

A HISTORY OF FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO

The opening months of 1966 found VF-102 aboard the USS AMERICA, two months into its 8th Mediterranean deployment. On the 10th of January the Belgian Defense Minister, the Hon. Luc Moyerseen and the Belgian Navy Chief of Staff, Commodore Lurquin were guests aboard the America and part of their itinerary was a briefing in the Diamondback's Ready Room.

CDR R. E. LOUX, then Executive Officer, achieved a rather dubious honor when on the 18th of March he made the 1,000th bolter aboard the America. The event was marked by the America's ubiquitous cake-cutting ceremony.

CDR Max K. MORRIS was relieved by CDR R. E. LOUX in Istanbul, Turkey on the 11th of April. The flash of a dress sword in salute and the music of the CARDIV TWO band accompanied the change of command ceremonies for VF-102. CDR MORRIS immediately departed for his new assignment aboard the USS SARATOGA.

Happy hearts and smiling faces lined the AMERICA's decks as the 7 month Med. cruise drew to a close at Pier 12 in Norfolk, Virginia, on a warm July 11th. The gladness of once again being with loved ones was short-lived, in September, a little over two shortmonths after returning to the United States, VF-102 was again aboard the AMERICA steaming in the Carribbean.

After returning to NAS Oceana in the middle of October, the Diamondbacks were just getting settled when near the end of November it was back to the Carribbean for three weeks. A week before Christmas VF-102 returned to NAS Oceana for the holidays. Overshadowing the holiday spirit was the thought of leaving again right after the New Year for the longest cruise ever made by the America - A NINE month Mediterranean Cruise, plus the surprise Administrative/Material Personnel Inspection conducted on 27 December 1966; a Merry Christmas for VF-102. The day of this history finds the Diamondbacks preparing for their 1st port-of-call in the Med., Athens, Greece.