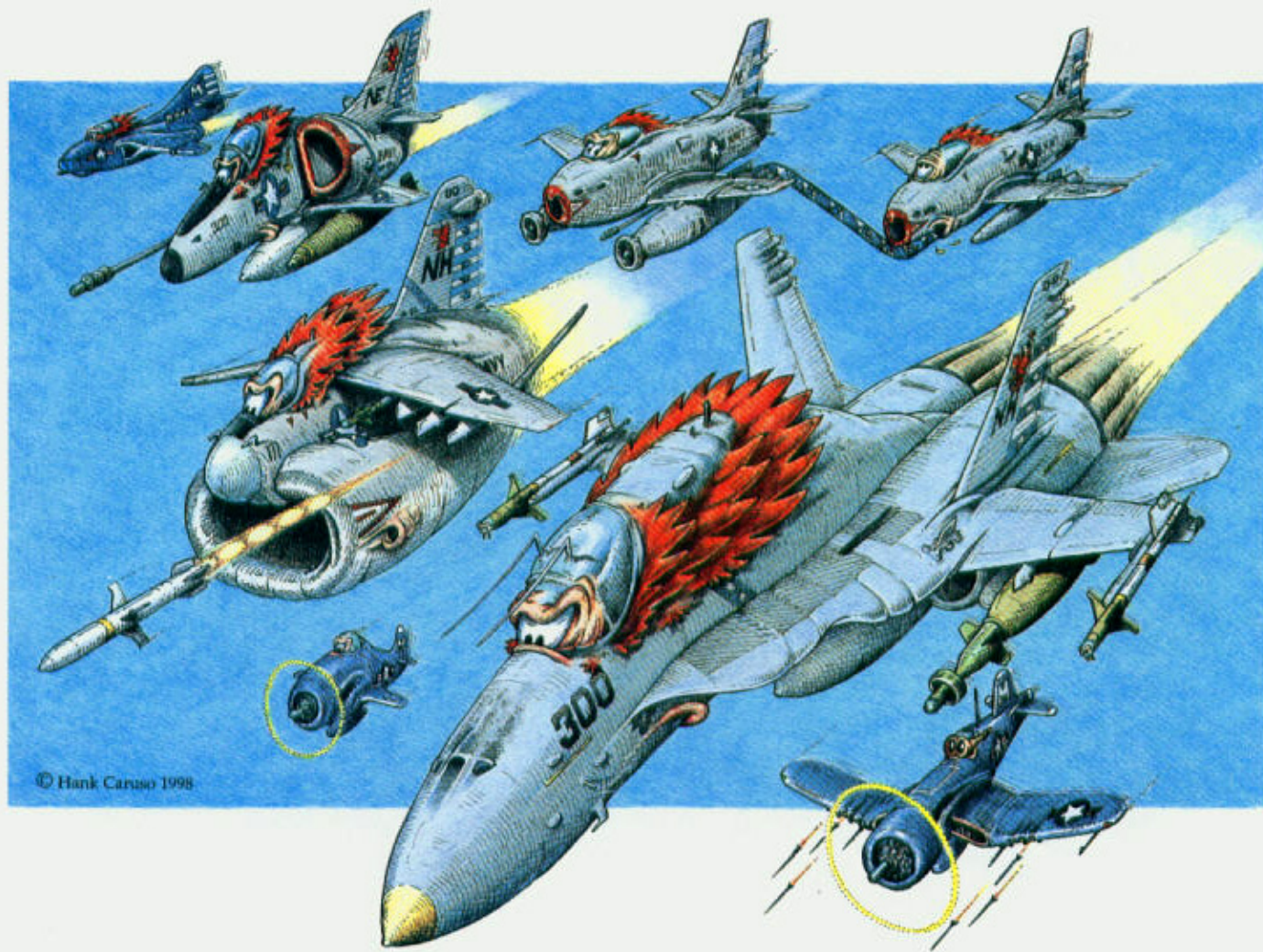


VFA-22

Fighting Redcocks



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The Fighting Redcocks were established as Fighting Squadron 63 on 27 July 1948, and redesignated Attack Squadron (VA) 63 in March 1956; VA-22 in July 1959; and Strike Fighter Squadron 22 in May 1990. The squadron was named for the fearlessness and ferocity displayed by gamecocks.

During their existence, the Fighting Redcocks have flown the F8F-2 Bearcat, F4U-4 Corsair, F9F-2/5 Panther, F9F-6/8 Cougar, FJ-4B Fury, A-4B/C/F Skyhawk, A-7E Corsair II and the F/A-18C Hornet. Highlights of VFA-22's history include



three tours during the Korean War between 1950 and 1952 and six tours in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972. The squadron's mission also included the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979–1980 and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1993. In the 1990s, VFA-22 deployed regularly to the Arabian Gulf to force Iraqi compliance with United Nations sanctions.

The above print by Hank Caruso, entitled "The Cock Gets the Taste of the Fight," was commissioned by the squadron to commemorate its 50th anniversary in 1998.