

Cope Tiger 2005

Personnel from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, deployed aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), participated in Cope Tiger 2005, an international exercise held in Korat, Thailand, from 24 January to 4 February. Each fixed-wing squadron in the air wing was represented. F/A-18C Hornets from the Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 82 Marauders and the VFA-151 Vigilantes conducted offensive counter air, defensive counter air, and strike missions. F/A-18E/F Super Hornets from the VFA-2 Bounty Hunters and the VFA-137 Kestrels conducted these missions and also provided airborne refueling support. EA-6B Prowlers from the Electronic Attack Squadron 131 Lancers were involved in suppression of enemy air defense and strike missions. Airborne early warning responsibilities were handled by E-2C Hawkeye 2000s from the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 116 Sun Kings. The C-2 carrier onboard delivery aircraft from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 provided the logistical support to transport personnel and equipment from *Lincoln* to Thailand.

The Royal Thai Air Force supplied approximately 35 aircraft to the exercise, including F-5 and F-16 jets. The Republic of Singapore Air Force contributed 40 aircraft, including F-5s, F-16s, and an E-2C. The U.S. Air Force contributed F-15A Eagles and F-15C Eagles, as well as two E-3C Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

During the two-week exercise, CVW-2 flew a total of 256 sorties tallying just under 400 flight hours. ✈️

Thanks to Ltjg. Douglas Hool of VFA-2 and Lt. Perry Solomon of VFA-82 for their contributions to this article.





Facing page, a VFA-82 officer confers with his Thai counterparts during Cope Tiger. Above, a VFA-82 F/A-18C Hornet flies with Singaporean F-16 jets. Top, two VFA-82 Hornets conduct a mission during the exercise. Above right, VFA-2's Lt. Adam Drayton confers with a Singaporean officer. Right, Cope Tiger participants gather at a VFA-2 F/A-18E Super Hornet in Thailand.