

VFA-151

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron TWENTY THREE (VF-23) on 6 August 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151) on 23 February 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VFA-151) on 1 June 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-151 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was the knight and shield design.



The squadron's second insignia, the skull and electron rings design, was approved by CNO in May 1955.



The squadron continued to use the skull and electron rings design following its redesignation to VFA.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 9 August 1949. Colors for the knight and shield insignia were: large white shield outlined in black; blue helmet outlined in black with red gems; fuchsia cloak; purple outer garment with a green band around the waist and over the shoulder, silver chain mail; brown boots and straps; blue small shield outlined in black, inside the shield was an outer circle of white and a center of green; red lightning bolt; gold sword outlined in black with red gems.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 26 May 1955. Colors for the skull insignia are: a black background outlined in yellow; white skull with black teeth and markings; red and black eyes; blue electron rings; gray sword with a red flame at the tip; white scroll with black lettering. The squadron continued to use this insignia following its redesignation to VF-151 and VFA-151.

Nickname: The Flashers, 1949–1959.

Vigilantes, 1959–present.

Chronology of Significant Events

15 Sep 1950: The squadron flew combat missions in support of the amphibious landings at Inchon, Korea.

Aug 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in joint operations with the U.S. Air Force, striking targets in Pyongyang and the surrounding area.

Mar 1954: The squadron was deployed to the western Pacific aboard *Essex* (CVA 9) when the carrier was ordered to operate off the coast of Vietnam during the Viet Minh's assault against the French at Dien Bien Phu.



A squadron F2H-3 Banshee prepares to launch from *Essex* (CVA 9), 1954 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Aug–Sep 1958: The squadron flew sorties in the Taiwan Straits after the Chinese Communists bombarded Quemoy Island.

Jan 1961: *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VF-151 embarked, operated in the South China Sea after Pathet Lao forces captured strategic positions in Laos.

Mar 1965: The squadron participated in Rolling Thunder operations, the systematic bombing of military targets in North Vietnam.

24 Oct 1967: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. R. Gillespie and his RIO Lieutenant (jg) R. C. Clark, were shot down by a surface-to-air missile while on a mission over North Vietnam. Commander Gillespie became a POW and was released on 14 March 1973, his RIO died in captivity.

Mar 1968: *Coral Sea*, with VF-151 embarked, operated on station off the coast of Korea following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) in January by North Korea.

May–Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies and to reduce North Vietnam's ability to continue the war effort in South Vietnam.

Apr–May 1975: Squadron aircraft participated in

Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon, South Vietnam, as the country fell to the communists.

Aug–Sep 1976: Embarked in *Midway* (CV 41), the squadron conducted flight operations near the Korean Peninsula following the murder of U.S. military personnel in the Korean DMZ by North Koreans.

Apr–May 1979: *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, deployed to the Gulf of Aden to relieve *Constellation* (CV 64) and maintain a U.S. carrier presence following the outbreak of fighting between North and South Yemen and the fall of the Shah of Iran.

Nov 1979–Feb 1980: Following the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Teheran and the taking of American hostages on 4 November, *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, proceeded to the Gulf of Oman and remained on station until relieved in early February 1980.

May–Jun 1980: *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea due to the civil unrest in South Korea and the massacre of several hundred people in the town of Kwangju.

Dec 1981: Following tensions in Korea, the squadron operated from *Midway* off the coast of Korea until the tensions subsided.

Apr–Nov 1986: VF-151 temporarily relocated to NAS Lemoore for transition training in the F/A-18 Hornet. The squadron's new Hornets were flown to Japan between 18–21 November. VF-151 was one of only two F-4 fighter squadrons to transition to the F/A-18 and be redesignated a strike fighter squadron.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-151 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990–Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions 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.



A squadron F4U-5 Corsair on the deck of *Wright* (CVL 49), November 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Oceana	06 Aug 1948
NAS Alameda	Aug 1950
NAS Moffett Field	11 Nov 1950
NAS Miramar	10 Jul 1961
NS Yokosuka (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	05 Oct 1973*

* VF-151, along with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CVA 41), were part of a program to permanently assign a carrier and air wing to an overseas home port. *Midway's* new home port was Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron would normally operate out of NAF Atsugi or Misawa when the carrier was in port NS Yokosuka. The assignment was effective 30 June 1973. However, the squadron did not arrive until 5 October 1973.



A squadron F-4B Phantom II is refueled by an A-6 Intruder while another squadron aircraft flies escort, June 1966.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Thomas J. Gallagher, Jr.	06 Aug 1948
LCDR C. E. Russell	Jul 1950
CDR R. C. Mueller	14 Mar 1951
LCDR Charles C. Aikins	01 Feb 1952
LCDR William J. Moran	Feb 1953
CDR William H. Neal III	Jul 1954
CDR Charles A. Knight	Aug 1956
CDR R. K. Awtrey	07 Oct 1958
CDR J. H. Stewart	21 Nov 1958
CDR M. S. Alexatos	05 Feb 1960
CDR Randell H. Prothro	23 Jun 1961
CDR Charles L. Brooks	21 Jul 1962
CDR E. P. Hermann	09 Jul 1963
CDR Joseph M. Schneiders	07 Jul 1964
CDR J. D. Ward	Jun 1965
CDR John J. Chambers	09 Apr 1966

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Charles R. Gillispie, Jr.	Mar 1967
CDR Bobbie D. Williard	24 Oct 1967
CDR Russell E. Davis	04 Nov 1968
CDR Fred B. Winton, Jr.	28 Nov 1969
CDR Glenn F. Keene	19 Nov 1970
CDR Charles G. Kother	17 Dec 1971
CDR John S. Disher	01 Dec 1972
CDR Denis T. Schwaad	30 Aug 1973
CDR Eugene D. Conner	06 Dec 1974
CDR James D. Curry	30 Apr 1976
CDR Jay H. Hall	01 Jul 1977
CDR Hugh D. Wisely	18 Oct 1978
CDR Gary M. Hughes	25 Sep 1979
CDR Richard S. Farrell	30 Dec 1980
CDR Charles C. Buchanan, Jr.	16 Apr 1982
CDR Charles L. Robinson	12 Oct 1983
CDR Russell M. Taylor II	30 Apr 1985
CDR Terrill S. Heath	09 May 1986
CDR Thomas A. Perkins III	22 Apr 1988
CDR James R. Goddard, Jr.	09 Sep 1989

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-5	06 Aug 1948
F6F-5P	06 Aug 1948
F4U-4	Apr 1949
F9F-2	04 Jan 1951
F2H-3	Mar 1953
F4D-1	Dec 1956
F3H-2	13 Jan 1959
F-4B	14 Jan 1964
F-4N	Mar 1973
F-4J	Aug 1977
F-4S	08 Dec 1980
F/A-18A	15 Jul 1986



A formation of squadron F9F-2 Panthers in flight during their combat deployment to Korea aboard Princeton (CV 37) between May to August 1951.



A squadron F-4S Phantom II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, dives dropping bombs, circa 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>
03 May 1949	26 Sep 1949	CVG-2	CVB 43	F4U-4	Med
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
12 May 1951	29 Aug 1951	CVG-19*	CV 37*	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
16 Jun 1952	06 Feb 1953	ATG-2	CVA 9	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
01 Dec 1953	12 Jul 1954	ATG-2	CVA 9	F2H-3	WestPac
19 Mar 1956	13 Sep 1956	ATG-4	CVA 10	F2H-3	WestPac
15 Feb 1958	02 Oct 1958	CVG-15	CVA 19	F4D-1	WestPac
01 Aug 1959	18 Jan 1960	CVG-15	CVA 19	F3H-2	WestPac
19 Sep 1960	27 May 1961	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
12 Dec 1961	17 Jul 1962	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
03 Apr 1963	25 Nov 1963	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
07 Dec 1964	01 Nov 1965	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Sep 1968	18 Apr 1969	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Apr 1971	06 Nov 1971	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam

Major Overseas Deployments—Continued

<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>
10 Apr 1972	03 Mar 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Sep 1973	05 Oct 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac†
16 Nov 1973	22 Dec 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
29 Jan 1974	06 Mar 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
18 Oct 1974	20 Dec 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
13 Jan 1975	18 Feb 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
31 Mar 1975	29 May 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
04 Oct 1975	19 Dec 1975	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac/IO
13 Mar 1976	26 Apr 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 May 1976	22 Jun 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
09 Jul 1976	04 Aug 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
01 Nov 1976	17 Dec 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
11 Jan 1977	01 Mar 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 Apr 1977	05 May 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
08 Aug 1977	02 Sep 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N/J	WestPac
27 Sep 1977	21 Dec 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
11 Apr 1978	23 May 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
09 Nov 1978	23 Dec 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
11 Jan 1979	20 Feb 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
07 Apr 1979	18 Jun 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1979	14 Sep 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
30 Sep 1979	20 Feb 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
14 Jul 1980	26 Nov 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
23 Feb 1981	05 Jun 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
26 Jun 1981	16 Jul 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
03 Sep 1981	06 Oct 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
26 Apr 1982	18 Jun 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
14 Sep 1982	11 Dec 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	NorPac/WestPac/IO
02 Jun 1983	13 Aug 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
25 Oct 1983	11 Dec 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
28 Dec 1983	23 May 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Oct 1984	12 Dec 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
01 Feb 1985	28 Mar 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
10 Jun 1985	14 Oct 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Nov 1985	12 Dec 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
17 Jan 1986	30 Mar 1986	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* Squadron personnel, except 20 pilots and 13 enlisted men who were flown to Japan, embarked USNS *General Weigel* (TAP 119) for transportation from the U.S. to *Princeton* (CV 37), operating in Korea. The squadron embarked *Princeton* on 30 May 1951 and, along with other squadrons, replaced the original Air Group 19 squadrons that had deployed to Korea with the carrier. The primary squadrons in CVG-19 when it deployed to Korea in November 1950 included VF-191, VF-192, VF-193 and VA-195. These squadrons were replaced in May 1951 by VF-23, VF-821, VF-871 and VA-55.

† VF-151, CVW-5 and *Midway* arrived at their new home port, Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan. With the squadron permanently forward deployed all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A squadron F3H-2 Demon at NAS Miramar, California (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).



Two squadron F4D-1 Skyraiders in flight during their deployment aboard Hancock (CVA 19) to WestPac in 1958.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVBG-1/CVG-2*	M	06 Aug 1948
COMFAIRALAMEDA		03 Dec 1950
CVG-19	B	25 May 1951
CVG-2	M	29 Aug 1951
ATG-2	†	23 May 1952
ATG-4	Z‡	30 Mar 1955
CVG-15/CVW-15§	NL	29 Oct 1957

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-16	AH	01 Sep 1970
CVW-5	NF	16 Feb 1971

* CVBG-1 was redesignated CVG-2 on 1 September 1948.

† ATG-2 was not assigned a tail code until July 1956.

‡ The tail code Z was assigned to ATG-4 on 24 July 1956.

§ CVG-15 was redesignated CVW-15 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet lands aboard Midway (CV 41), 1987.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1982	30 Jun 1983
	01 Jul 1983	31 Dec 1984
KPUC	15 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	30 May 1951	16 Aug 1951
AFEM	26 Jul 1952	25 Jan 1953
	26 Aug 1958	07 Sep 1958
	14 Sep 1959	17 Sep 1959
	25 Apr 1961	28 Apr 1961
	30 Apr 1961	01 May 1961
	04 May 1961	09 May 1961
	12 Jan 1962	19 Jan 1962
	24 Jan 1962	27 Jan 1962
	02 Feb 1965	05 Mar 1965
	16 Mar 1965	17 Apr 1965
	02 May 1965	28 May 1965
	23 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
17 Oct 1971	19 Oct 1971	
20 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975	
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NUC	07 Feb 1965	18 Oct 1965
	29 May 1966	24 Nov 1966
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	10 Oct 1968	31 Mar 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	01 Jan 1978	30 Jun 1979
MUC	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
	07 May 1971	28 Oct 1971
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	27 Jul 1982	01 May 1984
	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
PUC	30 Apr 1972	09 Feb 1973
NEM	15 Apr 1979	06 Jun 1979
	21 Nov 1979	07 Feb 1980
	19 Aug 1980	13 Nov 1980
	12 Mar 1981	19 May 1981
SASM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
RVNGC	12 Oct 1965	
	21 Jun 1966	22 Jun 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
	15 Oct 1968	
17 Oct 1968	18 Oct 1968	
	21 Oct 1968	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	25 Oct 1968	27 Oct 1968
	14 Nov 1968	16 Nov 1968
	23 Nov 1968	
	25 Nov 1968	
	28 Nov 1968	
	01 Dec 1968	02 Dec 1968
	04 Dec 1968	05 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968	
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969
	05 Jan 1969	
	07 Jan 1969	10 Jan 1969
	14 Jan 1969	19 Jan 1969
	22 Jan 1969	
	24 Jan 1969	
	26 Jan 1969	
	09 Feb 1969	20 Feb 1969
	22 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	24 Jul 1965
	11 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965
	21 Sep 1965	15 Oct 1965
	14 Jun 1966	13 Jul 1966
	27 Jul 1966	31 Aug 1966
	08 Sep 1966	01 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	09 Nov 1966
	26 Aug 1967	01 Oct 1967

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	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
	29 Dec 1968	30 Jan 1969
	08 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	30 Mar 1969
	26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
	22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
	17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
	19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
	28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
	17 May 1971	09 Jun 1971
	29 Jun 1971	20 Jul 1971
	31 Jul 1971	17 Aug 1971
	26 Sep 1971	11 Oct 1971
	01 May 1972	01 Jun 1972
	11 Jun 1972	07 Jul 1972
	16 Jul 1972	13 Aug 1972
	23 Aug 1972	10 Sep 1972
	19 Sep 1972	12 Oct 1972
	23 Oct 1972	23 Nov 1972
	03 Dec 1972	22 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1972	
	04 Jan 1973	24 Jan 1973
	03 Feb 1973	09 Feb 1973
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet flies over Mt. Fuji, Japan.

VFA-161

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (VF-161) on 1 September 1960.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (VFA-161) on 1 June 1986.

Disestablished on 1 April 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-161 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was approved for use by CNO in 1962.

was adopted at a later date, placing the design inside a red circular background with white scrolls outlined in red and red lettering on the scrolls.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 19 January 1982. Colors for the torii gate insignia were: a white background with a black and red torii gate; red lightning bolt outlined in white and black; black scrolls with red and white lettering.

Nickname: Chargers, 1960–1988.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 14 June 1962. Colors for the shield insignia were: a black shield with a white diagonal stripe; white trident and compass rose; and red stylized symbols on the diagonal stripe. A modification to the insignia



A new insignia design was adopted by the squadron in 1982; however, the squadron still maintained its old Chargers nickname.

Chronology of Significant Events

Nov 1963: Embarked on *Oriskany* (CVA 34), the squadron operated in the South China Sea during a crisis in South Vietnam and the coup that overthrew President Diem.

13 Jun 1966: Following a strike by CVW-15 aircraft against a railroad and highway bridge in North Vietnam, four Phantoms from VF-161 engaged six North Vietnamese MiG-17s that were pursuing the retiring strike aircraft. Lieutenant William M. McGuigan and his RIO, Lieutenant (jg) Robert M. Fowler, shot down one of the MiG-17s with a Sidewinder missile.

The other MiGs were driven off and all CVW-15 aircraft returned from the mission.

Mar 1968: *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VF-161 embarked, operated on station off the coast of Korea following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) in January by North Korea.

May–Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies and to reduce North Vietnam's ability to continue the war effort in South Vietnam.

18 May 1972: While flying MiG Combat Air Patrol near Kep Airfield in North Vietnam, two of the squadron's F-4B Phantoms engaged two MiG-19s. Lieutenant Henry A. Bartholomay and his RIO, Lieutenant Oran R. Brown, shot down the first MiG with a Sidewinder. A few seconds later, their wingman, Lieutenant Patrick E. Arwood and his RIO, Lieutenant James M. Bell, shot down the other MiG with a Sidewinder.

23 May 1972: Two of the squadron's aircraft, while flying MiG Combat Air Patrol for a strike in the Haiphong area, were vectored toward Kep Airfield and sighted 4 MiG-17s and 2 MiG-19s. VF-161's aircraft proceeded to engage the MiGs even though they were outnumbered 3 to 1. In the ensuing battle Lieutenant Commander Ronald E. McKeown and his RIO, Lieutenant John C. Enschede, shot down a MiG-17 and a MiG-19 with Sidewinders. The other 4 MiGs escaped and both of VF-161's aircraft returned to *Midway* (CVA 41). Both men were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions.

12 Jan 1973: Lieutenant Victor T. Kovaleski and his RIO, Lieutenant James A. Wise, shot down a MiG-17 over the Gulf of Tonkin. This was the last MiG aircraft to be shot down during the Vietnam Conflict.

Apr–May 1975: Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon, South Vietnam, as the country fell to the communists.

Aug–Sep 1976: Embarked in *Midway* (CV 41), the squadron conducted flight operations near the Korean Peninsula following the murder of U.S. military personnel in the Korean DMZ by North Koreans.

Apr–May 1979: *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, deployed to the Gulf of Aden to relieve *Constellation* (CV 64) and maintain a U.S. carrier presence following the outbreak of fighting between North and South Yemen and the fall of the Shah of Iran.

Nov 1979–Feb 1980: Following the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Teheran and the taking of American hostages on 4 November, *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, proceeded to the Gulf of Oman and remained on station until relieved in early February 1980.

May–Jun 1980: *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea due to the civil unrest

in South Korea and the massacre of several hundred people in the town of Kwangju.

Dec 1981: Due to tensions in Korea the squadron operated from *Midway* off the coast of Korea until the tensions subsided.

May-Oct 1986: The squadron relocated to NAS Lemoore for transition training in the F/A-18 Hornet and redesignation to a Strike Fighter Squadron. VF-161 was one of only two F-4 fighter squadrons to be assigned the VFA designation.

Oct 1986-Jun 1987: Following the transfer of the squadron from CVW-5, and awaiting transfer to a newly established air wing, the squadron was in an inactive status at NAS Lemoore.



A squadron F3H-2 (F-3) Demon is refueled by an A-4 Skyhawk.



The squadron's last F3H-2 (F-3) Demon is piped over the side during a ceremony at NAS Miramar, California, September 1964.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Sep 1960
NAS Miramar	19 Sep 1961
NS Yokosuka (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	05 Oct 1973*
NAS Lemoore	Oct 1986†

* VF-161, along with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CVA 41), were part of a program to permanently assign a carrier and air wing to an overseas home port. *Midway's* new home port was NS Yokosuka, Japan and the squadron would normally operate out of NAF Atsugi or Misawa when the carrier was in NS Yokosuka. The assignment was effective 30 June 1973. However, the squadron and carrier did not arrive until 5 Oct 1973.

† When the decision was made to remove VFA-161 from CVW-5 and not send it back to Japan following its transition training in the F/A-18, it is believed the squadron's home port was changed to NAS Lemoore at that time.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR W. C. Hartung	01 Sep 1960
CDR Albert R. Groves	28 Dec 1961
CDR Joseph F. Bolger	28 Dec 1962
CDR Walter T. Broughton II	12 Jul 1963
CDR Wayne J. Welty	10 Jul 1964
CDR L. N. Hoover	28 Sep 1965
CDR Richard J. Schulte	16 Dec 1966
CDR Roger E. Sheets	04 Feb 1968
CDR Sherman W. Turner	09 May 1969
CDR Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr.	17 Apr 1970
CDR John A. Dickson	26 Mar 1971

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Earl W. Connell	10 Mar 1972
CDR C. C. Hoffner	23 Mar 1973
CDR T. R. Swartz	08 Mar 1974
CDR J. W. Lovell	25 Jun 1975
CDR Thomas C. Koehler	23 Sep 1976
CDR John M. Nash	30 Dec 1977
CDR Andrew L. Burgess	27 Mar 1979
CDR Joseph L. K. Corcoran	05 Jun 1980
CDR Newell Tarrant	22 Oct 1981
CDR R. C. Williamson	22 Dec 1982
CDR John P. Patton	22 Jun 1984

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John F. Williams	03 Apr 1986
CDR A. R. Gorthy, Jr.	1987

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F3H-2/F-3B*	12 Oct 1960
F-4B	05 Aug 1964
F-4N	1973
F-4J	1977
F-4S	06 Feb 1981
F/A-18A	09 Jul 1986

* The F3H-2 designation was changed to F-3B in 1962.



A formation of squadron F-4B Phantom IIs, 1971.

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>
07 Jun 1962	17 Dec 1962	CVG-16	CVA 34	F3H-2	WestPac
01 Aug 1963	10 Mar 1964	CVW-16	CVA 34	F-3B	WestPac
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Sep 1968	18 Apr 1969	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Apr 1971	06 Nov 1971	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1972	03 Mar 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Sep 1973	05 Oct 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac*
16 Nov 1973	22 Dec 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
29 Jan 1974	06 Mar 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
18 Oct 1974	20 Dec 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
13 Jan 1975	18 Feb 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
31 Mar 1975	29 May 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
04 Oct 1975	19 Dec 1975	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac/IO
13 Mar 1976	26 Apr 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 May 1976	22 Jun 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
09 Jul 1976	04 Aug 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
01 Nov 1976	17 Dec 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
11 Jan 1977	01 Mar 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 Apr 1977	05 May 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
08 Aug 1977	02 Sep 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N/J	WestPac
27 Sep 1977	21 Dec 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
11 Apr 1978	23 May 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
09 Nov 1978	23 Dec 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
11 Jan 1979	20 Feb 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
07 Apr 1979	18 Jun 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1979	14 Sep 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
30 Sep 1979	20 Feb 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
14 Jul 1980	26 Nov 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
23 Feb 1981	05 Jun 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
26 Jun 1981	16 Jul 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
03 Sep 1981	06 Oct 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
26 Apr 1982	18 Jun 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
14 Sep 1982	11 Dec 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	NorPac/WestPac/IO
02 Jun 1983	13 Aug 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
25 Oct 1983	11 Dec 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
28 Dec 1983	23 May 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Oct 1984	12 Dec 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
01 Feb 1985	28 Mar 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
10 Jun 1985	14 Oct 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Nov 1985	12 Dec 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
17 Jan 1986	30 Mar 1986	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac

* VF-161, CVW-5 and *Midway* arrived at their new home port, NS Yokosuka, Japan. With the squadron permanently forward deployed, all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A squadron F-4S Phantom II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, comes in for a landing on Midway (CV 41), 1985.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-16/CVW-16*	AH	01 Sep 1960
RCVW-12†		Oct 1964
CVW-15	NL	15 Dec 1965
CVW-16	AH	01 Sep 1970
CVW-5	NF	16 Feb 1971
COMLATWINGPAC		Oct 1986
CVW-10	NM	15 Jun 1987

* CVG-16 was redesignated CVW-16 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The squadron was assigned to RCVW-12 during transitional training in the F-4 Phantom II.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	30 Apr 1972	09 Feb 1973
NAVE	01 Jul 1977	31 Dec 1978
	01 Jan 1979	30 Jun 1980
AFEM	05 Sep 1963	13 Sep 1963
	03 Nov 1963	08 Nov 1963

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
	17 Oct 1971	19 Oct 1971
	20 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NUC	29 May 1966	24 Nov 1966
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	10 Oct 1968	31 Mar 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	01 Jan 1978	30 Jun 1979
MUC	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
	07 May 1971	28 Oct 1971
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	27 Jul 1982	01 May 1984
NEM	15 Apr 1979	06 Jun 1979
	21 Nov 1979	07 Feb 1980
	19 Aug 1980	13 Nov 1980
	12 Mar 1981	19 May 1981
RVNGC	21 Jun 1966	22 Jun 1966
	23 Nov 1967	
	02 Dec 1967	

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	04 Dec 1967	
	20 Dec 1967	22 Dec 1967
	20 Jan 1968	
	23 Jan 1968	27 Jan 1968
	29 Jan 1968	19 Feb 1968
	15 Oct 1968	
	17 Oct 1968	18 Oct 1968
	21 Oct 1968	
	25 Oct 1968	27 Oct 1968
	14 Nov 1968	16 Nov 1968
	23 Nov 1968	
	25 Nov 1968	
	28 Nov 1968	
	01 Dec 1968	02 Dec 1968
	04 Dec 1968	05 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968	
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969
	14 Jan 1969	19 Jan 1969
	22 Jan 1969	
	24 Jan 1969	
	26 Jan 1969	
	09 Feb 1969	20 Feb 1969
	22 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972
VNSM	14 Jun 1966	13 Jul 1966
	27 Jul 1966	31 Aug 1966
	08 Sep 1966	01 Oct 1966

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	19 Oct 1966	09 Nov 1966
	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
	29 Dec 1968	30 Jan 1969
	08 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	30 Mar 1969
	26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
	22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
	17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
	19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
	28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
	17 May 1971	09 Jun 1971
	29 Jun 1971	20 Jul 1971
	31 Jul 1971	17 Aug 1971
	26 Sep 1971	11 Oct 1971
	01 May 1972	01 Jun 1972
	11 Jun 1972	07 Jul 1972
	16 Jul 1972	13 Aug 1972
	23 Aug 1972	10 Sep 1972
	19 Sep 1972	12 Oct 1972
	23 Oct 1972	23 Nov 1972
	03 Dec 1972	22 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1972	
	04 Jan 1973	24 Jan 1973
	03 Feb 1973	09 Feb 1973



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet prepares to launch from Enterprise (CVN 65), July 1987.

VFA-192

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VF-153) on 26 March 1945.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN A (VF-15A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151) on 15 July 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VF-192) on 15 February 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VA-192) on 15 March 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VFA-192) on 10 January 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-192 and VFA-192 designations.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 11 October 1945. Colors for the kangaroo insignia were: a white cloud with pale blue shading; reddish brown kangaroo with a white chest and belly, ears were lined in reddish tan with blue markings, white jowls with blue shading, black nose, blue eye with a black pupil, white teeth outlined in black, and a red mouth; crimson boxing gloves; red, orange and white rocket tips; blue rocket body



The fighting kangaroo design was the squadron's first insignia.

with pale tan markings, and royal blue tail fins; yellow bombs with a forest green tail; tan machine gun bullets with red tips and held together by a black belt; blue perspiration marks and black lettering.



The helmet and shield design with the Fighting Fifteen A designation in the scroll was the squadron's second insignia.



When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, this modified helmet and shield design was adopted by the squadron.



In 1950, the squadron adopted the dragon and carrier insignia following its redesignation from VF-151 to VF-192.

When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, the helmet and shield insignia was modified and the Latin inscription *In Omnia Paratus* was added to the scroll inside the design. The Latin phrase means ever ready or a state of readiness. The squadron's designation Fighting One Fifty One was added in a lower scroll. Colors for the design remained the same as the previous design.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 8 August 1950. Colors for the dragon and carrier insignia were: sky blue background and dark blue water with white markings; gray carrier outlined in black; silver dragon with a red tongue and tail.



In 1956, following another redesignation, the squadron adopted a newly designed dragon insignia.

low dragon with black markings, red tongue and white teeth, white eye with a black and red pupil; black and white nuclear symbol and a white cloud with black markings with a red rising center; blue scroll outlined in black with black lettering. This design was continued following the designation change to VFA.

Nicknames: Golden Dragons, 1956-present.

Following the squadron's redesignation to VF-15A, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 24 November 1947. Colors for the helmet and shield insignia were: a white background outlined in black; gold shield outlined in black with a black diagonal stripe; black helmet with gold markings; black and gold scroll with white lettering.

When the squadron was redesignated VA-192, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 June 1956. Colors for the new dragon design are: a blue background outlined in black; yellow



A scroll with the designation VA-192 was added to the dragon insignia. This design remained the same following the squadron's redesignation to VFA; and the only change was in the scroll.

Chronology of Significant Events

27 Jan–24 Feb 1949: Half of the squadron's personnel and aircraft deployed aboard *Boxer* (CV 21) for a Pacific Fleet Minor Cold Weather Exercise near Kodiak, Alaska.



A squadron F4U-4 prepares to launch from *Princeton* (CV 37), circa 1950 or 1951 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

5 Dec 1950: The squadron flew its first combat missions, providing close air support for U.S. Marines near Chosen Reservoir in North Korea.

1 May 1951: The squadron participated in a special strike against the Hwachon Reservoir Dam with VF-193 and VA-195. The purpose of the mission was to destroy the flood gates and raise the level of the river to form a natural barrier against the enemy's advance. While VA-195 was dropping torpedoes to destroy the flood gates of the dam, the squadron's F4U-4s were concentrating on flak and small arms suppression.

23–24 Jun 1952: The squadron, along with units from two other carrier air groups and the Fifth Air Force, conducted coordinated air strikes against North Korean hydroelectric plants. Squadron aircraft struck the Suiho hydroelectric plant on the Yalu River on 23 June. On 24 June their aircraft struck the Kyosen Number Three hydroelectric plant and the Fusen Number Two hydroelectric plant.

Jul 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in one of the major joint Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps air strikes of the war, hitting industrial targets in North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang during the month of July.

20 and 26 Apr 1967: On 20 April Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Estocin, a member of VA-192, lead a three-plane group on an antisurface-to-air missile mission over North Vietnam in advance of a coordinated strike by aircraft from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) and *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) against two important thermal power plants in Haiphong. After personally neutralizing three surface-to-air missile sites, his aircraft was damaged by an exploding missile. Without regard

for his personal safety he reentered the target area with his damaged aircraft, in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, to attack another missile site to ensure the target area's missile sites were neutralized prior to strikes from the carriers' incoming aircraft. Commander Estocin departed the target area with only five minutes of fuel left. He was refueled enroute to the *Ticonderoga* and landed his damaged plane on the carrier. Upon landing, his plane burst into flames. He was able to secure the engine and escape the aircraft without assistance. On 26 April Commander Estocin led a two-plane group on a similar mission in preparation for a coordinate strike against an oil facility in Haiphong. During this mission his aircraft was again damaged by an exploding surface-to-air missile. He continued his attack against the missile site, launching his missiles from a burning aircraft. Following the attack he attempted to guide his burning aircraft to the safety of the sea. The aircraft was last seen going out of control as it entered a cloud layer over North Vietnam. Commander Estocin was listed as MIA on 26 April 1967 and on 10 November 1977 his MIA status was changed to presumed KIA. For his actions Commander Estocin was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mar 1968: VA-192, along with other squadrons in CVW-19, conducted flight operations from *Ticonderoga* in the Sea of Japan. These operations, part of Operation Formation Star, were conducted as part of a continuing show of American forces in the area following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

Apr 1972: Following the invasion by North Vietnam into South Vietnam the squadron participated in tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in North Vietnam.

May 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in the mining of North Vietnamese harbors and Linebacker I operations, concentrated air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel.

23 Nov 1973: VA-192 deployed with CVW-11 embarked on *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as part of the first CV concept air wing deployment on the west coast. This concept employed all aspects of carrier aviation warfare into one air wing deployed on a single deck.

Jul–Aug 1983: *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-912 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Nicaragua in response to an unstable situation in Central America and the possible invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

Oct 1983–Jan 1984: *Ranger*, with VA-192 embarked, was extended on station in the Arabian Sea due to the Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

4–8 Jun 1985: The squadron flew its A-7E Corsair IIs via Hawaii and Wake Island for deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

Jun-Dec 1985: While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni as part of MAG-12 the squadron also conducted operations from NAF Kadena and NAS Cubi Point.

Nov 1986: The squadron flew its F/A-18 Hornets from NAS Lemoore, via Hawaii and Guam, to NAF Atsugi, Japan, for operations with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41).

Nov 1987-Feb 1988: The squadron participated in Earnest Will Operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul,

Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful Olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-192 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990-Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions 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.



A squadron F6F-5P Hellcat in flight, 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



A squadron F8F-1 Bearcat on the deck of Tarawa (CV 40), 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Atlantic City	26 Mar 1945
NAAS Oceana	01 Jun 1945
NAS Alameda	Aug 1946
NAS Moffett Field	16 Jul 1951
NAS Lemoore	01 Jan 1962
NS Yokosuka, Japan (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	01 Jul 1986*

* VFA-192 was assigned to CVW-5 on 1 July 1986 as part of a program that has a permanently assigned carrier and air wing at an overseas home port. The home port for CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41) was NS Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron did not arrive in Japan until November 1986.



A squadron F9F-5 on the elevator of Oriskany (CVA 34) during a WestPac cruise in 1953–1954.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Kenneth P. Hance	26 Mar 1945
LCDR Wilson G. Wright	26 Apr 1946
LCDR Richard E. Brown	22 Oct 1947

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Frank C. Perry	08 Mar 1949
LCDR K. S. Van Meter	26 Jun 1950
CDR Elwin A. Parker	27 Jul 1951
LCDR John H. Dinneen	28 Nov 1952
LCDR Giro N. V. Whited	Apr 1954
CDR Frank E. Foltz	Oct 1955
LCDR William R. Flanagan	30 Sep 1957
LCDR Larry F. Baumgaertel	19 Sep 1958
CDR William E. Payne, Jr.	01 Jul 1959
CDR Harold F. Snowden	May 1960
CDR Benjamin W. Adams	Mar 1961
LCDR Mitchell M. Simmons	15 Feb 1962
CDR Keith T. Weaver	21 Feb 1963
CDR William H. Rogers	10 Dec 1963
CDR Eugene E. Tissot	Dec 1964
CDR Allen E. Hill	Dec 1965
CDR Ed D. McKellar	15 Dec 1966
CDR Lowell F. Eggert	Dec 1967
CDR Joseph K. Stanley	13 Dec 1968
CDR Robert E. Woodbury	19 Oct 1969
CDR David C. Parkhurst	05 Aug 1970
CDR Richard L. Kiehl	30 Apr 1971
CDR Robert C. Taylor, Jr.	08 May 1972
CDR Darrel D. Owens	May 1973
CDR David N. Rogers	16 Jul 1974
CDR Gordon R. Goldenstein	06 Oct 1975
CDR Joseph D. Cole	21 Jan 1977
CDR John L. McWhinney	24 Apr 1978
CDR Thomas B. Latendresse	27 Jun 1980
CDR John J. Zerr	12 Sep 1981
CDR Harry T. Rittenour	28 Jun 1982
CDR Gilman E. Rud	15 Jun 1983
CDR C. D. Englehardt	17 Aug 1984
CDR Robert G. Ferver	10 Jan 1986
CDR John F. Williams	09 Apr 1987
CDR John A. Pettitt	13 May 1988
CDR Michael D. Shutt	06 Sep 1989
CDR James B. Godwin III	01 Mar 1991



Two squadron F9F-8 Cougars fly in formation with an aircraft from VFP-61 during their deployment aboard Yorktown (CVA 10) in 1957.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F-3	Mar 1945
F6F-5	Apr 1945
F8F-1	Nov 1947
F8F-2	Jul 1949
F4U-4	Jul 1950
F9F-2*	14 Jul 1951
F9F-2	03 Dec 1952
F9F-5	Jan 1953
F9F-6	Jan 1956
F9F-8B	Jun 1956
F9F-8	Jul 1956
FJ-4B	10 Dec 1957
A4D-2	Jul 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C†	01 Jun 1960
A-4E	Jun 1966
A-4F	Jul 1967
A-7E	26 Feb 1970
F/A-18A	05 May 1986

* On 9 October 1951 the squadron transferred all its F9F-2s to VF-191 and received F4U-4s in exchange.

† The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



Squadron FJ-4B Furys fly over Mt. Fuji, Japan, during their deployment to WestPac aboard Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31), 1958–1959.

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>
31 Mar 1947	08 Oct 1947	CVAG-15	CV 36	F6F-5	WestPac
11 Jan 1950	13 Jun 1950	CVG-19	CV 21	F8F-2	WestPac
09 Nov 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-19	CV 37*	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
21 Mar 1952	03 Nov 1952	CVG-19	CV 37	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
14 Sep 1953	22 Apr 1954	CVG-19	CVA 34	F9F-5	WestPac
02 Mar 1955	21 Sep 1955	CVG-19	CVA 34	F9F-5	WestPac
09 Mar 1957	25 Aug 1957	CVG-19	CVA 10	F9F-8/8B	WestPac
01 Nov 1958	18 Jun 1959	CVG-19	CVA 31	FJ-4B	WestPac
21 Nov 1959	14 May 1960	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2	WestPac
26 Apr 1961	13 Dec 1961	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2N	WestPac
12 Jul 1962	11 Feb 1963	CVG-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac
28 Jan 1964	21 Nov 1964	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/IO/Vietnam
21 Apr 1965	13 Jan 1966	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Oct 1966	29 May 1967	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
28 Dec 1967	17 Aug 1968	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Apr 1969	17 Nov 1969	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Nov 1970	17 Jul 1971	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Feb 1972	28 Nov 1972	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Nov 1973	09 Jul 1974	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 May 1975	15 Dec 1975	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
25 Oct 1977	22 Sep 1978	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
13 Mar 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med
14 Apr 1981	12 Nov 1981	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med/IO
15 Jul 1983	29 Feb 1984	CVW-9	CV 61	A-7E	Central America/ WestPac/IO
04 Jun 1985	14 Dec 1985	MAG-12	†	A-7E	WestPac
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41‡	F/A-18A	WestPac‡
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac

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 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron and CVG-19 were relieved aboard *Princeton* (CV 27) by Carrier Air Group 19X in the latter part of May 1951. Squadron officers were flown back to the States and the enlisted personnel were embarked on a transport ship for their return to NAS Alameda.

† The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, as part of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and was assigned to MAG-12.

‡ The squadron was permanently forward deployed and home ported in Japan. Consequently, all future deployments for the squadron while embarked on *Midway* (CV 41) will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A formation of squadron A-4F Skyhawks fly over San Francisco, California, 1968.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-153/CVAG-15/ CVG-15*	B/A†	26 Mar 1945
CVG-19/CVW-19§	B/NM‡	Nov 1949
COMFAIRLEMOORE§§		01 Dec 1969
CVW-11§§	NH	01 Dec 1969
CVW-15	NL	18 Jan 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		31 Aug 1982
CVW-9	NG	12 Nov 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		15 Sep 1984
MAG-12	NM**	04 Jun 1985
COMLATWINGPAC		14 Dec 1985
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1986

* CVG-153 was redesignated Attack CVAG-15 on 15 November 1946 and then became CVG-15 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code B was assigned to CVAG-15 on 12 December 1946 and changed to A on 4 August 1948.

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

§ CVG-19 was redesignated CVW-19 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

§§ The squadron was operationally assigned to CVW-11 and under the administrative command of Commander Fleet Air Lemoore. During the latter part of 1969 and early 1970 the squadron underwent transitional training with VA-122 in the A-7 Corsair II.

** While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni and assigned to MAG-12 the squadron used the NM tail code.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with a low-visibility paint scheme, 1982.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
NUC	05 Dec 1950	May 1951
	15 Apr 1952	18 Oct 1952
	28 Oct 1966	21 May 1967
	26 Jan 1968	23 Jul 1968
	07 Dec 1970	24 Jun 1971
	09 Mar 1972	04 Nov 1972
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
KPUC	05 Dec 1950	May 1951
KSM	01 Dec 1950	31 May 1951
	14 Apr 1952	24 Apr 1952
	30 Apr 1952	21 Oct 1952
AFEM	03 Apr 1960	04 Apr 1960
	26 Apr 1960	27 Apr 1960
	22 May 1961	27 May 1961
	05 Mar 1964	13 Mar 1964
	12 May 1964	14 May 1964
	05 Jun 1964	10 Jun 1964
	13 Jun 1964	17 Jun 1964
	31 Aug 1964	06 Nov 1964
	14 Nov 1964	21 Nov 1964
	26 May 1965	03 Jun 1965
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	17 Sep 1969	
	28 Sep 1969	04 Oct 1969
MUC	05 May 1969	03 Nov 1969
	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
NEM	09 May 1981	18 Oct 1981
RVNGC	19 Oct 1965	20 Oct 1965
	23 Oct 1965	28 Oct 1965
	22 Nov 1965	
	24 Nov 1965	
	06 Dec 1965	
	15 Nov 1966	16 Nov 1966
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	06 Dec 1966	
	15 Dec 1966	
	06 Jan 1967	
	09 Jan 1967	
	30 Jan 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	03 Mar 1967	04 Mar 1967
	06 Mar 1967	07 Mar 1967
	09 Mar 1967	
	30 Mar 1967	
	11 Apr 1967	
	15 Apr 1967	
	24 Apr 1967	
	26 Apr 1967	
	27 Jan 1968	
	31 Jan 1968	03 Feb 1968
	05 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	27 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1965	31 Dec 1966
	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	08 Apr 1968	
	26 Apr 1968	
	28 Apr 1968	01 May 1968
	08 May 1968	
	11 May 1968	
	31 May 1968	
	02 Jun 1968	
	17 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	18 Jul 1965	13 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	01 Oct 1965
	08 Oct 1965	29 Oct 1965
	13 Nov 1965	17 Dec 1965
	12 Nov 1966	18 Dec 1966
	03 Jan 1967	07 Feb 1967
	13 Feb 1967	16 Mar 1967
	28 Mar 1967	28 Apr 1967
	25 Jan 1968	04 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	08 Apr 1968
	16 Apr 1968	
	24 Apr 1968	12 May 1968
	20 May 1968	14 Jun 1968
	25 Jun 1968	23 Jul 1968
	05 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	01 Jul 1969
	12 Jul 1969	30 Jul 1969
	14 Aug 1969	12 Sep 1969
	08 Oct 1969	31 Oct 1969
	07 Dec 1970	30 Dec 1970
	12 Jan 1971	04 Feb 1971
	19 Feb 1971	01 Apr 1971

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 Apr 1971	26 Apr 1971
	03 May 1971	17 May 1971
	29 May 1971	23 Jun 1971
	08 Mar 1972	25 Mar 1972
	03 Apr 1972	22 Apr 1972
	01 Jun 1972	27 Jun 1972
	07 Jul 1972	04 Aug 1972
	14 Aug 1972	05 Sep 1972
	15 Sep 1972	02 Oct 1972
	12 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, loaded with weapons, 1990.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet over Midway (CV 41) in 1987.

VFA-195

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron NINETEEN (VT-19) on 15 August 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY A (VA-20A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE (VA-195) on 24 August 1948.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE (VFA-195) on 1 April 1985. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-195 and VFA-195 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 4 March 1944. Colors for the lion cub and torpedo



The lion cub was the squadron's first insignia.

whiskers; yellow scarf and line to the torpedo; dark brown bazooka.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 18 April 1949. Two versions of the tiger and parrot insignia exist and the records do not identify which one was the officially approved insignia. There are no color markings available for either insignia.

The squadron adopted the shield insignia at a later date. There are no records available to identify when



The squadron's second insignia was the tiger and parrot design. This is one of the designs on file; unfortunately, the insignia records do not identify which design was approved by CNO.



This is the other tiger and parrot design on file in the squadron's insignia records.



The squadron adopted the helmet and shield insignia sometime in the 1950s.



In 1985, the squadron adopted the stylized eagle insignia design.

this insignia was approved. It is believed the use of the shield insignia began sometime in the 1950s. There are no color markings available on this insignia.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 30 August 1985. Colors for the eagle insignia are: a green background outlined in a checker board pattern of green, black and gray squares; gray stylized eagle outlined in white, with a white head, a red eye, and a yellow beak and claws; black bomb and missiles outlined in white; silver scrolls outlined in black with black lettering.

Nicknames: Tigers, 1949-early 1950s.

Dambusters, early 1950s-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

18 Jul 1944: The squadron flew its first combat mission when it conducted preinvasion strikes against Guam.

Jul-Oct 1944: The squadron flew combat strikes against Guam, Palau, the Bonin and Volcano Islands, Mindanao, Visayans, Luzon, Okinawa and Formosa.

24 Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in strikes against the Central Japanese Task Force in the Sibuyan Sea, which included the super battleship *Musashi*. Three of the squadron's personnel, Lieutenants Joseph C. Black and Max E. Gregg and Lieutenant (jg) Edward H. Schulke, were awarded the Silver Star for their actions during this strike.

25 Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in the Battle Off Cape Engano, strikes against the Japanese Northern Force composed primarily of carriers. The following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions during this battle: Lieutenant Commander Frank C. Perry; Lieutenants Leonard R. Prater, Joseph C. Black, Max E. Gregg, Frederick Doll, Jr., James C. West, Leonard P. Mathias, Donald W. McMillan, Richard D. Greer, Jr., and Gordon B. Whelpley; Lieutenant (jg)s Frank A. Fox, Morris R. Goebel, James H. Langrall, Ray J. Stacy, Robert F. Durian, William R. Garrett, John S. McDonald, Edward H. Schulke, Edward



A close-up of squadron AD-4 Skyraiders, loaded with weapons, aboard *Princeton* (CV 37) during their combat deployment to Korea from 1950–1951.



The Hwachon Reservoir Dam under attack by squadron AD-4 Skyraiders, 1 May 1951.

C. Myers, Jr., Irvin Kramer, Jr. and James E. Sipprell; and Ensigns Mercer L. Jackson, Jr., Wallace F. Leeker, Frederick Schuler and Warner W. Tyler.

5 Nov 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in an attack on the *Nachi*, a Japanese heavy cruiser, which was making a sortie out of Manila Bay. The cruiser was sunk and Lieutenant (jg)s Robert F. Durian, James E. Sipprell and Ray J. Stacy were awarded a Gold Star in lieu of their second Navy Cross for their actions in this engagement. Lieutenant Joseph C. Hebert was awarded a Navy Cross for actions in this strike.

5 Dec 1950: The squadron flew its first combat mission since the end of World War II, flying close air support missions for U.S. Marines near Chosen Reservoir in North Korea.

1 May 1951: The squadron's AD-4 Skyraiders made a torpedo strike against the flood gates of the Hwachon Reservoir Dam. The purpose of the mission was to destroy the flood gates and raise the level of the river to form a natural barrier against the enemy's advance. It was from this mission that the squadron derived its nickname, Dambusters.

23 Jun 1952: The squadron, along with units from two other carrier air groups and the Fifth Air Force, conducted coordinated air strikes against the Suiho hydroelectric plant on the Yalu River and the Kyosen Number Three hydroelectric plant. Squadron aircraft participated in attacks against other hydroelectric plants the following day.

11 Jul 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in one of the major joint Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps air strikes of the war, hitting industrial targets in North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang.

Aug–Oct 1964: The squadron participated in special operations, flying escort and reconnaissance sorties in support of U.S. operations in Vietnam and Laos.

20 Apr 1967: Commander S. R. Chessman, the squadron's executive officer, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in planning and executing a successful strike against a Haiphong thermal power plant, accomplishing the mission without the loss of a single aircraft.

Mar 1968: VA-195, along with other squadrons in CVW-19, conducted flight operations from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) in the Sea of Japan. These operations, part of Operation Formation Star, were conducted as part of a continuing show of American forces in the area following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

6 Mar 1972: During night operations off *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) in Philippine waters, the squadron's commanding officer, Commander D. L. Hall, was lost when his aircraft crashed into the water astern of the carrier.

Apr 1972: Following the invasion by North Vietnam into South Vietnam the squadron participated in tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in North Vietnam.

9 May 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in the mining of North Vietnamese harbors.

10 May 1972: VA-195 participated in the beginning of Linebacker I operations, concentrated air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel.

23 Nov 1973: VA-195 deployed with CVW-11 embarked on *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as part of the first CV concept air wing deployment on the west coast. This concept consolidated all aspects of carrier aviation warfare into one air wing deployed on a single deck.

Jul–Aug 1983: *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-195 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Nicaragua in response to an unstable situation in

Central America and the possible invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

Oct 1983–Jan 1984: *Ranger*, with VA-195 embarked, was extended on station in the Arabian Sea due to the Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

Nov 1986: The squadron flew its F/A-18 Hornets from NAS Lemoore to NAF Atsugi, Japan, for operations with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41), home ported at NS Yokosuka, Japan.

Nov 1987–Feb 1988: The squadron participated in Earnest Will Operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful Olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-195 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990–Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions 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.



A squadron TBM-3E in flight, circa mid 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Los Alamitos	15 Aug 1943
NAS Kahului	29 Feb 1944*
NAS San Diego	14 Dec 1944
NAS Alameda	20 Jan 1945
NAAS Santa Rosa	05 Feb 1945
NAS Kahului	09 Aug 1945*
NAS Barbers Point	03 Nov 1945
NAS Alameda	19 Aug 1946
NAS Moffett Field	03 Nov 1952
NAS Lemoore	13 Dec 1961
NS Yokosuka, Japan (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	01 Jul 1986†

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

† VFA-195 was assigned to CVW-5 on 1 July 1986 as part of a program that has a permanently assigned carrier and air wing at an overseas home port. The home port for CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41) was NS Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron did not arrive in Japan until November 1986.



Three squadron AD-6 Skyraiders on the deck of Yorktown (CVA 10) preparing to launch, 1957.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Leonard R. Prater (acting)	15 Aug 1943
LCDR Karl E. Jung	18 Aug 1943
LCDR Albert P. Coffin	22 Sep 1943

LCDR David E. Dressendorfer	31 Dec 1943
LCDR Frank C. Perry	26 Sep 1944
LCDR James F. McRoberts	24 Nov 1945
LCDR Melvin H. Warner	11 Aug 1947
LCDR Harry C. White	07 Aug 1948
LCDR Harold G. Carlson	26 Jun 1950
CDR Neil A. MacKinnon	28 Sep 1951
CDR August W. Elliott, Jr.	01 Dec 1952
CDR Lewis R. Hardy, Jr.	16 Jul 1954
CDR William A. Rawls	30 Sep 1955
CDR R. J. Mead	06 Sep 1957
CDR Fletcher H. Burnham	18 Jul 1958
CDR Harry N. O'Connor	Jul 1959
CDR George W. Blease	01 Jun 1960
CDR Walter E. Scholz	17 Mar 1961
CDR Anson D. Geiger	27 Apr 1962
CDR Robert F. Doss	29 Mar 1963
CDR J. V. Smith	28 Apr 1964
CDR Bertrand O. Larsen	12 Apr 1965
CDR Charles E. Hathaway	01 Apr 1966
CDR Samuel R. Chessman	28 Apr 1967
CDR W. H. Greiwe	24 Jul 1968
CDR C. W. Jorgensen	Jun 1969
CDR D. D. Hicks, Jr.	06 Mar 1970
CDR Paul F. McCarthy, Jr.	09 Feb 1971
CDR Donald L. Hall	30 Dec 1971
CDR Mace C. Gilfry	07 Mar 1972
CDR Norman D. Campbell	16 Mar 1973
CDR Brian D. Woods	01 Jun 1974
LCDR James R. Lee	02 Jun 1975
CDR William E. Newman	27 Aug 1976
CDR Robert C. Kaup	07 Oct 1977
CDR William C. Bowes	06 Oct 1978
CDR James M. Hays	13 Dec 1979
CDR Alexander M. Phillips	24 Mar 1981
CDR David I. Pierce	09 Jun 1982
CDR Kirwin S. Webster	01 Dec 1983
CDR W. O. King, Jr.	08 May 1985
CDR Patrick D. Money maker	10 Oct 1986
CDR Thomas G. Otterbein	15 Apr 1988
CDR Gregory C. Wooldridge	09 Aug 1989
CDR Randolph R. Robb	17 Oct 1990



A formation of squadron A-4C Skyhawks during their combat deployment to Vietnam aboard Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31), 1965.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-1	1943*
TBM-1C	04 Nov 1943
TBM-3	Feb 1945
TBM-3E	Apr 1945
TBM-3Q	1946
AD-1	03 May 1947
AD-2	25 Aug 1948
AD-3	10 Jan 1949
AD-4	Jul 1950
AD-4L	Jun 1952
AD-4B	Jan 1953
AD-4NA	Feb 1953
AD-6	May 1954
A4D-2	01 Jul 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C†	May 1960
A-4E	Sep 1968
TA-4F	Oct 1968
A-7E	Feb 1970
F/A-18A	30 Sep 1985

* The squadron received its first TBM-1s sometime in either late August or early September 1943.

† The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



Three squadron A-7E Corsair IIs on the deck of Kitty Hawk (CVA 63) prepare to launch on a combat mission against Viet Cong positions, 1971.

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>
23 Jun 1944	23 Nov 1944	CVG-19	CV 16*	TBM-1C	Pacific
18 Mar 1946	19 Aug 1946	CVG-19	CV 36†	TBM-3E	WestPac
11 Jan 1950	13 Jun 1950	CVG-19	CV 21	AD-3	WestPac
09 Nov 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-19	CV 37‡	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
21 Mar 1952	03 Nov 1952	CVG-19	CV 37	AD-4/4L	WestPac/Korea
14 Sep 1953	22 Apr 1954	CVG-19	CVA 34	AD-4B/NA	WestPac
02 Mar 1955	21 Sep 1955	CVG-19	CVA 34	AD-6	WestPac
09 Mar 1957	25 Aug 1957	CVG-19	CVA 10	AD-6	WestPac
01 Nov 1958	18 Jun 1959	CVG-19	CVA 31	AD-6	WestPac
21 Nov 1959	14 May 1960	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2	WestPac
26 Apr 1961	13 Dec 1961	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2N	WestPac
12 Jul 1962	11 Feb 1963	CVG-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac
28 Jan 1964	21 Nov 1964	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/IO/Vietnam
21 Apr 1965	13 Jan 1966	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Oct 1966	29 May 1967	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
28 Dec 1967	17 Aug 1968	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Apr 1969	17 Nov 1969	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Nov 1970	17 Jul 1971	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Feb 1972	28 Nov 1972	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Nov 1973	09 Jul 1974	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 May 1975	15 Dec 1975	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
25 Oct 1977	15 May 1978	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
13 Mar 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med
14 Apr 1981	12 Nov 1981	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med/IO
15 Jul 1983	29 Feb 1984	CVW-9	CV 61	A-7E	Central America/ WestPac/IO
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41§	F/A-18A	WestPac§
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron departed Hawaii enroute to Eniwetok Atoll embarked on *Intrepid* (CV 11) and arrived there on 30 June 1944. On 9 July the squadron flew aboard *Lexington* (CV 16) in preparation for its combat deployment. The squadron's combat deployment ended on 23 November 1944 when they were transferred to *Enterprise* (CV 6) while at Ulithi Atoll. They arrived at Hawaii on 27 November and were transferred to *Long Island* (CVE 1) for the final leg of the return trip to the States, arriving at NAS San Diego on 14 December 1944.

† The squadron departed Hawaii enroute to Saipan embarked on *Hancock* (CV 19) and arrived there on 3 April 1946. On 20 April the squadron flew aboard *Antietam* (CV 36) for deployment to WestPac. During the squadron's deployment to WestPac it was temporarily shore based at Saipan on several occasions.

‡ The squadron and CVG-19 were relieved aboard *Princeton* (CV 37) by Carrier Air Group 19X. Squadron aircraft were transferred to VA-55. The officers were flown back to the States and the enlisted personnel were transferred to USAT *General Nelson M. Walker* for transportation back to NAS Alameda.

§ The squadron was permanently forward deployed and home ported in Japan. Consequently, all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in low-visibility paint scheme, circa 1982–1983.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-19/CVAG-19/ CVG-19/CVW-19*	A/B/NM†	15 Aug 1943
COMFAIRLEMOORE		01 Dec 1969
CVW-11	NH	1970
CVW-15	NL	18 Jan 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		01 Oct 1982
CVW-9	NG	12 Nov 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		15 Sep 1984

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1986

* CVG-19 was redesignated CVAG-19 on 15 November 1946. On 1 September 1948 CVAG-19 was redesignated CVG-19. CVG-19 was redesignated CVW-19 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The tail code A was assigned to CVAG-19 on 12 December 1946 and changed to B on 4 August 1948. The tail code B was changed to NM in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, 1986. The aircraft has the tail code NM but the squadron was not assigned to CVW-19 when it received its Hornets.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
PUC	18 Jul 1944	05 Aug 1944
	06 Sep 1944	06 Nov 1944
Campaign Medal		
(Asiatic Pacific)	18 Jul 1944	27 Aug 1944
	31 Aug 1944	14 Oct 1944
	10 Oct 1944	23 Nov 1944
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
NUC	05 Dec 1950	10 Aug 1951
	15 Apr 1952	18 Oct 1952
	28 Oct 1966	21 May 1967
	26 Jan 1968	23 Jul 1968
	07 Dec 1970	24 Jun 1971
	09 Mar 1972	04 Nov 1972
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
KPUC	05 Dec 1950	10 Aug 1951
KSM	01 Dec 1950	31 May 1951
	14 Apr 1952	24 Apr 1952
	30 Apr 1952	21 Oct 1952
AFEM	03 Apr 1960	04 Apr 1960
	26 Apr 1960	27 Apr 1960
	22 May 1961	27 May 1961
	05 Mar 1964	13 Mar 1964
	12 May 1964	14 May 1964
	05 Jun 1964	10 Jun 1964
	13 Jun 1964	17 Jun 1964
	31 Aug 1964	06 Nov 1964
	14 Nov 1964	21 Nov 1964
	26 May 1965	03 Jun 1965
	17 Mar 1968	21 Mar 1968
	17 Sep 1969	
	28 Sep 1969	04 Oct 1969
MUC	05 May 1969	03 Nov 1969
	01 Jan 1987	30 Jun 1988
	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
NEM	09 May 1981	18 Oct 1981
RVNGC	19 Oct 1965	20 Oct 1965
	23 Oct 1965	28 Oct 1965
	22 Nov 1965	
	24 Nov 1965	
	06 Dec 1965	
	15 Nov 1966	16 Nov 1966
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	06 Dec 1966	
	15 Dec 1966	
	06 Jan 1967	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 Jan 1967	
	30 Jan 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	03 Mar 1967	04 Mar 1967
	06 Mar 1967	07 Mar 1967
	09 Mar 1967	
	30 Mar 1967	
	11 Apr 1967	
	15 Apr 1967	
	24 Apr 1967	
	26 Apr 1967	
	27 Jan 1968	
	31 Jan 1968	03 Feb 1968
	05 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	27 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968
	08 Apr 1968	
	26 Apr 1968	
	28 Apr 1968	01 May 1968
	08 May 1968	
	11 May 1968	
	31 May 1968	
	02 Jun 1968	
	17 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	18 Jul 1965	13 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	01 Oct 1965
	08 Oct 1965	29 Oct 1965
	13 Nov 1965	17 Dec 1965
	12 Nov 1966	18 Dec 1966
	03 Jan 1967	07 Feb 1967
	13 Feb 1967	16 Mar 1967
	28 Mar 1967	28 Apr 1967
	25 Jan 1968	04 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	08 Apr 1968
	16 Apr 1968	
	24 Apr 1968	12 May 1968
	20 May 1968	14 Jun 1968
	25 Jun 1968	23 Jul 1968
	05 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	01 Jul 1969
	12 Jul 1969	30 Jul 1969
	14 Aug 1969	12 Sep 1969
	08 Oct 1969	31 Oct 1969
	07 Dec 1970	30 Dec 1970
	12 Jan 1971	04 Feb 1971
	19 Feb 1971	01 Apr 1971

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 Apr 1971	26 Apr 1971
	03 May 1971	17 May 1971
	29 May 1971	23 Jun 1971
	08 Mar 1972	25 Mar 1972
	03 Apr 1972	22 Apr 1972

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Jun 1972	27 Jun 1972
	07 Jul 1972	04 Aug 1972
	14 Aug 1972	05 Sep 1972
	15 Sep 1972	02 Oct 1972
	12 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet assigned to CVW-5 aboard Midway (CV 41).