

## VFA-113

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VF-113) on 15 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VA-113) in March 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VFA-113) on 25 March 1983. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-113 and VFA-113 designation.



*This beehive and hornet insignia was adopted by the squadron in 1949.*



*When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the insignia was modified by adding a scroll with the squadron designation; it was approved by CNO in 1983.*

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 15 April 1949. Colors for the insignia are: red beehive with white markings and outlined in yellow, with yellow lettering; black and yellow bumble bee with red legs and white wings with black markings.

CNO approved a modification to the insignia on 4 February 1985. The beehive insignia was placed inside a circle with a blue background outlined in yellow; the scroll is red, outlined in black and yellow, with yellow lettering; the other colors of the insignia remained the same.

Nickname: Stingers, 1949 to present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**5 Aug 1950:** The squadron flew its first combat mission, striking land and sea targets southeast of Kunsan, Korea, and Mokpo harbor.

**12-14 Sep 1950:** Squadron aircraft flew combat sorties in and around Inchon, Korea, in preparation for the landings at Wolmi Island.

**15 Sep 1950:** The squadron participated in offensive sorties during the landings at Inchon, striking targets on the roads between Inchon and Seoul.

**2 & 5 Nov 1950:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Pinwheel, the docking and departing of the

carrier from the pier using aircraft engine power to move the ship.

**9-10 & 12 Nov 1950:** During strikes by the squadron's F4U-4Bs on bridges crossing the Yalu River between Sinuiju and Antung, they were attacked by MiG-15s. No damage was inflicted on the squadron's aircraft and no apparent damage was done to the MiG-15s.

**22-23 Dec 1950:** Two squadron aircraft flew spotting missions for *Saint Paul* (CA 73) on 22 December and for *Missouri* (BB 63) on 23 December during shore bombardment against villages and troop concentrations near the front line.

**23 Jun 1952:** Squadron aircraft, along with planes from 3 other air groups and the 5th Air Force, participated in the first coordinated strikes against North Korean hydroelectric power plants. This was the first time that enemy power plants had been so heavily targeted. It also marked the first time that four carriers were on line off the coast of Korea since the fall of 1950.

**8-13 Feb 1955:** Squadron aircraft were on station and available for air support during the evacuation of personnel from the Tachen Islands due to the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

**Aug-Sep 1958:** The squadron was part of a task force that provided support to the Republic of China during the shelling of the Quemoy Island group by the Chinese Communists.

**11 Aug-1 Nov 1961:** The squadron was embarked in *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) for her transit, via Cape Horn, from Norfolk to her new home port at San Diego.

**Jun 1964:** Squadron aircraft participated in Yankee Team operations, including inflight refueling for RF-8A and RF-101 aircraft and search and rescue missions over South Vietnam and Laos.

**Nov 1964-Oct 1965:** The squadron provided a detachment of personnel and aircraft for use as fighter



*A squadron F4U-4 Corsair catching the wire aboard Philippine Sea (CV 47) during their 1951-1952 combat deployment to Korea.*

protection for the Antisubmarine Carrier Air Group embarked in *Bennington* (CVS 20).

**Dec 1965:** During the squadron's first line-period on Yankee Station, it participated in three major strikes against important North Vietnamese targets, including the Hai Phong Bridge, Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant and the Hai Duong Bridge.

**Jan–Feb 1968:** While embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) and enroute to Yankee Station, the carrier was ordered to the Sea of Japan for operations following the seizure of the *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans.

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

**Jul 1976:** Following the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the threatened military operations against Kenya by Uganda, the *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-113 embarked, was ordered to transit from the South China Sea to the western Indian Ocean and operate off the coast of Kenya.

**15 Oct 1980–22 Mar 1981:** Under the Swing Wing Concept to reduce the deck multiple on *Ranger*, VA-113 was off loaded at NAS Cubi Point and operated as a CVW-2 Detachment from the air station. While temporarily shore based the squadron participated in numerous joint and interservice exercises.

**Mar–Oct 1983:** The squadron underwent transition training with VFA-125, becoming the first Navy fleet operational squadron assigned the F/A-18 Hornet.

**Feb–Aug 1985:** VFA-113, along with VFA-25, made the first deployment with the new F/A-18 Hornet. The squadrons deployed aboard *Constellation* (CV 64) and operated in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

**Jul 1987:** Squadron aircraft, along with other units of CVW-14, conducted surveillance in the strategic Strait of Hormuz and provided air cover for the first five Earnest Will operations, the escort of reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf.

**2 Aug 1990:** *Independence* (CV 62), with VFA-113 embarked, was ordered to the Gulf of Oman following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

**Aug 1990:** The squadron's F/A-18s flew mixed combat air patrol missions with F-14s in the Persian Gulf up to 28 degrees north latitude 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.

**3–4 Oct 1990:** VFA-113 conducted flight operations from *Independence* while she operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time a carrier had operated in the Persian Gulf since 1974.



*Squadron F9F-5 Panthers over Kearsarge (CVA 33) during their 1953–1954 deployment to Korea and WestPac.*

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS San Diego	15 Jul 1948
NAS Miramar	15 Sep 1952
NAS Lemoore	12 Dec 1961

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Robert S. Merritt	15 Jul 1948
LCDR Roy M. Voris	09 Jun 1949
LCDR John T. O'Neill	20 Jan 1950
CDR Harold P. Ady, Jr.	30 Jun 1951
LCDR John R. Strane	24 Oct 1951
LCDR J. H. Tripp	29 Sep 1952
CDR Charles C. Sanders	Aug 1954
CDR Harold W. Davis	Apr 1955
CDR Richard L. Cormier	Dec 1956
CDR H. S. Matthews, Jr.	26 Nov 1958
CDR Robert E. Gallatin	16 Oct 1959
CDR L. A. Tomkins	17 Feb 1961
CDR G. A. White, Jr.	30 Mar 1962
CDR H. A. Borgerding	01 Mar 1963
CDR G. G. Zimmerman	21 Feb 1964
CDR Henry M. Dibble	02 Apr 1965
CDR J. Abbott (acting)	11 Apr 1966
CDR J. A. Burnett (acting)	04 May 1966
CDR R. E. Bennett	30 May 1966
CDR R. J. Thomas	16 Jul 1967
CDR E. J. Jacobs	23 Jul 1968
CDR J. E. Newton	03 Sep 1969
CDR J. Brent Streit	17 Jul 1970
CDR Weston H. Byng	26 Mar 1971
CDR Richard L. Grant	28 Apr 1972

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

**Aircraft Assignment**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
CDR D. Bruce Cargill	16 Apr 1973	F8F-1	15 Jul 1948
CDR Judson H. Springer	10 Dec 1973	F8F-2	28 Mar 1949
CDR M. D. Munsinger	28 Mar 1975	F4U-4B	09 Mar 1950
CDR H. D. Lesesne	17 May 1976	F9F-5	Oct 1952
CDR Michael J. Webber	26 Aug 1977	F9F-2	Feb 1954
CDR John P. Park	22 Nov 1978	F9F-8	May 1955
CDR T. D. Hill, Jr.	21 Feb 1980	F9F-8B	Apr 1956
CDR W. C. Trafton	10 Jun 1981	A4D-1	29 Apr 1957
CDR William W. Pickavance, Jr.	01 Aug 1982	A4D-2	08 Sep 1958
CDR C. A. Langbehn	29 Feb 1984	A4D-2N/A-4C*	29 Mar 1961
CDR Robert G. Sprigg	05 Sep 1985	A-4F	Oct 1967
CDR David V. Park	24 Jan 1987	A-7B	10 Dec 1968
CDR John V. Chenevey	28 Feb 1988	A-7E	Apr 1970
CDR Gary L. Koger	07 Jul 1989	F/A-18A	24 Aug 1983
CDR Danny L. Clarkson	24 Jan 1991	F/A-18C	09 Jun 1989

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



*A squadron A4D-1 (A-4) Skyhawk on Hancock's (CVA 19) flight deck, November 1957.*

*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>
05 Jul 1950	07 Apr 1951	CVG-11	CV 47/45*	F4U-4B	WestPac/Korea
31 Dec 1951	08 Aug 1952	CVG-11	CV 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
01 Jul 1953	18 Jan 1954	CVG-11	CVA 33	F9F-5	WestPac/Korea
07 Oct 1954	12 May 1955	CVG-11	CVA 33	F9F-2	WestPac
16 Jul 1956	26 Jan 1957	CVG-11	CVA 9	F9F-8B	WestPac
08 Mar 1958	21 Nov 1958	CVG-11	CVA 38	A4D-1	WestPac
09 Mar 1959	03 Oct 1959	CVG-11	CVA 38	A4D-2	WestPac
16 Jul 1960	18 Mar 1961	CVG-11	CVA 19	A4D-2	WestPac
13 Sep 1962	02 Apr 1963	CVG-11	CVA 63	A4D-2N	WestPac
17 Oct 1963	20 Jul 1964	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-4C	WestPac
19 Oct 1965	13 Jun 1966	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
19 Nov 1966	06 Jul 1967	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1968	18 Jul 1968	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Jul 1969	22 Jan 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7B	Med
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

\* CVG-11 deployed to Korea embarked in *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) and on 29 March 1951 transferred to *Valley Forge* (CV 45) and returned to the States embarked in *Valley Forge*.



*A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in 1971.*

### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVAG-11/CVG-11/-		
CVW-11*	V/NH†	15 Jul 1948
CVW-9	NG	1966
COMFAIRALAMEDA		Aug 1968
CVW-3	AC	1969
CVW-2	NE	01 Jun 1970
COMLATWING-		
PAC/VFA-125		1983
CVW-14	NK	Feb 1984

\* CVAG-11 was redesignated CVG-11 on 1 September 1948. CVG-11 was redesignated CVW-11 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The tail code was changed from V to NH 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 launching a Sparrow missile, 1984.*

### Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>		
NUC	04 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951	
	26 Dec 1965	14 May 1966	
	18 Dec 1966	20 Jun 1967	
	22 Feb 1968	26 Jun 1968	
	02 Aug 1990	01 Nov 1990	
KSM	01 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951	
	20 Jan 1952	12 Jul 1952	
KPUC	01 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951	
	20 Jan 1952	12 Jul 1952	
NAVE	01 Jul 1957	30 Jun 1958	
	01 Jul 1967	30 Jun 1968	
	01 Jan 1985	30 Jun 1986	
MUC	18 Nov 1970	10 Jun 1971	
	27 Mar 1983	27 Aug 1985	
	01 Jan 1984	24 Aug 1985	
	30 Aug 1958	01 Sep 1958	
AFEM	03 Sep 1958	27 Sep 1958	
	15 Oct 1958	16 Oct 1958	
	21 Oct 1958	29 Oct 1958	
	15 Nov 1962	16 Nov 1962	
	20 Dec 1962		
	19 May 1964	10 Jun 1964	
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968	
	05 Aug 1990	04 Nov 1990	
SASM	25 Nov 1965	23 Dec 1965	
	15 Jan 1966	04 Feb 1966	
	18 Feb 1966	14 Mar 1966	
	01 Apr 1966	29 Apr 1966	
	08 May 1966	23 May 1966	
	17 Dec 1966	17 Jan 1967	
	31 Jan 1967	03 Mar 1967	
	20 Mar 1967	18 Apr 1967	
	28 Apr 1967	28 May 1967	
	04 Jun 1967	21 Jun 1967	
	VNSM		

### Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
RVNGC	21 Feb 1968	17 Mar 1968
	26 Mar 1968	24 Apr 1968
	30 Apr 1968	21 May 1968
	30 May 1968	27 Jun 1968
	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
RVNGC	14 Jan 1973	30 Jan 1973
	01 Feb 1973	06 Feb 1973
	22 Dec 1966	
	04 Jan 1967	
	07 Jan 1967	09 Jan 1967
	12 Jan 1967	13 Jan 1967
	16 Jan 1967	
	20 Feb 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	23 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	01 Mar 1967	
	23 Mar 1967	
	27 Mar 1967	
14 Apr 1967	15 Apr 1967	
RVNGC	29 Apr 1967	
	10 Jun 1967	
	22 Feb 1968	24 Feb 1968
	26 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	05 Mar 1968	08 Mar 1968
	12 Mar 1968	
	14 Mar 1968	
	16 Mar 1968	
29 Mar 1968	30 Mar 1968	

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Apr 1968	05 Apr 1968
	07 Apr 1968	10 Apr 1968
	12 Apr 1968	
	14 Apr 1968	
	16 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968
	22 Apr 1968	23 Apr 1968
	02 May 1968	
	13 May 1968	
	01 Jun 1968	02 Jun 1968
	04 Jun 1968	

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	15 Jun 1968	
HSM	25 May 1976	01 Jun 1976
	20 Mar 1981	
NEM	30 Oct 1980	12 Mar 1981
	27 Jun 1987	23 Jul 1987
VA-113 Det Q		
AFEM	19 May 1965	20 May 1965
	25 May 1965	26 May 1965
VNSM	26 Jul 1965	17 Aug 1965
	27 Aug 1965	10 Sep 1965



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

## VFA-125

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (VFA-125) on 13 November 1980.

The Fighter Attack designation was changed to Strike Fighter on 25 March 1983. However, the VFA acronym remained the same. It is the first squadron to be assigned the VFA-125 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was approved in 1980 using the old design from VA-125.



A modification to the squadron's insignia was approved in 1991, adding two horizontal lines and changing the designation in the scroll.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 3 October 1980. The squadron adopted the insignia that had been used by VA-125. Colors for the torch insignia are: a black background outlined in gray; yellow scroll with black lettering and a gray outline; white torch with gray outlines; yellow flame outlined in gray followed by red, outlined in gray; gray electron rings.

CNO approved a modification to the squadron's insignia on 29 January 1991. The gray colors were changed to a light blue and a red and dark blue horizontal strip was added to the lower part of the insignia.

Nickname: Rough Raiders, 1980-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

13 Nov 1980: The squadron was established with a mission of training fighter and attack pilots to fly the F/A-18 Hornet. It was also tasked with training Navy and Marine Corps maintenance personnel. The commanding officer was a naval officer and the executive officer a Marine Corps officer.

Jun 1981: Squadron's officers, along with the F/A-18, participated in the Paris Air Show.

Aug 1982: The squadron achieved a "Ready for Training" status and VMFA-314 became the first

squadron to begin transition training in the F/A-18.

Sep 1982: The squadron's first carrier qualification detachment began operations aboard *Constellation* (CV 64).

Mar 1983: Training began for the first Navy squadron to transition to the F/A-18.



Squadron F/A-18 Hornets on the flight line at NAS Lemoore, California.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	13 Nov 1980

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR James W. Partington	13 Nov 1980
CDR Jerry D. Palmer	24 Jun 1982
CDR John A. Lockard	14 Oct 1983
CDR Dennis V. McGinn	14 Dec 1984
CDR W. W. Pickavance, Jr.	13 Mar 1986
CDR John C. Leslie, Jr.	15 Jun 1987
CDR Joseph W. Parker, Jr.	02 Sep 1988
CDR Alan R. Gorthy, Jr.	01 Dec 1989
CDR David C. Kendall	08 Mar 1991

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	19 Feb 1981
TF/A-18A	10 Mar 1981
A-7E	12 Mar 1981
O-2A	Apr 1986
F/A-18B	May 1986
F/A-18D	Jul 1988
F/A-18C	1988
T-34C	1990

***Air Wing Assignments***

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWINGPAC	NJ	13 Nov 1980

***Unit Awards Received***

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
MUC	13 Nov 1980      28 Mar 1983



*A formation of squadron F/A-18 Hornets, including the two-seat versions (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).*



## VFA-127

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (VA-127) on 15 June 1962.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (VFA-127) on 1 March 1987. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-127 and VFA-127 designations.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 4 February 1963. Colors for the bat and torch insignia were: white and black background outlined in red; black and white bat; white torch outlined in black with a yellow and red flame, also outlined in black; white scroll outlined in black with black lettering.



*The bat and torch design was the first insignia approved for use by the squadron.*

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 4 June 1975. Colors for the globe and serpent design were: a light blue background outlined in dark blue; blue and green globe with black latitude and longitude lines; yellow lightning bolts outlined in black and red; black and yellow serpent with red tongue and fangs; the open book was white with yellow and black markings; black and white aircraft carrier; black plane with dark blue contrail; red and black international date line; light blue scroll outlined in dark blue with black lettering.



*In June 1975, CNO approved the use of the globe and serpent insignia for the squadron. However, this design was used only for the remainder of 1975 and then the squadron requested approval to revert back to its first design, the bat and torch. This request was approved by CNO in December 1975.*

On 17 December 1975 CNO approved the squadron's request to return to its original bat and torch insignia.



*The next insignia approved and used by the squadron was the red star design.*



*In 1984, a modification was made to the red star insignia adding an upper scroll and wording that identified the mission of the squadron. When the squadron was redesignated VFA in 1987, the Attack Squadron 127 designation in the lower scroll changed to Strike Fighter Squadron 127.*

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 10 August 1980. Colors for the red star insignia were: a gray background outlined in black, red and black lines; a red star outlined in white and red; gray aircraft with a black canopy; yellow compass markings; gray scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

A modification to the red star insignia was approved by CNO on 25 October 1984. This

modification added an upper scroll with Pacific Fleet Adversary in black lettering.

Nickname: Royal Blues, 1960s–1980.  
Cylons, 1981–present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**24 Jul 1961–15 Jun 1962:** Prior to being established as VA-127, the unit operated as VA-126 Det Alfa with a mission to provide basic and refresher all-weather jet instrument and transition training for pilots on the west coast.

**15 Jun 1962:** The squadron's primary mission was to provide advanced all-weather jet instrument training for fleet replacement pilots and refresher training for light jet attack pilots. A secondary mission included jet transition and refresher training.

**1 Jun 1970:** The squadron's mission was modified when it was designated as the only A-4 Replacement Air Wing squadron in the Navy. The primary mission included fleet replacement pilot training, basic and refresher all weather jet instrument training and replacement enlisted training in both the TA-4 and A-4 model aircraft, plus the ancillary mission of providing jet transition training. The flight syllabus included weapons delivery (conventional and nuclear), airborne electronic countermeasures, field mirror landing practice, low level navigation, inflight aerial refueling, defensive tactics and carrier qualifications (day and night).

**Apr 1971:** The squadron expanded its training on the A-4 to include personnel from the Argentine Navy, previously only U.S. naval aviators had been trained by the squadron.

**1973:** The squadron continued its program of pro-

viding training on the A-4 to foreign pilots. Beginning in 1973 pilot training for the Singapore Air Defense Command was conducted by VA-127.

**Jul 1975:** The squadron's primary mission was changed. Fleet Replacement Pilot training and the Fleet Replacement Aviation Maintenance Program were discontinued. The squadron's new missions included basic refresher all weather jet instrument training, air combat maneuvering adversary training, foreign pilot training and jet transition/refresher training. In November 1975 CNO officially designated VA-127 with the mission of air combat maneuvering (ACM) adversary training.

**1 Oct 1983:** The squadron's instrument training mission was dropped and the primary mission became the Adversary Role (Dissimilar Air Combat Maneuvering).



*A squadron F9F-8T (TF-9J) Cougar at NAS Lemoore, California, July 1963 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

### *Home Port Assignments*

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Lemoore	15 Jun 1962
NAS Fallon	01 Oct 1987

### *Commanding Officers*

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Emory G. Tiffany	15 Jun 1962
CDR Simpson Evans, Jr.	19 Oct 1962
CDR William F. McCullough	13 Sep 1963
CDR J. R. Harper	25 Sep 1964
CDR W. S. Brown	17 Sep 1965
CDR J. C. Duck	02 Sep 1966
CDR Edward W. V. Webster	05 May 1967
CDR Timothy J. Perry	12 Jul 1968
CDR Loren M. Dierdorff	13 Jun 1969
CDR Lawrence A. Sharpe	05 Jun 1970
CDR George E. Sheldon, Jr.	14 May 1971
CDR Thomas W. Poore	12 May 1972
CDR Cecil Richard Tulley	31 May 1973
CDR Ronald M. Shields	Aug 1974
CDR Arvin R. Chauncey	10 Oct 1975
CDR Ronald L. Waters	21 Dec 1976
CDR Gary L. Beck	08 Mar 1978
CDR John A. McAuley, Jr.	03 Aug 1979
CDR Donald L. Dill	26 Nov 1980
CDR Wiley P. DeCarli	26 Feb 1982
CDR Paul J. Valovich	26 May 1983
CDR Michael J. Sullivan	30 Nov 1984
CDR David R. Olson	30 May 1986
CDR Ridgeway W. Corbin II	20 Nov 1987
CDR Alan R. Gorthy, Jr.	05 Dec 1988
CDR Gary A. Barrett	20 Oct 1989
CDR Vance L. Toalson	11 Jan 1991

*Two squadron TA-4F Skyhawks in flight, 1967.*



**Aircraft Assignment**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F9F-8T/TF-9J*	15 Jun 1962
TA-4F	03 Aug 1966
A-4F	Mar 1970
A-4E	Apr 1970
TA-4J	15 Apr 1971
T-38B	Sep 1987

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
QT-38A	Sep 1987
F-5E	Sep 1987
F-5F	Sep 1987
F/A-18A	Mar 1992

\* The F9F-8T designation was changed to TF-9J in 1962.



Three squadron TA-4J Skyhawks fly in formation with one of the squadron's A-4F Skyhawks, 1983.



A squadron F-5E Tiger II at NAS Fallon, Nevada, July 1989 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

### *Air Wing Assignments*

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
RCVG-12/RCVW-12*	NJ†	15 Jun 1962
COMFAIRLEMOORE/ COMLATWINGPAC/ COMSTRKFIGHT- WINGPAC‡		01 Jun 1970

\* Replacement Air Groups were redesignated Combat Readiness Air Groups on 1 April 1963. They were popularly known by the short titles RAG and CRAG in the respective periods, but the designation throughout was RCVG. On 20 December 1963, when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were changed to Carrier Air Wings (CVW) the RCVG designation was changed to RCVW.

† RCVW-12 was disestablished on 1 June 1970. However, VA-127, and the other squadrons assigned to RCVW-12, continued to use the NJ tail code.

‡ COMFAIRLEMOORE was redesignated COMLATWINGPAC on 30 June 1973 and in 1991 redesignated COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC.



*A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, 1992 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

## VFA-131

### Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE (VFA-131) on 3 October 1983.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-131 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 January 1984. Colors for the insignia are: a blue background outlined in white and blue; white stars and aircraft; red, white and blue contrail outlined in white; white wildcat head with black markings, black nose, red eye and mouth; blue scroll with white lettering.



The squadron's Wildcat insignia.

Nickname: Wildcats, 1984-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Mar 1986:** During Freedom of Navigation exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, the squadron's aircraft flew Combat Air Patrols in support of the exercise, including the period of 24 and 25 March following a Libyan firing of an SA-5 missile on 24 March against an American aircraft operating in international waters.

**14-15 Apr 1986:** Squadron aircraft, along with other units of CVW-13 and A-7s from CVW-1, provided air-to-surface Shrike and Harm missile strikes against Libyan surface-to-air missile sites at Banghazi. This was the first use of the F/A-18 in combat.

**15 Aug-8 Oct 1988:** Squadron was embarked in *Independence* (CV 62) during the carrier's transit, via Cape Horn, from Norfolk to its new home port at San Diego.

**Aug 1990:** Embarked in *Eisenhower* (CVN 69), the squadron's F/A-18s flew missions in the Red Sea 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. The *Eisenhower* task force was the first U.S. force in position to deter Iraqi incursion into Saudi Arabia.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	03 Oct 1983
NAS Cecil Field	15 Apr 1985*

\*This is the official transfer date, however, the squadron had aircraft and personnel onboard the air station in February 1985.

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR James O. Ellis, Jr.	03 Oct 1983
CDR Charles W. Moore, Jr.	02 Dec 1985
CDR Dean L. Steele	05 Jun 1987
CDR Jerry B. Singleton	01 Dec 1988
CDR Robert C. Rubel	20 Jun 1990
CDR R. E. Hoppock	18 Sep 1991

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	May 1984
F/A-18C	05 Nov 1990



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet on the deck of George Washington (CVN 73), September 1993.

**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 Oct 1985	19 May 1986	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWINGPAC		03 Oct 1983
CVW-13	AK	01 Mar 1984
CVW-17	AA	05 May 1988
CVW-7	AG	17 Oct 1988

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	20 Jan 1986	05 May 1986
NAVE	01 Jan 1986	31 Dec 1986
NUC	02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986
	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
MUC	08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990
AFEM	12 Apr 1986	17 Apr 1986
SASM	08 Aug 1990	24 Aug 1990



*A formation of squadron F/A-18A Hornets, 1986.*

## VFA-132

### Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO (VFA-132) on 3 January 1984.

Disestablished on 1 June 1992. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-132 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 2 May 1985. Colors for the privateer insignia were: a



The squadron's one and only insignia.

light blue background outlined in yellow; the privateer's coat was red with yellow trim; black boots; black hat with yellow trim; white trousers; the man's face and hands were white and his mustache and eye patch were black; white rockets and green bombs, both outlined in black; yellow contrails from the rockets and bombs; white cutlass

outlined in black with a yellow handle; dark blue scrolls with yellow lettering.

Nickname: Privateers, 1984–1992.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Mar 1986:** During Freedom of Navigation exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, the squadron's aircraft flew Combat Air Patrols in support of the exercise, including the period of 24 and 25 March following a 24 March Libyan firing of an SA-5 missile against an American aircraft operating in international waters.

**14–15 Apr 1986:** Squadron aircraft, along with other

units of CVW-13 and A-7s from CVW-1, provided air-to-surface Shrike and Harm missile strikes against Libyan surface-to-air missile sites at Benghazi. This was the first use of the F/A-18 in combat.

**Oct 1987–Apr 1988:** The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, and was assigned to Marine Air Group 15. While deployed to Japan, the squadron operated detachments at NAS Cubi Point, Tsuiki AB, Clark AB, Yechon AB, Misawa AB and Kadena AB.

**Aug–Sep 1989:** *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VFA-132 embarked, operated off the coast of Lebanon following the Israeli capture of Sheik Obeid and the reported killing of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, USMC. In early September the squadron provided air cover for the CH-53 helos used to evacuate personnel from the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

**Jun–Sep 1991:** CVW-6 squadrons participated in Operation Provide Comfort, flying missions over northern Iraq in support of the Kurdish relief effort.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	03 Jan 1984
NAS Cecil Field	Feb 1985

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Robert E. Lakari	10 Jan 1984
CDR John B. Nathman	22 Apr 1985
CDR Scott C. Ronnie	1986
CDR John T. Morris	01 Oct 1987
CDR Robert C. Stephens	05 May 1989
CDR J. L. Fleming	13 Sep 1990

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	21 Jun 1984



Two squadron F/A-18A Hornets preparing to launch from *Coral Sea* (CV 43), January 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>
02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
05 Oct 1987	28 Apr 1988	MAG-15	MCAS Iwakuni	F/A-18A	Japan/WestPac
31 May 1989	30 Sep 1989	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
30 May 1991	22 Dec 1991	CVW-6	CV 59	F/A-18A	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-13	AK	01 Mar 1984
MAG-15		Oct 1987
CVW-13	AK	May 1988
CVW-6	AE	01 Oct 1990

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	20 Jan 1986	05 May 1986
NUC	02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986
	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
MUC	30 Mar 1988	30 Sep 1989
AFEM	12 Apr 1986	17 Apr 1986
JMUA	Jun 1991	Sep 1991



*A close-up of a squadron F/A-18A in flight.*



## VFA-136

### Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX (VFA-136) on 1 July 1985.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-136 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The squadron's *Knighthawks* insignia.

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 23 May 1985. Colors for the Knighthawk insignia are: a light blue background outlined in dark blue; black shield outlined in red; blue-white hawk with black markings; yellow feet and beak; black eye; light blue scrolls outlined in dark blue with black lettering.

Nickname: Knighthawks, 1985-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Aug 1990:** Embarked in *Eisenhower* (CVN 69), the squadron's F/A-18s flew missions in the Red Sea 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. The *Eisenhower* task force was the first U.S. force in position to deter Iraqi incursions into Saudi Arabia.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	01 Jul 1985
NAS Cecil Field	28 Mar 1986

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR G. A. Gurick	01 Jul 1985
CDR M. D. Malone	24 Aug 1987
CDR John B. Sandknop	11 Mar 1989
CDR Jeffrey R. Nelson	20 Sep 1990
CDR D. R. Miller	14 Dec 1991

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	07 Jan 1986
F/A-18C	13 Nov 1990



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet about to be launched from *Eisenhower* (CVN 69).



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, circa 1986 or 1987.

**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>
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea
26 Sep 1991	02 Apr 1992	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18C	Med/IO/NorLant

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>	<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
CVW-13	AK	10 Jun 1986	MUC	08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990
CVW-7	AG	01 Oct 1988	SASM	08 Aug 1990	24 Aug 1990

**Unit Awards Received**

*A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight armed with a Sidewinder missile on its wing tip, February 1989.*

## VFA-137

### Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN (VFA-137) on 1 July 1985.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-137 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 1



The squadron's stylized hawk design was approved by CNO in April 1985.

April 1985. Colors for the stylized hawk design are: a black background outlined in orange; the upper part of the hawk design is white and the lower part is reddish-brown; gray beak outlined in black; yellow eye with a black pupil; grayish-blue contrails; orange stylized aircraft; black scrolls outlined in orange and the lettering is orange.

Nickname: Kestrels, 1985-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

Aug–Sep 1989: *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VFA-137 embarked, operated off the coast of Lebanon following the Israeli capture of Sheik Obeid and the reported killing of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, USMC. Squadron aircraft flew air support (Combat Air Patrols) during this crisis and the evacuation personnel from the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 Jul 1985

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Raymond E. Thomas	01 Jul 1985
CDR Barry J. Dysart	03 Sep 1987
CDR Philip G. Howard	02 Mar 1989
CDR Craig B. Henderson	04 May 1990

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	25 Nov 1985



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet about to trap on *Coral Sea* (CV 43), 1989.

**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>
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
31 May 1989	30 Sep 1989	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>	<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
CVW-13	AK	01 Jun 1986	NAVE	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
CVW-6	AE	01 Oct 1990	MUC	30 Mar 1988	30 Sep 1989

**Unit Awards Received**

*A squadron F/A-18A in flight, March 1991.*

## VFA-146

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX (VA-146) on 1 February 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX (VFA-146) on 21 July 1989. This is the first squadron in the Navy to be assigned the designation VA-146 and VFA-146.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The first insignia for VA-146 was approved by CNO on 23 November 1956. This design consisted of two concentric circles. The outer circle, in dark blue, symbolized the all encompassing mission of the attack community. The inner circle had a light blue background which was outlined in black and divided into four quadrants. Inside the inner circle was a yellow mach wave symbol and a yellow globe showing North and South America with a dark blue sea.



*The globe and mach wave symbol was part of the squadron's first insignia.*

Emanating from North America was a 300 degree arc in black. The mach wave and arc from North America symbolized the range and striking power of the squadron.

The first nickname the squadron reported to have used was Blacktails. This name was in reference to the black color assigned to the squadron's position in the air group. The nickname Blue Diamonds was adopted by the squadron sometime in the late 1950s. In 1968 the squadron elected to simplify their insignia and bring it in concert with their nickname. Their insignia was revised and approved by CNO on 29 August 1968. The new insignia kept the old design of two concentric circles with an outer circle of dark blue and the inner circle of light blue. Superimposed on the two circles was the yellow mach wave and four dark blue diamonds. Attached to the lower part of the insignia was a scroll



*The squadron's insignia was modified and approved for use by CNO in 1968. When the squadron was designated VFA, the designation in the scroll was changed from VA-146 to VFA-146.*

outlined in dark blue with a light blue background and lettering in yellow.

Nickname: Blacktails, 1956-late 1950s.

Blue Diamonds, late 1950s-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**17–21 Jan 1960:** VA-146 squadron aircraft participated in a coast to coast non-stop cross country flight.

**8 Jun–13 Jul 1964:** The Blue Diamonds participated in Yankee Team Operations. These operations involved photo reconnaissance missions over Laos. The squadron's A-4C Skyhawks were used to provide tanker and rocket-armed escort support for the photo reconnaissance sorties over Laos and South Vietnam. This type of support was also provided by the squadron during the period 15 August to 20 September 1964.

**4–5 Aug 1964:** Aircraft from VA-146 flew night sorties in support of Desoto Patrol operations conducted by American destroyers operating in international waters off the coast of North Vietnam. These sorties were the result of attacks conducted against *Maddox* (DD 731) by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats on 2 August 1964. The American destroyer had been conducting Desoto Patrol operations when this incident occurred. Desoto Patrol operations involved the collection of signal intelligence.

**5 Aug 1964:** VA-146 aircraft participated in Operation Pierce Arrow. This operation involved retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnamese torpedo boats and their bases and supporting facilities because of the attacks against the *Maddox* (DD 731) and *Turner Joy* (DD 951) on 4 August by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats. VA-146's A-4Cs flew 8 sorties against two installations. They experienced heavy antiaircraft ground fire but none of their aircraft were damaged. The sorties by VA-146 and the other



*A squadron F9F-8 Cougar trapping aboard Hornet (CVA 12), March 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

units of CVW-14 against Hon Gay and the torpedo boats operating near Hon Me Island resulted in the sinking or damaging of 8 torpedo boats.

**5 Aug 1964:** VA-146 was one of the first squadrons to employ the A-4C in combat.

**29 Jun 1966:** CDR Schaufelberger led a 28 plane strike of VA-146 and other CVW-14 aircraft against the Haiphong POL complex. This was the first American strike against this complex.

**30 Sep 1967:** CDR Robert F. Dunn was awarded a Silver Star for his actions on this date.

**16 Jun 1969:** While operating on Yankee Station aboard *Enterprise*, the carrier was ordered north to the Sea of Japan in response to an international incident involving the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 by the North Korean Air Force.

**Apr 1970:** The squadron flew across the country to board an east coast based carrier, *America* (CVA 66), for an extended combat deployment to Vietnam.

**May 1970:** CDR Stephens, along with other pilots from VA-147, flew the newest update version of the A-7 Corsair II, the A-7E, into combat for the first time.

**Dec 1971:** During their second line period on Yankee Station, VA-146 became the first Navy squadron to use the laser-guided bomb (LGB) during combat in Southeast Asia.

**May 1972:** The squadron's A-7Es conducted the first night mining missions for the Corsair II E models when they flew combat mining sorties on North Vietnamese rivers.

**Feb-Apr 1973:** VA-146 acted as a deterrent force during Operation Endsweep, the sweeping of mines from North Vietnamese waters.

**Nov 1974:** VA-146, as part of the CVW-9 team aboard *Constellation*, operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time in 26 years that an American carrier had entered and operated in the Persian Gulf.



A squadron FJ-4B Fury on the elevator of *Ranger* (CVA 61) during her cruise to the Med in 1959.

**7 Mar 1979:** *Constellation* and her air wing were ordered to make a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean from the Philippines in response to the conflict between North and South Yemen.

**Feb-Oct 1980:** VA-146 made the first western Pacific deployment with the new Forward Looking Infrared Radar System (FLIR) installed on the A-7E Corsair II.

**1983:** The Blue Diamonds were tasked with fleet introduction of the HARM system. This new missile succeeds Shrike and ARM as the primary antiradiation, defense-suppression air-to-surface missile.

**Sep 1988:** *Nimitz* (CVN 68), with VA-146 embarked, operated in the Sea of Japan in support of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Miramar	01 Feb 1956
NAS Lemoore	15 May 1962

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR E. V. Davidson	01 Feb 1956
CDR J. R. Kincaid	30 Aug 1957
LCDR W. W. Alldredge	29 Aug 1958
CDR G. S. Hodgson	12 Aug 1959
LCDR J. R. Faulk	28 Dec 1960
CDR R. G. Hanecak	12 Oct 1961
CDR J. D. Ingram	09 Mar 1963
CDR E. V. Crangle	28 Oct 1963
CDR W. H. Harris	20 Nov 1964
CDR H. B. Loheed	03 Dec 1965
CDR A. A. Schaufelberger	01 Feb 1966
CDR R. F. Dunn	25 Jan 1967
CDR P. E. Johnson	14 Nov 1967
CDR Ford J. E. Schultz	13 Feb 1968
CDR Jesse R. Emerson III	18 Feb 1969
CDR Wayne L. Stephens	19 Dec 1969
CDR Manual B. Sousa	29 Jan 1971
CDR John A. Miller	07 Dec 1971
CDR O. F. Baldwin	15 Dec 1972
CDR D. K. Tyler	28 Mar 1974
CDR L. A. Sanders	11 Jun 1975
CDR R. I. Howson	16 Sep 1976
CDR L. H. Price	14 Dec 1977
CDR J. A. Lair	04 Nov 1978
CDR L. J. Vernon	26 Feb 1980
CDR W. S. Orr	22 Apr 1981
CDR M. G. Shaw	09 Jul 1982
CDR P. C. Campbell	01 Dec 1983
CDR G. N. Crim, Jr.	14 Jun 1985
CDR R. E. Arnott	30 Sep 1986
CDR David C. Kendall	11 Mar 1988
CDR Phillip H. Mills	21 Jul 1989
CDR Steven E. Davis	02 Nov 1990



*A formation of squadron FJ-4B Furys, 1961.*

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8	Feb 1956
F9F-6	Feb 1956
F9F-5	Feb 1956
FJ-4B	04 Sep 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	06 Jun 1962

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7B	04 Jun 1968
A-7E	20 Sep 1969
F/A-18C	18 Nov 1989

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



*A squadron A-4C Skyhawk and a VA-144 Skyhawk on Constellation's (CVA 64) elevator during her combat deployment to Vietnam in 1964–1965.*

**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	25 Jul 1957	CVG-14	CVA 12	F9F-8/8B	WestPac
27 May 1958	20 Aug 1958	CVG-14	CVA 61	FJ-4B	SoLant
03 Jan 1959	27 Jul 1959	CVG-14	CVA 61	FJ-4B	WestPac
14 May 1960	15 Dec 1960	CVG-14	CVA 34	FJ-4B	WestPac
09 Nov 1961	12 May 1962	CVG-14	CVA 16	FJ-4B	WestPac
21 Feb 1963	10 Sep 1963	CVG-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac
05 May 1964	01 Feb 1965	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Dec 1965	25 Aug 1966	CVW-14	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Apr 1967	04 Dec 1967	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jan 1969	02 Jul 1969	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1970	21 Dec 1970	CVW-9	CVA 66	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Oct 1971	30 Jun 1972	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1973	11 Oct 1973	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
21 Jun 1974	22 Dec 1974	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Apr 1977	21 Nov 1977	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac
26 Sep 1978	17 May 1979	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
26 Feb 1980	15 Oct 1980	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
20 Oct 1981	23 May 1982	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
13 Jan 1984	01 Aug 1984	CVW-2	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
24 Jul 1985	21 Dec 1985	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
03 Jan 1987	29 Jun 1987	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	World Cruise
02 Sep 1988	27 Feb 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1989	09 Jul 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	NorPac

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-14/CVW-14†	A/NK*	01 Feb 1956
CVW-9	NG	Aug 1968
CVW-2	NE	12 Nov 1982
CVW-9	NG	15 Sep 1984

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

† CVG-14 was redesignated CVW-14 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight alongside an A-6 Intruder, 1984.*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	09 Oct 1960	12 Oct 1960
	20 Dec 1961	21 Dec 1961
	28 Feb 1962	06 Mar 1962
	06 Jun 1964	13 Jul 1964
	04 Aug 1964	21 Sep 1964
	29 Oct 1964	23 Nov 1964
	20 Apr 1969	11 May 1969
	24 Sep 1970	26 Sep 1970
MUC	02 Nov 1988	05 Dec 1988
	26 May 1970	08 Nov 1970
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	17 May 1979	31 May 1980
	21 Jan 1987	17 May 1987
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	26 Apr 1980	04 Aug 1980
NUC	12 Aug 1980	19 Aug 1980
	02 Aug 1964	05 Aug 1964
	10 Jan 1966	06 Aug 1966
PUC	18 May 1967	26 Nov 1967
	22 Oct 1971	13 Jun 1972
	24 Jan 1966	
RVNGC	26 Jan 1966	27 Jan 1966
	30 Jan 1966	



**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	04 Feb 1966	
	06 Feb 1966	
	24 Feb 1966	
	26 Feb 1966	28 Feb 1966
	04 Mar 1966	
	06 Mar 1966	12 Mar 1966
	20 Mar 1966	
	27 Apr 1966	28 Apr 1966
	01 May 1967	01 Nov 1967
	31 Mar 1969	03 Apr 1969
	05 Apr 1969	
	31 May 1969	16 Jun 1969
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jun 1972
VNSM	15 Jan 1966	12 Feb 1966
	23 Feb 1966	22 Mar 1966
	12 Apr 1966	09 May 1966
	30 May 1966	30 Jun 1966
	13 Jul 1966	06 Aug 1966
	08 Jun 1967	11 Jun 1967
	18 Jun 1967	25 Jul 1967
	01 Aug 1967	03 Sep 1967

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	25 Sep 1967	15 Oct 1967
	24 Oct 1967	12 Nov 1967
	30 Mar 1969	18 Apr 1969
	22 May 1969	24 May 1969
	29 May 1969	17 Jun 1969
	17 May 1970	
	19 May 1970	
	24 May 1970	16 Jun 1970
	28 Jun 1970	13 Jul 1970
	20 Jul 1970	04 Aug 1970
	24 Aug 1970	18 Sep 1970
	13 Oct 1970	08 Nov 1970
	02 Nov 1971	22 Nov 1971
	29 Nov 1971	31 Dec 1971
	09 Jan 1972	03 Feb 1972
	09 Feb 1972	02 Mar 1972
	13 Mar 1972	23 Mar 1972
	07 Apr 1972	18 May 1972
	24 May 1972	25 May 1972
	31 May 1972	13 Jun 1972
	25 Feb 1973	14 Mar 1973
	19 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet on the flight line at NAS Lemoore, California, December 1989.*

## VFA-147

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (VA-147) on 1 February 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (VFA-147) on 20 July 1989. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-147 and VFA-147 designations.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 30 June 1967. Colors for Argonaut insignia are: a yellow background outlined in black with an inner circle of yellow and white; gray mythical flying animal with black markings and outlined in black with a red and white eye; white Argonaut with a gray breast plate and helmet, a red skirt and helmet plumage, gray sword and the entire figure has black markings. At a later date, a lower scroll was added to the insignia. The scroll was red outlined in black with black lettering.

A modification to the insignia was approved by CNO on 22 December 1989. The color of the Argonaut's skirt, helmet plumage and scroll were changed to orange and the mythical flying animal was given a twin tail.

Nickname: Argonauts, 1967-present.



The squadron's Argonaut insignia was approved by CNO on 30 June 1967.



When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the only change to its insignia was the designation in the scroll and the addition of a twin tail on the mythical beast.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Dec 1967:** The squadron flew its first combat missions, striking targets in North Vietnam. This was the first introduction of the A-7 Corsair II in combat.

**Jan 1968:** The squadron flew support missions for the defenders during the siege at Khe Sanh, South Vietnam.

**Jan 1968:** *Ranger* (CVA 61), with VA-147 embarked, was operating on Yankee Station when it 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-147 operated in the area until relieved on 5 March.

**Apr 1969:** Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April, *Ranger*, with VA-147 embarked, left Yankee Station and proceeded to the Sea of Japan for operations off the coast of Korea.

**Apr 1972:** The squadron participated in Operation Freedom Train, tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in the southern part of North Vietnam. It also provided support for forces in South Vietnam following a massive invasion by North Vietnam on 1 April 1972.

**May 1972:** The squadron participated in the early phase of Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above 20 degrees north latitude.

**29 Jan 1973:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander T. R. Wilkinson, failed to return from a routine sortie off the coast of the Philippines.

**Mar-Jun 1973:** VA-147 provided aerial support during Operation End Sweep, the removal of mines in North Vietnamese waters.

**Nov 1974:** VA-147, part of the CVW-9 team embarked on *Constellation* (CVA 64), operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time in 26 years that an American carrier had entered and operated in the Persian Gulf.

**Mar 1979:** *Constellation*, with elements of VA-147 embarked, was ordered to make a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean from the Philippines in response to the conflict between North and South Yemen.

**Sep 1988:** *Nimitz* (CVN 68), with VA-147 embarked, operated in the Sea of Japan in support of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, circa 1975.

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Lemoore	01 Feb 1967

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James C. Hill	01 Feb 1967
CDR W. Scott Gray III	21 Jun 1968
CDR Donald J. Duhrkopf	27 Mar 1969
CDR R. N. Livingston	13 Mar 1970
CDR W. T. Majors	29 Jan 1971
CDR T. R. Wilkinson	04 Feb 1972
CDR W. C. Smith	29 Jan 1973
CDR D. D. Smith	08 Mar 1974
CDR Bobby C. Lee	23 May 1975
CDR Paul B. Austin	30 Aug 1976
CDR Gary L. Harter	15 Dec 1977

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Philip S. Gubbins	03 Nov 1978
CDR David J. L'Herault	29 Jan 1980
CDR Frank C. Bledsoe	18 May 1981
CDR Eric Vanderpoel II	05 Aug 1982
CDR Christopher G. Gates	06 Jan 1984
CDR James H. Oliver	21 Jun 1985
CDR J. R. Hutchison	01 Jul 1986
CDR Terry R. Nolan	04 Sep 1987
CDR Jeffrey A. Lehman	24 Mar 1989
CDR Craig F. Weideman	14 Sep 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	28 Jun 1967
A-7E	17 Sep 1969
F/A-18C	05 Dec 1989



*Two squadron F/A-18C Hornets firing air-to-ground rockets, 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>
04 Nov 1967	25 May 1968	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1968	17 May 1969	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1970	21 Dec 1970	CVW-9	CVA 66	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Oct 1971	30 Jun 1972	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1973	11 Oct 1973	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
21 Jun 1974	22 Dec 1974	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Apr 1977	21 Nov 1977	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac
26 Sep 1978	17 May 1979	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
26 Feb 1980	15 Oct 1980	CVW-9	CV 64*	A-7E	WestPac
20 Oct 1981	23 May 1982	CVW-9	CV 64*	A-7E	WestPac
13 Jan 1984	01 Aug 1984	CVW-2	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
24 Jul 1985	21 Dec 1985	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
03 Jan 1987	29 Jun 1987	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	World Cruise
02 Sep 1988	27 Feb 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1989	09 Jul 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	NorPac

\* The squadron remained ashore at NAS Cubi Point as CVW-9's Beach Detachment during most of *Constellation's* deployment to WestPac. This shore based period for VA-147 was part of the Swing Wing Concept.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
VA-122*		01 Feb 1967
CVW-2	NE	28 Jun 1967
CVW-9	NG	02 Jul 1969
CVW-2	NE	12 Nov 1982
CVW-9	NG	15 Sep 1984

\* The squadron was under the operational control of VA-122 during its period of training in the new A-7 Corsair II.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	03 Dec 1967	09 May 1968
	26 May 1970	08 Nov 1970
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	21 Jan 1987	17 May 1987
NUC	29 Nov 1968	10 May 1969
PUC	22 Oct 1971	13 Jun 1972
NAVE	01 Jan 1976	30 Jun 1977
AFEM	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968



*A formation of squadron F/A-18C Hornets fly over Kuwait City during Operation Southern Watch, 1993.*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	20 Mar 1969	22 Mar 1969
	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	24 Sep 1970	26 Sep 1970
	02 Nov 1988	05 Dec 1988
NEM	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	26 Apr 1980	04 Aug 1980
	12 Aug 1980	19 Aug 1980
RVNGC	02 Dec 1967	
	09 Jan 1968	
	15 Jan 1968	16 Jan 1968
	20 Jan 1968	24 Jan 1968
	26 Jan 1968	
	19 Mar 1968	25 Mar 1968
	29 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968
	08 Apr 1968	10 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	
	23 Apr 1968	24 Apr 1968
	29 Apr 1968	02 May 1968
	07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969
	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969
	04 Apr 1969	14 Apr 1969
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jun 1972
VNSM	03 Dec 1967	29 Dec 1967

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	06 Jan 1968	28 Jan 1968
	18 Mar 1968	12 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	09 May 1968
	07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969
	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969
	04 Apr 1969	17 Apr 1969
	17 May 1970	
	19 May 1970	
	24 May 1970	16 Jun 1970
	28 Jun 1970	13 Jul 1970
	20 Jul 1970	04 Aug 1970
	24 Aug 1970	18 Sep 1970
	13 Oct 1970	09 Nov 1970
	02 Nov 1971	22 Nov 1971
	29 Nov 1971	31 Dec 1971
	09 Jan 1972	03 Feb 1972
	09 Feb 1972	02 Mar 1972
	13 Mar 1972	23 Mar 1972
	07 Apr 1972	18 May 1972
	24 May 1972	25 May 1972
	31 May 1972	13 Jun 1972
	25 Feb 1973	14 Mar 1973
	19 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet being refueled by an Air Force KC-135H Stratotanker with a couple of F-14 Tomcats in the background, 1993.*