

1975

FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON THIRTEEN
SQUADRON HISTORY

Fleet Composite Squadron THIRTEEN (VC-13) has followed the evolution of naval aircraft since the beginning of the Naval Air Reserve in 1946. Through many changes in squadron designation, NAS Miramar based reservists have flown seven different types of aircraft, from the old F6F "Hellcat" of World War II fame to the A-4 "Skyhawk", mainstay of Navy jets for over 20 years.

The original Reserve Fighter Squadron at New Orleans, VF-35L, was commissioned in 1946 and was comprised largely of World War II veterans flying the F6F and the Grumman TBF. In 1950, the squadron underwent three changes: It became VF-82 (later Vf-882), transitioned to the famous F4U "Corsair" and was recalled to active duty in Korea. After returning to reserve status in 1953, the squadron operated normally until transitioning in 1956 to another of the Navy's most famous and reliable aircraft, the AD "Skyraider", affectionately known as the "Spad". From 1961 to 1963, FJ "Furies" were the squadron's aircraft complement, and in late 1963, the A-4 "Skyhawk" came aboard. The squadron transitioned to the F-8 "Crusader" in late 1971 and then returned to the A-4 "Skyhawk" in May 1974.

Fleet Composite Squadron THIRTEEN was commissioned at NAS New Orleans on 1 September 1973 and commanded by CDR Ray E. CARTER. The squadron was formed utilizing the assets and personnel of VSF-76 and VSF-86. This change in designation resulted in the reserve fighter mission, utilizing the "Crusader", being replaced by the reserve fleet composite, or support mission, utilizing the A-4 "Skyhawk". Squadron personnel maintain a high state of readiness based on an intensive training program to perform the mission of aircraft familiarization and instrument training, ship services, close air support, air to air refueling and fighter intercept and adversary training.

CDR Patrick MCGIRL, USNR-R assumed command of VC-13 at NAS New Orleans on 1 March 1975 and has led the squadron through it's permanent move to NAS Miramar in February 1976. The squadron's complement of 3 officers and 42 enlisted TARs and 14 officers and 85 enlisted SARs provide services at NAS Miramar and detachments to various bases for both reserve and active duty units.