



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE SEVEN
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From: Public Affair Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 137
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Encl: (1) Strike Fighter Squadron 137 Command History

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for your information. The delinquency of the Command History Report was basically due to the operational commitment of the squadron. Any inconvenience is deeply regretted.

Very Respectfully,

EDWARD D. SMITH

1388

Logged
AUG -5, 1991

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 137

COMMAND HISTORY

Strike Fighter Squadron 137 (KESTRELS) was established on July 2, 1985; Commanding Officer, Commander RAY THOMAS, and Executive Officer, Commander B. J. DYSART. Our first F/A-18A 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 six years, with a total of 12 F/A-18A aircraft, 25 Officers and 210 Enlisted personnel. We have flown over 20,000 accident free hours and have made over 5,800 carrier arrested landings. Commander DYSART assumed command of VFA-137 on September 4, 1987. VFA-137's first deployment was the 1987-1988 Mediterranean Sea cruise aboard the "Ageless Warrior", the USS CORAL SEA (CV-43) while attached to CW-13. 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 for 1987. On March 2, 1989 Commander P. G. HOWARD became the Commanding Officer of VFA-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 VFA-137 stood ready to carry out any nationally tasked mission. VFA-137 won the Air Wing Excellence Award for the first half of that deployment and finished by winning the Air Wing Golden Tailhook Award for carrier landing excellence. Following several training detachments within the United States and Puerto Rico, Commander CRAIG "SLIM" HENDERSON assumed command of Strike Fighter Squadron 137 on May 4, 1990. VFA-137 then transferred to CW-6 aboard USS FORRESTAL (CV-59) on October 1, 1990. Since joining CW-6, VFA-137 has completed an accelerated workup cycle to prepare them for the inevitable, an early deployment to the Mediterranean or Red Sea.

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.