

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



CRUSADERS ON THE LINE – F-8 squadrons operating from USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin in support of allied ground forces in South Vietnam are VF-24, led by Commander Marion H. "Red" Isaacks, and VF-211, led by Commander Robert A. Van Arsdol.



VF-51, VF-53 AWARDED UNIT COMMENDATION – The Navy Unit Commendation has been awarded to USS Bon Homme Richard and Carrier Air Wing 5 for outstanding service during 1968 deployment to Vietnam.

The citation noted that the air wing – which included Fighter Squadrons 51 and 53 and VFP-63, Detachment 31 – "conducted day and night aerial strikes for 135 days in an environment of intense enemy antiaircraft fire and surface-to-air guided missiles."

The wing's operations included 1,515 combat missions in support of the defense of Khe Sanh.

VF-194 PERSONNEL DECORATED – Decorations for accomplishments in the air war against North Vietnam while serving aboard USS Ticonderoga prior to the bombing halt last November have been awarded to personnel of VF-194, NAS Miramar, California.

Commander Robert E. Roberts, skipper of the squadron, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for achievement as section leader of a May 8 strike against the Xom Trung Hoa petroleum storage area. The citation noted that "he and his wingman proceeded ahead of the strike group, through numerous thunderstorms, to report the weather at the target as satisfactory for the strike to continue. Navigating back to the strike group, he assumed his role as combat air patrol to protect the force from the ever present MIG threat. As the strike progressed, his accurate and timely calls of bomb hits and firing antiaircraft sites contributed tremendously to the success of the strike."



Lieutenant Robert B. Cannon III received the Navy Commendation Medal for flak suppression operations in a strike April 28 against the Ben Thuy cave storage area. The citation noted that he and his flight leader silenced "several antiaircraft sites firing upon the strike group," enabling the group to "attack their assigned target with minimum opposition from ground fire." He also received the Navy Achievement Medal for a May 4 flak suppression mission during a strike against the Vinh airfield. That mission involved "maneuvering to avoid heavy flak," making a dive bombing attack on an active antiaircraft site, and silencing the enemy fire.

The Navy Commendation Medal was presented to Lieutenant (j.g.) Kenneth S. Bates for achievement as wingman in the lead section of F-8 flak suppression aircraft during a June 12 strike against the Tam Da trans-shipment complex.

"The strike group encountered very heavy antiaircraft artillery approaching the target," the citation read. "Continuously jinking to avoid intensive fire, he fired his rockets with outstanding accuracy and silenced a large antiaircraft artillery site."



Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate John M. Gerritsen received the Navy Achievement Medal for meritorious service during combat operations as Maintenance Control Chief Petty Officer from January 26 to July 24.

The citation noted that squadron aircraft were maintained at "an outstanding level of availability" and that "under his supervision the maintenance department provided aircraft for over 1,300 combat sorties against the enemy."

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SILVER STAR PRESENTED FOR MIG KILL – The Silver Star Medal has been presented to Lieutenant Norman K. McCoy, Jr., of VF-51, who shot down a MIG-21 with a "Sidewinder" missile during an aerial battle over North Vietnam last August.

The citation read in part: "Despite the fact that the enemy aircraft had initially the tactical advantage and that seven other MIG aircraft were reported to be in the immediate area, Lieutenant McCoy pressed the boldly executed counterattack with skill and effectiveness in scoring a direct hit and sending it down in flames."



"SCREAMING EAGLE" RECEIVES DFC – Lieutenant James E. Esco, one of the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51, has received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in an attempt to rescue a photo pilot forced to eject after his plane was hit by enemy fire over North Vietnam last May.

The citation noted that Lieutenant Esco, who had been flying escort, braved "deadly enemy fire as he made pass after pass over the area at an altitude seldom exceeding 200 feet" in an effort to provide protection for the downed pilot during operations by search and rescue aircraft.

MIRAMAR CEREMONY CONDUCTED – Commander John M. Altmeyer (photo), skipper of VF-51, was among squadron personnel who received combat duty decorations and citations during an awards ceremony last month at NAS Miramar.

Commander Altmeyer received the second through fifth strike/flight Air Medal awards.

Other presentations by Commander A. A. Schaufelberger, Commander Carrier Air Wing 5, included: Commander A. L. Alexander, Air Medal and first through third strike/flight awards. Lieutenant (j.g.) Danny G. Garton, third through sixth strike/flight awards.

Lieutenant Commander Jimmie W. Taylor, Air Medal and first and second strike/flight awards. Lieutenant Norman K. McCoy, Jr., fourth through eighth strike/flight awards.

Lieutenant John N. Quisenberry, Bronze Star in lieu of additional Air Medal and third through sixth strike/flight awards. Lieutenant Gregory L. Murrell, third through sixth strike/flight awards.

Lieutenant James E. Esco, third through sixth strike/flight awards. Lieutenant Roy A. McDermid, third through fifth strike/flight awards.

Letters of commendation from the commanding officer of USS Bon Homme Richard were presented to AMS2 R. L. Caldwell and ADJ1 R. D. Pool.





VFP-63 OFFICERS, MEN HONORED – Eleven officers and men of VFP-63 have received recognition at NAS Miramar for individual performance during combat duty in Vietnam.

Seated (left to right): Lieutenant (j.g.) George H. Adams, Jr., Navy Achievement Medal for service as air intelligence AAA/SAM analyst with Carrier Air Wing 5 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard. Lieutenant Commander David P. Burleigh, third Navy Commendation Medal, third through fifth strike/flight Air Medal awards, VFP-63, Detachment 31, USS Bon Homme Richard.

Lieutenant (j.g.) George B. Carlson, first and second Navy Commendation Medals, third through fifth strike/flight Air Medal awards, Detachment 31. Lieutenant William R. Kocar, second Navy Commendation Medal, seventh Air Medal, tenth strike/flight Air Medal award, VFP-63, Detachment 14, USS Ticonderoga.

Lieutenant (j.g.) Michael E. Kearney, Navy Commendation Medal, Air Medal, sixth strike/flight Air Medal award, Detachment 14. Lieutenant (j.g.) Larry F. Boline, Navy Commendation Medal, sixth strike/flight Air Medal award, Detachment 14.

Standing (left to right): AMS3 Frank J. Knappe, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet commendation for service with Detachment 14 as structural mechanic troubleshooter. ADJ1 Andrew Johnson, Commander Seventh Fleet commendation for service with Detachment 31 as leading jet engine mechanic. AMS1 John S. Macker, Commander Seventh Fleet commendation for service as leading aviation structural mechanic with Detachment 31.

PT3 Rex L. Hosler, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet commendation for service as photographic intelligence man with Detachment 14. AE2 Johnny L. Presson, first strike/flight Air Medal award for service as a gunner attached to Observation Squadron 67.

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VFP-63 MARKS 20TH BIRTHDAY - A big day on the calendar for VFP-63, NAS Miramar, California, was January 20, when the light photographic squadron marked 20 years of service as "The Eyes of the Fleet."



Detachments of VFP-63's photo Crusaders, pilots, photographic intelligence officers and technicians have been serving aboard Pacific Fleet carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin throughout the air war in Vietnam.

Since the bombing of enemy territory was halted last November, regular reconnaissance flights have been made over North Vietnam. Operations over South Vietnam provide vital intelligence for support of ground forces.

Commander James L. Ellis is the skipper of the squadron, which also provides detachments for carriers of the Atlantic Fleet.

VFP-63 pilots have been flying the Crusader since 1957, when they first acquired 1,000-miles-an-hour-plus capability. During an earlier period in the squadron's history (1950-1953), its pilots flew the F4U-4P and F4U-5P Corsair.



"600 SECONDS OVER NORTH VIETNAM" – "American jet aircraft, launched from a Task Force 77 carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin, streak in from the sea. One of these planes is a photo-reconnaissance bird. Guarded by two fighter aircraft, the photo plane dashes in over the coast to the heart of the Vietnamese panhandle".

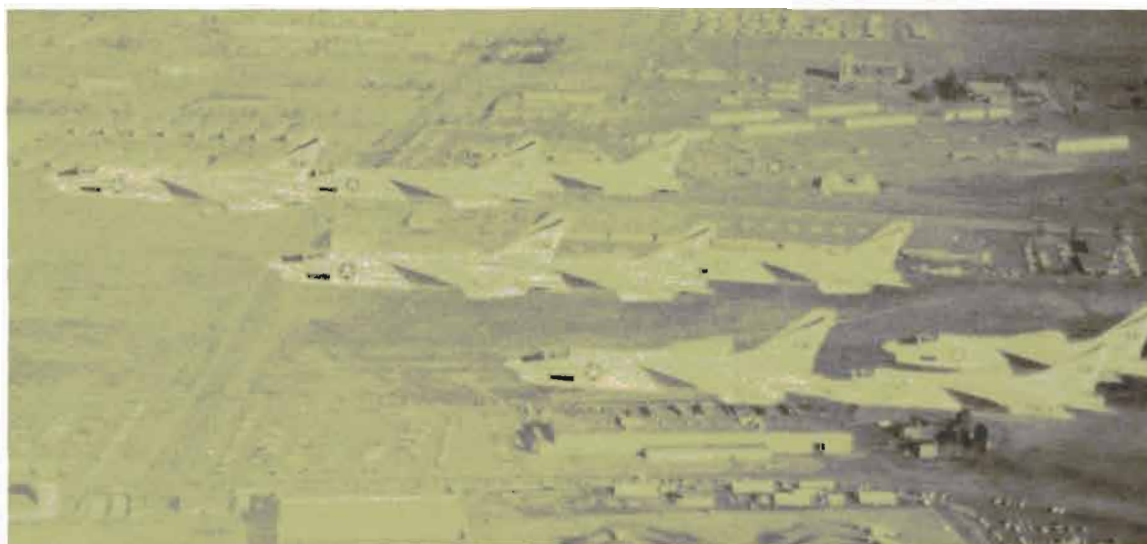
JO1 L. Carter Keck, describing a photo mission over enemy territory in a Navy news release covering reconnaissance flights launched by U. S. carriers since the November 1 halt of bombing operations over North Vietnam, continues: "Across roads, along a river, cross and recross a railroad, the photo plane, cameras whirring in its belly, covers a predetermined area of the countryside.

"Below, hidden in bunkers, in stands of trees, along river banks, antiaircraft gunners attempt to down the aircraft. Rounds of antiaircraft fire burst in the path of the speeding planes.

"Unscathed, the photo plane and its escorts turn back to the beach and home – a Seventh Fleet attack aircraft carrier. Time 'over the beach' was only 10 minutes – 600 seconds."

"Basically, we're trying to monitor the enemy's activities in the panhandle," Lieutenant Bob Harrison, of the VFP-63 detachment aboard USS Hancock, reports in the story. "When we went in before the bombing halt it was pretty routine. Now, of course, we're the only planes they have to shoot at, so it's a little more exciting. A lot of planning goes into a reconnaissance flight but for the job we're doing I think the results are worth it."

"Our best protection over the north is speed," says Lieutenant John Smith, another member of the detachment. "The other planes help quite a bit but speed is the main thing."



VF-194 FORMATION – Departing for a gunnery deployment to El Centro, Crusader pilots of VF-194 staged a nine-plane formation flyover of their home base at NAS Miramar.

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FIRST CLASS COMPLETES "POSTGRAD COURSE" – Graduation ceremonies have been conducted for the first class to complete a "postgraduate course" in F-8 weapons training conducted by VF-124 at "Crusader College," NAS Miramar.

Photo shows (left to right) Lieutenant Bruce M. Johnson, one of the staff of instructors; Commander Harry J. Post, commanding officer, VF-124; Lieutenant Commander John S. Hellman, officer in charge of the weapons school; graduates Lieutenant (j.g.) Bob Walters, VF-162; Lieutenant Skip Giles, VF-194; Lieutenant (j.g.) John Laughter, VF-111, and Lieutenant (j.g.) Steve Russ, VF-53; and Captain Phillip R. Craven, Commander Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing 12. Not present when the photo was taken were graduates Lieutenant Bill Switzer, VF-191, and Lieutenant John Quisenberry, VF-51.



Lieutenant Walters (shown in photo with Captain Craven) was selected as the "outstanding graduate" of the initial class to complete the advanced training course.

VF-124 instructors, in addition to Lieutenant Johnson, are Commander Richard L. Mudgett, Lieutenant Commanders Dave R. Morris, Larry S. Miller and Ron F. Ball, and Lieutenants Boyd F. Repsher, Bob W. Geeding and Don A. Agatep.

"WELL DONE!" – Commander Richard J. "Dick" Cavicke has recorded his 100th Crusader night carrier landing.

The executive officer of VF-24 is shown (left) being congratulated by his skipper, Commander Marion H. "Red" Isaacks, aboard USS Hancock off the coast of Vietnam.



DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS PRESENTED - For "heroism and extraordinary achievement" during a strike against a vital target in North Vietnam, the Distinguished Flying Cross has been presented to Lieutenant Commander John W. McDonald.

The presentation was made by Commander Harry J. Post, commanding officer of VF-124, in a squadron awards ceremony at NAS Miramar.



The citation noted that on August 18, 1967, when Lieutenant Commander McDonald was serving with VF-162 and flying from USS Oriskany, he "led a two-plane F-8E flak suppression element in a seven-plane air wing strike against the Vinh ammunition storage area.

"Preceding the main force to the target," he "delivered his bombs on the most active 85-millimeter flak site, silenced the guns and began withdrawal from the area.

"When the second strike section encountered technical difficulties in acquiring the target, it became evident to Lieutenant Commander McDonald that further flak suppression would be required. He returned to the target, silenced one flak site with the remainder of his droppable ordnance, then suppressed two active flak sites with 20-millimeter passes.

"With all ordnance expended, he made numerous dummy runs on other active artillery sites. These feints duped the enemy into a temporary cessation of action and later drew fire away from the strike aircraft."



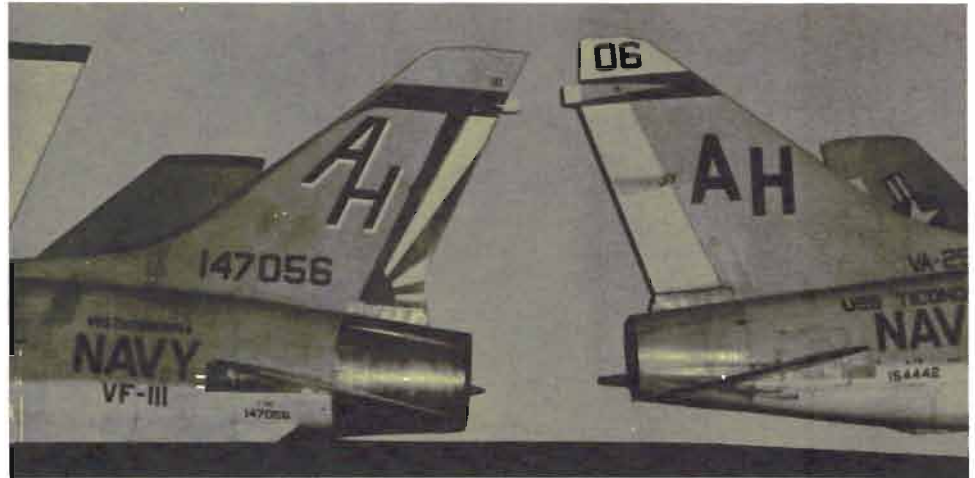
CRUSADERS, CORSAIRS SERVING TOGETHER - For the first time, Crusader fighter squadrons and Corsair II light attack bomber squadrons are serving together aboard one of the Navy's aircraft carriers.

The aircraft complement of USS Ticonderoga, operating in the Pacific, includes Fighter Squadrons 111 and 162 and a detachment of Light Photographic Squadron 63, all based at NAS Miramar; Attack Squadron 25 from NAS Lemoore, California, and Attack Squadron 87 from NAS Cecil Field, Florida.

VF-111 and VF-162 are commanded, respectively, by Commander Jack L. Finney and Commander Joseph A. Muka. Lieutenant Commander F. A. Grant is officer in charge of the Crusader photo detachment.

VA-25 is led by Commander Scott L. Smith and VA-87 by Commander Thomas E. Dunlop.

The "Tico" is commanded by Captain Richard E. Fowler and her Carrier Air Wing 16 is led by Commander Charles W. Cates.



TAILS TELL THE TALE – Navy photo taken on the hangar deck of USS Ticonderoga makes the pictorial point that Crusader fighters and Corsair II light attack aircraft are serving together aboard the carrier, operating off the coast of Vietnam. Marking the first time that the F-8 and A-7 have been teamed, the "Tico's" aircraft complement includes two Crusader squadrons, VF-111 and VF-162, and two Corsair II squadrons, VA-25 and VA-87.



VF-24, VF-211 RETURN FROM VIETNAM – Back at NAS Miramar, California, after combat deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Hancock are VF-24, led by Commander Marion H. "Red" Isaacks; VF-211, led by Commander Robert A. Van Arsdol, and VFP-63, Detachment 19, led by Lieutenant Commander S. T. Clinton.

Serving with Carrier Air Wing 21, commanded by Captain H. L. Terry, VF-24 and VF-211 were among the last Navy squadrons to take part in attacks on North Vietnam before the bombing halt last November.

"Prior to the cessation of bombing, our assignment was to escort attack missions and photographic reconnaissance missions into North Vietnam," Commander Richard J. Cavicke, executive officer of VF-24, told newsmen after the fly-in from the carrier to NAS Miramar on March 2.

"Our duties after the bombing halt were to escort photography missions and act as a combat air patrol. This involved protecting the fleet and unarmed aircraft from any enemy planes.

"Our greatest obstacle was the weather. We flew combat air patrol missions regardless of how bad the monsoons got."

Air wing pilots flew more than 10,000 combat sorties and dropped more than 8,000 tons of bombs during the deployment.

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VF-211 WINS "E" AWARD – Fighter Squadron 211, whose pilots have been credited with shooting down six enemy MIG aircraft since the beginning of the air war in Vietnam, has won the Battle Efficiency "E" Award.



The presentation to the squadron's skipper, Commander Robert A. Van Arsdol (right in photo), was made by Rear Admiral George S. Morrison, Commander Carrier Division 9. Captain Howard E. Greer, commanding officer of USS Hancock, participated.

The ceremony took place near the close of the carrier's fourth combat tour in Southeast Asia. Command of the Hancock subsequently changed when Captain Greer was relieved by Captain New-

ton P. Foss to report for duty on the staff of Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet.



LIEUTENANT SANDE RECEIVES DFC – The Distinguished Flying Cross has been presented to Lieutenant John D. Sande for "heroism and extraordinary achievement" during strikes against the Hanoi complex of North Vietnam.

Commander Harry J. Post, commanding officer of VF-124, made the presentation during a squadron awards ceremony at NAS Miramar.

The citation included details of action on October 24, 1967, while Lieutenant Sande was serving with VF-111 aboard USS Oriskany. Flying as a surface-to-air missile suppression team escort, he "guided his team leader through a fierce missile and antiaircraft defense to a successful counterattack on the active missile sites surrounding the strike group target at Phuc Yen airfield.



"Detecting an unreported missile site which had taken them under attack, Lieutenant Sande directed his team leader into a close-in attack on the site. Forced by a weapon misfire to reattack the site, the team found itself literally engulfed by a devastating barrage of ground fire. He doggedly maintained his defensive wing position, directed his leader through the hail of fire, and followed him through with the reattack which was credited with destruction of the site."

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GUNFIGHTERS ON TARGET – "Satan's Kittens" pilots of VF-191 came up with a 200-hit aerial gunnery target practice banner during deployment to MCAS Yuma, Arizona. More than 30,000 rounds were fired at 27 banners in gunnery operations and nearly 2,000 hits were scored. Tops among squadron sharpshooters were Lieutenant John Foster and Lieutenant (j.g.) Bill Craig, with 64 hits each in one banner. Lieutenant Foster, with 244 hits, also recorded the highest individual score for the total exercise. Lieutenant Craig, with 45%, scored the highest percentage for any one banner.



AIR MEDALS PRESENTED – Lieutenant Marvin F. Umstead, Jr. and Lieutenant Patrick R. Scott have been awarded Air Medals for "heroic achievement" while serving, respectively, with VF-53 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard and VF-211 aboard USS Hancock.

Lieutenant Umstead was flying fighter escort for a photographic reconnaissance mission over Vinh Son, North Vietnam, on June 26, 1968 when his Crusader was hit by anti-aircraft fire.

"Despite a hole in the wing of his aircraft and accompanying control difficulties," his citation noted, "he calmly directed the flight across 20 miles of hostile territory to safety. The photographic coverage yielded valuable intelligence on previous strike damage and defense concentrations."



Lieutenant Scott's citation noted that on September 19, 1968, "while being vectored into enemy territory to intercept hostile aircraft," he "deployed and led a division of F-8 aircraft in an aerial engagement that resulted in the destruction of one MIG-21 and cleared the remaining enemy aircraft from a position where they could threaten friendly strike aircraft."

(Pilots from the Hancock and USS Intrepid participated in the September 19 intercept mission. A MIG-21 kill was credited to Lieutenant Anthony J. Nargi, of VF-111, Detachment 11, flying from the Intrepid.)



COMMANDER PARRISH DECORATED - Commander William I. Parrish has received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement as commanding officer of VF-51 during combat operations.

The citation covered service as skipper of the "Screaming Eagles" during deployment aboard USS Bon Homme Richard in 1968 and USS Hancock in 1967.

Commander Parrish is now executive officer of VF-124, the "Crusader College" squadron at NAS Miramar.



VFP-63 PERSONNEL WIN RECOGNITION - Navy Achievement Medals have been presented to three members of VFP-63, NAS Miramar, for meritorious performance of duty with the light photographic squadron's Detachment 14 during 1968 deployment aboard USS Ticonderoga.

Lieutenant (j.g.) David C. Peace III received the achievement medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second medal for service as assistant photo intelligence officer.

Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic Vernon G. Wild was recognized for achievement as line and corrosion control chief petty officer and Chief Parachute Rigger Howard L. Rhinehart for achievement as maintenance chief petty officer.

Other awards to squadron personnel included the third through sixth strike/flight Air Medal awards to Lieutenant David C. Smith for combat support missions while serving with Detachment 31 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard during 1968 deployment.

Aviation Electronics Technician Third Class Roger A. Odle received the first strike/flight Air Medal award for service as an aircrewman attached to Airborne Early Warning Squadron 1 during combat support missions.



VF-51 AWARDS ANNOUNCED - Outstanding service during VF-51's 1968 deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Bon Homme Richard has won the Navy Commendation Medal for Lieutenant Commander Stephen J. Earner (left photo), who served as maintenance control officer and assistant maintenance officer.

A Commander Seventh Fleet Commendation Letter was presented to Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic Johnnie L. Bryant (right photo), who served as airframe branch supervisor.



VF-51 WINS CLIFTON TROPHY – Selected by the Navy as its outstanding fighter squadron for 1968, VF-51 has won the Admiral Joseph C. Clifton Trophy.

Presentation to Commander John M. Altmeyer, skipper of the "Screaming Eagles," was made at an awards dinner of the American Fighter Pilots Association.

The trophy is now with the Crusader squadron aboard USS Bon Homme Richard off the coast of Vietnam. Photo shows Commander Altmeyer being con-



gratulated by Captain T. P. Dankworth, commanding officer of the "Bonnie Dick."

Selection of the winner was based on overall performance as a unit. Determining factors included operational excellence and the results of operational and command inspections.

The "Screaming Eagles" served aboard the Bon Homme Richard during 1968 deployment to Vietnam. Two of the squadron's pilots, Commander Lowell R. "Moose" Myers and Lieutenant Norman McCoy, downed MIG-21s during combat action.

VF-51, commissioned in 1943 and a member of Carrier Air Wing 5 since that time, has served in World War II, in the Korean conflict and in the war in Vietnam. The honors it has received include a Presidential Unit Citation and five Navy Unit Commendations.

Also operating from the "Bonnie Dick" during the carrier's current fifth combat tour to Vietnam are VF-53, led by Commander Robert E. Weedon, and VFP-63, Detachment 31, led by Lieutenant Commander David P. Burleigh.

As the carrier went back on the line in the Gulf of Tonkin, Rear Admiral Frederick A. Bardshar was relieved by Rear Admiral Roy A. Isaman as Commander Carrier Division 7. Admiral Bardshar has been assigned to duty as Vice Director J-3 (Operations), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D. C. Admiral Isaman reported from Washington, where he had served as Director, Air Strike Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

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"IRON ANGELS" COMMAND CHANGES - Commander Robert E. Weedon relieved Commander Harry R. Blake as commanding officer of the "Iron Angels" of VF-53 in a pre-deployment change of command ceremony at NAS Miramar, California.

Photo shows (left to right) Commander Blake, now assigned to the staff of Commander Carrier Division 7; Commander A. A. Schaufelberger, commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 5; Captain T.P. Dankworth, commanding officer, USS Bon Homme Richard, and Commander Weedon.



VF-53's new skipper, who had served as the squadron's executive officer since last October, previously flew 120 missions over Vietnam while serving with VF-194.



1,000-HOUR AWARD - When Colonel H. P. Lynk, USMC, received his Crusader Thousand-Hour Club certificate, the presentation was made by Major General Norman J. Anderson, Deputy Commander of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia.

Colonel Lynk began flying the F-8 in February, 1958 and logged his 1,000th hour last year while serving in Vietnam with the First Marine Aircraft Wing, then under command of General Anderson.

VF-211 RECEIVES "MUTHA TROPHY" - VF-211 has been awarded the "Mutha Trophy" presented annually by VF-124, the Crusader "mother squadron" at NAS Miramar.

In recognition of squadron esprit de corps and proficiency, Commander Robert A. Van Arsdol (right in photo) received the trophy from Commander Harry J. Post, skipper of VF-124. The new executive officer of VF-211 is Commander Donald C. Paolucci (left), who served previously as operations officer of VF-124.



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"TICO" CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY - May 8 marked the 25th anniversary of the beginning of USS Ticonderoga's service with the fleet and ship's personnel spelled out a special message on the carrier's flight deck. The "Tico's" aircraft complement for her fifth combat cruise to Vietnam includes two Crusader fighter squadrons, VF-111 and VF-162, and two Corsair II attack squadrons, VA-25 and VA-87.



LANDING MILESTONE RECORDED - The 125,000th arrested landing aboard USS Ticonderoga since the carrier was recommissioned in 1954 after conversion and modernization has been recorded by Lieutenant Thomas L. Garrett of VF-111. The "Sundowners" pilot made the milestone landing April 24.

Commissioned May 8, 1944, the "Tico" became an inactive reserve ship in 1947 after service in World War II. Brought out of the reserves in 1952, she was decommissioned for conversion that equipped her with steam-driven catapults and other advances in carrier construction. After recommissioning in 1954, she was subsequently equipped with an angled deck and an enclosed hurricane bow and was redesignated CVA, an attack carrier of the Oriskany Class.

Captain R. E. Fowler, Jr. is the 27th commanding officer of the carrier, which won five battle stars for World War II action and has received three Navy Unit Commendations for her four previous deployments to Vietnam.



"SUNDOWNERS" RECEIVE DFC AWARDS - Two VF-111 pilots currently serving aboard USS Ticonderoga have received Distinguished Flying Crosses for "heroism and extraordinary achievement" during previous service with the squadron aboard USS Oriskany.

The decorations were presented by Captain R. E. Fowler, Jr., commanding officer of the "Tico."

Lieutenant Commander Donald A. Baker (left photo) received a DFC for achievement during a series of three air wing strikes against the Hanoi complex in North Vietnam on October 25 and 26, 1967.

Lieutenant Thomas L. Garrett (right photo) received his DFC for achievement during a series of raids in the Hanoi area on October 25 and 27.



LIEUTENANT HISE DECORATED -

The Air Medal has been awarded to Lieutenant George E. Hise, II for his part in the rescue of a pilot downed during combat action over North Vietnam last year.

The presentation was made by Commander Harry J. Post, commanding officer of VF-124, during a squadron awards ceremony at NAS Miramar.



On August 30, 1968, serving with VF-53, Lieutenant Hise was wingman in a section of fighters operating near the city of Vinh Son when he "sighted a burning aircraft and a descending parachute."

No distress call had been received and he provided the exact position for a rescue operation. Then, "despite heavy 85-millimeter fire and the close proximity of numerous surface-to-air missiles and antiaircraft batteries," he orbited the downed pilot and made "repeated daring low passes overhead to discourage any enemy attempts to capture the pilot." The rescue was carried out by a helicopter.

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VF-62 PILOTS BOOST FLIGHT TOTALS - A total of 8,250 Crusader flight hours and 2,100 arrested carrier landings has been amassed by four VF-62 pilots, Commander Sam Hubbard, Jr., commanding officer; Commander Ed Hickey, Jr., executive officer; Lieutenant Commander Chuck Tinker, maintenance officer, and Lieutenant Commander Dave Morris, operations officer.

The "Boomers" of VF-62 are serving aboard USS Shangri-La, deployed in the Mediterranean with the Sixth Fleet. The squadron as a whole has a total of 12,800 F-8 hours and 4,100 traps, representing an average of 1,060 hours and 340 traps for each of its 12 pilots.



VFP-63 COMMAND CHANGES - Commander Ray L. Dunkin has relieved Commander James L. Ellis as commanding officer of Light Photographic Squadron 63, NAS Miramar, California.



The new skipper (photo) was executive officer of the squadron prior to assuming command on June 11. Commander Ellis has been assigned to duty as navigation officer aboard USS Kitty Hawk.

The new executive officer of "The Eyes of the Fleet" is Commander Benjamin W. Cloud, previously attached to the staff of Carrier Air Wing 17.

Commander Dunkin's association with VFP-63 began in 1964 and he subsequently made two WESTPAC cruises as Officer in Charge of a detachment flying photo Crusaders. In January 1966, he was assigned to duty as operations officer of the Naval Aerospace Recovery Facility, El Centro, California, and later became executive officer. He reported to VFP-63 again in May 1968, as executive officer.



HANCOCK MILESTONE - When the 122,000th arrested landing aboard USS Hancock was recorded off the West Coast on June 4 the pilot was Lieutenant Tom Albus, of VF-124.

Presentation of a cigarette lighter marking the milestone was made by Captain Newton P. Foss, commanding officer of the carrier. Commander Harry J. Post (left) commanding officer of VF-124, was present for the occasion.



ORISKANY BACK ON THE LINE - USS Oriskany is back on the line off the coast of Vietnam.

The aircraft complement of the "Mighty O" includes VF-191, VF-194 and VFP-63, Detachment 34.



PILOTS RECORD "TRAPS" - Serving with VF-13 aboard USS Shangri-La, Lieutenant (j.g.) H. B. Lillebo has recorded his 300th arrested landing since he began flying the Crusader.

Lieutenant John N. Quisenberry, of VF-51, has recorded his 200th arrested landing aboard USS Bon Homme Richard and Commander Adalore L. Alexander, the squadron's executive officer, has recorded his 100th landing aboard the "Bonnie Dick," on duty in the Gulf of Tonkin.

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CAPTAIN PHILLIPS GETS SHIP COMMAND – Captain Billy Phillips, whose 7,000 hours of flight time includes 2,500 hours in Crusaders, has been assigned to duty as commanding officer of USS Capricornus (LKA-57), homeported at Norfolk, Virginia.

On June 20, he was relieved by Commander James B. Morin as Commander, Fleet Air Detachment, Cecil Field, and Commander Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing 4, the dual posts to which he had been assigned since July 1967.



Captain Phillips, who received his wings in 1946, has made 971 arrested carrier landings during his Navy career. His first operational assignment was with VF-14, aboard USS Princeton, flying the F4U Corsair and the F8F Bearcat. He subsequently served with Ferry Squadron 2, as a flight instructor at Pensacola, and with Composite Squadron 33 aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt and USS Midway.

In 1953, he was assigned to the office of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Representative in Dallas and flew the F7U-3 Cutlass, performing in air shows throughout the country, and the F-8 Crusader. He then served with VF-32 and VF-174 and in 1963 was assigned as executive officer of VF-194, which he subsequently commanded. His next assignment was to the pre-commissioning detail of USS America and service as air officer. In March 1966, he assumed command of Carrier Air Wing 19 and flew more than 150 combat missions over Vietnam during deployment aboard USS Ticonderoga.

His decorations include the Silver Star with a gold star in lieu of a second award, the Legion of Merit with combat "V," the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Navy Commendation Medal with a gold star in lieu of a second award, and the Air Medal with two silver stars and four gold stars in lieu of the second through 15th awards. He also has been awarded the Korean Military Order of Merit, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Navy Unit Commendation.



BRONZE STAR MEDAL PRESENTED – Lieutenant Commander Paul D. Smith has received the Bronze Star Medal for service as Officer in Charge of Light Photographic Squadron 63, Detachment 11, during combat operations in Vietnam.

Commander Walter C. Larry, commanding officer of Fleet Composite Squadron 2, NAS Oceana, Virginia, made the presentation during VC-2's annual "open-house" program.



Lieutenant Commander Smith also received a gold star in lieu of his third Navy Commendation Medal and the eighth through 11th strike/flight Air Medal awards. Mrs. Smith pinned the decorations on her husband's uniform.



VFP-63 OFFICERS, MEN SALUTED – Individual performance during combat duty in Vietnam prior to last November's bombing halt has won recognition for seven officers and men of VFP-63. Presentation of awards was made at NAS Miramar.

Seated (left to right): Lieutenant Peter L. Van Vleck, Air Medal and second through fourth strike/flight Air Medal awards for service with Detachment 11 aboard USS Intrepid.

Lieutenant Gardner B. Gray, gold star in lieu of third Navy Commendation Medal and sixth through ninth strike/flight Air Medal awards, Detachment 11, USS Intrepid.

Lieutenant David D. Loehr, Navy Commendation Medal and second through fourth strike/flight Air Medal awards, Detachment 11, USS Intrepid.

Standing (left to right): ATR2 Dennis L. Gandolfo, strike/flight Air Medal award for meritorious achievement while attached to VO-67, serving with the Seventh Air Force.

ADJ1 Lester G. Milroy, Jr., Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet commendation for service as maintenance petty officer with Detachment 14 aboard USS Ticonderoga.

PH1 Shelby F. Griswold, Commander Seventh Fleet commendation for service as photographer's mate with Detachment 31 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

PH2 Robert C. Powley, Commander Seventh Fleet commendation for service as petty officer in charge of strike still/motion pictures for the photographic division, USS Bon Homme Richard.

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



"CRUSADER COLLEGE" COMMAND CHANGES - Commander William I. Parrish has assumed command of VF-124, the Navy's largest Crusader squadron, relieving Captain Harry J. Post. The passing of a 600-year-old Crusader sword marked the July 28 change of command at Nas Miramar, California for Commander Parrish (right in photo) and Captain Post, who has been ordered to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Assistant for Fighter Systems. The sword, typical of those carried in the Crusades, was presented to the squadron in 1967 by Lieutenant Commander Bruce Morehouse for use at official functions.

Commander Parrish, former executive officer of the "Crusaders," had previously served as commanding officer of the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51 during deployment to Vietnam.



VF-13, VF-62 RETURN FROM "MED" - Back at NAS Cecil Field, Florida after a Mediterranean cruise aboard USS Shangri-La are VF-13, led by Commander G. B. Gregory, and VF-62, led by Commander Sam Hubbard, Jr.

The two squadrons are scheduled to be decommissioned on October 1 and their Crusaders will be transferred to NAS Miramar.

During the Mediterranean tour of duty with the Sixth Fleet, VF-13 and VF-62 served as part of Carrier Air Wing 8, led by Commander Bob Lovelace.

COMMANDER CAVICKE LEADS VF-24 – The new skipper of the "Checkertails" of VF-24 is Commander Richard J. Cavicke, who relieved Commander Marion H. "Red" Isaacks.

The new skipper, former executive officer of the squadron, is shown (right in photo) welcoming the new XO, Commander Bruce R. Boland, former maintenance officer of VF-124.



Commander Isaacks was assigned to report to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. Four VF-24 pilots have amassed a total of 5,500 accident-free Crusader flight hours. Commander Cavicke has logged 2,500 hours and Lieutenant Commander Ken Cox, Lieutenant Commander Jack Battenburg and Lieutenant Errol Reilly have logged 1,000 hours each.



COMMANDER ALEXANDER HEADS VF-51 – Commander Adalore L. Alexander relieved Commander John M. Altmeyer as commanding officer of VF-51 in a July 15 ceremony aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

Commander Altmeyer has been assigned to duty in the Office of the Chief of Navy Material.

Commander Alexander (photo) reported to the "Screaming Eagles" in June 1968, during a previous squadron deployment to Vietnam, and became executive officer two months later.



During the current deployment, status as "Double Centurions" (200 arrested landings aboard the "Bonnie Dick") has been attained by Commander Altmeyer, Lieutenant J. N. Quisenberry, Lieutenant G. L. Murrell and Lieutenant (j.g.) D. G. Garton. New "Centurions" are Commander Alexander and Lieutenant Commander J. W. Taylor.



100 NIGHT "TRAPS" – Serving with VF-51 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard, Lieutenant Commander C. R. "Bud" Collicott has recorded the 100th night arrested F-8 carrier landing of his Navy career.

Lieutenant Commander Collicott's logbook also has another distinctive entry: his 100th arrested landing in the F-8J model Crusader.

Assigned to duty as the squadron's maintenance control officer, he is serving his second tour with "Fighting 51."



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PHOTO SQUADRON GETS FIGHTERS – Light Photographic Squadron 63 detachments deployed in the future aboard the aircraft carriers USS Intrepid and USS Shangri-La, previously dependent upon fighter squadrons to provide escort planes for their unarmed photo-reconnaissance Crusaders, will provide their own protection. Commander Ray L. Dunkin, commanding officer of VFP-63 (in cockpit) and Commander Richard J. Cavicke, commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 24, are shown at NAS Miramar with one of the first F-8H fighters transferred to "The Eyes of the Fleet" to equip composite detachments for self-reliant combat operations.



COMMANDER DONNELLY DIRECTS VF-191 – In a ceremony aboard USS Oriskany, Commander Raymond Donnelly, Jr. relieved Commander Clyde Tuomela as commanding officer of VF-191.

Commander Donnelly (left in photo) had served since September 1968 as the executive officer of "Satan's Kittens."

Commander Tuomela has been assigned to duty at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland.



VFP-63 PILOTS DECORATED – Lieutenant Commander Samuel T. Clinton has received the fifth through ninth strike/flight Air Medal awards for 1968-1969 service with VFP-63, Detachment 19 aboard USS Hancock.

Also for service with Detachment 19, Lieutenant John W. Smith has received the first strike/flight Air Medal award and Lieutenant Edward H. Guilbert, Jr. has received the Navy Commendation Medal.

HANDSHAKE IN ORDER - Commander Joe Muka, skipper of the "Hunters" of VF-162, and Lieutenant John Braly are shown exchanging congratulations aboard USS Ticonderoga in the Gulf of Tonkin.



Commander Muka had just logged his 100th arrested landing in the F-8J model of the Crusader. Earlier, he had recorded his 200th landing aboard the "Tico," including previous service as Officer in Charge of a VFP-63 photo detachment assigned to the carrier in 1964.

Lieutenant Braly, wingman for the flight marking the commander's 100th "J" landing, marked two milestones: the logging of his 1,000th accident-free flight hour as a Naval Aviator and the 129,000th arrested landing made aboard the Ticonderoga since the carrier's recommissioning in 1954.



"SUNDOWNERS" SKIPPERS - Command of the "Sundowners" of VF-111 has been assumed by Commander Charles G. Dimon, who relieved Commander Jack L. Finney.



The new skipper (left in photo) had previously served as executive officer since reporting to the squadron in March 1968.

VF-111 is deployed aboard USS Ticonderoga for its fifth combat cruise during the war in Vietnam.



VF-194 COMMAND SHIFTS - Command of VF-194 changed July 9, when Commander Robert "E" Roberts was relieved by Commander Joseph P. Vinti.

The change of command ceremony took place aboard USS Oriskany, serving with the Seventh Fleet off the coast of Vietnam.

Commander Vinti (photo) joined the "Red Lightnings" in July 1967 and had served as the squadron's executive officer prior to assuming command.



CRUSADER*FIGHTER
REPORT*

"IRON ANGELS" REUNION – Navy duty recently brought three former commanding officers of Fighter Squadron 53 and the present skipper of the "Iron Angels" together aboard USS Bon Homme Richard in the Gulf of Tonkin. Left to right: Commander R. F. Mohrhardt, executive officer of the "Bonnie Dick"; Commander W. A. Gureck, commanding officer of Attack Carrier Air Wing 19; Commander H. A. Blake, air operations officer, Carrier Division 7, and Commander R. E. Weedon, commanding officer of VF-53. The "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51, led by Commander A. L. Alexander, also were deployed aboard the carrier off the coast of Vietnam.



A BIRD IN HAND – Rear Admiral Roy Isaman, Commander Carrier Division 7, is shown with one of his favorite birds, Crusader No. 114 of Fighter Squadron 191, operating from the admiral's flagship, USS Oriskany, in the Gulf of Tonkin. Pilots of VF-191, led by Commander Ray Donnelly, Jr., had just flown No. 114 for 45 consecutive maintenance-free sorties.

CHIEF RETIRES AS LIEUTENANT COMMANDER - Light Photographic

Squadron 63 has retired a chief as a lieutenant commander in a ceremony on the parade grounds of NAS Miramar, California.

Aviation Electronics Technician Chief Howard W. Sunday (right in photo) and Commander Ray L. Dunkin, skipper of VFP-63, saluted squadron personnel during a pass-in-review.



Chief Sunday, whose retirement ended a Navy career of more than 31 years, had served as a temporary commissioned officer from 1944 to 1963. After 25 years in uniform, he was given the option to retire as a lieutenant commander or revert to his permanent chief's rate and continue on active duty and he elected to remain in the service. Enlisted men who serve as temporary commissioned officers or limited duty officers retain the highest rank reached when they retire even though they may have reverted to their permanent rates.



ADMIRAL WEISNER LEADS TASK FORCE 77 - Command of Task Force 77,

the Seventh Fleet's attack carrier striking force operating off Vietnam, has been assumed by Vice Admiral Maurice F. Weisner.

The new commander (right in photo) relieved Vice Admiral Ralph W. Cousins (left), assigned to duty as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Operations and Readiness.



Vice Admiral William F. Bringle, Commander Seventh Fleet (center), was present for the change of command ceremony aboard USS Kitty Hawk.

Admiral Weisner, a 1941 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, was designated a Naval Aviator in 1943 and received the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving with Patrol Bomber Squadron 20 during World War II. During his Navy career, he also has served as commanding officer of USS Coral Sea, as director, Air Weapons System Analysis Staff, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and as Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel.

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"GITMO GUNFIGHTERS" COMMAND CHANGES - Commander Bruce H.

Ashley has relieved Commander Paul Goslow as commanding officer of Fleet Composite Squadron 10, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The new skipper of the "Gitmo Gunfighters" (left in photo) served previously as executive officer of the squadron. Earlier, he served an exchange tour of duty with the Air Force in Southeast Asia.

His association with the Crusader began in 1957, when he was a project test pilot for the armament branch of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland. In 1961, he flew the F-8 with VMF-323, deployed aboard USS Lexington for a WestPac cruise.

During its 24 years at Guantanamo Bay, Composite Squadron 10 has provided aircraft utility service for Atlantic Fleet units operating in the Caribbean area. Since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, it has been assigned the additional responsibility of air defense of the Guantanamo Naval base. The squadron recently transitioned from the F-8C Crusader to the F-8K model.



LAST F-8J DELIVERED - The last F-8J Crusader to come off the remanufacturing line has been delivered to VF-124, NAS Miramar.

The ferry flight was made by Commander Hal Averyt, of the COMNAVAIRPAC staff, who accepted the plane's papers from Captain Edward T. LaRoe (left), Naval Plant Representative, Dallas.

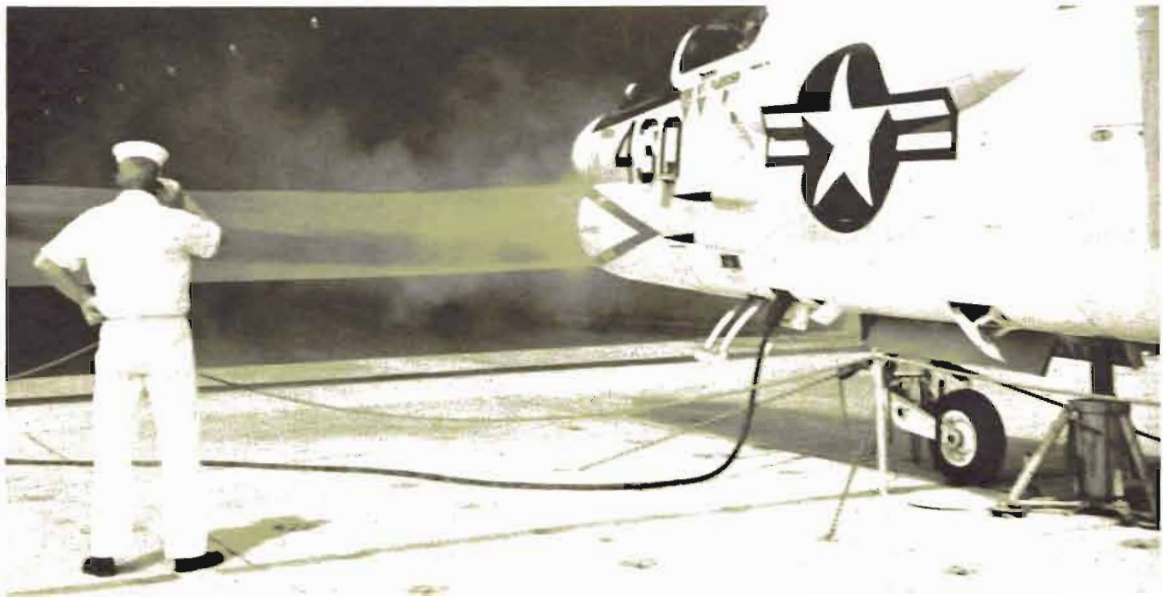
Deliveries of F-8K and F-8L models are being made as the remanufacturing program continues.



2,000-HOUR AWARDS SLATED - Recognition of pilots who have logged 2,000 hours in Crusader cockpits will take place during the 13th Annual Tailhook Reunion, October 3-5 in Las Vegas. The new 2,000-hour men are Commander Samuel W. Hubbard, Jr., skipper of VF-62; Lieutenant Commander Jimmie W. Taylor, VF-51; Lieutenant Commander Robair Mohrhardt, executive officer, USS Bon Homme Richard, and Lieutenant Commander F. S. Teague, Point Mugu, California.

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CANNON FIRE CUTS RIBBON AT MIRAMAR CEREMONY – Something novel in the way of a ribbon-cutting ceremony was staged September 5 when a new tunneled boresight range was opened at NAS Miramar, California.

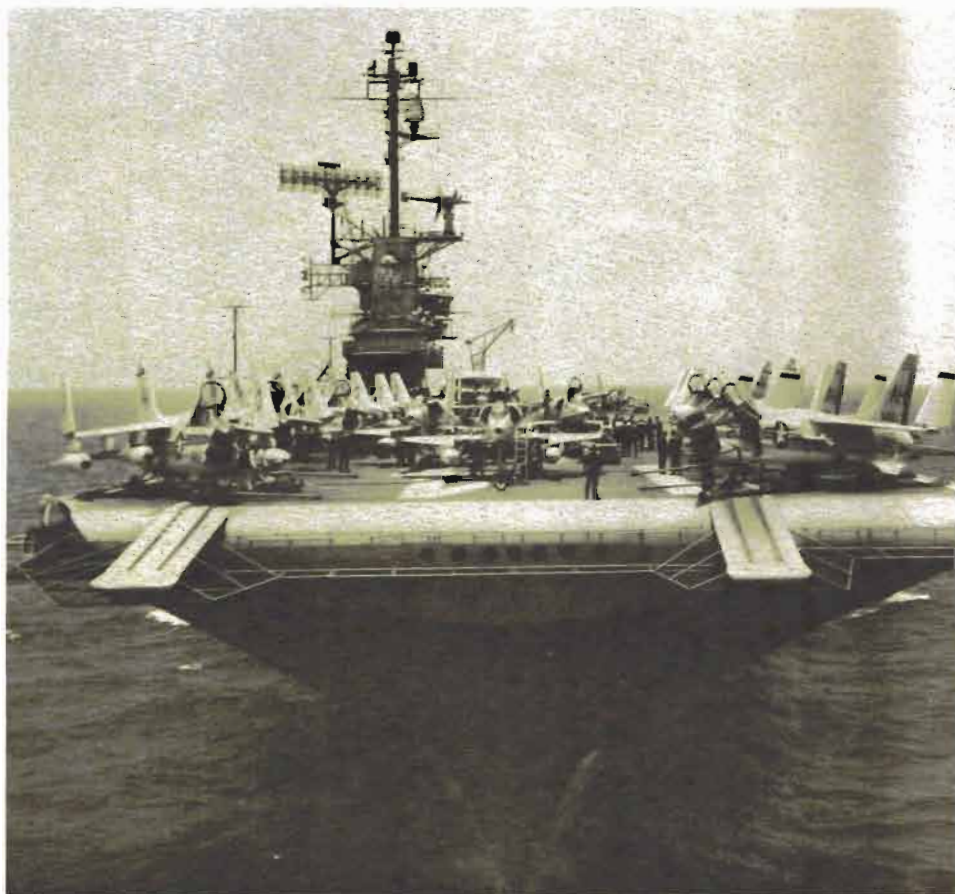
Mounted on jacks at the mouth of the 1,000-foot tunnel, a Crusader was positioned for "sighting in" with a red ribbon stretched tightly in front of the aircraft's four 20-millimeter cannon muzzles. One rapid burst of firepower triggered by Commander Richard L. Mudgett, F-8 training officer for Commander Fleet Air Miramar, severed the ribbon and opened a new era of aviation gunnery accuracy for NAS Miramar and its Pacific Fleet fighter aircraft. Captain C. N. Conatser, COMFAIRMIRAMAR, participated in the dedication ceremony.

A massive sand bank impact area absorbs projectiles fired at a muzzle velocity of 3,350 feet per second and traveling the length of the range at sonic speeds. About 140 Fleet Crusaders will use the facility at 3-month intervals, resulting in approximately 500 firings (75,000 rounds) per year. Previously, Miramar aircraft used range facilities at Fallon, Nevada, and Yuma, Arizona.



CRUSADER

FIGHTER REPORT



VF-111, VF-162 RETURN FROM VIETNAM - Two Crusader fighter squadrons and two Corsair II attack squadrons, teamed for the first time, were aboard USS Ticonderoga when the carrier returned to San Diego after her fifth combat deployment to the war zone off the coast of Vietnam.

The F-8 squadrons, based at NAS Miramar, California, were VF-111, led by Commander Charles G. Dimon, and VF-162, led by Commander Joseph A. Muka, Jr. The A-7 squadrons were VA-25, led by Commander Fred Orrik and based at NAS Lemoore, California, and VA-87, led by Commander Walter H. McCall and based at NAS Cecil Field, Florida.

Lieutenant Commander Freeman A. Grant, Jr., served as Officer-in-Charge of Detachment 14 of Light Photographic Squadron 63, also based at NAS Miramar.

During four line periods on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, more than 11,000 catapult launches were recorded as pilots made day and night air strikes in support of Allied forces fighting in the Republic of Vietnam.

Nearly 8,400 tons of ordnance were handled as the "Tico" spent 181 days at sea during a seven and one-half month deployment under the command of Captain Richard E. Fowler, Jr.



VF-62 DISESTABLISHED – Disestablishment of Fighter Squadron 62 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, on October 1 ended a history dating back to July 1, 1955 and an association with the Crusader dating back to March 1, 1960.

The F-8s flown by the "Boomers" of VF-62 on their last tour of duty, a Mediterranean cruise aboard USS Shangri-La with Commander Sam Hubbard, Jr. as skipper, have been transferred to NAS Miramar, California.

Other carriers from which squadron pilots have flown over the years include USS Randolph, USS Essex, USS Lexington, USS Independence and USS Enterprise.

Shown in group photo are (kneeling, left to right) Lieutenants Doug Cox and Joe Chronic, Lieutenant Commanders Dave Morris and Chuck Tinker, Lieutenant Jim Kirkwood and Lieutenant (j.g.) Frank Blair. Standing: Lieutenant Commander Russ Ellis, Lieutenant (j.g.) Jim Kinslow, Lieutenant Tom Morgenfeld, Commander Sam Hubbard, commanding officer; Commander Ed Hickey, executive officer; Lieutenants Don Kohla and John Allsup, and WO1 Clint Lydick.



2,000-HOUR MARK PASSED – Lieutenant Commander Jimmie W. Taylor has recorded his 2,000th hour in Crusader cockpits while flying with the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51 from USS Bon Homme Richard in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Since completion of his initial F-8 training in July 1959 at "Crusader College," NAS Miramar, California, he has flown with VF-142, VF-132, VF-174 and VF-51, reporting to the "Screaming Eagles" in June 1968, while the squadron was in the Western Pacific on its previous deployment. He is now serving as VF-51's operations officer.



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SPECIAL REPORT SUPPLEMENT



TEST PILOTS HONOR CHARLES A. LINDBERGH – Adding to the many honors he has received during his career as a pioneer in aviation, Charles A. Lindbergh is now an honorary fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

Making one of his rare public appearances in recent years, Mr. Lindbergh attended the society's 13th awards banquet, conducted September 27 in Beverly Hills, California, and is shown in photo below with Neil A. Armstrong, Commander of Apollo XI, and Mrs. Robert A. Hoover, wife of the president of the society.



Although addressed specifically to test pilots, his words of acceptance of the SETP membership had equal import for all individuals engaged in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. They are reprinted here for the benefit of readers of this report.

"No honor I could receive would mean more to me than this membership in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. I started out in life as a professional pilot, and still keep my license current – C69.

"In early days of aviation, there was less separation between routine flying and test flying than there is today. I suppose I could call my solo flight a test flight of the airplane, as well as of the pilot, because I had installed in my 'Jenny' a fuel system that had never before functioned off the ground.

"Test pilots played a major role in developing aviation before artificial wings first lifted man from earth. Our experimental testing has been essential in bringing aircraft to their present stage of perfection.

"When I first began testing aircraft, now well over forty years ago, I spoke to gatherings of men and women at which I emphasized that aviation was still in its infancy. Today, I think it can be said that we have been successful in our testing and that our profession is mature. Possibly the greatest confirmation of the maturity of our profession is that we find it so influential in the welfare of mankind.

"In this stage of maturity, it is interesting to speculate on the future of experimental testing. Surely, it seems greater and more challenging than ever in the past. Modern man's amassment of knowledge, and his control of previously unimagined powers, have taken the test pilot out through supersonics into space.

"I try to look ahead again, as I have tried so often in years gone by. On past standards, there is little question about the technical and scientific future of the test pilot. It is as brilliant as it is apparently unlimited, both within and without the atmosphere to which we were once confined. But I think we now face a much more fundamental test than that of aircraft and rockets: the test of these vehicles applied to life itself. Will aeronautics and astronautics prove advantageous to the human species?

"We cannot escape the fact that while science, industry, and commerce are progressing, the environment of life is breaking down. We pilots have had an unique opportunity to watch this breakdown – the stripping of forests, the erosion of land, the pollution of water and air; the destruction of cities at one time and place, and their megalopolizing at another. Year after year, we have looked down on such phenomena. The surface of our earth is changing fast, and certainly not for the better.

"Probably no devices of science and technology are more responsible than the airplane and the rocket for this revolutionizing of the environment of life – all life, not only man's. They impinge heavily on the politics, economy, and tempo of all major nations. They have made the remotest corners of the world immediately accessible to commerce, and immediately vulnerable to war. Our profession has helped to remove what was possibly the greatest safeguard to life in aeons past: the buffering effect of relatively slow travel.

"We are proud to have helped expand the scale of time on the charts of space. But I believe our pride should be tempered by the realization that man and his awareness, in fact all the basic qualities of life, developed under conditions of low power and slow movement.

"To what degree can life adjust to the commercial and military impacts that eventuate through our profession? This, I think, is the greatest test we, and everyone who works in professions of space and air, must face.

"I do not know the answer; but surely the first step in searching for it is recognition of the problem. It is needless to emphasize to test pilots that recognition of a problem sets a trend toward its solution, and that trends can accomplish miracles. What I would like to emphasize is that the crucial test, now, is of aviation and astronautics as a whole, rather than of aircraft and rockets individually, and that the prime measure of our success will not be economy, speed, or power, but the quality of life that results.

"Personally, I believe the mind that leads into experimental test flying is well able to extend its leadership to broader fields. The experimenter is the pioneer. He works on an ever-expanding frontier. We started doing this when we first entered our profession. We now find that the expanding frontiers of aviation have overtaken the evolving frontiers of life, and that failure to integrate the two would almost certainly be catastrophic.

"In air and space, we have met successfully challenge after challenge until man has landed on the moon. But the challenge now confronting us is orders of magnitude more formidable than any of the past; and our civilization, as well as our profession, depends on meeting it successfully. Speaking, I am proud to say, as a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, I hope and believe we will be able to contribute our part to a solution."



VF-13 DECOMMISSIONED - A squadron history which began in September 1948 and a Crusader association going back to June 1964 came to an end October 1 when VF-13 was decommissioned at NAS Cecil Field.

The last tour of duty for "Fighting 13" was a Mediterranean cruise aboard USS Shangri-La under the command of Commander G. B. Gregory.

Through the years, VF-13 pilots deployed aboard USS Tarawa, USS Philippine Sea, USS Oriskany, USS Lake Champlain, USS Wasp, USS F. D. Roosevelt, USS Bennington, USS Randolph, USS Independence, USS Lexington and USS Shangri-La.

Shown in group photo (kneeling, left to right) are Lieutenant Steve Ramsdell, Lieutenant Commander Frank Bachman, Commander Dick Raiter, executive officer; Commander Greg Gregory, commanding officer; Lieutenant Commanders Harry Landry and Jack Finley, and Lieutenant Crist Berry. Standing: Lieutenant (j.g.) Ron Perisho, CWO2 Gerry Slayton, Lieutenants Dave Matheny and Dick Sanborn, Lieutenant (j.g.) Mac McSherry, Lieutenants Bob Eichorn and H. P. Lillebo, CWO2 Bob Mueller and Lieutenant (j.g.) Lee Collum.



PLAQUE PRESENTED - When Commander Ralph B. Rutherford received his 2,000-hour Crusader plaque from Rear Admiral J. B. Davis, Jr., Systems Analysis Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, the commander's wife was present for the occasion.

The former skipper of the "Checkmates" of VF-211 logged his 2,000th F-8 flight hour last year during Vietnam deployment with his squadron aboard USS Hancock.



"ATTABOY" CAKE FOR VF-51 - Coming up with a new way of saying "Well done!" for outstanding performance, Commander Adalore L. Alexander, skipper of the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51, had a huge "Attaboy" cake prepared for all squadron personnel.

Concocted by the bakery of USS Bon Homme Richard, the cake was decorated with squadron statistics for a line period on Yankee Station: 317 combat and combat support sorties scheduled, 351 combat and combat support sorties flown (11% over scheduled requirements) and 708 flight hours put on the squadron's F-8J Crusaders.



FRENCH PILOT LOGS 1,000 F-8 HOURS - Premier Master Pilot Roland Peltre has achieved the distinction of being the first pilot in the French Navy to log 1,000 flight hours in the F-8E (FN) Crusader. The French aviator is shown at right with the temporary award presented by his squadron for this achievement.

Two squadrons of F-8s have been flying with the French Navy since 1964, operating from the carriers Foch and Clemenceau and recording a total of 38,000 flight hours.

"Personally," Master Pilot Peltre reports, "I consider the Crusader an excellent fighter aircraft and one that brings much satisfaction to its pilot."



MILESTONE "TRAP" RECORDED - Commander Robert E. Weedon, skipper of the "Iron Angels" of VF-53, has recorded his 400th Crusader arrested landing aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

Congratulations were extended to Commander Weedon (second from left in photo) by (left to right) Captain A. A. Schaufelberger, commanding officer,

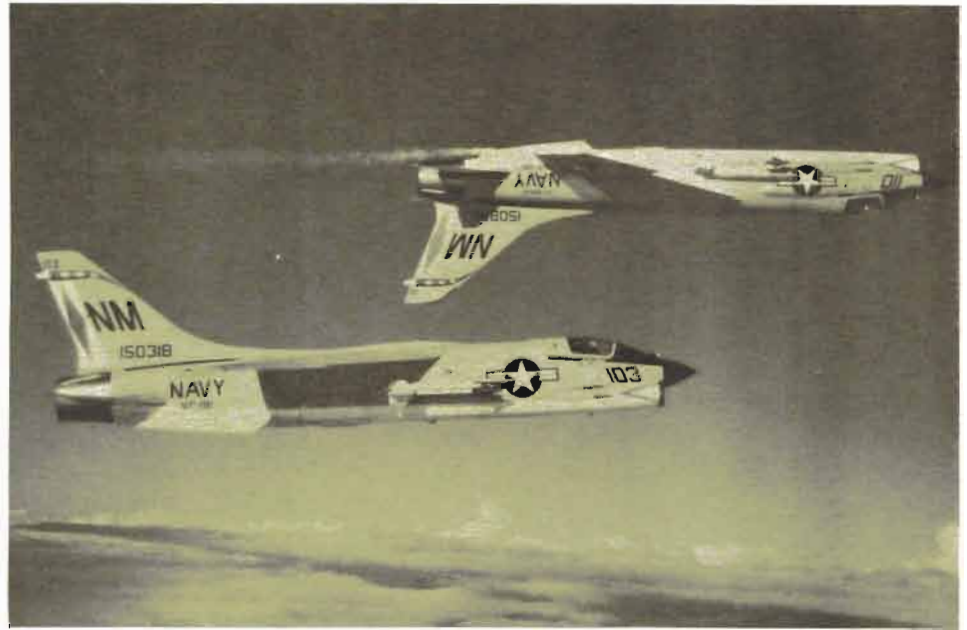


Carrier Air Wing 5; Commander A. L. Alexander, skipper of the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51, and Captain D. W. Alderton, commanding officer of the "Bonnie Dick." The "Iron Angels" commander has flown more than 200 combat missions in the Crusader and has made more than 100 F-8 night carrier landings.

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



EYE OPENER – Pilots of VF-191, operating from USS Oriskany off the coast of Vietnam, gave an aerial photographer something unusual to shoot at with this above-the-clouds demonstration of conventional and inverted flight.



PILOT LOGS 300TH COMBAT MISSION – Flying a Crusader, Lieutenant Commander Bill "Bluto" Turlay, a member of the staff of Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing 5, recorded his 300th combat mission over Vietnam while serving aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

The milestone mission was flown in one of the F-8Js of VF-51, the "Screaming Eagles" squadron commanded by Commander A. L. Alexander.

Serving on the staff of Captain Albert A. Schaufelberger, Lieutenant Commander Turlay was the landing signal officer in charge of training and qualifying LSOs from VF-51, VF-53, and VFP-63, Detachment 31, the "Dave's Devils" flying the RF-8G photo Crusader.



Flying F-8s with VF-51 and A-4 Skyhawks with Attack Squadrons 22 and 144, he has been awarded eight Air Medals and the Vietnam Service Medal.

2,000-HOUR PLAQUE PRESENTED - When Lieutenant Commander F. S. Teague was recognized for logging 2,000 hours in Crusader cockpits, the plaque presentation was made by Vice Admiral Thomas F. Connolly, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air).

On hand for the presentation during the 13th Annual Tailhook Reunion in Las Vegas were "Miss Corsair II" (Dina Moore) and Paul Thayer, president of LTV Aerospace Corporation.



Lieutenant Commander Teague's F-8 hours include 168 missions flown over Vietnam during three deployments aboard USS Ticonderoga, USS Oriskany and USS Intrepid. His decorations include the Silver Star and three Distinguished Flying Crosses and he is now serving with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 4 (VX-4) at Point Mugu, California.



FAIR EXCHANGE - Peace reigns at NAS Miramar. VF-124 has its treasured Crusader sword back and VF-121 has regained possession of its tiger skin "mascot," Otis by name. Seems that VF-124's ceremonial sword "disappeared" and Otis was subsequently appropriated and held as hostage for its return. Left to right in photo are Commander W. I. Parrish, commanding officer of the "Crusader College" squadron; Captain Louis C. Page, Jr., Commander Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing 12, who served as mediator, and Commander R. J. Schulte, commanding officer of VF-121.

"TOP GUN" - Achievement as "top gun" of VF-124 was recognized when Lieutenant Ron White (right in photo) received a trophy from Lieutenant Commander Dick Schaffert, officer-in-charge of his detachment during a gunnery and bombing competition. Outdoing 15 other pilots of VF-124's Yuma and El Centro detachments, Lieutenant White scored 56 hits on an aerial target banner and a bombing CEP (Circular Error Probable) of 70 feet. Lieutenant (j.g.) Rick Amber placed second with 51 hits and a 120-foot CEP. Lieutenant White is now serving with VFP-63 as squadron safety officer.



"TWOSEATER" STILL FLYING - The only two-seat Crusader of the 1,261 F-8s built for the Navy by Vought Aeronautics is still flying at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, where it is used to check out students attending the Navy Test Pilot School.

Originally produced as the No. 74 F8U-1 Crusader fighter, the plane was subsequently rebuilt as a trainer and made its first flight as the TF-8A in February 1962. A second seat added behind the pilot's seat was made 15 inches higher to provide better visibility. Both cockpits were equipped with flight controls, instrument panels and ejection seats. The plane was powered by a Pratt & Whitney J-57-P20 engine and carried a parabrake for rapid slowing down after landing if desired.

The ease of flying from the rear cockpit was demonstrated when the plane went aboard USS Independence for carrier qualification trials in September 1962. Captain C. C. Williams, USMC, a Patuxent test pilot and later an astronaut, made his first night carrier landing while occupying the rear seat.

The trainer was bailed to Vought Aeronautics for more than a year for numerous demonstration flights for military officials and civilian aviation leaders.

In March 1963 the plane was ferried to Rota, Spain, aboard USS Saratoga and flown to the French base at Istres, where test pilot Robert E. Rostine made 37 demonstration flights for French Navy officials. The French later bought 42 F-8E (FN) Crusaders. After similar demonstration flights in England and Italy by test pilot Stuart G. Madison, the TF-8A was flown to the Paris Air Show, where John W. Konrad, then the company's chief test pilot and now director of flight operations, made low level aerobatic flights.

Back in the United States, the trainer was returned to the Navy at Patuxent in October 1963. It is now designated as the NTF-8A.



"IRON ANGELS" RETURN – Back at NAS Miramar after their fifth combat deployment to the Vietnamese theater of operations are the "Iron Angels" of VF-53, led by Commander Robert E. Weedon. During its 7-month deployment, the squadron participated in Yankee Station team operations and in exercises with Task Force 71 off Japan and Korea. Flying the F-8J Crusader, its pilots amassed a total of 896 combat sorties and 1,127 arrested landings aboard USS Bon Homme Richard. All pilots were awarded Air Medals and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross was awarded to Commander Weedon, Lieutenant Commander Jim Taylor, Lieutenants Russ Berry, Ron Lambe, Dexter Manlove, Jerry Weber and Steve Russ, and Lieutenant (j.g.) Chuck Conrad.



VF-53 CONDUCTS CEREMONY – Enroute from the Gulf of Tonkin last month, the "Iron Angels" of VF-53 conducted an awards ceremony aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

ADJ3 Dennis E. Brunson (left photo above) was recognized by Commander Robert E. Weedon as the "Iron Angel of the Quarter," an award made to the squadron sailor "who best demonstrates superior professional performance, devotion to duty, military bearing, and leadership abilities."

Garland W. Stueart (center photo) was advanced to the rank of chief aviation maintenance administration man.

Jerry P. Mann (right photo) was advanced to chief aviation ordnance man.



"BONNIE DICK" HOME AGAIN - USS Bon Homme Richard returned to the West Coast on October 29 after completing her fifth combat deployment to the Gulf of Tonkin.

Aboard the carrier, commanded by Captain Dickson W. Alderton (photo) were the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51, led by Commander A. L. Alexander, the "Iron Angels" of VF-53, led by Commander Robert E. Weedon, and "Dave's Devils" of VFP-63, Detachment 31, led by Lieutenant Commander David P. Burleigh.



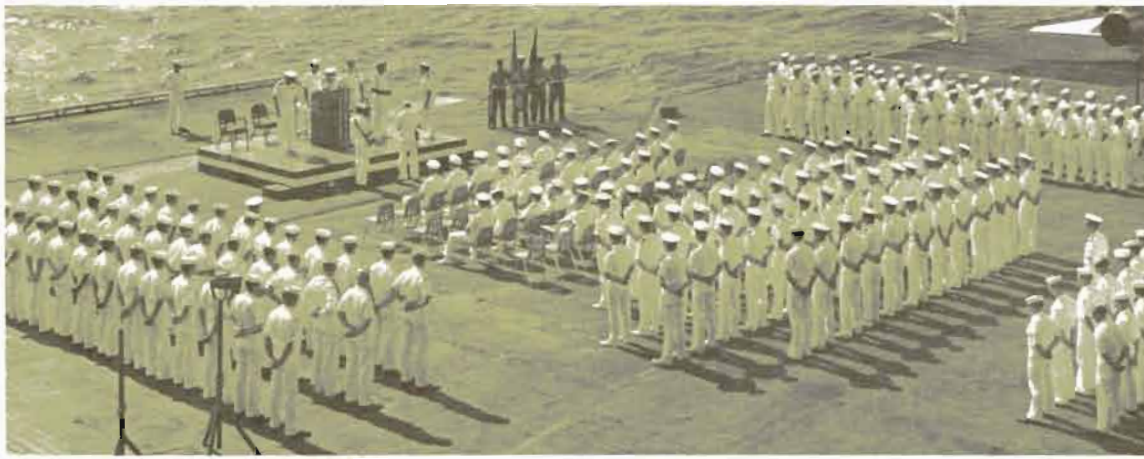
VF-51 pilots who qualified as Centurions by making their 100th arrested landings aboard the "Bonnie Dick" included Lieutenant Commander C. R. "Bud" Collicott, Lieutenant J. R. "Moose" Musitano, Lieutenant R. C. "Rick" Aubrey, Lieutenant (j.g.) W. B. "Windmill" Young, Lieutenant Commander Bob "Snowball" Snow and Lieutenant (j.g.) Bill "Willie" West.

VF-53 pilots who became Double Centurions by making their 200th arrested landings included Lieutenant Commander Jim Taylor, Lieutenants Ron Lambe, Dexter Manlove, Jerry Weber, Morris "Dirtball" Mansell and Steve Russ, and Lieutenant (j.g.) Chuck Conrad.

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MIRAMAR PILOTS HONORED – In a seagoing ceremony conducted before USS Bon Homme Richard returned from deployment to Vietnam, 18 officers of NAS Miramar-based squadrons and of Carrier Air Wing 5 received strike/flight Air Medals. Rear Admiral Roy M. Isaman, Commander Carrier Division 7, presented the awards to Lieutenant Commanders C. R. Collicott and R. G. Snow, Lieutenants J. R. Musitano, W. B. Lynch and D. J. Wilcox, and Lieutenants (j.g.) R. C. Aubrey, W. R. West and W. B. Young, all of VF-51; Lieutenants G. C. Bernard, Jr. and K. L. Johanson and Lieutenant (j.g.) J. R. Klugg, of VFP-63; Commander D. E. Kaiser, Lieutenant Commanders J. B. Lusk, Jr. and J. J. Adams, Lieutenants P. R. Harrison and W. E. Morris and Lieutenant T. J. Smisek, of VF-53; and Commander H. L. Bullman, of Air Wing 5.



ORISKANY ON THE LINE – The aircraft complement of USS Oriskany, deployed to Vietnam for her fourth combat tour, includes the "Satan's Kittens" of VF-191, led by Commander Raymond Donnelly, Jr., and the "Red Lightnings" of VF-194, led by Commander Joseph P. Vinti.

Captain John A. Gillcrist (photo) is the commanding officer of the "Mighty O," flag ship for Rear Admiral Roy M. Isaman, Commander Carrier Division 7. He assumed command in September after serving as Head, Sea-based Air Strike Warfare Analysis in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air.





TEXAS-SIZE GREETING - There's no mistaking where they're at when visitors to NAS Miramar, California, get a look at this message painted in 12-foot-by-12-foot letters on the south side of the new boresight range at the home of the Pacific Fleet fighters.



COMMANDER SPEER HEADS AIR WING 11 - Commander Paul H. Speer, who won the Navy Cross after shooting down a MIG over North Vietnam in 1967, has relieved Commander S. Robert Foley, Jr. as commanding officer of Attack Carrier Air Wing 11 at NAS Miramar. Commander Foley has been assigned to duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

The new commanding officer (photo) served previously on the staff of Commander Carrier Division 3, deploying twice to Vietnam. He had been assigned since April to Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing 12, training for his new post.



Commander Speer was the skipper of VF-211 in 1967 and was subsequently decorated for his actions as flight leader of six Crusaders providing cover for a bombing raid by A-4 Skyhawks near Hanoi. His citation noted that he pressed the air attack through a barrage of 25 North Vietnamese surface-to-air missiles and an attack by enemy MIGs. The A-4s were attacked after a successful bombing run and Commander Speer engaged the lead MIG and downed it with two air-to-air missiles. The other attackers withdrew and the mission was completed.



DOUBLE MILESTONE - A unique double milestone was recorded aboard USS Oriskany in the Gulf of Tonkin when members of the same squadron made consecutive thousandth landings.

The 146,000th arrested landing aboard the carrier was made by Lieutenant Norman Franklin, of VF-194, and the 147,000th trap was recorded by Lieutenant Mike Riddell, another "Red Lightnings" pilot.



Presiding over a subsequent joint cake cutting ceremony were Captain Jack Kenyon, then the commanding officer of the Oriskany, and Captain John A. Gillcrist, who later assumed command.

NAS MIRAMAR COMMAND CHANGES – Command of NAS Miramar, California, has changed, with Captain Alfred W. Chandler, Jr. relieving Captain George A. Parker.

The new skipper reported at Miramar after serving as Officer-in-Charge of Commander Seventh Fleet's Detachment "Charlie" in Saigon. He is shown in photo with Vice Admiral A. M. Shinn (right), COMNAVAIR-PAC, and Captain Parker (center).



Captain Chandler is the son of Rear Admiral A. W. Chandler, DC, USN (Ret.). His Navy career has included service as a fighter pilot and test pilot. During two World War II combat tours aboard USS Yorktown and USS Franklin he won the Distinguished Flying Cross and six Air Medals. During his tour in the Republic of Vietnam, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for his performance in representing the Seventh Fleet before the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.



COMMANDER PAOLUCCI LEADS "CHECKMATES" – The new skipper of the "Checkmates" of VF-211 is Commander Donald C. Paolucci, who relieved Commander Robert A. Van Arsdol aboard USS Hancock while in port at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

Commander Paolucci (right in photo) joined VF-211 as executive officer in April after serving as operations officer of VF-124. Earlier, he had made WESTPAC deployments with VFP-63 detachments aboard USS Ticonderoga and USS Oriskany. He has flown more than 115 combat missions over Vietnam, has logged more than



1,300 hours in Crusaders, and has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, eight Air Medals and the Navy Commendation Medal.

"Checkmates" pilots were credited with downing six MIGs during aerial warfare over North Vietnam and the squadron has received the Battle Efficiency Award of Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet.

Commander Van Arsdol has been assigned as operations officer on the staff of Commander Carrier Division 3.

"HUNTERS" GET NEW SKIPPER - Commander Robert G. Conaughton has relieved Commander Joseph A. Muka, Jr. as skipper of the "Hunters" of VF-162.

The new CO was saluted by Captain C. N. Conatser (left in photo), COMFAIR-MIRAMAR, during a change of command ceremony at NAS Miramar, California.

Commander Muka (center), assigned to duty as air operations officer aboard USS Midway,

received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service as commanding officer of VF-162 during 1969 combat deployment to Vietnam.

Commander Conaughton had previously served as the squadron's executive officer since January.



CAPTAIN PAGE RECEIVES LEGION OF MERIT - The Navy's fifth highest award, the Legion of Merit, has been presented to Captain Louis C. Page, Jr., Commander Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing 12.

Captain Page's wife was present for the occasion when the decoration was awarded by Captain C. N. Conatser, COMFAIRMIRAMAR.

The Legion of Merit was presented for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during combat operations against the enemy" in 1968 and 1969.

Air Wing 12 includes eight squadrons stationed at NAS Miramar, NAS Lemoore and NAS Whidbey Island with a total complement of 7,500 officers and men.

Captain Page previously served as commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 2.

In 1965, while serving aboard USS Midway as executive officer of VF-21, he was credited with one of the first MIG kills over Vietnam and subsequently received the Silver Star.

He also is a veteran of the Korean conflict, during which he flew combat missions from USS Boxer, USS Valley Forge and USS Philippine Sea.



VFP-63 PERSONNEL DECORATED – A ceremony at NAS Miramar, California, marked presentation of awards to officers and men of VFP-63 for 1968-1969 achievements while serving aboard USS Intrepid and USS Coral Sea. Commander Ray L. Dunkin, squadron skipper, made the presentations.

Seated (left to right): AFCM Thomas H. Gibson, Navy Commendation Medal for service as leading chief petty officer aboard USS Intrepid with VF-111, Detachment 11. Lieutenant Harry P. Fulton, Jr., Navy Commendation Medal and second through fifth strike/flight Air Medal awards for service with VFP-63, Detachment 43, USS Coral Sea.



Lieutenant Charles H. Rudd, Gold Star in lieu of second Navy Commendation Medal and fifth through eighth strike/flight Air Medal awards for service with Detachment 43, USS Coral Sea.

Standing (left to right): ADJC George E. Dunster, Navy Achievement Medal for service as leading chief petty officer and maintenance chief, Detachment 43, USS Coral Sea.

ADJC Robert W. Landmeier, Navy Commendation Medal for service as maintenance chief and leading chief, Detachment 11, USS Intrepid.

PT2 Robert A. Chaney, Navy Achievement Medal for service with Detachment 43, USS Coral Sea.



LAST OF THE "YELLOWTAILS" – Fighter Squadron 62 has been disestablished at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, but the memory of the "Yellowtails" will live on at NAS Miramar, California, in the form of a one-tenth scale model of the squadron's Crusaders.

Transfer of VF-62's F-8s to "Crusader College" at NAS Miramar included the scale model, long a prized squadron possession.



Commander Sam Hubbard, Jr., VF-62's last skipper, received the assurance of Commander William I. Parrish (left in photo), commanding officer of VF-124, that the model's squadron markings and distinctive yellowtail would be maintained at Miramar.

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



VF-24, VF-211 BACK IN ACTION – Back in action over South Vietnam, operating from USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin, are the “Checkertails” of VF-24, led by Commander Richard J. Cavicke, the “Checkmates” of VF-211, led by Commander Donald C. Paolucci, and VFP-63, Detachment 19, led by Lieutenant Commander James H. Roberts, Officer-in-Charge.

The “Fighting Hannah” is commanded by Captain Newton P. Foss (photo), who assumed command in February after serving as Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness for Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet.

Captain Foss, whose career has included duty as a Naval Aviator and as a test pilot, also has served in other staff positions and in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.



CRUSADER FLIGHT TIME TOTAL EXCEEDS 200 YEARS – Navy and Marine Corps pilots flying Vought F-8 Crusader fighters and photo planes have passed the equivalent of 200 years of flight time.

Since the Crusader became operational with the fleet nearly 13 years ago, more than 1,900,000 hours of flight time have been amassed by service pilots.

The F-8 was the aircraft that boosted U. S. Naval aviation from subsonic to supersonic speeds and the first aircraft to set a speed record of more than 1,000 miles an hour. On August 21, 1956, at China Lake, California, Commander R. W. “Duke” Windsor set a new record of 1,015.428 miles an hour. His achievement won for the Navy its first Thompson Trophy, symbol of speed supremacy.

On July 16, 1957, a Marine Corps major named John Glenn – later to become the first American astronaut to orbit the earth – made the first supersonic transcontinental flight. Piloting a photo Crusader, he streaked from Los Angeles to New York in 3 hours and 23 minutes, averaging 727.55 miles an hour or more than 12 miles a minute.

In Vietnam since the earliest days of U. S. involvement, Crusaders have performed as dayfighters and as attack, all-weather and photo reconnaissance aircraft. Crusader pilots were credited with shooting down 17 Soviet-built MIGs in combat over North Vietnam.

More than 1,250 Crusaders in 12 versions have served or are now serving with the U. S. Navy. Another version, the F-8E (FN) is serving aboard two carriers of the French Navy.

The first flight of the XF8U-1 was made March 25, 1955, at Edwards Air Force Base, California, by John W. Konrad, then Vought’s chief test pilot and now director of flight operations. Exactly 2 years later, March 25, 1957, VF-32, NAS Cecil Field, Florida, became the Navy’s first faster-than-sound squadron when delivery of production aircraft marked the beginning of the Crusader’s long span of operational service.

Dates entered in the F-8’s record book also include June 6, 1957, when the first ocean-to-ocean flight from aircraft carrier to aircraft carrier was recorded. Captain Robert G. Dose and Lieutenant Commander Paul Miller, Jr. took off from USS Bon Homme Richard off the California coast and landed aboard USS Saratoga off the coast of Florida.

In 1962, photo reconnaissance pilots of VFP-62 swept over Cuba in their Crusaders and took many of the low-level photos of the Russian missile site buildup on which President John F. Kennedy based his decision for a showdown with the Kremlin.

For its integral role in the events leading up to the confrontation, the light photographic squadron received the first Navy Unit Commendation ever awarded in peacetime and the first to be presented personally by the President of the United States.

Sixteen pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for “extraordinary achievement in aerial flight.”

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BEFORE AND AFTER – The “Project Bullet” photo Crusader in which John Glenn, then a Marine Corps major, made the first supersonic coast-to-coast flight in 1957 has been remanufactured and returned to operational service after 3 years of “mothball” storage in Arizona. Left photo shows the RF-8A shortly after it arrived at the Vought Aeronautics plant in Dallas. Right photo shows the modernized “new” RF-8G aircraft ready for test flights. In 1962, 5 years after his record-breaking flight, the former Marine pilot became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth.



VFP-63 PERSONNEL HONORED – Personnel of VFP-63, NAS Miramar, California, have been honored for achievement during Vietnam combat duty with Detachment 11 aboard USS Intrepid, Detachment 19 aboard USS Hancock, and Detachment 31 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

For service with Detachment 11, Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class Clifford T. Cook and Aviation Electrician’s Mate Second Class Arthur J. Gillian received the Navy Achievement Medal and Photographic Intelligenceman Second Class Karl A. Countryman and Aviation Structural Mechanic Third Class Morris E. Hawthorne received Commander Seventh Fleet Commendation Letters.

Service with Detachment 19 won the Navy Commendation Medal for Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic Johnny F. Massey and the Navy Achievement Medal for Aviation Machinist’s Mate First Class Joseph F. Nagel.

For service with Detachment 31, Photographer’s Mate First Class Loren F. Dubois received a Commander Seventh Fleet Commendation Letter.



“TURN TO, SKIPPER . . .SIR” – Facing up to the task manfully, Commander Donald C. Paolucci, skipper of VF-211, applied the initial coat of wax to a squadron emblem inlaid on the deck in the “Checkmates” ready room aboard USS Hancock.

Commander Paolucci’s chore was carried out under the direction of ADCS Edward R. Profancik, who had invested more than 150 off-duty hours in the tedious tile-carving project.





“TALLY-HO!” – “Fox and Hounds” is the name of the game at NAS Miramar, California, when Crusader pilots of Fleet Composite Squadron 7 provide aerial target practice for pilots of fighter squadrons.

The “fox” is a five-foot-long TDU-22/B Hayes target and the “hounds” are missiles carried by the fighter aircraft.

The targets are mounted under the wings of VC-7 planes and attached to fuselage-mounted reels containing 30,000 feet of steel cable. For training missions, the “Tally-Hoers” pilots release the targets from the wing mounts and tow them at a distance of three and one-half miles through maneuvers designed to simulate evasive action by “enemy” aircraft.



The Hayes target practice is only one of numerous services performed for Pacific Fleet fighter squadrons by the personnel of VC-7, commanded by Commander B. W. Hall (right in photo). Commander Hall, who flew the F4U Corsair with VF-14 after receiving his wings in 1940, assumed command in October, relieving Commander J. W. Brannon, Jr. (left), who has been assigned to the staff of Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet, NAS North Island. The new skipper previously served as executive officer of the “Red Tails” squadron.

Currently, the Hayes target is being used to check out the capabilities of the Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles. The heat-seeking Sidewinder is attracted by electronically detonated flares fixed in the tail of the target. The Sparrow, a radar-homing device, reacts to two radar lenses mounted in the target’s nose and tail.

ADMIRAL KOCH BECOMES NAVY'S "GRAY EAGLE" – Rear Admiral George P. Koch, Commandant, Naval District Washington, is the Navy's 20th "Gray Eagle" – the officer still on active duty who holds the earliest date of designation as a Naval Aviator.

Admiral Koch (right in photo) received the Gray Eagle Award trophy from Rear Admiral Robert J. Stroh, who was retiring as Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville after 43 years of Naval service. The trophy is sponsored by LTV Aerospace Corporation and Forbes Mann (center), president of the corporation's Vought Aeronautics Division, participated in the transfer to the new holder. Admiral Koch was designated a



Naval Aviator in 1935. He became the 20th Gray Eagle during a retirement and change of command ceremony at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, on November 28 when Rear Admiral Stroh was relieved as Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville by Rear Admiral Lawrence Heyworth, Jr.



FRENCH PILOT HONORED – The first pilot in the French Navy to log 1,000 flight hours in the F-8E (FN) Crusader, Premier Master Pilot Roland Peltre, has been presented with an achievement plaque by Vought Aeronautics.

The presentation was made at the Landivisiau French Navy base by Milton Hinshaw (left) and Vern Martin (center) of the company's Paris office.



Two F-8E (FN) squadrons have been operating since 1964 and 99 French pilots have flown the Crusader.



ORISKANY SQUADRONS RETURN – Back at NAS Miramar, California, after deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Oriskany are the "Satan's Kittens" of VF-191, led by Commander Raymond Donnelly, Jr., the "Red Lightnings" of VF-194, led by Commander Joseph P. Vinti, and VFP-63, Detachment 34, led by Lieutenant Commander J. R. Daws as Officer-in-Charge.

The Crusader units served with Carrier Air Wing 19, led by Commander William A. Gureck. During the deployment pilots of wing squadrons flew more than 8,250 combat missions and delivered 16,000,000 pounds of ordnance on enemy military targets and supply routes.

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NO. 14 COMES UP – Number 14 came up three times in a row in the Gulf of Tonkin one day during USS Ticonderoga's 1969 deployment. It all started when the attack carrier (CVA-14) completed flight operations for the day and headed for a rendezvous with an ammunition ship of the Seventh Fleet. The rendezvous was scheduled for 1400 local time and the first line went over at 1414 to USS Firedrake (AE-14). The Firedrake also was scheduled to rearm one of the destroyers accompanying the "Tico" as the carrier supported Allied operations in the Republic of Vietnam. And, a few minutes later, the guided missile destroyer USS Buchanan (DDG-14) pulled alongside the ammunition ship. Carrying out the chain of coincidences, the Ticonderoga photographer who went aloft to record the event on film was Photographer's Mate First Class R. M. Smith, who had just completed his 14th year in the Navy.



"TIGER TROPHY" AWARDS – One of the highlights of the conclusion of USS Ticonderoga's fifth combat deployment to Vietnam was the presentation of "Tiger Trophy" awards to two men selected as the most outstanding junior officers during the deployment.

The recipients were Lieutenant (j.g.) Edward A. Styduhar, ship's company winner, and Lieutenant Commander James B. Best, of Fighter Squadron 111 and Carrier Air Wing 16, a lieutenant for most of the cruise.



Photo shows (left to right) Captain T. J. Kilcline, executive officer of the carrier; Lieutenant Commander Best, Lieutenant (j.g.) Styduhar, and Captain R. E. Fowler, commanding officer of the Ticonderoga, now being converted from an attack carrier to an antisubmarine warfare support carrier.