

1989

FROM: Strike Fighter Squadron One Three Seven
Public Affairs Officer

TO: Director, Naval Aviation History and Publication Division

SUBJ: Command History

REF: (A) Ser AVH/4613, 01 AYG 1990

1. Enclosed is a copy of our 1989 Command History as requested. I personally apologize for this oversight and we ensure that this does not happen again in the future.
2. I could not at this time locate a copy of our 1988 Command History. I am currently looking for a copy and will forward it when I receive it.

Very Respectfully,



VFA-137 PAO

GDS

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 137

COMMAND HISTORY

Strike Fighter Squadron 137(Kestrels) was established on July 2,1985. Our first F/A-18 was received on November 25,1985 with other Hornets arriving each month. In June 1986 the squadron's first major training detachment was completed at Yuma,Arizona. The squadron has been fully operational for the past five years,with a total of 12 F/A-18 aircraft,25 Officers,and 210 Enlisted personell. We have flown over 17,000 accident free hours and have made over 5,000 carrier arrestment landings. UFA-137's first deployment was the 1987-1988 Mediterranean sea cruise aboard the "Ageless Warrior", the USS CORAL SEA(CU-43). In 1986 the Kestrels received the Silver Anchor Award for new construction squadrons. Strike Fighter Squadron 137 also received the Commander,Naval Air Forces,U.S. Atlantic Fleet "E" for Battle Efficiency in 1987 and was voted the Light Attack Wing One Maintenance Squadron of the year 1987. On March 2,1989,Commander P.G. Howard became the Commanding Officer of UFA-137. During 1989,the squadron made it's second deployment to the Mediterranean Sea,again aboard the USS CORAL SEA. In August 1989,the USS CORAL SEA sortied to the Eastern Med in response to Colonel Higgin's murder and UFA-137 stood ready to carry out any nationally tasked mission. UFA-137 won the Air Wing Excellence Award for the for the first half of that deployment and finished by winning the Air Wing Golden Tailhook Award for carrier landing excellence. Strike Fighter Squadron 137 is currently attached to CUW-13.

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 weapons. In the fighter role,we provide fighter support for the power projection forces and fleet air defense for the battle group.