



This 1972 photograph shows the flight deck crew of USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) preparing for air operations. At the time, USS *Constellation* was in the Gulf of Tonkin flying missions in support of the Vietnam War. If you look closely at this photo you will see that while the majority of the pilots are white, the majority of flight deck crew members are African American. It was typical of the time period for higher-paying jobs to go to white service members. USS *Constellation* was one of two aircraft carriers to experience racial incidents in the fall of 1972.

*Image courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command.*