 1965
	01 Jan 1986	31 Dec 1986
	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	16 Dec 1951	30 Mar 1951
	15 Apr 1951	02 Jun 1951
	10 Mar 1952	09 Sep 1952
HSM	25 May 1976	01 Jun 1976
	20 Mar 1981	
NUC	29 Mar 1951	31 May 1951
	16 Apr 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Aug 1966	01 Feb 1967
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	02 Aug 1990	
	01 Nov 1990	
AFEM	06 Sep 1958	10 Sep 1958
	12 Sep 1958	29 Sep 1958



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II at NAS North Island, California, in 1975.*

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	12 Oct 1958	30 Oct 1958
	11 Nov 1958	15 Nov 1958
	30 Nov 1958	12 Dec 1958
	24 Mar 1961	25 Mar 1961
	28 Mar 1961	07 Apr 1961
	09 Apr 1965	11 May 1965
	20 May 1965	28 Jun 1965
	20 Apr 1967	27 Apr 1967
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	04 Aug 1969	
	16 Aug 1969	24 Aug 1969
	30 Aug 1969	
MUC	18 Feb 1969	07 Sep 1969
	18 Nov 1970	02 Jun 1971
	01 Jan 1988	31 Aug 1989
NEM	30 Oct 1980	12 Mar 1981
RVNGC	05 Oct 1965	
	09 Oct 1965	
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	29 Dec 1966	
	23 Nov 1967	
	02 Dec 1967	
	04 Dec 1967	
	20 Dec 1967	22 Dec 1967
	20 Jan 1968	
	23 Jan 1968	27 Jan 1968
	29 Jan 1968	19 Feb 1968
	04 Mar 1969	08 Mar 1969
	10 Mar 1969	
	12 Mar 1969	19 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	02 Apr 1969	03 Apr 1969
	06 Apr 1969	07 Apr 1969
	09 Apr 1969	15 Apr 1969
	10 May 1969	29 May 1969
	31 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	28 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	22 Jul 1965	26 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	09 Oct 1965
	18 Oct 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Sep 1966	19 Oct 1966
	30 Oct 1966	
	01 Nov 1966	04 Dec 1966
	26 Dec 1966	01 Feb 1967
	26 Aug 1967	01 Oct 1967
	12 Oct 1967	28 Oct 1967
	04 Nov 1967	05 Nov 1967
	11 Nov 1967	08 Dec 1967
	16 Dec 1967	07 Jan 1968
	15 Jan 1968	21 Feb 1968
	03 Mar 1969	20 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	16 Apr 1969
	09 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	25 Jun 1969	01 Aug 1969
	18 Nov 1970	18 Dec 1970
	27 Dec 1970	13 Jan 1971
	02 Feb 1971	17 Mar 1971
	31 Mar 1971	18 Apr 1971
	25 Apr 1971	18 May 1971
	09 Dec 1972	03 Jan 1973
	14 Jan 1973	30 Jan 1973
	01 Feb 1973	06 Feb 1973
SASM	05 Aug 1990	04 Nov 1990



*Two squadron F/A-18 Hornets on deck preparing to launch, circa 1988 or 1989.*

## VFA-27

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWENTY SEVEN (VA-27) on 1 September 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY SEVEN (VFA-27) on 24 January 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-27 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 25 March 1968. Colors for the glove and mace



The squadron's Royal Maces insignia with the VA-27 (Attack Squadron 27) designation in the scroll.



The squadron maintained the same insignia design following its redesignation to VFA-27. The only change was the designation in the scroll.

insignia are as follows: sky blue background with a white cloud outlined in blue; light blue glove outlined in black and with USN in white; orange-red mace handle with a black mace, outlined in white; white scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

Nickname: Royal Maces, 1968-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**28 Jun 1968:** The squadron flew its first combat sortie, striking targets in the panhandle region of North Vietnam.

**4 Feb–7 Mar 1971:** VA-27 embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), conducted training flights during the carrier's transit around Cape Horn to her new home port in California.

**Dec 1971:** With the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan (later Bangladesh), *Enterprise* departed Yankee Station and made a quick transit to the Indian Ocean to provide support for the evacuation of foreign civilians from East Pakistan.

**Oct 1972:** Participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies in that country and into South Vietnam.

**Dec 1972:** Participated in Linebacker II operations, an intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

**Feb 1975:** *Enterprise*, with CVW-14, provided disas-

ter support for the island country of Mauritius following a tropical storm.

**Apr 1975:** Participated in operation Frequent Wind and provided air support for helicopters evacuating personnel from Saigon as it fell to the communists.

**Feb 1977:** During the crisis in Uganda and threats against Americans in that country, *Enterprise* operated off the coast of Kenya for possible support in the evacuation of Americans.

**Dec 1979:** *Coral Sea* (CV 43) operated off the coast of South Korea following the assassination of South Korea's President Park Chung-Hee in late October.

**Apr 1980:** The squadron participated in the Iranian hostage rescue attempt by providing air cover for the forces directly involved in the rescue operation.

**May 1980:** Following civil unrest in South Korea, *Coral Sea* operated off the coast of that country.

**Aug 1983:** Due to the unsettled conditions in Central America, *Coral Sea* (CV 43) operated off the coast of Nicaragua.

**Aug 1986:** The squadron participated in the first carrier tactical flight operations in the Bering Sea since the end of World War II.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	01 Sep 1967

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR George T. Pappas	01 Sep 1967
CDR Donald L. Felt	28 Feb 1969
CDR Thomas W. Durant	04 Feb 1970
CDR Leroy B. Keeley	22 Jan 1971
CDR Jerome L. Johnson	22 Dec 1971
CDR Leon A. Edney	15 Dec 1972
CDR Meredith W. Patrick	09 Jan 1974
CDR James A. Kenney	07 Mar 1975
CDR Dale A. Iverson	28 May 1976
CDR Richard K. Pottratz	01 Aug 1977
CDR James W. Partington	30 Nov 1978
CDR James S. Zayicek	10 May 1980
CDR Dennis V. McGinn	24 Sep 1981
CDR Joseph E. Hart	16 Dec 1982
CDR Hugh D. Connell II	01 May 1984
CDR Joseph P. Sciabarra	25 Oct 1985
CDR Malcolm P. Branch	29 May 1987
CDR Richard E. Clayton	03 Sep 1988
CDR Stanford H. Hlavka	29 Mar 1990

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-7A	Jan 1969
A-7E	30 Jun 1970
F/A-18A	20 Feb 1991



*Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs fly along a deserted coast line during their deployment to the Indian Ocean, 1986.*

### **Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 May 1968	31 Jan 1969	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Aug 1969	08 May 1970	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Jun 1971	12 Feb 1972	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/ Vietnam/IO
12 Sep 1972	11 Jun 1973	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Sep 1974	20 May 1975	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac /IO
30 Jul 1976	28 Mar 1977	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
04 Apr 1978	30 Oct 1978	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
13 Nov 1979	11 Jun 1980	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1981	23 Mar 1982	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Mar 1983	12 Sep 1983	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	World Cruise
13 Oct 1984	24 May 1985	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Aug 1986	05 Feb 1987	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1988	14 Dec 1988	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
05 Sep 1989	09 Nov 1989	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac
01 Feb 1990	29 Jul 1990	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRALAMEDA		01 Sep 1967
CVW-14	NK	05 Jan 1968
CVW-15	NL	21 Nov 1983

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	11 Sep 1968	09 Oct 1968
	23 Oct 1968	29 Nov 1968
	09 Dec 1968	21 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969	07 Jan 1969
	11 Sep 1969	03 Oct 1969
	01 Nov 1969	23 Nov 1969
	07 Dec 1969	22 Dec 1969
	05 Jan 1970	30 Jan 1970
	12 Feb 1970	01 Mar 1970
	26 Mar 1970	17 Apr 1970
	14 Jul 1971	31 Jul 1971
	15 Aug 1971	14 Sep 1971
	12 Sep 1971	
	25 Sep 1971	26 Sep 1971
	02 Oct 1972	23 Oct 1972
	01 Nov 1972	11 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	13 Jan 1973
	24 Jan 1973	23 Feb 1973
	01 Mar 1973	02 Mar 1973
	11 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NAVE	01 Jan 1985	31 Dec 1985

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	16 Oct 1969	24 Oct 1969
	16 Mar 1970	23 Mar 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
MUC	14 Jun 1968	23 Jan 1969
	07 Sep 1969	30 Apr 1970
	02 Jul 1971	03 Feb 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	10 Nov 1984	07 May 1985
	16 Jan 1987	02 Feb 1987
NEM	01 Feb 1980	05 May 1980
	11 Oct 1981	20 Oct 1981
NUC	03 Oct 1972	22 Feb 1973
VNSM	27 Jun 1968	22 Jul 1968
	02 Aug 1968	28 Aug 1968



*A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, 1992.*

## VFA-37

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THIRTY SEVEN (VA-37) on 1 July 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron THIRTY SEVEN (VFA-37) on 28 November 1990. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-37 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 March 1968. A design centering on a Bull was



*The squadron has used the Bulls insignia since March 1968.*

selected to symbolize the spirit, pride and mission of the unit. The insignia colors are as follows: a light blue circular background surrounded by a white border outlined in black; red-brown bull with a black mane, white horns tipped with red and the nostrils emitting clouds of white steam; white

teeth and a red eye; and a dark blue scroll outlined in black with lettering in white.

Nickname: Bulls, 1968-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

Jul–Nov 1967: Squadron personnel were trained by VA-174 in the operation of the A-7A Corsair II.

Sep 1970: Fighting erupted between Palestinian forces and the Jordanian Army as a result of the Palestinian hijacking of several civilian airliners to Jordan. *Saratoga* (CVA 60) with its embarked air wing, including VA-37, was directed to operate in the eastern Mediterranean in response to this crisis. The conflict intensified when Syria invaded Jordan and VA-37 remained on station until the latter part of September when the Jordanian Army had successfully repulsed the Syrians and the crisis had abated.

29 Sep 1970: VA-37 participated in an air power demonstration for President Nixon during his two day visit to *Saratoga* while she steamed in the Med.

Jun–Oct 1971: VA-37 participated in the test and evaluation of the new CV concept during the *Saratoga's* deployment to the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The CV concept involved combining the capabilities of the attack and antisubmarine carriers (CVA and CVS) into a single ship.

1 Aug 1972: While on a combat mission near the island of Hon Nieu, off the coast of North Vietnam, a squadron's A-7A Corsair II was used to establish a sonobuoy field in an anchorage area. This was the first time an A-7 had ever been used to drop sonobuoys.

Jun 1982: *John F. Kennedy*, with VA-37 embarked, took station off the coast of Lebanon after Israel invaded that country.

Jun 1984: The primary mission of the squadron was changed to close air support in preparation for its deployment to MCAS Iwakuni as part of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program. VA-37's deployment was scheduled as a replacement for a Marine Corps A-4M squadron. Two Navy A-7 squadrons had been selected for the program because the A-7 Corsair II was very similar in size and make-up to a Marine Corps A-4 Skyhawk squadron. The deployment of the two Navy attack squadrons was designed to test the interoperational abilities of the Marine Corps and Navy.

Dec 1984: VA-37 deployed to MCAS Iwakuni and relieved VA-105. VA-105 was the first Navy squadron to participate in the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and it was also the first time a Navy squadron came under the operational control of the Marine Corps since World War II.

Mar 1985: While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, the squadron was detached to Yechon, Korea, to participate in exercise Team Spirit 85. This was the first time a Navy carrier-based squadron had deployed in field conditions since World War II.



*A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, 1989.*

**Home Port Assignments**

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 Jul 1967

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James A. Burnett	01 Jul 1967
CDR J. R. Tappan	08 Nov 1968
CDR K. E. Moranville	Sep 1969
CDR C. B. Hawkins, Jr.	03 Jul 1970
CDR Thomas F. Brown III	28 May 1971
CDR Jerome F. Watson	07 Jan 1972
CDR Clarence E. Armstrong	22 Feb 1973
CDR James W. Keathley	21 Mar 1974
CDR George K. Coyne, Jr.	10 Jul 1975
CDR Richard W. Hamon	15 Oct 1976
CDR Robert J. Spane	12 Jan 1978

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR A. Coward IV	18 Apr 1979
CDR W. B. Christie	03 Jul 1980
CDR Leroy A. Farr	21 Oct 1981
CDR Robert L. Ramsay III	01 Feb 1983
CDR Brian L. Lehman	12 Jul 1984
CDR Jeffrey Harrison	05 Dec 1985
CDR James R. O'Hora	02 Jul 1987
CDR L. Scott Jacobsen	14 Dec 1988
CDR Carroll L. White	22 Jun 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	Aug 1967
A-7E	23 Apr 1973
F/A-18A	13 Dec 1990

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
30 Dec 1968	04 Sep 1969	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Jun 1970	09 Nov 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	Med
07 Jun 1971	28 Oct 1971	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	NorLant/Med
11 Apr 1972	13 Feb 1973	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7A	SoLant/IO/West Pac/Vietnam
27 Sep 1974	19 Mar 1975	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
06 Jan 1976	28 Jul 1976	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
11 Jul 1977	23 Dec 1977	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
03 Oct 1978	05 Apr 1979	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
10 Mar 1980	27 Aug 1980	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
04 Jan 1982	14 Jul 1982	CVW-3	CV 67	A-7E	Med/IO
01 Mar 1983	29 Oct 1983	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	World Cruise
01 Dec 1984	14 Jun 1985	MAG-12	MCAS Iwakuni	A-7E	Japan/WestPac
02 Jun 1986	10 Nov 1986	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med
28 Aug 1987	09 Oct 1987	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	NorLant
25 Apr 1988	07 Oct 1988	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO/NorLant
04 Nov 1989	12 Apr 1990	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Jul 1967
CVW-11	NH	Oct 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep 1969
CVW-3	AC	Jan 1970
CVW-15	NL	01 Oct 1982

**Air Wing Assignments—Continued**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING ONE		Oct 1983
MAG-12, 1st MAW*		01 Dec 1984
CVW-6	AE	Aug 1985
COMLATWING ONE		01 Oct 1990

\* VA-37 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW during its shorebased deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
MUC	17 Sep 1970	18 Oct 1970
	04 May 1971	17 May 1972
	09 Jan 1973	03 May 1977
	01 Oct 1979	15 Nov 1980
	01 Jan 1989	01 Apr 1990
NUC	15 Jan 1969	27 Aug 1969
	18 May 1972	08 Jan 1973
VNSM	27 Jan 1969	01 Mar 1969
	12 Mar 1969	05 Apr 1969
	17 Apr 1969	10 May 1969

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	28 Jun 1969	15 Jul 1969
	27 Jul 1969	16 Aug 1969
	06 May 1972	07 May 1972
	17 May 1972	22 Jun 1972
	30 Jun 1972	16 Jul 1972
	27 Jul 1972	23 Aug 1972
	02 Sep 1972	19 Sep 1972
	29 Sep 1972	21 Oct 1972
	25 Oct 1972	26 Oct 1972
	03 Nov 1972	08 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	31 Dec 1972



*Two squadron F/A-18C Hornets in flight over snow-covered mountains; note the bull on the tail of each aircraft, 1992.*



## VFA-81

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTY SIX (VA-66) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VF-81) on 1 July 1955, the same day it was established as VA-66.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VA-81) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VFA-81) on 4 February 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-66, VA-81 and VFA-81 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 16 December 1955. Colors for the insignia were: a light blue background with an outer ring of alternating red and yellow sections, outlined in black; white cloud with black markings; black cougar with white markings and red eyes, mouth and claws; gray knight with black markings; red scarf; red and yellow helmet plume, shield and lance outlined in black; red scroll outlined in black, with yellow lettering.



The squadron's first insignia, the Crusaders, was approved in 1955.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 November 1963. Color for this insignia were: a black background outlined in international orange; international orange mach wave design; orange scroll with black lettering.

A modification to the squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 30 March 1988. Colors for this insignia are: a dark blue background outlined in



The squadron's second insignia was a stylized mach wave design, approved in 1963.



When the squadron was redesignated VFA a modification to its second insignia was approved for use in 1988.

orange; orange scrolls with black lettering; silver stars and stylized aircraft; gold aircraft contrails and an orange mach wave design.

Nickname: Crusaders, 1955–1963.

Sunliners, 1963–present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Nov–Dec 1956:** *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), with VF-81 embarked, was ordered to deploy and operate off the coast of Spain as a result of the Suez Canal crisis.

**Apr–May 1957:** VF-81, while deployed to the Mediterranean aboard *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39), operated off the coast of Lebanon during a crisis in Jordan.

**Oct 1961–Feb 1962:** VA-81 Det 45 deployed to the North Atlantic embarked in *Essex* (CVS 9). The detachment was part of CVSG-56, and with its A4D Skyhawks employing Sidewinder missiles, provided air cover for antisubmarine units embarked in *Essex*. The detachment was the first jet unit to function as part of an antisubmarine killer force.

**Sep 1969:** *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67), with VA-81 embarked, were ordered to operate off the coast of Libya following a coup that overthrew the Libyan monarchy on 1 September 1969.

**2–5 Dec 1972:** The squadron's A-7E Corsair II aircraft conducted cross-deck operations with the British carrier HMS *Ark Royal*.

**Jul–Aug 1974:** The squadron operated from *Forrestal* (CVA 59) in the vicinity of Cyprus following a coup in that country and its invasion by Turkish forces. Surveillance and cover missions were flown by the squadron during the crisis.

**May–Jun 1981:** Embarked in *Forrestal*, VA-81 operated in the eastern Mediterranean following Israeli reprisal raids against Syrian missile batteries located in southern Lebanon.

**Aug 1981:** The squadron participated a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) shot down two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. Tensions escalated and VA-81 flew reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

**24 Mar 1986:** Following a Libyan SA-5 missile firing against U.S. naval aircraft operating in the Gulf of Sidra during a Freedom of Navigation exercise, VA-81 aircraft participated in a retaliatory strike against the missile site at Surt, Libya. Squadron aircraft acted as the decoy group for VA-83's HARM strike against the Libyan missile radar site.

**Aug–Dec 1990:** The squadron participated in Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



*A squadron F9F-8B in flight, 1957 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).*

### **Home Port Assignment**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Oceana	01 Jul 1955
NAS Cecil Field	01 May 1966

### **Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Merle M. Hershey	01 Jul 1955
LCDR Robert Godman	30 Jul 1957
LCDR J. M. Scarborough	15 Aug 1958
CDR Lawrence Heyworth, Jr.	17 Oct 1958
CDR William P. Kiser	04 Nov 1959
CDR Richard E. Rumble	09 Nov 1960
CDR John N. Longfield	31 Oct 1961
CDR Robert B. Gohr	01 Dec 1962
CDR Grover K. Gregory	01 Oct 1963
CDR Nicholas A. Castruccio	06 Oct 1964
CDR Burton H. Sheperd	16 Oct 1965
CDR Edward A. Grunwald	20 Sep 1966
CDR Melville D. Cunningham	19 Sep 1967
CDR Lloyd M. Westphal	25 Sep 1968
CDR John J. Lahr	24 Jul 1969
CDR Richard J. Damico	12 Jun 1970
CDR Thomas C. Watson, Jr.	14 Apr 1971
CDR Jerry O. Tuttle	18 Feb 1972
CDR Kenneth A. Dickerson	18 Feb 1973
CDR Ralph E. Whitby	21 Feb 1974
CDR Robert V. Sallada	03 Mar 1975

### **Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard Birtwistle III	03 Jun 1976
CDR Jerry O. Yarborough	30 Jun 1977
CDR Philip H. Jacobs	14 Jul 1978
CDR James E. Killian	26 Jul 1979
CDR George J. Webb, Jr.	18 Dec 1980
CDR William C. Miller III	09 Mar 1982
CDR William E. Beaty III	Sep 1983
CDR Kenneth C. Cech	07 Mar 1985
CDR Jay M. Munninghoff	02 Jul 1986
CDR William N. Deaver, Jr.	04 Feb 1988
CDR Gerald L. Hoewing	11 May 1989
CDR Michael T. Anderson	29 Aug 1990

### **Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8	Aug 1955
F9F-8B	Apr 1956
A4D-2/A-4B*	04 Mar 1959
A-4E	03 Apr 1963
A-4C	Sep 1967
A-7E	May 1970
F/A-18C	30 Mar 1988

\* The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B in 1962.



*A squadron A-4C Skyhawk after completing a successful landing aboard John F. Kennedy (CVA 67) in 1969.*

### Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Jan 1957	27 Jul 1957	ATG-182	CVA 39	F9F-8/8B	Med
09 Jun 1958	08 Aug 1958	ATG-181	CVA 11	F9F-8	NorLant
28 Jan 1960	31 Aug 1960	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
09 Feb 1961	25 Aug 1961	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
03 Aug 1962	02 Mar 1963	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
10 Jul 1964	13 Mar 1965	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
24 Aug 1965	07 Apr 1966	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
29 Sep 1966	20 May 1967	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4E	Med
15 Nov 1967	04 Aug 1968	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Apr 1969	21 Dec 1969	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-4C	Med
05 Jan 1971	02 Jul 1971	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
22 Sep 1972	06 Jul 1973	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
11 Mar 1974	11 Sep 1974	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
05 Mar 1975	22 Sep 1975	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
04 Apr 1978	26 Oct 1978	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
27 Nov 1979	07 May 1980	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
02 Mar 1981	15 Sep 1981	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
08 Jun 1982	16 Nov 1982	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO
02 Apr 1984	20 Oct 1984	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
26 Aug 1985	16 Apr 1986	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med/IO
05 Jun 1987	17 Nov 1987	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
07 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-17	CV 60	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea



*A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs over NAS Cecil Field, Florida, in 1970.*

### **Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
ATG-182	O	01 Jul 1955
CVG-17	R	Nov 1956
ATG-182	O/AN*	Dec 1956
ATG-181	AM	15 Mar 1958
CVG-8/CVW-8†	AJ	08 Aug 1958
CVW-1	AB	25 Aug 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILLE		02 Mar 1970
COMLATWING 1		01 Jun 1970
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1970

\* The tail code was changed from O to AN in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-8 was redesignated CVW-8 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

### **Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jan 1973	30 Jun 1974
	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
NUC	10 Oct 1985	11 Oct 1985
	23 Mar 1986	29 Mar 1986
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
MUC	28 Feb 1979	07 May 1980
NEM	05 Sep 1982	10 Sep 1982
	13 Oct 1982	05 Nov 1982
	20 Jan 1986	29 Mar 1986
SASM	22 Aug 1990	21 Sep 1990
	23 Oct 1990	09 Dec 1990
	06 Jan 1991	11 Mar 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



*A squadron F/A-18C in flight, 1988.*