

## **Command Composition and Organization**

1. **Command.** VFA-22
2. **Unit Identification Code.** 09561
3. **Mission.** Carrier-based F/A-18C Strike Fighter Squadron
  - a. **Primary Mission:** Project power at sea and ashore in support of national objectives.
  - b. **Secondary Mission:** Fleet Air Defense, Strike Fighter Cover, Strike Rescue, Mining, and Surface Sea and Control.
4. **Organizational Structure.**
  - a. **Immediate Senior in Command:** Commander, Carrier Air Wing NINE
  - b. **Commanding Officer:** Commander Eric M. Anderson, USN
5. **Permanent Duty Station.**
  - a. **Homeport:** Naval Air Station Lemoore, California
  - b. **Carrier Assignment:** USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70)
6. **Aircraft.** 12 F/A-18C Hornet, Lot XII, tailcode NG1XX
7. **Callsign.** Beef
8. **Nickname.** Fighting Redocks

## **Chronology of Events for 2003**

### **16 Jan - 15 Sep 03**

Western Pacific Deployment: Deployed throughout the Western Pacific Region in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Port visits included Pearl Harbor, HI, Guam, Yokosuka, Japan, Pusan, South Korea, Singapore, Fremantle, Australia, and Hong Kong.

### **16 Sep - 31 Dec 03**

Upkeep and training at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, CA.

### **Awards for 2003**

Command awarded the 2003 LTJG Bruce Carrier Award for Maintenance Excellence.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals: 5

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals: 50

Flag Letters of Commendation: 25

**SQUADRON HISTORY**  
**(As of 1 March 2004)**

The Fighting Redcocks of Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY-TWO have been a critical element of Naval Aviation for over 56 years. Originally commissioned as Fighter Squadron SIXTY-THREE at Naval Air Station (NAS) Norfolk, Virginia in 1948, the squadron was re-designated as Attack Squadron 22 in July 1959. The first Redcock aviators flew the F-8F BEARCAT, and transitioned to the F-4U CORSAIR, F9F-2/5 PANTHER, F9F-6/8 COUGAR, FJ-4B FURY, A-4B/C/D/F SKYHAWK, and then the venerable A-7E CORSAIR II. Today, the 220 enlisted men and women and 26 officers of VFA-22 are based in NAS Lemoore, California, and are on the verge of transitioning from FA-18C Hornets to FA-18E Super Hornets.

Over the past 56 years, the Fighting Redcocks have been repeatedly called into action in support of national objectives. Over the years, the squadron completed three combat deployments during the Korean War and six combat deployments during the Vietnam War. In April 1988, while in the Arabian Gulf, VA-22 aircraft participated in sinking the Iranian Frigate SAHAND which fired missiles at two American A-6 Intruders. In 1993, the Fighting Redcocks deployed aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) to the Arabian Gulf and participated in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, enforcing the United Nations southern no-fly zone sanctions over Iraq. Before returning home from deployment, the squadron diverted to the coast of Somalia and provided air support during Operation CONTINUE HOPE. In December 1998, VFA-22 led the only Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN air strike of Operation DESERT FOX, which significantly degraded Iraq's capability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction. In October 2001, VFA-22 was the first on the scene with USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) to perform strikes against Taliban and Al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2003, VFA-22 deployed with Carrier Air Wing Nine on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) on an extended eight month deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Fighting Redcocks have also participated in several peacetime missions, including providing assistance in evacuating American service members and their family members from the Philippines after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

Throughout its history, VFA-22 has consistently made a significant and positive impact on naval aviation's drive for operational excellence and increased combat capabilities. In 1985, the squadron was the first West Coast squadron to

successfully employ an AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile. In 1993, VFA-22 was the first squadron to deploy with the AIM-120 AMRAAM Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missile. In 1999, Fighting Redcock aviators employed the AGM-54 JSOW Joint Stand-Off Weapon in combat for the first time and achieved a 100 percent kill ratio. Again in 2001, VFA-22 entered the fray during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and not only employed more ordnance than any other Navy squadron, but was one of the first to integrate the JDAM Joint Direct Attack Munition in the close air support arena.

During the command's fifty-plus-year history, the Fighting Redcocks have deployed on four different aircraft carriers, under the command of four separate Operational Commanders, Carrier Air Wing FIFTEEN, Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN, Carrier Air Wing EIGHT and as of August 2002, Carrier Air Wing NINE. Throughout its illustrious history, VFA-22 has won many distinctive honors. The squadron won the Commander, Light Attack Wing Pacific Fleet, John L. Nicholson Retention Award in 1980 and 1981. The squadron also won the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, Golden Anchor Retention Award and the Rear Admiral Clarence Wade McClusky Awards as the best Attack Squadron in the United States Navy in 1981. The Fighting Redcocks have also earned two Meritorious Unit Commendations, three Bruce Carrier Awards for Excellence in Aviation Maintenance, the Scott F. Kirby Award for ordnance excellence, and five Battle "E" awards. In 1999, the Secretary of the Navy awarded the squadron the Navy Unit Commendation (NUC) for its role during Operation DESERT FOX and recently, the squadron was awarded its second NUC for participation in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. The squadron also earned the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award for 2000 and 2001. In 2003, the squadron received the Bruce Carrier Award and received Carrier Air Wing NINE's endorsement for the 2003 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award, and Battle "E".

The Officers and Sailors of the VFA-22 Fighting Redcocks are proud of the splendid accomplishments and noteworthy achievements of their predecessors. Armed with a rich heritage and high standards established by those from our cherished past, VFA-22 continues to strive for tactical excellence and remains ready to execute any contingency operation when directed by the National Command Authority in support of national security objectives.

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Ser Admin

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on STRKFITRON 22 ltr 1650 Ser Maint/

From: Commander, Carrier Air Wing 9  
To: Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Subj: LTJG BRUCE CARRIER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
MAINTENANCE

1. The Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22 have earned my strongest possible endorsement for selection as the LTJG Bruce Carrier Memorial Award recipient for Fiscal Year 2003. The Redcock hallmark of sustained superior performance reflects pride and professionalism that are unrivaled in the Strike Fighter community. Their continued leadership and expertise in maintenance and maintenance safety programs set the standard within CVW-9. Their superb accomplishments this year are a direct result of superior organization, leadership and fierce dedication to quality maintenance at every level. I know of no other maintenance team that does it better, and I am proud to nominate the Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22 for this significant and coveted award.

V. A. STEINMAN

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VFA-22

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on STRKFITRON 22 ltr 1650 Ser Ops/009 of  
9 Jan 04

From: Commander, Carrier Air Wing NINE  
To: Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Via: Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: NOMINATION FOR 2003 BATTLE EFFICIENCY AWARD

1. The Fighting Redcocks of Strike Fighter Squadron 22 have earned my strongest personal recommendation for the 2003 Battle Efficiency Award.

2. Throughout the year, the Fighting Redcock team sustained the highest levels of combat readiness, participating in the Global War on Terrorism during an arduous and dynamic eight month deployment on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). An uncompromising commitment to maintenance excellence, operational flexibility, professional training, and resource optimization enabled the squadron to excel by every measure of performance. In a period of highly fluid operational and support tasking, the Fighting Redcocks executed over 2,500 sorties spanning almost 3,800 flight hours while achieving nearly eight years and over 34,500 flight hours Class A mishap-free. These significant accomplishments followed a greatly compressed Inter-Deployment Training Cycle after reporting to CVW-9 from CVW-8 with only three days' notice. The personal sacrifices, hard work, and quality leadership of all 225 members of the Fighting Redcock team ensured the squadron's high level of combat readiness.

3. The Fighting Redcocks of Strike Fighter Squadron 22 are clearly committed to the highest standards in aircraft maintenance, combat-ready operations, and leadership. They have performed without peer in Carrier Air Wing NINE and are highly deserving of the 2003 Battle Efficiency Award.

V. A. STEINMAN