



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

1986
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From: Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
To: Chief of Naval Information (OI-221)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) COMNAVAIRLANTINST 5750.1 Series

Encl: (1) Command History of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 for
period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 1986

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

RE Thomas
R. E. THOMAS

Copy to:
CNO (OP-05D2)

Command History of
Strike Fighter Squadron 137
for period 1 Jan - 31 Dec 1986

Nickname: Kestrels

Kestrels is the name of several members of the falcon family. Kestrels live in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, 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, VFA-137 is tasked with both the fighter and light attack missions. VFA-137's primary mission is the destruction of targets at sea and ashore in a power projection role. In this role, the FA-18 can deliver a wide range of conventional weapons including precision-guided munitions. The FA-18 is also capable of delivering nuclear weapons. In the fighter role, the FA-18 provides fighter support for power projection forces and fleet air defense for the battle group. Since completion of our standup in May 1986, VFA-137 has been assigned to Commander, Carrier Air Wing 13 for eventual deployment aboard USS CORAL SEA (CV-43).

Commanding Officer: Commander Raymond E. Thomas, USN

Chronology of Highlights:

1 January	VFA-137 based ashore NAS Cecil Field, Florida, Commander R. E. Thomas Commanding.
21 January	Received third aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162852.
29 January	Received fourth aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162848.
04 Febuary	Received fifth aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162854.
12 Febuary	Received sixth aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162856.
03 March	Air Intelligence Officer checked on board, bringing the total number of officers to 13.
06 March	Received seventh aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162859.
28 March	Nine VFA-137 pilots completed Flight Training as members of the first class of the new east coast FA-18 Readiness Training Squadron, VFA-106.

28 March Four pilots checked on board, bringing the total number of officers to 17.

01 April Received the eighth aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162861.

06 April Supply Officer checked on board, bringing the total number of officers to 18.

08 April Received the ninth aircraft, FA-18 Buno 162863.

28 April-02 May VFA-137 participated in exercise Quick Thrust 2-86, a joint Army, Navy, Air Force exercise.

01 May Assistant Administrative Officer checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 19.

02 May Received tenth aircraft, Buno 162866.

10 May Squadron held open house for dependents and guest.

31 May Squadron has grown to 19 officers and 193 enlisted personnel, and has massed 779 flight hours.

01 June VFA-137 officially attached to CVW-13, after completing standup period.

8-21 June VFA-137 on detachment to Yuma, Arizona to conduct Conventional Weapons Training.

26 June Pilot checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 20.

27 June Pilot checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 21.

30 June-16 July VFA-137 on detachment to NAS Key West, Florida to conduct Strike Fighter ACM Readiness Training.

5 July Ordnance Officer checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 22.

13-18 July Carrier Qualification Refresher Training on board USS CORAL SEA (CV-43).

4-8 August VFA-137 on detachment to NAS Oceana for AIRLANT Missile exercise. Successfully fired three AIM-9 and four AIM-7 missiles.

29 August Pilot checked on board, bringing total number of officers to 23.

04 Sept- Two pilots to NAS Miramar, California to complete
11 Oct Air to Air "Top Gun" course.

7-12 Sept VFA-137 on detachment to NAS Oceana, Virginia to
conduct Air to Air Training.

22-26 Sept VFA-137 has Conventional Weapons Technical
Proficiency Inspection (CWPTI). Squadron received
highest overall grade of any Cecil Field based FA-18
squadron.

30 Sept- VFA-137 Command Administration, Maintenance, and
1 Oct Material Inspection.

13-25 Oct VFA-137 on detachment to Holloman AFB, New Mexico to
conduct CVW-13 Air Wing Training.

Nov VFA-137 recognized as AIRLANT "FOX ONE" award
runner-up for outstanding AIM-7 SPARROW missile
employment.

14 Nov Maintenance Material Control Officer detached from
Squadron bringing total number of officers to 22.

10 Dec VFA-137 celebrated 1 Year Accident Free Operations.

18 Dec Pilot checked on board, bringing total number of
officers to 23.

31 Dec Squadron has grown to 23 Officers and 200 enlisted
personnel and has amassed 3205 flight hours.