



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN  
FPO MIAMI 34099-6239

5750  
Ser 01/018  
27 JAN 1986

From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137  
To: Chief of Naval Information (OI-211)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) COMNAVAIRLANT 080813Z JAN 86

Encl: (1) Command History of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 for  
Calendar Year 1985

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
R. E. THOMAS

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)

Strike Fighter Squadron 137  
Command History  
1985

Nickname: KESTRELS

Kestrel is the name of several members of the falcon family. Kestrels live in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Also known as the Windhover, this bird hovers in the air while it searches the ground for its prey. The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon, measuring 10 inches in length, with reddish-brown body and tail and greyish-blue wings.

Mission:

As a Strike Fighter Squadron, we are tasked with both the fighter and light attack missions. Our primary mission is the destruction of targets at sea and ashore in a power projection role. In this role we can deliver a wide range of conventional weapons including precision-guided munitions. We are also capable of delivering nuclear weapons. In the fighter role, we provide fighter support for power projection forces and fleet air defense for the battle group. VFA-137 is under the operational control of Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Upon completion of our standup in May 1986, we will be assigned to Commander, Carrier Air Wing 13 for deployment aboard USS Coral Sea (CV-43).

Commanding Officer: Commander Raymond E. Thomas, USN

Chronology of Highlights:

2 July	VFA-137 is established in a ceremony at NAS Cecil Field. Onboard at this time are six officers and 55 enlisted personnel.
19 September	Relocated to the newly-completed Hangar 1845.
7 October	Four VFA-137 pilots commence flight training as members of the first class at new East Coast F/A-18 Readiness Training Squadron, VFA-106.
12 November	Four more VFA-137 pilots commence transition training at VFA-106.
25 November	Received the first aircraft, F/A-18 Buno 162841.
12 December	First operational flight.
31 December	Received the second aircraft, F/A-18 Buno 162843.
31 December	Squadron has grown to 12 officers and 178 enlisted personnel and has amassed 21 flight hours.

Enclosure (1)