

## VFA-82

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VA-82) on 1 May 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VFA-82) on 13 July 1987. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-82 and VFA-82 designations.



*This is the only insignia the squadron has used since it was established in 1967. When it was redesignated VFA in 1987, the squadron changed the ATKRON 82 acronym in the scroll to STRKFITRON 82.*

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 8 November 1967. Colors for the insignia are: a white background outlined in blue; blue shield outlined in black; brown eagle with white and black markings; yellow trident outlined in black; and a blue scroll with white lettering.

Nickname: Marauders, 1967-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**31 May 1968:** The squadron participated in its first combat operations, flying sorties over North Vietnam.

**Jul-Oct 1972:** The squadron participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

**Dec 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, a more intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

**Jan 1980:** After the U.S. Embassy staff was taken hostage in Tehran, Iran, VA-82 departed Naples, Italy, embarked in *Nimitz* (CVN 68), enroute to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope. This was the beginning of 144 consecutive days at sea for the squadron.

**Oct 1981:** Following the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt, *Nimitz*, with VA-82 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Egypt.

**Jun 1985:** *Nimitz*, with VA-82 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon due to the hijacking of TWA flight 847 by Arab radicals. The carrier and squadron remained on station until the release of the hostages in the latter part of July.

**Sep 1989:** Squadron aircraft flew support missions during the evacuation of the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

**12 Feb-7 Apr 1990:** VFA-82 was embarked in *Constellation* (CV 64) during its transit from the west coast to the east coast via the Straits of Magellan.



*A squadron A-7A Corsair II preparing to launch from Coral Sea (CVA 43) while deployed to Vietnam in 1969.*

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 May 1967

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR J. A. Burnett	20 Jul 1967
CDR J. E. Jones	05 Sep 1967
CDR D. P. Thomas	08 Jan 1969
CDR E. M. Clemens	01 Dec 1969
CDR James M. Gleim	30 Oct 1970
CDR Thomas P. Scott	22 Oct 1971
CDR Donald M. Sumner	02 Sep 1972
CDR Jerry C. Breast	25 Oct 1973
CDR Peter R. Schoeffel	13 Aug 1974
CDR Douglas P. Dunbar, Jr.	04 Aug 1975
CDR Thomas A. Mercer	04 Nov 1976
CDR Donald B. Hunt	16 Nov 1977
CDR David M. Gist	Jan 1979
CDR Robert B. Newell, Jr.	12 Mar 1980
CDR Dan H. Ryder	01 May 1981
CDR David H. Finney	14 Jul 1982
CDR Dennis J. Carroll	23 Feb 1984
CDR Robert J. Sanderson	06 Jul 1985
CDR Gerald A. Pike	23 Feb 1987
CDR Richard A. Eason	02 Sep 1988
CDR James Ross	02 Feb 1990

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-7A	Jun 1967
A-7E	08 Sep 1970
A-7C	Apr 1972
A-7E	Nov 1974
F/A-18C	09 Nov 1987



*Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight, showing the low-visibility paint scheme, 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>
10 Apr 1968	16 Dec 1968	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-7A	WorldCruise/ Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jul 1971	16 Dec 1971	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7E	Med
05 Jun 1972	24 Mar 1973	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1974	03 Aug 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	Med
06 Sep 1974	12 Oct 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	NorLant
16 Jul 1975	24 Sep 1975	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/NorLant
07 Jul 1976	07 Feb 1977	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
01 Dec 1977	20 Jul 1978	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/NorLant
10 Sep 1979	26 May 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/IO
29 Aug 1980	17 Oct 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
03 Aug 1981	12 Feb 1982	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
10 Nov 1982	20 May 1983	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
08 Mar 1985	04 Oct 1985	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
15 Aug 1986	16 Oct 1986	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
30 Dec 1986	26 Jul 1987	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/ West Coast
08 Feb 1989	03 Apr 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Carib/NorLant
11 May 1989	10 Nov 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/IO
28 Dec 1990	18 Apr 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE*		01 Sep 1967
CVW-6	AE	01 Dec 1967
CVW-15	NL	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Jul 1970
CVW-8	AJ	Apr 1971
COMLATWING 1		01 Sep 1987
CVW-1	AB	1988

\* Between 1 May and 1 September 1967 the squadron was under the administrative control of VA-174 during its training in the A-7 Corsair II.

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	17 Aug 1968
	12 Sep 1968
	27 Sep 1968
	30 Oct 1968
	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
	02 Jul 1972
	04 Jul 1972
	11 Jul 1972
	24 Jul 1972
	10 Aug 1972
	28 Aug 1972
	06 Sep 1972
	07 Oct 1972
	11 Oct 1972
	12 Oct 1972
	20 Oct 1972
	01 Dec 1972
	09 Dec 1972
	27 Dec 1972
	09 Jan 1973
	02 Feb 1973
	12 Feb 1973
	16 Feb 1973
	21 Feb 1973
	25 Feb 1973
AFEM	10 Dec 1969
MUC	11 Dec 1969
	27 Oct 1969
	01 Jun 1970
	14 Jul 1972
	20 Feb 1973
NEM	14 Jan 1980
	14 May 1980
	05 Dec 1982
	31 Dec 1982
	21 Jan 1983
	13 Feb 1983
	18 Feb 1983
	24 Feb 1983
	19 Mar 1983
	21 Mar 1983
	18 Apr 1983
	22 Apr 1983
SASM	15 Jan 1991
KLM	03 Apr 1991
	17 Jan 1991
	28 Feb 1991

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
NAVE	01 Jul 1975
	30 Sep 1976
	01 Jan 1989
	31 Dec 1989
NUC	12 May 1968
	20 Nov 1968
	23 Jan 1980
	01 May 1980
	17 Jan 1991
	07 Feb 1991
RVNGC	30 May 1968
	02 Jun 1968
	29 Sep 1968
	10 Oct 1968
	12 Oct 1968
	17 Oct 1968
VNSM	29 May 1968
	28 Jun 1968
	06 Jul 1968
	03 Aug 1968



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, 1987.*

## VFA-83

### Lineage

Reserve Fighter Squadron NINE HUNDRED SIXTEEN (VF-916) called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VF-83) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VA-83) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VFA-83) on 3 March 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-83 and VFA-83 designations.



The squadron's first insignia, the bull with machine guns, was approved in 1950.

mouth and ring around the eye were pink.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 12 April 1957. Colors for the Rampager insignia are: a light blue background outlined in gold; blue scroll outlined in black with black lettering; white ram's head with black markings; red eyes; and white horns with yellow, green and black markings.



The squadron adopted the ram head insignia in 1957 and has used this design for the past four decades.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 16 May 1950. Colors for the insignia were: a yellow background; black bull with brown hair around the horns; white horns with light blue shading; the teeth, eye and smoke were white; the nose,

Nickname: The Roaring Bulls, 1950–1953.

Rampagers, 1957 to present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

12 Mar 1956: VA-83, equipped with F7U-3M Cutlass aircraft and Sparrow I missiles, departed Norfolk, Virginia, embarked in *Intrepid* (CVA 11), for deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the first overseas deployment of a naval missile squadron.

Dec 1957: The squadron was the first fleet squadron to receive the A4D-2 Skyhawk. This version of the

Skyhawk was the first to be equipped with an inflight refueling capability.

**Jul–Aug 1958:** Following continued civil violence in Lebanon, VA-83 operating from *Essex* (CVA 9) flew sorties during the U.S. Marine Corps landings in Lebanon to support the Lebanese government and protect American lives. During the squadron's more than 500 sorties, two of its aircraft were hit by hostile small arms fire during road reconnaissance missions, no casualties were sustained.

**Sep 1958:** On 23 August 1958 the People's Republic of China began shelling the Quemoy Islands held by the Republic of China. *Essex*, with VA-83 embarked, was ordered to transit the Suez Canal and augment the 7th Fleet forces in the Taiwan Straits. During September the squadron conducted flight operations while operating in the Taiwan Straits.

**Aug 1962:** A squadron A4D-2N Skyhawk cross-decked on the British carrier HMS *Hermes*.

**Sep 1969:** *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67), with VA-83 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Libya following a coup that overthrew the Libyan monarchy on 1 September 1969.

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

**May–Jun 1981:** Embarked in *Forrestal*, VA-83 operated in the eastern Mediterranean following Israeli reprisal raids against Syrian missile batteries located in southern Lebanon.

**Aug 1981:** The squadron participated in a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) shot down two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. Tensions escalated and VA-83 flew reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

**24 Mar 1986:** Following a Libyan SA-5 missile firing against U.S. naval aircraft operating in the Gulf of Sidra during a Freedom of Navigation exercise, VA-83 aircraft participated in a retaliatory strike against the missile site at Surt, Libya. Squadron aircraft fired HARMs against the Libyan missile radar site. This was the first use of the AGM-88 HARM missile in combat.

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

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Jacksonville	01 Feb 1951
NAAS Oceana/NAS Oceana*	Sep 1951
NAS Cecil Field	15 Jun 1966

\* NAAS Oceana was redesignated NAS Oceana on 1 April 1952.



*A squadron F7U-3M Cutlass preparing for a launch from Intrepid (CVA 11) in 1956.*

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR A. J. Fecke	Apr 1950
CDR W. R. Sisley	16 Dec 1952
CDR R. J. Swanson	Dec 1953
CDR H. E. Vita	28 Jan 1955
CDR James L. Holloway III	12 Sep 1956
CDR Albert H. Vito, Jr.	05 Dec 1958
CDR David S. Stear	15 Jan 1960
CDR James W. Nance	02 Dec 1960
CDR James Spargo	15 Dec 1961
CDR A. H. Cummings	10 Dec 1962
CDR R. G. Thomson, Jr.	20 Dec 1963
CDR F. B. Bromley	19 Dec 1964
CDR E. S. Carver	07 Dec 1965
CDR G. F. Brummitt	08 Dec 1966
CDR D. M. Trimble	Nov 1967
CDR F. J. Almberg	Sep 1968
CDR Theodore C. Casimes	02 Sep 1969
CDR William M. Shewchuk	04 Jan 1971
CDR D. B. Gilbert	12 Jan 1972
CDR J. E. Craig, Jr.	03 Jan 1973
CDR G. A. Appelhof	14 Feb 1974
CDR A. H. Henderson	15 May 1975
CDR John M. Waples	05 Aug 1976
CDR Robert J. Naughton	27 Nov 1977
CDR R. E. Wolf	28 Feb 1979
CDR Austin E. Chapman	29 May 1980

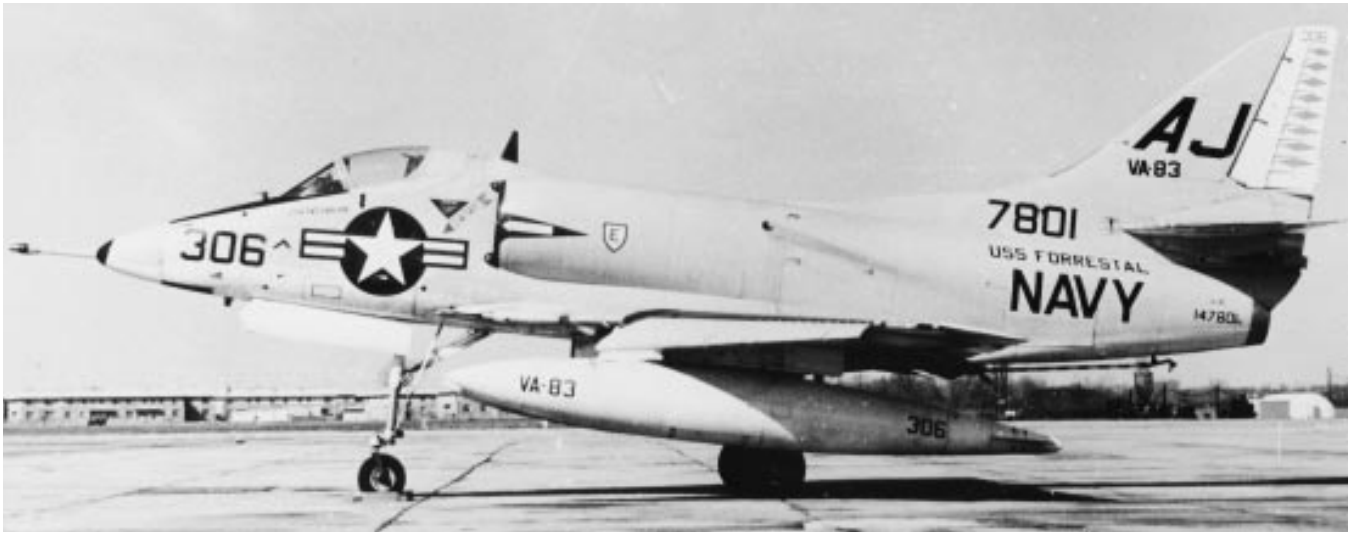
**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Douglas J. Bradt	21 Jan 1982
CDR W. E. Franson	28 Apr 1983
CDR S. F. Bloyer	10 Sep 1984
CDR R. J. Nibe	24 Apr 1986
CDR Terry A. Miller	28 Sep 1987
CDR Michael W. Longworth	03 Jun 1988
CDR Dennis M. Gillespie	30 Nov 1989

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Feb 1951
F9F-2	Dec 1951
F8F-2	May 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1952
F7U-3	Aug 1954
F7U-3M	Apr 1955
A4D-1	Mar 1957
A4D-2	15 Dec 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	14 Sep 1960
A-4E	May 1963
A-4C	Aug 1967
A-7E	19 Jun 1970
F/A-18C	25 Apr 1988

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



*A squadron A4D-2N (A-4C) Skyhawk, circa 1960–1962.*

### 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>
26 Apr 1953	21 Oct 1953	CVG-8	CVA 43	F9F-5	Med
12 Mar 1956	05 Sep 1956	CVG-8	CVA 11	F7U-3M	Med
02 Feb 1958	17 Nov 1958	ATG-201	CVA 9	A4D-2	Med/IO/WestPac
28 Jan 1960	31 Aug 1960	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
09 Feb 1961	25 Aug 1961	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2N	Med
03 Aug 1962	02 Mar 1963	CVG-8	CVA 59	A-4C	Med
10 Jul 1964	13 Mar 1965	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
24 Aug 1965	07 Apr 1966	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
29 Sep 1966	20 May 1967	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4E	Med
15 Nov 1967	04 Aug 1968	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Apr 1969	21 Dec 1969	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-4C	Med
05 Jan 1971	02 Jul 1971	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
22 Sep 1972	06 Jul 1973	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
11 Mar 1974	11 Sep 1974	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
05 Mar 1975	22 Sep 1975	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
04 Apr 1978	26 Oct 1978	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
27 Nov 1979	07 May 1980	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
02 Mar 1981	15 Sep 1981	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
08 Jun 1982	16 Nov 1982	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO
02 Apr 1984	20 Oct 1984	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
26 Aug 1985	16 Apr 1986	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med/IO
05 Jun 1987	17 Nov 1987	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
07 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-17	CV 60	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea

### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	Apr 1951
ATG-201	AP	15 Oct 1957
CVG-8/CVW-8*	AJ	18 Nov 1958
CVW-1	AB	25 Aug 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		02 Mar 1970

### Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING 1		01 Jun 1970
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1970

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



*A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight during their deployment to the Med aboard Forrestal (CV 59) in 1974.*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1960	30 Jun 1961
	01 Jul 1961	30 Jun 1962
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
AFEM	16 Jul 1958	01 Aug 1958
	11 Aug 1958	20 Aug 1958
	16 Sep 1958	27 Sep 1958
NEM	05 Sep 1982	10 Sep 1982
	13 Oct 1982	05 Nov 1982

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	20 Jan 1986	29 Mar 1986
	10 Oct 1985	11 Oct 1985
	23 Mar 1986	29 Mar 1986
SASM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
	22 Aug 1990	21 Sep 1990
	23 Oct 1990	09 Dec 1990
KLM	06 Jan 1991	11 Mar 1991
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet over the bombing range in Florida.*

## VFA-86

### Lineage

Reserve Fighter Squadron NINE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (VF-921) called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY FOUR (VF-84) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY SIX (VA-86) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY SIX (VFA-86) on 15 July 1987. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-86 designation and the first squadron to be assigned the VFA-86 designation.



*This was the first insignia approved for and used by the squadron.*

with black markings; and a white machine gun and missile with black markings.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 7 April 1954. Colors for the top hat and snake insignia are: a black background outlined in white and black; gold snake with black markings, white fangs, red eyes and tongue; black top hat with white markings; and a black cane outlined in white with gold markings at the top and bottom.

Nickname: Side-winders, 1955-present.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 6 August 1951. Colors for the insignia were: a blue background; red bird with black markings, yellow beak and feet outlined in black and a white eye; yellow aviator wings and anchor



*The top hat and snake became the squadron's second insignia in 1954 and has become a well-known design.*

### Chronology of Significant Events

**29 Jun–2 Jul 1953:** VF-84 was embarked in *Antietam* (CVA 36) and operated with the British Royal Navy, demonstrating flight operations from the carrier's new angled deck.

**7 Jan 1961:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. W. Shuff, was killed in an aircraft accident while the squadron was deployed to the Mediterranean.

**Apr 1961:** The squadron operated from *Independence* (CVA 62) in an area south of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Bay of Pigs, the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by American supported Cuban exiles.

**Nov 1962:** The squadron embarked in *Lexington* (CVS 16) during the Cuban Missile Crisis and operated off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, on call and available for operations in the Caribbean.

**Apr–May 1963:** The squadron provided detachments for operation aboard *Randolph* (CVS 15), *Essex* (CVS 9) and *Wasp* (CVS 18). The detachment's A-4C Skyhawks were equipped with Sidewinder missiles and used to provide the ASW carriers with an antiair warfare capability.

**1 Jul 1965:** The squadron conducted its first combat mission, flying against targets in South Vietnam.

**11 Oct 1967:** Squadron aircraft and pilots participated in naval gun spotting missions in support of *New Jersey's* (BB 62) shore bombardment role in Vietnam.

**Jul–Oct 1972:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

**Dec 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, a more intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

**Jan 1980:** After the U.S. Embassy staff was taken hostage in Tehran, Iran, VA-86 departed Naples, Italy, embarked in *Nimitz* (CVN 68), enroute to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope. This was the beginning of 144 consecutive days at sea for the squadron.

**Aug 1981:** Embarked in *Nimitz*, the squadron participated in a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* were fired upon by two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. The F-14's returned fire and shot down the two aircraft. Tensions escalated and VA-86 flew refueling and reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

**Oct 1981:** Following the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt, *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Egypt.

**Feb 1983:** Following hostile threats against Sudan by Libya, *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, operated off the coast bordering Libya and Egypt.

**Jun 1985:** *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon due to the hijacking of TWA flight 847 by Arab radicals. The carrier and squadron remained on station until the release of the hostages in the latter part of July.

**Jan–Feb 1987:** VA-86, embarked in *Nimitz*, operated off the coast of Lebanon after three U.S. citizens were taken hostage from the American University in Beirut.



*A squadron F4U-4 Corsair prepares to launch from Tarawa (CV 40), September 1951 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*



**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS St. Louis	*
NAS Jacksonville	28 Mar 1951
NAS Oceana	11 Jun 1952
NAS Cecil Field	15 Mar 1966

\* As a reserve squadron, it was assigned to NAS St. Louis prior to a recall to active duty in 1951.

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT L. H. Pulford	1947*
LCDR Harold L. Buell	Jul 1952
LCDR Herbert V. Ladley	Jul 1953
CDR Chester W. Gates, Jr.	May 1955
LCDR Grant Boice	Sep 1956
LCDR Jack H. Robcke (acting)	Sep 1957
CDR William A. Schroeder, Jr.	24 Sep 1957
CDR Rodney F. Schall	12 Mar 1959
CDR John W. Shuff, Jr.	29 Feb 1960
CDR Sam Rorex, Jr.	07 Jan 1961
CDR Richard J. McAndrew	12 Jan 1962
CDR F. B. Koch	21 Dec 1962
CDR Wilbur J. Burgin	06 Dec 1963
CDR William F. Sallada	11 Dec 1964
CDR William W. Bowers	15 Nov 1965
CDR C. R. Long	16 Nov 1966
CDR J. E. Russ	30 Nov 1967
CDR D. E. Gordon	10 Jan 1969
CDR Standley H. Block	21 Jan 1970
CDR Grant Augustine III	15 Jan 1971
CDR William D. Yonke	28 Jan 1972
CDR Benjamin F. Short	06 Dec 1972
CDR Duane O. Schumacher	14 Dec 1973
CDR Perry W. Gard III	07 Mar 1975
CDR Leighton W. Smith, Jr.	22 Apr 1976

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Herbert W. Taylor	02 Jun 1977
CDR Bernard J. Smith	02 Jun 1978
CDR Virgil F. Jackson, Jr.	19 Nov 1979
CDR John P. Gay	12 Feb 1981
CDR Charles S. Abbot	23 Jun 1982
CDR Ralph J. Castor	16 Jun 1983
CDR John L. Fitzpatrick	29 Jan 1985
CDR John M. Johnson	05 Jun 1986
CDR Howard A. Petrea	28 Jan 1988
CDR Ted J. Venable	1989
CDR Matthew G. Moffit	06 Nov 1990

\* Lieutenant Pulford was commanding officer of VF-921 during its reserve status and continued as its commanding officer when it was called to active duty.



*A squadron F9F-5 Panther on the deck of Antietam (CVA 36) during her cruise in 1953.*



*Squadron officers and their F7U-3M Cutlass in the background, November 1955. Bottom row, left to right: Lt. (jg) W. M. Austin, Ens. C. R. Hill, Ens. S. J. Kreider, Ens. D. C. Gandee, Ens. W. E. Dennison, Lt. A. L. Kivien, Lt. (jg) J. F. McNerney, Lt. (jg) G. W. Lenox. Top row, left to right: Lt. (jg) J. T. Bucy, Cdr. C. W. Gates, Jr., Lt. (jg) D. A. Kueth, Lt. (jg) R. C. Barron, Lt. (jg) T. B. Green, Lt. (jg) H. W. Hall, Lt. (jg) R. L. Stevenson, and Ens. G. L. Atkinson.*

### Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Feb 1951
F8F-2	18 Jun 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1952
F7U-3M	Jun 1955
A4D-1	26 May 1957
A4D-2	24 Dec 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	Sep 1962

### Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4E	28 Apr 1964
A-7A	Feb 1967
A-7E	01 Oct 1970
A-7C	Apr 1972
A-7E	14 Nov 1974
F/A-18C	18 Nov 1987

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

### Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Nov 1951	11 Jun 1952	CVG-8	CV 40	F4U-4	Med
11 Jun 1953	21 Jul 1953	*	CV 36	F9F-5	NorLant
28 Sep 1954	22 Apr 1955	CVG-8	CVA 39	F9F-5	Med
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-7	CVA 15	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1960	03 Mar 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1961	19 Dec 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
19 Apr 1962	27 Aug 1962	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
06 Aug 1963	04 Mar 1964	CVG-7	CVA 62	A-4C	Med
08 Sep 1964	05 Nov 1964	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	NorLant/Med

**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 May 1965	13 Dec 1965	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
13 Jun 1966	01 Feb 1967	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	Med
10 Apr 1968	16 Dec 1968	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-7A	World Cruise/ Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jul 1971	16 Dec 1971	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7E	Med
05 Jun 1972	24 Mar 1973	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1974	03 Aug 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	Med
06 Sep 1974	12 Oct 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	NorLant
16 Jul 1975	24 Sep 1975	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/NorLant
07 Jul 1976	07 Feb 1977	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
01 Dec 1977	20 Jul 1978	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/NorLant
10 Sep 1979	26 May 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/IO
29 Aug 1980	17 Oct 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
03 Aug 1981	12 Feb 1982	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
10 Nov 1982	20 May 1983	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
08 Mar 1985	04 Oct 1985	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
15 Aug 1986	16 Oct 1986	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
30 Dec 1986	26 Jul 1987	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/West Coast
08 Feb 1989	03 Apr 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Carib/NorLant
11 May 1989	10 Nov 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/IO
28 Dec 1990	18 Apr 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/RedSea/ Persian Gulf

\* VF-84, VC-4 and VS-27 deployed aboard *Antietam* (CVA 36). The carrier did not have an air group embarked.



*Squadron A-4E Skyhawks at NAS Oceana in 1965. Cdr. W. W. Bowers is climbing out of the aircraft. Note the Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club insignia on the forward part of the fuselage and the combat sortie mission marks on the fuselage just aft of the jet intake.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	09 Apr 1951
ATG-181	I/AM*	Jul 1955
CVG-7/CVW-7†	AG	15 Jan 1958
CVW-6	AE	16 Oct 1967
CVW-15	NL	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILLE		01 Jul 1970

**Air Wing Assignments—Continued**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-8	AJ	Jan 1971
COMLATWING 1		01 Sep 1987
CVW-1	AB	1988

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

† CVG-7 was redesignated CVW-7 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



*A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, circa 1978.*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1962	30 Jun 1963
	01 Jul 1963	30 Jun 1964
	01 Jan 1982	31 Dec 1982
	01 Jan 1985	31 Dec 1985
AFEM	24 Sep 1958	26 Sep 1958
	15 Jun 1965	
	29 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
MUC	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	14 Jul 1972	20 Feb 1973
	04 Aug 1981	20 May 1983
NEM	19 Apr 1961	29 Apr 1961
	14 Jan 1980	14 May 1980
	05 Dec 1982	31 Dec 1982
	21 Jan 1983	13 Feb 1983
	18 Feb 1983	24 Feb 1983
	19 Mar 1983	21 Mar 1983
	18 Apr 1983	22 Apr 1983

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	05 Jun 1965	21 Nov 1965
	12 May 1968	20 Nov 1968
	23 Jan 1980	01 May 1980
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
RVNGC	21 Oct 1965	
	23 Oct 1965	
	25 Oct 1965	02 Nov 1965
	09 Nov 1965	10 Nov 1965
	30 May 1968	02 Jun 1968
	20 Sep 1968	
	10 Oct 1968	12 Oct 1968
VNSM	17 Oct 1968	
	04 Jul 1965	09 Aug 1965
	25 Aug 1965	21 Sep 1965
	14 Oct 1965	12 Nov 1965
	29 May 1968	28 Jun 1968
	06 Jul 1968	03 Aug 1968
	17 Aug 1968	12 Sep 1968

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
SASM	27 Sep 1968	30 Oct 1968
	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
	02 Jul 1972	04 Jul 1972
	11 Jul 1972	24 Jul 1972
	10 Aug 1972	28 Aug 1972
	06 Sep 1972	07 Oct 1972
	11 Oct 1972	12 Oct 1972
	20 Oct 1972	01 Dec 1972
	09 Dec 1972	27 Dec 1972
	09 Jan 1973	02 Feb 1973
12 Feb 1973	16 Feb 1973	
21 Feb 1973	25 Feb 1973	
KLM	15 Jan 1991	03 Apr 1991
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



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

## VFA-87

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY SEVEN (VA-87) on 1 February 1968.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY SEVEN (VFA-87) on 1 May 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-87 and VFA-87 designations.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 29 July 1968. Colors for the insignia are: a red back



*The squadron's Golden Warrior insignia was approved for use in 1968. When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the designation in the scroll was changed from ATKRON 87 to STRKFITRON 87 or VFA-87.*

ground outlined in yellow and black; the Indian, war bonnet, spear and pony are yellow; and the arrow-head is black.

Nickname: Golden Warriors, 1968-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**4 Mar 1969:** The squadron flew its first combat missions, striking enemy targets in South Vietnam.

**Apr 1969:** Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans, *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14), with VA-87 embarked, was ordered to the Sea of Japan.

**Oct–Nov 1973:** VA-87, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), operated in the vicinity of Crete in response to the Arab-Israeli War.

**Jun–Jul 1976:** The American Ambassador to Lebanon was assassinated on 13 June and *America* (CV 66), with VA-87 embarked, operated in the vicinity of Lebanon. Squadron aircraft flew support missions during the evacuation of non-combatants from that country.

**May 1981:** *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-87 embarked, following its transit of the Suez Canal, remained on station in the eastern Mediterranean due to the crisis between Israel and Syria following Israeli raids against Syrian surface-to-air missile sites in Lebanon.

**25 Oct–1 Nov 1983:** In response to continued political strife and the need to protect and evacuate Americans from the island country of Grenada, VA-87 aircraft flew combat close air support missions during Operation Urgent Fury, the landing of U.S. Marines and Army rangers on the island.

**4 Dec 1983:** In response to hostile fire against U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Syrian positions in Lebanon, VA-87 aircraft participated in a coordinated strike against Syrian radar, communications and artillery positions overlooking the Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces. All squadron aircraft completed their mission and returned to the carrier.

*A flight of squadron A-7B Corsair IIs in 1971.*



**Home Port Assignments**

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

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Thomas E. Dunlop	01 Feb 1968
CDR Walter H. McCall	02 May 1969
CDR Robert W. McKay	31 Mar 1970
CDR Richard F. Coleman	26 Mar 1971
CDR John H. Fetterman, Jr.	29 Mar 1972
CDR Edward J. Rice	20 Mar 1973
CDR Ronald G. Horne	1974
CDR J. D. Rasmussen	28 Aug 1975
CDR W. J. Catlett III	30 Nov 1976
CDR Donald A. Gerrish	15 Feb 1978
CDR Lewis W. Dunton III	27 Feb 1979

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Daniel D. Hill	23 Jun 1980
CDR Hugh C. Bowles	03 Sep 1981
CDR Michael F. O'Brien	11 Jan 1983
CDR Douglas G. Knappe	13 Jun 1984
CDR Raymond A. Dudderar	07 Nov 1985
CDR Timothy J. Keating	22 May 1987
CDR Orren R. Crouch	23 Jan 1989
CDR John C. Stencil	14 Jun 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type First Received</i>
A-7B		09 Jun 1968
A-7E		1975*
F/A-18A		24 Oct 1986

\* It is believed VA-87 received its first A-7E in October 1975.

**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>
01 Feb 1969	18 Sep 1969	CVW-16	CVA 14	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jan 1971	23 Jul 1971	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
15 Feb 1972	08 Dec 1972	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
14 Sep 1973	17 Mar 1974	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
03 Jan 1975	16 Jul 1975	CVW-6	CV 42	A-7B	Med
15 Apr 1976	25 Oct 1976	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
10 Jun 1977	19 Jul 1977	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	SoLant
29 Sep 1977	25 Apr 1978	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
28 Jun 1979	14 Dec 1979	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
19 Nov 1980	10 Jun 1981	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	SoLant/IO/Med
07 Jun 1982	22 Dec 1982	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
18 Oct 1983	11 Apr 1984	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Carib/Med/ NorLant
16 Oct 1984	19 Feb 1985	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med/IO
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea/Persian Gulf



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

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Feb 1968
CVW-16	AH	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep 1969
CVW-6	AE	01 Aug 1970
COMLATWING-1		Jul 1985
CVW-8	AJ	01 Sep 1987

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	18 Feb 1969	07 Sep 1969
	09 Mar 1972	01 Dec 1972
HSM	20 Jun 1976	27 Jul 1976
NEM	07 Dec 1980	11 May 1981
	20 Aug 1982	05 Sep 1982
	01 Oct 1982	06 Dec 1982
NUC	20 Oct 1983	03 Mar 1984
RVNGC	04 Mar 1969	08 Mar 1969
	10 Mar 1969	
	12 Mar 1969	19 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	02 Apr 1969	03 Apr 1969
	06 Apr 1969	07 Apr 1969
	09 Apr 1969	15 Apr 1969
	10 May 1969	29 May 1969
	31 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	28 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	03 Mar 1969	20 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	16 Apr 1969
	09 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	25 Jun 1969	01 Aug 1969

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	04 Aug 1969	
	16 Aug 1969	24 Aug 1969
	30 Aug 1969	
	24 Oct 1983	02 Nov 1983
	16 Nov 1983	22 Dec 1983
	28 Dec 1983	03 Jan 1984
	15 Jan 1984	03 Feb 1984
	09 Feb 1984	02 Mar 1984



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II with a low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.*



## VFA-94

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron NINETY FOUR (VF-94) on 26 March 1952.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETY FOUR (VA-94) on 1 August 1958.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron NINETY FOUR (VFA-94) on 28 June 1990. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-94 designation and the first to be assigned the VFA-94 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

When the squadron deployed aboard Hornet (CVA 12) during its world cruise in 1954 it was using a cartoon cat insignia. There is no record of this insignia being officially approved for use by the squadron.



*This cartoon cat insignia was used by the squadron prior to 1955 but was never officially approved.*

The squadron's first official insignia was approved by CNO on 21 November 1955. Colors for the tiger paw insignia were: a blue background outlined in yellow; the tiger paw was yellow, orange and black with the under part of the paw white

with black marks, the claws were black outlined in yellow; the lightning bolts were yellow; and the bomb blast was white with an orange-red center; the scroll was blue with a black outline and lettering.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 April 1959. Colors for this insignia were: a light blue background; dark blue stylized aircraft with an orange contrail; dark blue crescent; red atom symbol with dark blue electrons; and an orange scroll with dark blue lettering.

A modification to the insignia was approved by



*The tiger paw design was the first insignia approved for use by the squadron, 1955.*



*The squadron's second insignia used the atom symbol with electrons and a stylized aircraft, 1959.*



*A modification to the second insignia was approved in 1967. The atom symbol was replaced with a stylized bird design. In 1990, CNO approved another modification to this design, replacing the Attack Squadron 94 designation in the scroll to Strike Fighter Squadron 94.*

CNO on 16 May 1967. The atom symbol was replaced by a stylized bird design. The stylized bird was orange and the other colors from the previous design stayed the same.

On 14 September 1990 CNO approved a modification to the insignia which changed the designation in the scroll to Strike Fighter Squadron 94.

Nickname: Shrikes or Mighty Shrikes, 1959-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**May 1963:** Following the military losses of Laotian neutralists to the Pathet Lao in the Plaine de Jarres, Laos, *Ranger* (CVA 61) with VA-94 embarked, transited to the South China Sea to support possible operations in Laos.

**1 Dec 1964:** The squadron flew its first sorties in support of Yankee Team Operations, armed escort for photoreconnaissance missions over Laos.

**7 Feb 1965:** Following a Viet Cong attack against the American advisors compound at Pleiku, South Vietnam, the President ordered a reprisal strike against North Vietnam, named Flaming Dart I. The squadron's target, Vit Thu Lu barracks, was concealed by heavy weather and the mission was aborted due to the bad weather.

**11 Feb 1965:** The squadron participated in Flaming Dart II, retaliatory strikes against the Chanh Hoa military barracks near Dong Hoi, North Vietnam.

**Mar 1965:** The squadron participated in Rolling Thunder strikes against the Phu Qui ammunition depot in North Vietnam.

**9 May 1972:** The squadron participated in Operation Pocket Money, the mining of Haiphong harbor. Aircraft from VA-94, as well as the other attack squadrons deployed aboard *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), planned and executed the mining of the harbor.

**May-Jun 1972:** VA-94 participated in operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

**29 Apr 1975:** Squadron aircraft provided air cover for Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American citizens from Saigon.

**15 May 1975:** VA-94 aircraft, along with other elements from CVW-15 embarked in *Coral Sea*, launched air strikes against the Cambodian mainland after the capture of the SS *Mayaguez* by Cambodian gunboats



Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight, 1971.

on 12 May. Combat sorties were flown against targets at Ream Naval Facility, Kompong Som Naval Facility and a Cambodian patrol boat.

**27 Oct 1979:** Following the assassination of Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), with VA-94 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Korea.

**21 Nov 1979:** *Kitty Hawk*, along with VA-94 and the rest of CVW-15, departed Subic Bay, Philippines, enroute to the Arabian Sea in response to the 4 November Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran and the taking of over 60 American hostages.

**14 Jun 1982:** While the squadron was deployed to NAS Fallon for weapons training, its commanding officer, Commander M. A. Gary, was killed in a landing accident.

**Apr-Jul 1986:** In late April *Enterprise* (CVN 65), with VA-94 embarked, transited the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea to augment the carrier forces in the Med. Earlier in the month, American strikes were flown against Libyan military targets as a response to Libya's continuing support of terrorist activity.

**Feb-May 1988:** The squadron flew air support for Operation Earnest Will, escorting reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

**18 Apr 1988:** VA-94 participated in Operation Praying Mantis, retaliatory strikes against Iranian oil platforms, gunboats and other naval ships after *Sameul B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine in international waters on 14 April. Squadron aircraft delivered direct hits on the Iranian frigate *Saband*.

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



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair on the deck of Philippine Sea (CVA 47) during her deployment to Korea, 1952–1953.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	26 Mar 1952
NAS Moffett Field	Jan 1955
NAS Alameda	20 Aug 1958
NAS Lemoore	08 Mar 1962



A squadron F9F-5 Panther on the deck of Hornet (CVA 12) during her world cruise in 1954.

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Armind T. Holderman	09 Apr 1952
LCDR R. A. Singleton (acting)	Mar 1953
CDR Armind T. Holderman	01 Jul 1953
CDR William T. Harding	Sep 1953
CDR C. H. Gates	Jun 1955
CDR Robert M. Soule	1956
CDR Francis X. Brady	Sep 1956
CDR Richard D. Lazenby	28 Jul 1958
CDR D. G. Patterson	24 Jul 1959
CDR G. M. Hart	02 Sep 1960
CDR J. A. Endacott	20 Dec 1961
CDR Donald Loranger	Dec 1962
CDR Malcolm E. Vail	10 Dec 1963

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Paul A. Peck	05 Nov 1964
CDR Otto E. Krueger	23 Oct 1965
CDR J. H. Wynn III	28 Oct 1966
CDR Joseph B. Wilkinson, Jr.	09 Nov 1967
CDR John E. Wasson	08 Nov 1968
CDR Zygmunt J. Kowalsky, Jr.	26 Nov 1969
CDR Robert B. Browning	22 Oct 1970
CDR David L. Moss	29 Oct 1971
CDR W. A. Lacey	13 Oct 1972
CDR Ted W. Reynolds	26 Sep 1973
CDR Harvey A. Eikel	21 Jan 1975
CDR S. R. Briggs	15 Apr 1976

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John A. Moriarty	01 Jul 1977
CDR Paul E. Otto	20 Oct 1978
CDR Paul A. Cassiman	20 Jan 1980
CDR James I. Maslowski	23 Mar 1981
CDR M. A. Gary	04 Jun 1982
CDR J. J. Zerr	28 Jun 1982
CDR E. L. Tetric	14 Feb 1983
CDR Terrence L. Hightower	Jun 1984
CDR Larry S. Doyle	17 Oct 1985
CDR Carl W. Chamberlain	27 Feb 1987
CDR John A. Roe	01 Sep 1988
CDR Lewis G. Mason	26 Apr 1990



*A squadron F9F-8B Cougar at NAS Moffett Field, California, June 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FG-1D	Apr 1952
F4U-4	Aug 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1953
FJ-3	Feb 1955
F9F-8	Nov 1955
F9F-8B	Apr 1956
FJ-3	Jun 1957
FJ-3M	01 Jul 1957

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FJ-3M	01 Jul 1957
FJ-4	25 Aug 1958
A4D-2	11 Jan 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C*	07 Sep 1960
A-4E	23 Oct 1967
A-7E	Jan 1971
F/A-18C	05 May 1990

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

*A squadron FJ-3M Fury, circa 1958 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*



*Major Overseas Deployments*

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
15 Dec 1952	14 Aug 1953	CVG-9	CVA 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
11 May 1954	12 Dec 1954	CVG-9	CVA 12	F9F-5	World Cruise
19 Mar 1956	13 Sep 1956	ATG-4	CVA 10	F9F-8B	WestPac
06 Jan 1958	30 Jun 1958	ATG-4	CVA 12	FJ-3M	WestPac
06 Feb 1960	30 Aug 1960	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2	WestPac
11 Aug 1961	08 Mar 1962	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2N	WestPac
09 Nov 1962	14 Jun 1963	CVG-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac
05 Aug 1964	06 May 1965	CVW-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1965	21 Jun 1966	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1967	22 Jul 1967	CVW-5	CVA 19	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Jan 1968	10 Oct 1968	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Mar 1969	29 Oct 1969	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Apr 1970	12 Nov 1970	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
12 Nov 1971	17 Jul 1972	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Mar 1973	08 Nov 1973	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
05 Dec 1974	02 Jul 1975	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
15 Feb 1977	05 Oct 1977	CVW-15	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac
30 May 1979	25 Feb 1980	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Apr 1981	23 Nov 1981	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Sep 1982	28 Apr 1983	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac/ WestPac/IO
30 May 1984	20 Dec 1984	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ NorPac
12 Jan 1986	13 Aug 1986	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ Med/SoLant
25 Oct 1987	24 Nov 1987	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac
05 Jan 1988	03 Jul 1988	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ NorPac
17 Sep 1989	16 Mar 1990	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	World Cruise



*A squadron A-4E Skyhawk flies over Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) during her deployment to Vietnam in 1969.*

### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-9	N	26 Mar 1952
ATG-4	Z/ND*	1955
CVG-9/CVW-9†	NG	01 Aug 1958
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1966
COMFAIRLEMOORE		Nov 1970
CVW-15	NL	02 Jan 1971
CVW-11	NH	18 Jan 1982

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

† CVG-9 was redesignated CVW-9 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, preparing to trap aboard Enterprise (CVN 65) in 1989.*

### Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
KSM	25 Jan 1953	01 Aug 1953
NUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
	21 Feb 1968	13 Sep 1968
	15 Dec 1971	01 Jul 1972
NAVE	01 Jul 1973	30 Jun 1974
	01 Jul 1983	31 Dec 1984
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
AFEM	24 Jun 1960	25 Jun 1960
	01 May 1963	05 May 1963
	18 Sep 1964	20 Sep 1964
	01 Oct 1964	09 Oct 1964
	28 Nov 1964	01 Jan 1965
	16 Jan 1965	17 Mar 1965
	04 Apr 1965	14 Apr 1965
	04 May 1968	07 May 1968
	29 Jun 1969	
	07 Jul 1969	13 Jul 1969
	24 Jul 1969	
	03 Sep 1969	
	13 Sep 1969	14 Sep 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
15 Feb 1988	09 Mar 1988	
17 Jan 1990	31 Jan 1990	
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	17 May 1981	
	02 Oct 1981	
MUC	23 Oct 1982	
	20 Jan 1967	14 Jul 1967
	18 Apr 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	20 Oct 1970
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
01 Oct 1983	31 Mar 1985	
15 Feb 1988	09 Mar 1988	

### Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	25 Nov 1979	28 Jan 1980
	25 May 1981	30 Sep 1981
	30 Apr 1986	27 Jun 1986
RVNGC	02 Dec 1965	
	11 Dec 1965	
	21 Dec 1965	
	24 Dec 1965	
	26 Dec 1965	30 Dec 1965
	01 Jan 1966	02 Jan 1966
	04 Jan 1966	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	
	19 Feb 1966	
	23 Feb 1966	
	27 Mar 1966	28 Mar 1966
	30 Mar 1966	31 Mar 1966
	02 Apr 1966	
	11 Apr 1966	
	29 Apr 1966	
20 Feb 1967		
23 Feb 1967		
16 Mar 1967		
24 Mar 1967	25 Mar 1967	
07 May 1967		
09 May 1967		
12 May 1967		
15 May 1967	21 May 1967	
29 May 1967	30 May 1967	
03 Jun 1967		
16 Jun 1967		
21 Feb 1968	25 Feb 1968	
27 Feb 1968	07 Mar 1968	
12 Mar 1968	18 Mar 1968	
22 Mar 1968	23 Mar 1968	
25 Mar 1968		
06 Apr 1968	11 Apr 1968	
13 Apr 1968	14 Apr 1968	
17 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968	

*Unit Awards Received—Continued*

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	13 May 1968	14 May 1968
	26 May 1968	27 May 1968
	04 Jul 1968	
	02 Aug 1968	18 Aug 1968
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	18 Apr 1969	17 May 1969
	01 Jun 1969	
	04 Jun 1969	09 Jun 1969
	11 Jun 1969	24 Jun 1969
	26 Jun 1969	
VNSM	02 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	23 Feb 1966
	16 Mar 1966	12 Apr 1966
	22 Apr 1966	14 May 1966
	23 May 1966	06 Jun 1966
	04 Feb 1967	26 Feb 1967
	15 Mar 1967	12 Apr 1967
	27 Apr 1967	05 Jun 1967
	11 Jun 1967	28 Jun 1967
	20 Feb 1968	25 Mar 1968
	06 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968

*Unit Awards Received—Continued*

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 May 1968	30 May 1968
	04 Jun 1968	05 Jun 1968
	13 Jun 1968	07 Jul 1968
	21 Jul 1968	18 Aug 1968
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	17 Apr 1969	18 May 1969
	03 Jun 1969	26 Jun 1969
	30 Jul 1969	31 Aug 1969
	23 Sep 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	26 May 1970
	01 Jun 1970	14 Jun 1970
	01 Jul 1970	29 Jul 1970
	17 Aug 1970	03 Sep 1970
	11 Sep 1970	12 Sep 1970
	26 Sep 1970	21 Oct 1970
	14 Dec 1971	
	31 Dec 1971	17 Jan 1972
	26 Jan 1972	17 Feb 1972
	01 Apr 1972	11 May 1972
	01 Jun 1972	11 Jun 1972
	21 Jun 1972	02 Jul 1972



*A squadron F/A-18C Hornet flies over the burning oil fields of Kuwait, 1991.*

## VFA-97

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron NINETY SEVEN (VA-97) on 1 June 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron NINETY SEVEN (VFA-97) on 24 January 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-97 and VFA-97 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 6 March 1968. Colors for the hawk and shield insignia are as follows: background light blue outlined in black; gold scroll outlined in black with black lettering; black hawk with gold markings, a gold beak, red tongue and eye; dark blue shield with a gold trident, both outlined in black; gray knight's helmet with a blue and gold crest and black markings.



The squadron's hawk and trident insignia.

Nickname: Warhawks, 1968-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**28 Jun 1968:** The squadron conducted its first combat missions.

**4 Feb–7 Mar 1971:** The squadron embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) for the ship's transit around South America to her new home port on the west coast.

**Dec 1971:** Following the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan (Bangladesh), *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) was ordered to leave Yankee Station for operations in the Indian Ocean. The carrier, with Air Wing 14 embarked, operated in the Bay of Bengal until the cessation of hostilities in the latter part of December.

**Oct 1972:** Squadron aircraft participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies into South Vietnam.

**Dec 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, an intensified version of Linebacker I.

**Feb 1975:** *Enterprise*, with CVW-14, provided disaster support for the island country of Mauritius following a tropical storm.

**Apr 1975:** The squadron participated in Operation Frequent Wind and provided air support for the evacuation of personnel from Saigon as it fell to the communists.

**Feb 1977:** During the crisis in Uganda and threats against Americans in that country, *Enterprise* operated off the coast of Kenya ready to evacuate Americans.

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

**Apr 1980:** *Coral Sea* was part of the task force involved in supporting the Iranian hostage rescue attempt.

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

**Aug 1983:** Due to the unsettled conditions in Central America, *Coral Sea* operated off the coast of Nicaragua and also participated in surveillance for illegal drug traffic.

**Aug 1986:** The squadron participated in carrier tactical flight operations in the Bering Sea.

**Jul 1988:** During the Olympics in Seoul, Korea, *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), with VA-97 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea.



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

**Home Port Assignments**

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

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard P. Vaillancourt	28 Jul 1967
CDR Leroy M. Kraft	27 Feb 1969
CDR James E. Doolittle	19 Dec 1969
CDR Robert B. Arnold	16 Dec 1970
CDR Hugh F. Lynch	27 Dec 1971
CDR Robert C. Coffey	15 Dec 1972
CDR Bert D. Terry	29 Mar 1974
CDR Robert P. Nicolls	26 Jun 1975
CDR John F. Murray	17 Sep 1976
CDR Rex R. Arnett, Jr.	22 Nov 1977
CDR John M. McGrath	11 Jan 1979

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR David L. Carroll	29 Mar 1980
CDR Michael L. Bowman	06 Jun 1981
CDR Thomas L. McClelland	21 Sep 1982
CDR Norman L. Westerbuhr	03 Feb 1984
CDR Joseph W. Parker, Jr.	20 Sep 1985
CDR T. Barry McFarland	27 Mar 1987
CDR Michael F. Winkler	31 Jul 1988
CDR James T. Noland, Jr.	11 Jan 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	Oct 1967
A-7E	Jul 1970
F/A-18A	22 Feb 1991



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with its low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.*



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

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-14	NK	15 Dec 1967*
CVW-15	NL	01 Nov 1983

\* Before being assigned to CVW-14 the squadron was under the operational and administrative control of VA-122 during its training in the A-7A Corsair II.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jul 1974	31 Dec 1975
	01 Jan 1988	31 Dec 1988
MUC	07 Sep 1969	30 Apr 1970
	02 Jul 1971	03 Feb 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	07 Mar 1978	01 May 1980
	10 Nov 1984	07 May 1985
NUC	16 Jan 1987	02 Feb 1987
	03 Oct 1972	22 Feb 1973
AFEM	16 Oct 1969	24 Oct 1969
	16 Mar 1970	23 Mar 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	27 Jun 1968	22 Jul 1968
VNSM	02 Aug 1968	28 Aug 1968
	11 Sep 1968	09 Oct 1968
	28 Nov 1968	29 Nov 1968
	09 Dec 1968	21 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969	07 Jan 1969
	11 Sep 1969	03 Oct 1969

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Nov 1969	23 Nov 1969
	07 Dec 1969	22 Dec 1969
	05 Jan 1970	30 Jan 1970
	12 Feb 1970	01 Mar 1970
	26 Mar 1970	17 Apr 1970
	14 Jul 1971	31 Jul 1971
	15 Aug 1971	04 Sep 1971
	12 Sep 1971	
	25 Sep 1971	26 Sep 1971
	02 Oct 1972	23 Oct 1972
	01 Nov 1972	11 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	13 Jan 1973
	24 Jan 1973	23 Feb 1973
	01 Mar 1973	02 Mar 1973
	11 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973



*A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at NAS Lemoore, California, 1991.*

## VFA-105

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE (VA-105) on 1 November 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE (VFA-105) on 17 December 1990. The second squadron to be assigned the designation VA-105 and the first to be designated VFA-105.



The squadron's insignia as it was first approved in 1968.



In 1984, a modification was approved for the squadron's insignia that added an upper scroll with the nickname *Gunslingers*. When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the designation in the lower scroll changed from *ATKRON 105* to *STRKFITRON 105*.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 20 September 1968. Colors for the knight and holster insignia are as follows: a white background with a kelly green border; silver 45 caliber revolver with a black handle; black holster and gold knight; black ammunition belt with silver trim and gold bullets; kelly green scroll with white lettering.

On 31 December 1984 the CNO approved a modification to the squadron insignia. The modification included adding an upper scroll with the nickname *Gunslingers* and changes to the colors. The background color and lettering in the scrolls were changed to silver and the insignia was outlined in black.

Nickname: *Gunslingers*, 1968-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**4 Mar 1968:** The squadron completed its training under VA-174 on the A-7A and became an operational unit of the Atlantic Fleet.

**May and Jun 1969:** Following the shootdown of a Navy EC-121 by the North Koreans in April, *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) was part of a continuing American presence being maintained off the coast of Korea.

**Sep and Oct 1970:** Following the hijacking of several airliners by Palestinians, the outbreak of serious fight-

ing in Jordan and the invasion of Jordan by Syria, *Saratoga* (CVA 60) with VA-105 embarked, operated in the eastern Mediterranean, prepared to support an evacuation of Americans from Jordan and to show support for the Jordanian government.

**Jun-Oct 1971:** As part of CVW-3, embarked in *Saratoga*, the squadron participated in the CV Concept Evaluation while deployed to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The concept added antisubmarine warfare to the missions of the attack carriers. ASW aircraft were added to the carrier air wings and the carriers were redesignated from CVA to CV.

**Jun-Oct 1972:** The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies into South Vietnam.

**18-29 Dec 1972:** Squadron aircraft participated in Linebacker II operations against North Vietnam, an intensified version of Linebacker I.

**Jan 1975:** Following violent demonstrations in Cyprus, *Saratoga* operated off the coast of that island country, prepared to provide support for the possible evacuation of Americans.

**Apr 1976:** The squadron operated off the coast of Lebanon and participated in Operation Fluid Drive, preparations to support a possible evacuation of Americans from that country.

**Jun 1982:** Following the invasion of Lebanon by Israel on 6 June, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) operated off the coast of Lebanon, available to support an evacuation of Americans from that country.

**Jul-Dec 1984:** The squadron returned from a six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni in the western Pacific. It was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW. This was the first time a Navy squadron participated in the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and the first Navy squadron since World War II to come under the command of a Marine Corps officer. While deployed with the Marines the squadron's major mission was close air support.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in 1978.

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Nov 1967

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR R. C. Bos	01 Nov 1967
CDR R. K. Halverson	21 Jan 1969
CDR C. R. Bowling	30 Dec 1969
CDR J. C. Perkins	05 Oct 1970
CDR H. B. Chase	16 Jul 1971
CDR W. R. Zipperer	07 May 1972
CDR P. N. Puerling	23 May 1973
CDR R. F. Moreau	20 Jul 1974
CDR J. E. Carpenter	17 Nov 1975
CDR F. H. Saunders	07 Jan 1977
CDR B. M. Bennitt	27 Apr 1978
CDR R. M. Nutwell	03 Jul 1979

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR R. G. Pearson	06 Nov 1980
CDR D. V. Raebel	17 Feb 1981
CDR R. G. Brodsky	10 May 1982
CDR D. A. Weiss	17 Nov 1983
CDR G. G. Johnson	16 May 1985
CDR L. E. Osborn	06 Oct 1986
CDR K. T. Lewis	25 Mar 1988
CDR K. A. Richardson	27 Jul 1989
CDR Gene A. Smith	28 Mar 1991

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	04 Mar 1968
A-7E	07 May 1973
F/A-18A	27 Dec 1990
F/A-18C	11 Mar 1991

**Major Overseas Deployments**

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

\* The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, as part of Marine Aircraft Group 12. While deployed to WestPac the squadron also operated from NAF Kadena, Okinawa; NAS Cubi Point, Philippines and stations in Korea.



*A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
VA-174*		01 Nov 1967
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Mar 1968
CVW-11	NH	1968†
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep
CVW-3	AC	1970‡
CVW-15	NL	01 Oct 1982
COMLATWING ONE		Oct 1983
MAG-12, 1st MAW§	AC	08 Jun 1984
COMLATWING ONE		Dec 1984
CVW-6	AE	01 Apr 1985
COMLATWING ONE		01 Oct 1990
CVW-3	AC	01 Sep 1991

\* The squadron was assigned to VA-174 during training in the new A-7A Corsair II.

† The squadron was assigned to CVW-11 sometime after June 1968 and prior to its deployment in December 1968. Squadron and air wing records do not indicate the day or month.

‡ The squadron was assigned to CVW-3 sometime in the early part of 1970.

§ VA-105 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW during its shorebased deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. While deployed with MAG-12 the squadron used the tail code AC on its aircraft.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
NAVE	01 Jul 1968 01 Jul 1974 01 Oct 1976 01 Jan 1984
MUC	17 Sep 1970 01 Oct 1979
AFEM 1969	15 May 1969 25 May 1969 05 Jun 1969 07 Jun 1969 25 Jul 1969
NUC	15 Jan 1969 18 May 1972 01 Mar 1984
VNSM	27 Jan 1969 12 Mar 1969 17 Apr 1969 28 Jun 1969 27 Jul 1969 06 May 1972 17 May 1972 30 Jun 1972 27 Jul 1972 02 Sep 1972 29 Sep 1972 25 Oct 1972 03 Nov 1972 18 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1969 30 Jun 1975 30 Sep 1977 31 Dec 1984 18 Oct 1970 15 Nov 1980 27 May 1969 15 Jun 1969 27 Aug 1969 08 Jan 1973 14 Dec 1984 01 Mar 1969 05 Apr 1969 11 May 1969 15 Jul 1969 17 Aug 1969 07 May 1972 22 Jun 1972 16 Jul 1972 23 Aug 1972 19 Sep 1972 21 Oct 1972 26 Oct 1972 08 Dec 1972 31 Dec 1972



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

## VFA-106

### Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIX (VFA-106) on 27 April 1984. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-106 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 May 1982. The insignia approved for VFA-106 had been used by VA-106 prior to its disestablishment on 7 November 1969. Colors for the VFA-106 insignia are: a gold background outlined in red; a blue shield with a white arrow and Roman helmet, the upper part of the helmet is red; a gold stylized wing is on the upper right hand corner of the shield; white aircraft with blue markings; and blue scrolls with white lettering.



The Gladiators insignia used by the squadron.

Nickname: Gladiators, 1984-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**27 Apr 1984:** The squadron's mission is the training of F/A-18 replacement pilots and maintenance personnel for east coast F/A-18 fleet squadrons.

**7 Oct 1985:** The first Replacement Pilot Class arrives at VFA-106 to begin training on the F/A-18 Hornet.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	27 Apr 1984

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR D. J. L'Herault	27 Apr 1984
CDR J. W. Peterson	13 Dec 1985
CDR L. G. Kappel	13 Feb 1987
CDR W. O. King, Jr.	03 Jun 1988
CDR W. N. Deaver, Jr.	12 Jun 1989
CDR J. Barry Waddell	19 Mar 1991

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	09 Feb 1985
TF/A-18A	22 Mar 1985
F/A-18B	May 1986
F/A-18C	Oct 1987
F/A-18D	Dec 1987



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, May 1987 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING ONE	AD	27 Apr 1984

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	01 May 1985	30 Apr 1986
MUC	01 May 1986	31 Oct 1987
	01 Nov 1987	31 Dec 1989



*A squadron TF/A-18A Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, March 1986 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*