

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



“CHECKMATES” IN ACTION – “Checkmates” pilots of VF-211, operating from USS Hancock, are shown in flight off the coast of Vietnam.



LSO REUNION ABOARD “TICO” – Four “generations” of landing signal officers are represented in this photo taken during USS Ticonderoga’s 1969 deployment to the Gulf of Tonkin.

Left to right: Commander W. H. McCall, commanding officer of VA-87; Lieutenant Commander James P. O’Neill and Lieutenant Ronald R. Coalson, of VF-162, and Lieutenant Mike Mears, of VA-187.



In 1963, Commander McCall, then LSO for Carrier Air Wing 16, trained and qualified Commander O’Neill during deployment aboard USS Oriskany. Four years later, again aboard the Oriskany, Lieutenant Commander O’Neill, then LSO for Air Wing 17, trained and qualified Lieutenant Coalson. During the Ticonderoga’s 1969 deployment, Lieutenant Coalson trained and qualified Lieutenant Mears.



MEET THE "RED LIGHTNINGS" – Homeward bound after deployment to Vietnam, officers of the "Red Lightnings" of VA-194 assembled on the flight deck of USS Oriskany for this group photo.

Kneeling (left to right): Lieutenant Skip Giles, Lieutenant Commander Rick Parker, Commander Jim Ryan, executive officer; Commander Joe Vinti, commanding officer; Lieutenant Commander Lee Ermis and Lieutenant Don Wallis.

Standing: Lieutenant (j.g.) Dave Carpowich, Lieutenants Scotty Bates, Mike O'Bar, Norm Franklin, and Rocky Rockwell; CWO-2 Tom Tudor, Lieutenants Mike Riddell, Wayne Durham, John Strahm, Joe Garuba, and Hank Cole.

Qualified as Centurions after making 100 or more landings aboard the Oriskany were Commander Vinti, Lieutenant Commander Parker and Lieutenants Giles, Rockwell, Wallis, Bates, O'Bar, Durham, Strahm, and Garuba.

"Red Lightnings" pilots who have flown 150 or more combat missions are Commander Vinti, Lieutenant Commander Parker and Lieutenants Giles, Bates, O'Bar, and Garuba.



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VA-211 WINS "GOLDEN TAIL HOOK AWARD" – Fighter Squadron 211 has won the "Golden Tail Hook Award" conceived by Captain James H. Scott, commander of Attack Carrier Air Wing 21, to recognize proficiency in carrier landing skills.

Captain Scott (left in photo) made the presentation to Commander Donald C. Paolucci (right), skipper of the "Checkmates," aboard USS Hancock off the coast of Vietnam. VF-211 won its distinction by compiling the best carrier landing grades among all Hancock squadrons for August, October, and November. In the individual pilot performance category, Lieutenant Steve "The Wonder" Lambert, of VF-211 (center), won top laurels by scoring the air wing's highest carrier landing grades for August through November.



2,000-HOUR AWARD – When Commander Sam Hubbard, Jr., received a plaque in recognition of his logging of 2,000 hours in Crusader cockpits, the presentation was made by Rear Admiral G. C. Talley, Jr., Deputy Director of the Strategic Plans and Policy Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Prior to assignment to duty in Washington, Commander Hubbard was the commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 62, disestablished at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, last October after a record of service dating back to July 1, 1955.



500th F-8 TRAP RECORDED – The skipper of the "Checkertails" of VF-24, Commander R. J. Cavicke, has recorded his 500th Crusader carrier landing.

A cake cutting ceremony in the squadron's ready room aboard USS Hancock, on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, marked the occasion. Left to right in photo are Vice Admiral William R. McClendon, Commander Carrier Division 9; Commander Cavicke and Captain Newton P. Foss, commanding officer of the Hancock.



Commander Cavicke has been flying Crusaders since 1957 and has logged more than 2,700 hours. Of his 500 traps, 130 were night landings.

NAS BARBERS POINT COMMAND CHANGES – Captain Parker C. Cooper has assumed

command of NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, relieving Captain William C. Doak, who returned to the staff of Commander Fleet Air Hawaii as assistant chief of staff for operations and readiness.



A “Down East” flavor featured the reception following the change of command ceremony. Captain Cooper (right in photo) is a native of Brockton, Massachusetts, and Captain Doak is a native of Boston. Governor Francis W. Sargent, of Massachusetts, saw to it that

Boston baked beans and brown bread were on hand for the former Bay State residents.

Prior to assuming his new command, Captain Cooper had served since October 1967 as assistant chief of staff for readiness for the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training, NAS Glenview, Illinois. During World War II, he served in the Pacific as a pilot with Air Transport Squadron 11. During the Korean conflict, he served aboard USS Princeton. In September 1966 he assumed command of USS Taluga and spent 8 months operating as a part of the Seventh Fleet in support of operations in Vietnam.



RESERVE UNITS HONORED – Lieutenant Commander P. J. Smith represented VF-703, based at NAS Dallas, when eight Naval Reserve units, called to active duty in January 1968 and subsequently returned to their home bases, were honored by President Richard M. Nixon at the White House.

Representatives of the eight units watched the President sign a proclamation honoring the 37,000 Navy, Army and Air Force reserves who went on duty following the Pueblo crisis.

“The nation is grateful to you for the service you have rendered and grateful that you are still in the reserves – ready to serve the nation again,” the President said.

The Presidential recognition was preceded by a Pentagon luncheon for the Naval Reserve representatives. Their host was Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operations.

Lieutenant Commander Smith was aviation safety officer of VF-703 when the callup came and he is now serving as executive officer. Commander Frank Liberato, also a Vought Aeronautics employee, was the skipper of the squadron during 9 months of active duty at NAS Miramar, California.

VF-703’s roster of officers and enlisted men at the time of the callup included five other Vought employees: Lieutenant Commander John Pulice, Lieutenant J. C. Hodges, Lieutenant J. M. Bittick, Lieutenant W. N. Williams, and AE3 M. H. Miller.

WING COMMANDER VISITS "SUNDOWNERS" – Visiting from NAS Cecil Field, Florida, Commander William Stollenwerck, commanding officer of Air Wing 8, was congratulated at NAS Miramar, California, by Commander Chuck Dimon (right in photo), skipper of VF-111, after the first of three flights he made in "Sundowners" F-8s.



VF-111 and the "Hunters" of VF-162 have been transferred from Air Wing 16 to Air Wing 8 and have been conducting training operations aboard USS Shangri-La, now operating in the Pacific after Mediterranean duty.

Commander Stollenwerck won his wings at Pensacola in 1949 and was in action during the Korean conflict, flying with VF-112 from USS Philippine Sea and with VF-721, operating from USS Kearsarge. In 1967, he was assigned to USS Enterprise as air officer and made two WESTPAC deployments.



RESERVE SQUADRON WINS CNO SAFETY AWARD – Crusader reserve squadron VF31B2, based at NAS Atlanta, Marietta, Georgia, has won the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award for 1969. Squadron pilots sharing in the achievement included Lieutenant Commander John W. Boyd, Jr. (right photo), who logged 375 flight hours during fiscal 1969 while serving as the squadron's operations officer.



AIR WING 16 PERSONNEL DECORATED – Officers and enlisted men of Attack Carrier Air Wing 16 have been decorated for service during deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Ticonderoga.

Recipients of awards presented by Captain John E. Lacouture, Commander Fleet Air Lemoore, included Lieutenant J. A. Lair, the staff's landing signal officer, who received the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal with Gold Star in lieu of the second through seventh Air Medal awards.

The Navy Achievement Medal was presented to Lieutenant D. G. Percy, Lieutenant C. R. Williams, Chief Warrant Officer G. Stepherson, and Aviation Ordnanceman First Class Harold Ford.

Lieutenant Commander H. F. Buchberger received the Navy Commendation Medal.

VFP-63 PERSONNEL HONORED – Achievements during USS Ticonderoga's 1969 combat tour to Vietnam have won recognition for personnel of VFP-63, Detachment 14, based at NAS Miramar, California.

Presentations made by Commander Ray L. Dunkin, squadron skipper, included (photo) the first through fourth strike/flight Air Medal awards to Commander Freeman A. Grant, Jr.



Lieutenant David M. Sjuggerud also received the first through fourth strike/flight Air Medal awards. Lieutenant Laurel F. Boline received his eighth through 11th strike/flight awards. Chief Aviation Electrician's Mate William G. Barg, Jr., received the Navy Commendation Medal.

The Navy Achievement Medal was awarded to Photographic Intelligenceman William B. Bourbon for performance in 1968 while serving as the senior photographic interpreter for the Seventh Fleet Air Coordination Element, Saigon.



FUTURE "SUNDOWNER"? – Six-year-old Steve Connolly was in his glory when he found himself in the cockpit of an F-8 Crusader during an open house program conducted at NAS Miramar, California, by the "Sundowners" of VF-111.



The son of ADCS D. J. Connolly, of VF-111, was among squadron guests who watched flight demonstrations and witnessed an inspection and awards ceremony. Air Medals for combat operations in Southeast Asia were awarded to Lieutenant Commanders J. B. Best and N. Donovan and to Lieutenants H. J. Risseuw, W. A. Buckendorf, G. R. Melnyk, D. D. Kardell, C. B. Scott, and J. C. Allman.



COMMANDER ALDERN HEADS AIR WING 19 – Commander Donald D. Aldern has assumed command of Attack Carrier Air Wing 19 at NAS Lemoore, California, relieving Commander William A. Gureck, who has been assigned to the staff of Carrier Division 7.

The air wing recently returned from deployment to Vietnam with an aircraft complement including VF-191, VF-194, and VFP-63, Detachment 34, all stationed at NAS Miramar.

Commander Aldern is a former commanding officer of VF-191. Prior to reporting at NAS Lemoore, he completed a year's course of instruction at the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.





"MISS FIGHTERTOWN" SELECTED – "Miss Fightertown 1970" is Miss Phyllis Flores, of San Diego, winner of a beauty contest conducted at NAS Miramar, California, home of the fighter squadrons of the Pacific Fleet.

Also shown with Captain Alfred W. Chandler, Jr., commanding officer of the air station, are Miss Lois Wooley (left in photo), first runner-up, and Miss Gloria Fox (right), second runner-up. Both also are residents of San Diego.

Captain Chandler and Captain C. N. Conatser, Commander Fleet Air Miramar, officiated at the crowning of "Miss Fightertown" after the judging of seven finalists was conducted in the enlisted men's dining hall. A panel of 20 officers and enlisted men representing the station and the squadrons based at Miramar selected the winner. Beauty, personality and poise were the deciding factors. Terry Smith, the station's golf pro, served as master of ceremonies.

"Miss Fightertown," the winner of the competition limited to station employees and dependents of military and civilian personnel, will reign during the year as official hostess at various Miramar functions.

Her first official act, on the same day as her coronation, was to assist in the ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the station's new \$759,000 U. S. 395 overpass, constructed to eliminate a traffic hazard which had inconvenienced Miramar employees, squadron members, and visitors. Captain Chandler took part in the dedication ceremony and Captain Conatser was among the observers.

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AIR WING 5 GETS NEW SKIPPER – Command of Carrier Air Wing 5 has changed at NAS Miramar, California, with Commander David J. Ellison relieving Captain A. A. Schaufelberger, Jr., assigned to duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Air Wing 5 includes Fighter Squadrons 51 and 53 and Detachment 31 of Light Photographic Squadron 63.



His new assignment is the third tour of duty at Miramar for Commander Ellison (photo). He previously served with Fighter Squadron 126 and later as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 24.

Other duty assignments during his Navy career include two combat tours to Korea aboard USS Princeton and USS Essex, service as air intelligence officer aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, service with Fighter Squadrons 23 and 62, aide to the Deputy Director of Strategic Target Planning at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, project pilot with Air Development Squadron 5, and jet flight instructor for the Advanced Training Command at Kingsville, Texas.

He has been graduated from both the command and staff course and the Naval warfare course at the U.S. War College and has a B.A. degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.S. degree in international affairs from George Washington University.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, 10 Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation.



VC-7 LAUNCHES NEW MISSILE TARGET – Fleet Composite Squadron 7, NAS Miramar, California, lays claim to credit for being the first squadron of its type to launch the AQM 37A missile target from the F-8 Crusader.

Commander B. W. “Budge” Hall, commander of the squadron, launched the first high-speed, high-altitude, rocket-propelled target in a training exercise for Fighter Squadron 124 over the Pacific Missile Range at Point Mugu. The ordnancemen who prepared the target for launching were (left to right in photo)



AA K. M. Whitmore, A02 M. P. Schultz, A01 J. J. Folts and A02 J. E. Schaffer.

The Crusader has the capability to carry and launch two of the missile targets on a single flight as VC-7 carries out its mission of supplying services for training personnel in air defense against highly sophisticated missiles launched from ships and aircraft.

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“POSTGRADUATE” COURSES CONTINUE – Four-week “postgraduate” courses in advanced fighter tactics are being continued by the Crusader Fighter Weapons School at “Crusader College,” NAS Miramar, California.

Students attending the courses conducted by VF-124 return to their squadrons as weapons training officers schooled in maximum effective use of the Crusader weapons system.

Photo shows (kneeling, left to right) Lieutenant Joe Phaneuf, Lieutenant Boyd Repsher and Lieutenant Commander Phil Wood, instructors, and Lieutenant Steve Marinshaw, VF-162. Lieutenant Commander Jerry Houston, also an instructor, was not present when the photo was taken.

Standing (left to right) Lieutenant Tom Smisek, VF-53; Lieutenant Commander John Boyd, NAS Atlanta; Admiral John S. Thach, USN (Ret.), Commander Joe Lindsey, CNARESTRA training; Lieutenant Dave Kardell, VF-111, and Lieutenant Bill Lynch, VF-51.



2,000-HOUR AWARD – Captain R. F. Mohrhardt, executive officer of USS Bon Homme Richard, has joined the ranks of pilots given recognition for logging 2,000 hours in Crusader cockpits.

Captain Mohrhardt's 2,000-hour plaque was presented by Captain D. W. Alderton (left in photo), commanding officer of the “Bonnie Dick.”





VC-1 PROVIDES FLEET SERVICES – Crusaders play a prominent role in the aircraft services provided for numerous units of the Pacific Fleet by Fleet Composite Squadron 1 at Barbers Point, Hawaii. F-8 missions include supersonic tracking, high speed radar intercept practice, banner and Delmar target towing, and other supersonic and high altitude operations.

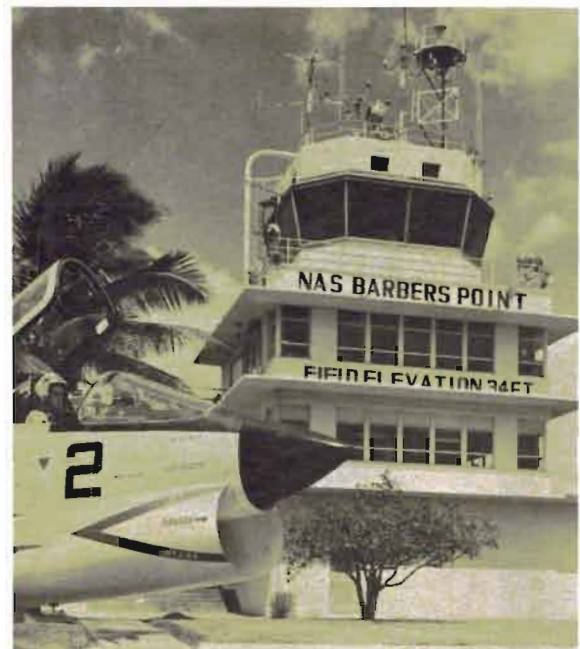
The year 1969 was a year of change for VC-1. In late October, Commander W. C. Dukes was relieved as commanding officer of the squadron by Commander J. B. McDaniel (photo), former executive officer and previously editor of the Navy's safety magazine, Approach. The new XO is Commander R. G. Sonniksen, a Crusader pilot formerly attached to VFP-63, NAS Miramar, California.



Also changed was the squadron's octopus insignia. The new insignia, approved by the Chief of Naval Operations, depicts an Alii, an ancient Hawaiian warrior, on a background of the Hawaiian archipelago. The squadron's nickname was also changed to the "Aliis."

In addition to the Crusader, the squadron's aircraft include the A-4C, US-2C, H-34 and the P-2E. Its mission "To Serve the Fleet" is accomplished through the efforts of 30 pilots, three ground officers and 246 enlisted men.

The "Aliis" also have expanded into the rocket field, ground launching BQMs from Barking Sands, Kauai.



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“CHECKMATES” GET NEW “TAIL FEATHERS” – F-8J Crusaders flown by the “Checkmates” of VF-211, operating from USS Hancock off the coast of Vietnam, are sporting new “tail feathers” these days.

During the squadron’s four previous combat cruises, its aircraft were identified by large red and white checks arranged vertically on their rudders. Now, as the result of an Air Wing 21 standardization program, “Checkmates” Crusaders have a horizontal row of red-white checks and a large red checkmark on their stabilizers, plus newly added checks on their ventral fins.



F-8 TRAINING RECORD SET – Providing a total of 151,630 hours of instruction and graduating 2,791 officers and enlisted men from various F-8 Crusader courses, Naval Air Maintenance Training Detachment 1098, NAS Miramar, California, set a record in student output during 1969.

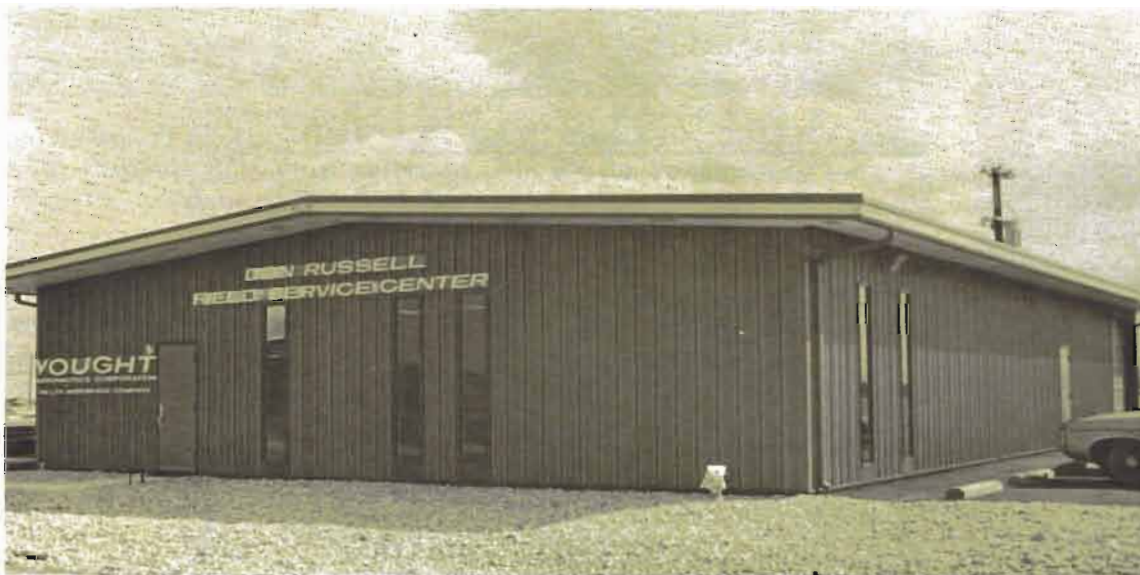


Miramar’s “Schoolmaster of the Year” is ADJ1 William L. Beane, who also won the West Coast NAMTRAWEST title in competition with representatives of five other detachments. He is shown in photo with Commander B. A. Shelton (left), NAMTRADETS officer-in-charge at “Fightertown,” and Leading Chief Petty Officer R. M. Owen, of NAMTRADET 1098.

“IRON ANGELS” GET MORE POWER – The “Iron Angels” of VF-53 have received the first fleet squadron delivery of an F-8 Crusader equipped with the modified Pratt & Whitney J57-P-420 engine designed to provide additional thrust.

Commander R. E. Weedon (right in photo), commanding officer of VF-53, flew the plane from Dallas to NAS Miramar, California, and turned its logbooks over to Lieutenant Commander Jim Lusk, maintenance officer.

All F-H and F-J models of the Crusader are scheduled to be equipped with the modified engine.



DON RUSSELL HONORED AT DEDICATION – The new Vought Aeronautics field service center at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, was dedicated February 20 in honor of the late Donald H. Russell, veteran field service representative and the only civilian to be awarded the military’s Silver Star Medal for heroism during World War II.

Senior representative for Vought Aeronautics on the East Coast when he died in August 1969, he was cited by the Navy in 1945 for his actions aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin during a Japanese attack.

Assigned to help maintain Navy and Marine F4U Corsair squadrons, he was aboard the carrier when it was attacked by a lone bomber. An armor-piercing bomb penetrated 11 of the Franklin’s decks and another exploded on the flight deck.

In the holocaust that followed, he manned stretchers, helped fight fires, held battle lamps and assisted with chloroform while doctors operated on the wounded. The next day he was put in charge of the burial detail for the 700 officers and men killed in the attack.

The Navy recommended him for the Navy Cross but could only award him the Silver Star, the highest award a civilian could receive.

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CRUSADER SERVICE LIFE EXTENDED – The fleet service life of the Crusader has been extended to 1975 with completion by Vought Aeronautics of a Naval Air Systems Command program for remanufacturing 446 fighter and photo reconnaissance aircraft.

In a turnover ceremony on February 17, Captain E. T. LaRoe (center in photo), Naval Plant Representative, received the logbooks of the last remanufactured plane from Frank Barrett, program director, F-8 modifications. At left is Commander Gail Bailey, NAVPRO flight test officer.

Lieutenant R. D. Alderman, of VRF-32, flew the RF-8G aircraft from Dallas to NAS Miramar, California, where it was delivered to Light Photographic Squadron 63.

The Crusader has now completed 13 years of operational service with the fleet and, over the years, 1,261 fighters and photo planes have been built for the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the French Navy.

The remanufacturing program included installation of a new 4,000-hour wing providing twice the fatigue life of the original wing and equipped with hardpoints for external stores pylons. All of the 446 aircraft were equipped with an improved nose landing gear and fuselage strengthening was accomplished by use of structural doublers and stiffeners or, in some cases, installation of new structural members.

Other aircraft improvements, varying in some instances according to model, current life span, or because a particular capability or improvement had already been incorporated, included improved main landing gear, radar and fire control revisions, armor protection, improved gun pneumatic system, hard harness wiring, integral starter probe, improved interior and exterior lighting, improved arresting hook shank and, on some models, boundary layer control and double droops on wing leading edges for lower landing speeds.

The program also covered fabrication of 10 new 4,000-hour wings delivered to the French Navy, which has been operating two F-8E (FN) squadrons since 1964, and delivery of replacement parts for 24 other wings.



“SATAN’S KITTENS” SCORE IN GUNNERY DEPLOYMENT – During a 2-week air-to-air gunnery deployment to NAF El Centro, California, the “Satan’s Kittens” of VF-191 recorded 1,739 hits, including three century banners (100 hits each) and one double century banner (200 hits.)

Squadron pilots participating included (left to right in photo) Lieutenant Howie Nygard (Top Gun), Lieutenant Commanders Bob Geeding and Bill Asbell, Lieutenant Ed Ross, Lieutenants (j.g.) Steve Stevens, Billy Jo Craig, Jr. and Bill Bassett, Jr., Commander Ray Donnelly, Jr., commanding officer; Commander George Aitcheson, executive officer; Lieutenants Ed O’Gara, Chuck Lowry and Tom Letter, Lieutenants (j.g.) Terry Shaffer, Ed Wright and Jay Campbell, Lieutenant Commander Bill Turlay and Lieutenant Commander Mike Welch.



PILOTS SCORE FIREBEE “KILLS” – Three Crusader pilots at NAS Miramar, California, have gained recognition by scoring kills of Firebee maneuvering aerial targets over the Pacific Missile Range at Point Mugu. Vice Admiral Allen M. Shinn, Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific, presented Lieutenant James Cannon, VF-124, Lieutenant David Kardell, VF-111, and Lieutenant Richard Aubrey, VF-51, with plaques provided by Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, of San Diego, manufacturer of the targets used to sharpen air-to-air combat skills.



VC-5 FLIES THREE MODELS OF THE CRUSADER – Fleet Composite Squadron 5 (VC-5), based at the U.S. Naval Air Facility, Naha, Okinawa, believes it is the only squadron operating three models of the Crusader.

An F-8H model was added recently to the six F-8Ks and four F-8Fs utilized by the squadron.

VC-5 provides aerial targets and other aircraft services for units of the Seventh Fleet and allied navies in the Western Pacific. In addition to its main base at Naha, it operates a permanent detachment at Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines. Squadron units and aircraft are frequently deployed to Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Its F-8Fs (DF-8F) are configured to tow the TDU target system, a 4-foot, missile-shaped target used for air-to-air missile practice and also for surface-to-air missile and gunnery practice by Navy ships. The F-8H and the F-8Ks are used for air intercept and tracking exercises.



“IRON ANGELS” COMMAND CHANGES – Command of the “Iron Angels” of VF-53 changed at NAS Miramar, California, on March 16 when Commander Dean E. Kaiser relieved Commander Robert E. Weedon.

Commander Weedon (left in photo) received orders to report to the Naval Hospital, San Diego, for temporary duty. Commander Kaiser previously served as the squadron’s executive officer.



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ADJ2 STANDS DOUBLE DUTY AT MIRAMAR – “KOX eight oh eight two mobile, ten seven, base ten eight, REACT monitor,” says a voice which can be heard over “Citizen Band” radio receivers tuned to 27.065 kilohertz at 10:30 p.m. any Sunday through Thursday in the San Diego, California, area.

This transmission signal alerts listeners that Aviation Machinist’s Mate Jet Engine Mechanic Frank B. West, 33, is standing double duty at the Naval Air Station, Miramar.

ADJ2 West, assigned to Fighter Squadron 124 since October 1966, maintains a duty watch from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Since 1966 he also has been a member of a citizens’ radio service team called Southwestern REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Teams). And, with command blessing, he performs a REACT monitoring service while maintaining squadron duty petty officer tasks on his duty nights.



REACT teams are made up of individuals holding Class D “Citizen Band” radio licenses and banding together to provide efficient, organized two-way radio communications for the San Diego community as a public service and during times of emergency.

More and more people have been installing “Citizen Band” radios in their homes, offices, cars, boats and aircraft. The radios are of the transceiver type (the owner can both send and receive messages). But most of the sets have 23 channels of communication open to use and, for those wishing to send out a distress call, this has created the problem of which channel to use. The Federal Communications Commission has not designated any channel as an emergency link and REACT teams are helping to solve this dilemma by providing a free, volunteer 24-hours-a-day monitoring service on Channel 9.

When ADJ2 West turns on his transceiver he is able to aid individuals in distress by providing a communication link with emergency or law enforcement agencies.

“I have handled an awful lot of calls since I started with REACT over 3 years ago.” he says, “and many of them were true emergencies.”

Routine calls range from calling for assistance for a stranded motorist to warning other REACT monitors of weather changes or hazardous road conditions.

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“CRUSADER COLLEGE” CLASS COMPLETES TRAINING – Class 12-69 of VF-124, the “Crusader College” squadron at NAS Miramar, California, has completed F-8 familiarization training at the Naval Air Facility, El Centro.

The class included (kneeling, left to right) Lieutenants (j.g.) Bill Bowers, Mike Akin and Mike Fowler, Lieutenant Skip Leonard and Commander John R. Batzler. Standing: Lieutenants (j.g.) Herb Story, Jim McBride, Carl Staten, John Kent, Jay Johnson, Carl Swan and Ray Corper and Lieutenant Commander Bill Peters.

Lieutenants (j.g.) Kent, Johnson, Swan and Bowers and Lieutenant Leonard have been designated as fleet replacement pilots. Lieutenants (j.g.) Akin and Fowler will report to VC-2, Lieutenant (j.g.) McBride will report to VC-5 and Lieutenants (j.g.) Story and Staten will report to VC-10. Lieutenant Commander Peters will join VRF-31 and Commander Batzler has been assigned permanently to VF-124.



VF-124 PILOTS FLY MERCY MISSION – Responding to an emergency when no other means of transportation was available, two VF-124 pilots at NAS Miramar, California, flew a badly burned Tijuana girl to the Shrine Burns Institute, Galveston, Texas, in a T-39 medivac aircraft.

The mercy flight was arranged by John Peterson, a member of Al Bahr Shrine in San Diego, for 4-year-old Marie Lopez Herrera, who had received severe second and third degree burns when her clothing was ignited by a candle in her home.

Doctors in Tijuana, unable to give the child adequate care, asked for help. Mr. Peterson, clerk of the municipal court in San Diego, arranged to have her taken to the special burn center by military air transport.

Lieutenant Commander B. F. Repsher, pilot, and Lieutenant (j.g.) V. J. Larson, co-pilot, flew from Miramar to Brown Field, just south of San Diego, picked up the patient, and made the flight to Texas in 2 hours and 45 minutes. They returned via Ellington AFB, where they made a refueling stop.

YOUNGSTERS SEE IT LIKE IT IS – Realism was the keynote when Lieutenant (j.g.) Brian A. Foye, of Fighter Squadron 124, NAS Miramar, California, made an appearance before 40 aviation minded fifth and sixth grade boys at All Hallows Academy, La Jolla.

Attired in fighter pilot working clothes, including a Mark 3 life preserver, student volunteer Steve Mizyborsky was in his glory as Lieutenant Foye helped him to set off an aviator's signal flare as part of the presentation.



VF-124 UTILIZES MODIFIED ENGINE – VF-124, NAS Miramar, is introducing the modified Pratt & Whitney J57-P-420 engine into its inventory of F-8J Crusaders.

Lieutenant Commander Jerry B. Houston (photo), tactics officer, made the first squadron flight in an aircraft equipped with the modified powerplant.

Designed to increase the waveoff capability of the F-8J while in boundary layer control, the P-420 provides approximately 1,500 pounds more thrust in afterburner and 1,000 pounds more in basic engine operation.



TASK FORCE 77 COMMAND CHANGES – Vice Admiral Frederic A. Bardshar has relieved Vice Admiral Maurice F. Weisner as the commander of Task Force 77, the Seventh Fleet's attack carrier striking force operating off the coast of Vietnam.

The change of command ceremony took place aboard USS Constellation in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Vice Admiral Weisner, who had commanded Task Force 77 and its complement of four carriers, 350 planes and 25,000 men since last July, was scheduled to become Commander Seventh Fleet.

Vice Admiral Bardshar, who has held previous commands in the Western Pacific, reported to his new command from Washington, D.C., duties as Vice Director of Operations in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He commanded USS Constellation when her aircraft conducted the first retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnamese PT boats during the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964. In 1967 he took command of Carrier Division 7 and directed air attacks on enemy supply routes and installations. His decorations include the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars and combat "V", the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Gold Stars and the Air Medal with Silver Star.

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CRUSADER PILOTS FLY ACROSS PACIFIC – Completing a trans-Pacific flight, 12 pilots of VF-111 and VF-162, NAS Miramar, California, joined the carrier USS Shangri-La at Cubi Point in the Philippines for duty off the coast of Vietnam.

Family members escorted the “Sundowners” of VF-111 and the “Hunters” of VF-162 to their planes (photo) for the flight led by Commander C. G. Dimon and Commander R. C. Conaughton, squadron skippers, via Hawaii, Wake Island and Guam.

When they landed in Hawaii after completing the first leg of their flight, the pilots were given the traditional aloha welcome (bottom photo), complete with flower leis, by three NAS Barbers Point WAVE officers and three civilian employees.



“FIGHTERTOWN LIBRARY” STOCKED – Books for stocking a “Fightertown Library”

for use by pilots in the ready room of VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California, have been donated by the squadron’s WAVE officers (left to right in photo) Lieutenant Alice E. Evans, Ensign Sandra L. Weber and Lieutenant Sandy L. Francis.



Commander William I. Parrish, skipper of the “Crusader College” squadron, accepted the gifts in a ceremony conducted during an “all officers” meeting.



VF-124 PILOTS MAKE ANOTHER MERCY FLIGHT – VF-124’s twin jet utility T-39 aircraft has made another mercy flight, speeding kidneys donated by a deceased patient at Balboa Naval Hospital from San Diego to Salt Lake City.

The pilots for the flight were Commander W. I. Parrish, skipper of the “Crusader College” squadron, and Lieutenant (j.g.) James M. Stillinger, duty officer.

The kidneys were removed from the Balboa patient at 8 p.m. Hospital authorities immediately notified Dr. James Bernstein at San Diego’s University Hospital that they were available for transplant. The organs had to be placed in new bodies of matching tissue type within 4 hours of removal to provide a maximum chance for success.

Of 15 San Diego patients needing kidneys, none had a tissue type matching the donor’s. Dr. Bernstein called the North American Network for Sharing Kidneys at Salt Lake City. A computerized tissue-matching program at UCLA, Los Angeles, took over from there and located two patients in Salt Lake City who needed transplants.

The Coast Guard at Lindbergh Field, San Diego, lacking an aircraft fast enough to make the flight in time, remembered that VF-124’s T-39 had been used recently to transport a patient with severe burns from San Diego to Galveston, Texas.

When notice of the emergency was received by VF-124, Commander Parrish had just returned from a flight to St. Louis, Missouri. With COMNAVAIRPAC and CNO authorization, the kidneys were delivered to NAS Miramar by helicopter and Commander Parrish and Lieutenant (j.g.) Stillinger took off at 9:33 p.m. They landed at Salt Lake City at 11 p.m. with an hour to spare and the kidneys were picked up at the airport by David Ricks, coordinator of the kidney network program.

The Salt Lake recipients were John Fryer, 26, at Veterans Hospital, and Dennis Atkins, 22, at University Medical Center. Both had been undergoing dialysis, an expensive and time-consuming substitute for normal kidney function.

CRUS



*FIGHT
REPORT*

“SATAN’S KITTENS” WIN BATTLE “E” – The “Satan’s Kittens” of VF-191, led by Commander R. D. Donnelly, Jr., have won the COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency and Excellence Award for the competitive cycle July 1, 1968 to December 31, 1969.

The award was presented to Commander Donnelly (left in photo) by Captain C. N. Conatser, Commander Fleet Air Miramar, California.

The squadron returned to home base late last year after deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Oriskany.



FRENCH SQUADRON LOGS 20,000th FLIGHT HOUR – Squadron 12F, one of two French Navy squadrons which have been flying the F-8E (FN) Crusader since 1964, has passed the 20,000 flight hours mark.

The pilots aloft when the milestone was recorded were OV Bourguignon and PM Desombre.

Designated in October 1964 at Lann-Bihoue Air Base as the first French Navy squadron to be equipped with the Crusader, Squadron 12F has been assigned to the Landivisiau Naval Air Base since August 1968 with the primary mission of all-weather interception.



VICE ADMIRAL BRINGLE BECOMES COMNAVAIRPAC – Vice Admiral William F. Bringle has assumed duties as Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet. He relieved Vice Admiral Allen M. Shinn, who retired after almost 38 years of naval service.

The new COMNAVAIRPAC (photo) previously served as commander of the Seventh Fleet in the western Pacific for more than 2 years. During his Navy career, he has served as commander of two carrier-air groups and one air wing, as Naval Aide to the Secretary of the Navy, as commanding officer, USS Kitty Hawk, assistant director of the aviation plans division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, commander of Carrier Division 7, commander of Task Force 77, and deputy chief of staff for plans and operations for Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.



He was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while commanding Observation Planning Squadron 1 during the allied invasion of southern France in 1944. Subsequently, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and five Gold Stars for heroism and extraordinary achievement as squadron commander of Composite Spotting Squadron 1 against the Japanese in 1945. His other decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and combat “V,” the Navy Unit Citation with two stars, and the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.



MEET THE "CHECKERTAILS" – Preparing to leave the Gulf of Tonkin and return to home base at NAS Miramar, California, the "Fighting Red Checkertails" of VF-24 assembled for this group photo aboard USS Hancock.

Kneeling (left to right): Chuck Singler, Errol Reilly, Commander Bruce Boland, executive officer; Commander Dick Cavicke, commanding officer; Ken Cox and Jack Battenburg. Standing: Tom Najarian, Roger Boennighausen, Bud Giles, Ed Ellenbeck, Al Peterson, Bill Casey, Tom Albus, Chris Clausen, Cary Carson, Jim Alderdink, Jim Carlson and Jim David.



MILESTONE LANDING – The traditional cake cutting ceremony was in order when Lieutenant Bud Giles, of VF-24, made the 136,000th arrested landing aboard USS Hancock while the carrier was operating off the coast of Vietnam.

Left to right in left photo above are Rear Admiral William McClendon, Commander Carrier Division 9, Lieutenant Giles, Captain Newton Foss, commanding officer of the "Fighting Hannah," and Commander Dick Cavicke, skipper of VF-24. In the photo at right, Captain Foss is presenting Lieutenant Giles with an engraved cigarette lighter to mark the milestone landing.



"SUNDOWNERS" BACK IN ACTION – Back in action in Vietnam, the "Sundowners" of Fighter Squadron 111 are operating from USS Shangri-La in the Gulf of Tonkin. Also aboard are the "Hunters" of VF-162.

CRUSADER



**FIGHTER
REPORT**



ROOSEVELT CENTURIONS – All on the same day, three pilots of VFP-63, Detachment 42 achieved status as Centurions by making their 100th arrested landings aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, operating in the Mediterranean.



The new Centurions are (left to right in photo) Lieutenant J. S. "Jim" Ozbirn, maintenance officer; Lieutenant Commander W. R. "Wild Bill" Evans, officer-in-charge, and Lieutenant E. H. "Ed" Guilbert, operations/administrative/personnel officer.

Lieutenant Commander Evans has logged more than 3,000 hours of flight time during his Navy career, including nearly 1,500 hours in Crusaders, and has made nearly 500 F-8 carrier landings. Lieutenants Ozbirn and Guilbert have each logged more than 1,000 hours of flight time, including more than 700 hours in Crusaders, and have made more than 200 F-8 carrier landings.

Detachment 42's services for Carrier Air Wing 6 and the Roosevelt include photographic coverage of various ship and air wing exercises and special request photography.



VF-111, VF-162 ABOARD USS SHANGRI-LA – The aircraft complement of USS Shangri-La, operating off the coast of Vietnam, includes two Crusader fighter squadrons, the “Sundowners” of VF-111, led by Commander Charles G. Dimon, and the “Hunters” of VF-162, led by Commander Robert G. Conaughton.

The commanding officer of the carrier, Captain Herbert “R” Poorman, has had considerable experience with Crusaders during his Navy career. He is a former commanding officer of VF-211, with which he deployed to the western Pacific, and a former commanding officer of VF-124, the “Crusader College” training squadron at NAS Miramar, California.

He became executive officer of USS Pickway (APA-222) in August 1964 and made two WESTPAC deployments. In September 1965 he was assigned to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Development. Prior to assuming command of the Shangri-La, he commanded USS Mt. McKinley (AGC-7).



The commander of Air Wing 8, operating from the Shangri-La, is Commander William M. “Stolly” Stollenwerck, who assumed command last September.

Commander Stollenwerck won his wings in November 1949 and participated in combat in Korea in 1950 and 1951, flying with VF-112 aboard USS Philippine Sea and VF-721 aboard USS Kearsarge.

In 1956, after service as a flight and ground instructor at Pensacola, he was assigned to USS Coral Sea as assistant air operations officer and later as flight deck officer. He subsequently served as air group landing signal officer for Air Group 10 aboard USS Essex and USS Shangri-La and was then assigned as air group landing signal officer for Air Group 4. In 1962 he became administrative officer of VF-32 aboard USS Saratoga. In 1964 he was assigned as executive officer of VF-13 aboard the Shangri-La and in 1966 he became the squadron’s commander. In 1967 he was assigned to USS Enterprise as air officer during two WESTPAC deployments.



CRUS



*FIGHT
REPORT*

USS HANCOCK WINS "E" COMPETITION – On a rainy day her flight deck leaks small puddles onto the hangar deck; at critical speeds she vibrates the length of her vintage hull; in heavy seas she creaks and snaps rheumatically. But the USS Hancock, commissioned more than 25 years ago, has won the "E" for battle efficiency in competition with the nine other attack carriers of the Pacific Fleet.

Finishing touches were applied to a king-size "E" by Captain Newton P. Foss (left in photo), commanding officer of the carrier, and Captain Horace B. Chambers, executive officer.

The "Fighting Hannah" and her embarked Air Wing 21 emerged with top grades in a two-day operational readiness inspection culminating the 18-month competition. Her aircraft complement included two Crusader squadrons, VF-24 and VF-211.

The Hancock was commissioned April 15, 1944 in Quincy, Massachusetts. During World War II, she took part in strikes against Okinawa, in the battle of Leyte Gulf, and in the advance of the Pacific Fleet toward the Japanese mainland in 1944 and 1945. She was credited with the destruction of more than 725 enemy warplanes, 17 warships, 31 merchant vessels and 51 trains. A plane flying from her flight deck was credited with shooting down the last enemy aircraft destroyed during the war – a torpedo plane diving on a nearby British task force.

Decommissioned after the end of the war, she was brought out of mothballs at Bremerton, Washington, in 1954 after a complete overhaul. Since February 1965, when she became one of the first carriers to launch a strike into Vietnam, she has deployed five times to the Gulf of Tonkin. During the second deployment, she became the first carrier to have won the Navy Unit Commendation for both World War II and Vietnam.

When she returned recently from her fifth deployment to Vietnam, the aircraft units aboard included VF-24, led by Commander Richard J. Cavicke; VF-211, led by Commander Donald C. Paolucci, and VFP-63, Detachment 19, led by Lieutenant Commander J. H. Roberts.

During the deployment, Carrier Air Wing 21 pilots dropped more than 9,000 tons of ordnance on the enemy while conducting 11,000 combat sorties and air strikes against infiltration routes into South Vietnam.

The Crusader units are based at NAS Miramar, California, and the air wing is based at NAS Lemoore, California.





EAGER BEAVERS – Eager to expedite their training as fleet replacement F-8 pilots, these members of a VF-124 familiarization class at “Crusader College,” NAS Miramar, California, demonstrate a method by which they suggest acceleration might be achieved. Left to right: Lieutenants (j.g.) John Barrett, Gene Schmutte, Randy Anderson and Brian Foye.



FRENCH PILOTS FLYING CRUSADER – Assembled for this photo are pilots of Squadron 12, the French Navy squadron which recently passed the 20,000 flight hours mark. The pilots who were aloft when the milestone was reached are OV Bourguignon and PM Desombre (third and seventh pilots standing from the right in photo). The squadron’s former commander, Captain Regnault, is standing fourth from the right. The present commander, Lieutenant Argouse, is at the extreme right. Two French Navy squadrons have been flying the F-8E (FN) since 1964.

VF-211 MARKS 25th BIRTHDAY – VF-211, the “Fighting Checkmates” squadron at NAS Miramar, California, has celebrated its 25th birthday.

The quarter century milestone was marked at a post cruise “hail and farewell” party at which squadron members wearing the unit’s distinctive red blazer welcomed new VF-211 members aboard and said farewell to departing shipmates.

Photo shows Lieutenant Frank Corah (right), a departing squadron member, helping Lieutenant Rick Phillips, a new member, with his blazer as Commander Donald C. Paolucci, squadron skipper, looks on approvingly.



During the Korean conflict, VF-211 (then VF-24) established an outstanding combat record while flying from USS Philippine Sea, USS Boxer and USS Yorktown. In 1965, flying from USS Hancock, the squadron participated in the first retaliatory strikes against North Vietnam.

In 1966, two VF-211 pilots were the first Crusader pilots to shoot down enemy MIG-17 aircraft. In 1967, within a three-month period, “Fighting Checkmates” pilots downed four more MIGs. Its total of six confirmed MIG kills is higher than that of any other Navy squadron.

VF-211 was among the last combat units to fly over North Vietnam prior to the November 1968 bombing halt and it returned recently from its fifth combat deployment to Southeast Asia.



2,000,000 FLIGHT HOURS MARK PASSED – More than 2,000,000 hours of flight time have been amassed by pilots flying Crusader fighter and photo planes since the first flight of the XF8U-1 was made March 25, 1955, at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Operational with the fleet for 13 years, the aircraft that boosted U. S. Naval aviation from subsonic to supersonic and was the first aircraft to set a speed record of more than 1,000 miles an hour has been serving in Vietnam since the earliest days of U. S. involvement. Crusader pilots have been credited with downing 18 Soviet-built MIGs in combat.

The fleet service life of the aircraft has been extended to 1975 with completion of a Naval Air Systems Command program for remanufacturing 446 fighter and photo reconnaissance Crusaders.

CRUSADER



**FIGHTER
REPORT**

VF-191 COMMAND CHANGES – Commander George A. Aitcheson has relieved Commander Raymond D. Donnelly, Jr. as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 191.

Commander Donnelly (left in photo) has been assigned to attend the National War College in Washington.

The new skipper had previously served since June 1969 as executive officer of the squadron, based at NAS Miramar, California.



The change of command ceremony took place in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, aboard USS Oriskany, which was en route to the western Pacific.



COMMANDER CLOUD LEADS VFP-63 – The new commanding officer of VFP-63, NAS Miramar, California, is Commander Benjamin W. Cloud, formerly executive officer since June 1969.

The new skipper (photo) relieved Commander Ray L. Dunkin, assigned to duty on the staff of Commander Carrier Division 4, Norfolk, Virginia.

Commander Cloud has been a Naval Aviator since July 1954. His Navy career has included service in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the White House as an aide to President Lyndon B. Johnson, duty as operations officer of VF-41 and service on the staff of Commander Air Wing 17 as operations and chief staff officer aboard USS Forrestal.



VF-124 PILOT IS HANDBALL CHAMP – Lieutenant Randy Marin, an instructor pilot for VF-124, won the singles division title in a handball tournament sponsored by the “Crusader College” squadron at NAS Miramar.

An athlete who is also a golfer and a basketball player, Lieutenant Marin won the championship in a field of 21 handball enthusiasts participating in the four-day tournament.

In the doubles division of the competition, the singles champ and Lieutenant Paul Lillebo, also an instructor pilot for VF-124, placed second.



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CRUSADERS, CORSAIRS ABOARD ORISKANY – Crusader fighter squadrons and Corsair II attack squadrons, teamed for the second time aboard a carrier operating off the coast of Vietnam, are flying from USS Oriskany.

The Crusader squadrons are the “Satan’s Kittens” of VF-191, led by Commander George A. Aitcheson, and the “Red Lightnings” of VF-194, led by Commander Joseph P. Vinti. The Corsair II squadrons are the “Blue Tail Flies” of VA-153, led by Commander Olof M. Carlson, Jr., and the “Silver Foxes” of VA-155, led by Commander Edwin C. Adamson, Jr.

Also on board is a plaque depicting the strategic battle of Oriskany, which helped turn the tide of the Revolutionary War in 1777, and also highlighting the carrier, commissioned in 1950, the Crusader and the Corsair II.



The plaque was presented to Captain John A. Gillcrist, commanding officer of the “Mighty O,”

by Paul Thayer, president of LTV Aerospace Corporation, prior to deployment.

While conducting exercises off Hawaii en route to Vietnam, the men of the Oriskany and her embarked Carrier Air Wing 19 were awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation.

The award was presented to Captain Gillcrist by Rear Admiral Roy M. Isaman (left in photo), former Commander Carrier Division 7. The Oriskany/air wing team was cited for displaying “outstanding proficiency, aggressiveness and diligence” during the carrier’s previous deployment to Vietnam from May to November 1969.



Rear Admiral Isaman has been relieved of his command by Rear Admiral James D. Ramage and assigned to duty as deputy chief of staff for plans and operations for the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.



SAFETY RECORDS RECOGNIZED – For attainment of 500 hours of accident-free operations in the F-8 Crusader five pilots of VF-124 have been cited in an awards ceremony at “Crusader College,” NAS Miramar.



Left to right in photo: Lieutenants Paul Lillebo, Joe Phaneuf, Randy Marin and Rick Parlette and Lieutenant Commander Frank Bachman.



“RED RIVER RATS” ASSEMBLE – NAS Miramar, California, was well represented when the second stateside reunion of the Red River Valley Pilots Association was conducted in San Antonio. Prior to departure for the event, Commander Bill Parrish (fourth from left in photo), skipper of VF-124, pointed out “Route Pack 6” in the Hanoi area, the region penetrated by pilots qualifying as “River Rats.” The other pilots in the photo are (left to right) Lieutenant Commander Jerry B. Houston, Commander Dave Metzler, Lieutenant Commander John B. Nichols and Lieutenant Commander Phil Wood, all of VF-124, and Lieutenant Commander T. R. Schwartz, of VF-121.



VX-4 SKIPPER FLIES COMBAT SORTIE – Participation in a combat flight with VF-111, flying one of the Crusaders of the “Sundowners” squadron from USS Shangri-La off the coast of Vietnam, has been recorded by Captain James R. Foster.

The sortie was in the nature of a “practice what you preach” mission for Captain Foster, who is the commanding officer of VX-4, the air development squadron at Point Mugu, California. Visiting the Seventh Fleet, he was aboard the Shangri-La to bring squadrons up to date on current and proposed developments in fighter weapons and tactics.



CAPTAIN HEMLER COMMANDS “BONNIE DICK” – Captain Frank T. Hemler has assumed command of USS Bon Homme Richard, relieving Captain D. W. Alderton, assigned to duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington.

The change of command took place in flight deck ceremonies in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, as the “Bonnie Dick,” making its sixth combat deployment, prepared for operations off the coast of Vietnam.

Captain Hemler’s previous assignment was as commanding officer of the attack stores transport ship USS Union (LKA-106). His Navy career also has included service as air operations officer and executive officer of USS Oriskany.





PHOTO BIRD ALOFT – The snow-crested peak of Mt. Etna in Italy provided the background for this scenic shot of one of the photo reconnaissance Crusaders flown by pilots of VFP-63, Detachment 42 from USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, operating in the Mediterranean.



600th "TRAP" RECORDED – Commander Chuck Dimon, commanding officer of the "Sundowners" of VF-111, has recorded the 600th Crusader arrested landing of his Navy career.

The milestone landing was made aboard USS Shangri-La in the Gulf of Tonkin and the commanding officer of the carrier, Captain H. "R" Poorman, offered his congratulations after Commander Dimon touched down.

At the traditional cake cutting ceremony, Commander Dimon (left in photo) was assisted by his executive officer, Commander W. B. Rennie.



FROM JET TO JET – Lieutenant (j.g.) John B. Flaherty, who received advanced flight training in F-8s of VF-124, the "Crusader College" squadron at NAS Miramar, learned to fly Navy style in a T-2C Buckeye jet trainer built by North American Rockwell, of which his father, John J. Flaherty, is a division president.

During his tour of duty with the Buckeye, Lieutenant (j.g.) Flaherty flew with the "Red and White Angels," a precision flying group of four pilots at NAS Meridian, Mississippi. After his advanced training in the Crusader, he was scheduled for transfer to Fleet Composite Squadron 8, NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.





VFP-63 PERSONNEL HONORED – Four enlisted men of Light Photographic Squadron 63, NAS Miramar, California, have received awards for outstanding performance of their duties.

Left to right in photo: Commander Ray L. Dunkin, squadron skipper, who presented the awards, Commander Ben W. Cloud, Chief Photographer's Mate Roger C. Oldes, Personnelman Third Class William L. Hammontree, III, Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class Tommie L. Young and Illustrator Draftsman First Class Anthony E. Betancur.

Commander Dunkin also presented a "Sailor of the Month" award to AMS1 Roger B. Barrett (photo at right), a member of the airframes branch of the squadron's aircraft division.

PHC Oldes received the Navy Achievement Medal for meritorious service in operating the Navy's photographic repair shop in the Republic of Vietnam.

PNC Hammontree received the Gold Star in lieu of the second Navy Achievement Medal for professional achievement while serving in the personnel office, Dong Tam Detachment of Commander, River Assault Flotilla 1, in Vietnam.

AME1 Young received the Navy Achievement Medal for meritorious service as leading petty officer during combat operations aboard USS Ticonderoga from February to September 1969.

DM1 Betancur received the Navy Achievement Medal for professional achievement while serving on the staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet.



VF-51/VF-53 BACK IN ACTION – Back in action aboard USS Bon Homme Richard are the "Screaming Eagles" of VF-51 and the Iron Angels of VF-53, based at NAS, Miramar, California.

The carrier's aircraft complement also includes VFP-63, Detachment 31.

P. J. SMITH
UNIT 2-70000



VF-191 WINS LANDING COMPETITION – Winners in a tailhook competition for carrier landing excellence with other fighter and attack squadrons during the first line period of current operations from USS Oriskany in the Gulf of Tonkin, pilots of the “Satan’s Kittens” of VF-191 assembled on the carrier’s flight deck for this group photo.

Kneeling (left to right) Lieutenant E. J. Ross, Lieutenant Commander W. E. Turlay, Commander G. A. Aitcheson, commanding officer; Commander R. A. Peters, executive officer; Lieutenant Commanders J. M. Welch and R. W. Geeding. Standing: Lieutenants F. D. Lowe and H. T. Nygard, Lieutenant (j.g.) E. J. Wright, Lieutenant Commander W. E. Asbell, Lieutenant B. J. Craig, Lieutenant (j.g.) T. R. Shaffer, Lieutenant J. B. Martin II, Lieutenant (j.g.) W. L. Bassett and Lieutenants C. F. Lowry, T. M. Letter, L. T. Stevens, E. F. O’Gara III, J. A. Campbell and E. P. Feist.



MEET “MISS TEXAS” – Inspection of the Crusader was among items on the agenda when “Miss Texas” (Phyllis George) visited the Dallas Naval Air Station. It wasn’t the biggest news story of the year but pulchritude minded photographers had a field day.

CRUSADER



**FIGHTER
REPORT**

“CRUSADER COLLEGE” COMMAND CHANGES – Commander Crawford A. Easterling has relieved Commander William I. Parrish as commanding officer of VF-124, the “Crusader College” squadron at NAS Miramar, California.

Commander Parrish has been assigned to the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

The new skipper (photo) has served with VF-124 since February 1969 following duty as operations officer aboard USS Saratoga. He previously served as executive officer and commanding officer of VF-13, operating in the Mediterranean.



He began his Navy career in 1951 and, after a tour of duty as electronics officer aboard USS Perry, was ordered to flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in April 1953. From that year until 1961, he served with VF-43, VF-11, VF-741 and VF-103, deploying with both the Sixth and Seventh Fleets.

In 1964 he was graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with the degrees of Master of Science and engineer in aeronautics and astronautics. He then served with VF-174 before reporting to VF-13.



CAPTAIN JOHNSON COMMANDS USS HANCOCK – The new commanding officer of USS Hancock is Captain Theodore L. Johnson, who relieved Captain Newton P. Foss.

Captain Foss reported to Commander Fleet Air Alameda for temporary duty while awaiting orders.

A graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Captain Johnson was commissioned in June 1944 and served aboard USS Indianapolis, participating in the battles of Palau, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.



Designated as a Naval Aviator in December 1946, he subsequently served with VF-10A, VF-93, VF-92 and as a flight and ground instructor in the Naval Air Advanced Training Command. After assignment to VC-4 for a night fighter and special weapons tour he served as commanding officer of VF-31 and VF-131. His next tour of duty was as navigator of the nuclear-powered USS Enterprise and he then became commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 1 aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He later served as a military assistant to the director of defense research and engineering in the office of the Secretary of Defense and, prior to taking command of the Hancock, he was commanding officer of USS Rigel.

During his Navy career he has attended the Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland; the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C., where he received his M.S. degree in business administration.

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CAPTAIN SMITH BECOMES COMFAIRMIRAMAR – Captain Armistead B. Smith, Jr. has assumed duties as Commander Fleet Air Miramar, relieving Captain C. N. “Tex” Conatser.

Captain Smith (left photo) had previously commanded NAS Miramar from June 1967 to June 1969. He reported as COMFAIRMIRAMAR from duty as chief of staff, Commander Carrier Division 7, based at Alameda, California.



Captain Conatser (right photo), who had held the post for two years, was retiring after 32 years of Navy service. In lieu of the second Legion of Merit, he was presented with a Gold Star (photo) by Vice Admiral William F. Bringle, Commander Naval Air Force Pacific.

Captain Smith entered the Navy as an aviation cadet in 1941 and was commissioned in December of that year. During World War II he served aboard several carriers and took part in the invasion of North Africa and air attacks against Japanese forces on Wake and Marcus Islands, Guadalcanal, Tarawa and the Marshall Islands and the first attack against Truk and the Saipan-Tinian Islands.



During these engagements he shot down six enemy planes in combat. Later, he participated in numerous Pacific island raids and took part in the first carrier-launched attacks against the Japanese homeland, the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. During that period he shot down five more enemy aircraft, bringing his total to 11 “kills.”

His decorations include the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses and eight Air Medals. He also was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his performance as commanding officer of NAS Miramar.



FRENCH SQUADRON RECORDS 20,000th FLIGHT HOUR – The 20,000 flight hours mark has been passed by Squadron 14F, one of two French Navy squadrons which have been flying the F-8E (FN) Crusader since 1964.

The milestone was recorded during a night mission flown by the squadron commander, Commandant Debray. The achievement closely followed completion of 20,000 flight hours by Squadron 12F.

VF-24 GETS NEW SKIPPER – In a change of command ceremony at NAS Miramar, California, Commander Bruce R. Boland has relieved Commander Richard J. Cavicke as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 24.

Commander Cavicke (left in photo) has been assigned to the Naval War College. During the change of command ceremony he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for “extraordinary leadership, professional zeal and devotion to duty.”



Commander Boland joined VF-24 as executive officer in June 1969. Previously, he had served as aviation maintenance officer for VF-13 and had received his B.A. degree in government from the Naval Postgraduate School.



100 NIGHT “TRAPS” – Commander M. O. “Mo” Wright, of Fighter Squadron 162, has recorded the 100th Crusader night carrier landing of his Navy career.

The landing took place aboard USS Shangri-La, operating off the coast of Vietnam, and Captain H. R. Poorman, commanding officer of the carrier, was present for the traditional cake cutting ceremony.

Commander Wright’s first F-8 night carrier landing took place in August 1961, when he was aboard USS Coral Sea with VF-154 for night carrier qualifications.



COMMANDER PERAULT DIRECTS VF-211 – Commander David J. Perault has assumed command of the “Fighting Checkmates” of VF-211 at NAS Miramar, California. He relieved Commander Donald C. Paolucci, assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

The new skipper, who joined VF-211 last December as executive officer, has logged more than 4,100 flight hours, including more than 2,400 hours in the Crusader.

A graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, he received his wings in February 1957 and subsequently served as a flight instructor at NAS Pensacola, Florida. After duty with VF-84 during several deployments to the Mediterranean he became an F-8 instructor pilot at NAS Jacksonville, Florida. In March 1965 he joined the staff of Commander Sixth Fleet as anti-air warfare officer. He next reported for duty with VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California, and then attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, before joining VF-211.



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“RED LIGHTNINGS” WELCOME REAR ADMIRAL RAMAGE – After assuming duties as Commander Carrier Division 7, Rear Admiral James D. Ramage was welcomed aboard USS Oriskany off the coast of Vietnam by the “Red Lightnings” of VF-194.

Kneeling (left to right) Lieutenant W. C. Durham, Lieutenant Commander K. J. Jackson, Commander J. W. Ryan, executive officer; Rear Admiral Ramage, Commander J. P. Vinti, commanding officer; Lieutenant Commander L. C. Ermis and Lieutenant J. T. Phaneuf.

Standing: Lieutenant G. D. Cromwell, Lieutenant (j.g.) D. G. Priest, Lieutenant H. C. Cole, Lieutenant (j.g.) R. A. Parker, Lieutenant (j.g.) R. M. Bartol, Lieutenants F. W. Sage, J. H. Rockwell and D. A. Wallis, CWO2 T. N. Tudor, Lieutenant (j.g.) D. J. Carpowich, Lieutenant R. F. Johnson and Lieutenants (j.g.) A. E. Erickson and J. C. Johnson.

Subsequently (photo at right), Commander Vinti was relieved by Commander Ryan.

The new skipper, designated a Naval Aviator in 1956, joined the “Red Lightnings” after refresher training in the Crusader at NAS Miramar, California. He had served previously at Miramar as attack training officer for Readiness Carrier Attack Wing 12. Earlier, he had served one year in Siagon as air operations officer on the staff of Commander Seventh Fleet and had attended the Naval War College.



COMMANDER SKARLATOS LEADS VF-53 – Commander Paul Skarlatos has assumed command of VF-53, operating from USS Bon Homme Richard off the coast of Vietnam.

The new skipper, formerly executive officer of the squadron, replaces Commander Dean E. Kaiser, who was declared missing at sea during a routine flight on June 14.

Commander Skarlatos was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1954 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1955. After assignments as a flight instructor in Florida and Virginia and service with VF-74 he returned to the academy as an instructor in the English, History and Government Department. While at Annapolis, he attended American University in Washington and received a master's degree in foreign affairs.



His next assignments were as ordnance officer of USS Independence and operations officer of VF-13, flying Crusaders during two deployments with the Sixth Fleet. He then attended the National War College and was selected as a distinguished graduate of the Naval Command and Staff School. He began his tour of duty with the "Iron Angels" of VF-53 after F-8 refresher training.



COMMANDER RENNIE HEADS VF-111 – The new commanding officer of the "Sundowners" of VF-111 is Commander William B. Rennie, who relieved Commander Charles C. Dimon.

Commander Dimon (right in photo) has been assigned to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

Commander Rennie reported to VF-111 as executive officer in September 1969 after previous service with VF-124, aboard USS Bon Homme Richard, and as aide to the chief of staff, CINCPACFLT. He also was a member of the "Blue Angels," the Navy's flight demonstration team, for two years.



His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, 15 Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, China Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star.



MILESTONE LANDING – Credit for making the 152,000th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany has been accorded to Lieutenant Commander Bill Turlay, maintenance officer for VF-191.



CRUSADER/CORSAIR FLIGHT – The two Crusader squadrons and the two Corsair II squadrons serving aboard USS Oriskany are represented in this photo taken during operations in the Gulf of Tonkin. The F-8 squadrons are VF-191 and VF-194 and the A-7 squadrons are VA-153 and VA-155.



RESERVE DETACHMENT ACTIVATED AT NAS MIRAMAR – The number of fighter squadrons at NAS Miramar has been increased by two as the result of establishment of a Naval Reserve Air Training Detachment at the California base.

The new squadrons are designated as VF-301 and VF-302.

Commander James J. Schollian is the officer in charge of the new detachment and the squadrons will fly the Crusader and train in conjunction with fully operational active duty squadrons.



Photo shows (left to right) Commander Schollian, Captain J. "Hap" Korecki, commanding officer of the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit, North Island; Captain Armistead B. Smith, Jr., Commander Fleet Air Miramar, and Captain George A. Parker, executive officer, NAS Miramar.

NARTD at Miramar and NARTU at North Island will supply fleet operational Reserve squadrons to Attack Carrier Air Wing Reserve 30 at NAS Alameda, which is headed by Commander A. S. Falconer.

Future plans call for construction of a new hangar facility for the Miramar detachment.

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



VC-7 AWARDED TROPHY – Fleet Composite Squadron 7, NAS Miramar, California, has been awarded a trophy for service in support of a lightweight air defense deployment test conducted at MCAS Yuma, Arizona, by the Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, Virginia.

Photo shows (left to right) Captain G. P. O’Neil, field test director, who presented the award; Commander H. P. Averyt, executive officer of the squadron; Lieutenants J. E. Ellison, Larry Beall and Dan Dally, Major R. G. Yezzi, Marine Corps development and education, and Captain John Matusic.

The test, conducted in the King of Arizona Valley, was a measure of the capability of Marines to engage aircraft with a man-transportable air defense weapon.



COMFAIRMIRAMAR GETS NEW STAFF CHIEF – The new chief of staff for Commander Fleet Air Miramar is Captain William E. Cross, whose previous duty was as assistant head, program change control branch, Navy Department, Pentagon.

Captain Cross (photo) relieved Captain Richard G. Hanecak, ordered to report as commanding officer, Cubi Point, Philippines.

During his Navy career, the new chief of staff was formerly based at NAS Miramar with VF-121 and VF-151. He also was the skipper of VF-142 in 1964 and 1965 and participated in the actions surrounding the Gulf of Tonkin incident. Other squadron duty has included assignments with VT-87, in the battle for Okinawa during World War II, and with VC-33 as officer in charge of a night detachment.



His decorations include the Navy Cross, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

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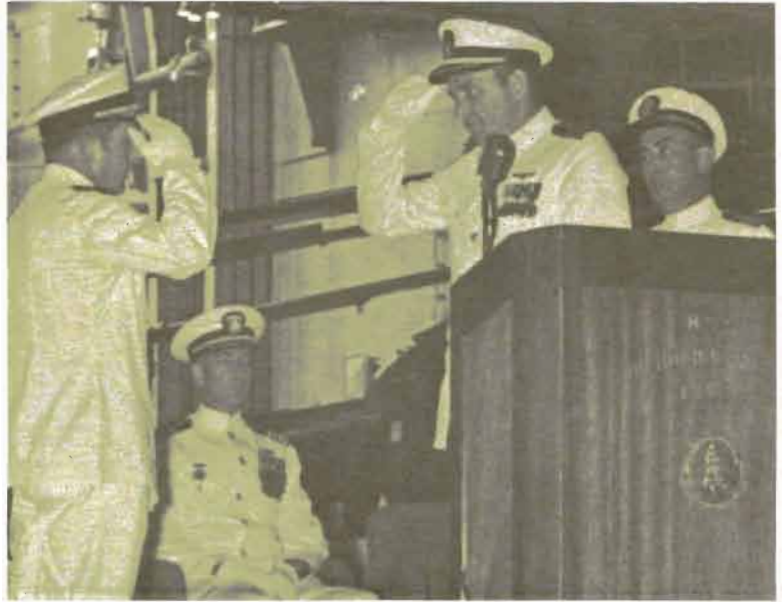


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VF-51 COMMAND CHANGES – The new skipper of the “Screaming Eagles” of Fighter Squadron 51 is Commander Thomas A. Tucker, who relieved Commander Adelore L. Alexander.

Commander Alexander (left in photo) has been assigned to the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

The change of command ceremony took place aboard USS Bon Homme Richard, anchored in the port of Hong Kong. Spectators included Captain F. T. Hemler (center in photo), commanding officer of the “Bonnie Dick.”



Commander Tucker entered the Navy in 1951. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1954 and assigned to VF-51, the squadron he now commands. Subsequent duty included service with VU-7, VT-24, CNAVANTRA in Corpus Christi, VF-124 and VF-154. While on duty with VFP-63 in 1965 he was officer in charge of a detachment assigned to WESTPAC. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.



MILESTONE LANDING – Lieutenant Commander Bill Turley, maintenance officer for Fighter Squadron 191, has been credited with making the 152,000th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany.

The traditional cake was presented by Captain John A. Gillcrisp, commanding officer of the carrier.

Lieutenant Commander Turley is making his third combat cruise but his first with the “Satan’s Kittens” of VF-191 and he has 310 combat missions to his credit and has made 685 carrier landings. He first flew the Crusader in 1962 and his logbook shows 697 F-8 hours and 2,717 hours in other fighter and attack aircraft.



155,000th ORISKANY LANDING – The distinction of making the 155,000th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany, operating on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin, has been accorded to Lieutenant Don Priest, of VF-194.

Captain John A. Gillcrisp, skipper of the carrier, presented the “Red Lightnings” pilot with a cake and an engraved cigarette lighter.



VF-191 WINS AGAIN – For the second straight line period, the “Satan’s Kittens” of Fighter Squadron 191 have won the golden tailhook award for carrier landing excellence during operations from USS Oriskany in the Gulf of Tonkin. Captain John A. Gillcrist (center in photo), skipper of the carrier, made the presentation to the squadron, which is commanded by Commander George D. Aitcheson (left in photo).



RESERVE UNITS FLY PHOTO CRUSADER - The RF-8G Crusader photo reconnaissance plane is being flown by Naval Reserve pilots of Photographic Squadrons 206 and 306, established at the Naval Air Facility, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

The active duty jet pilots who are coordinating the training schedule and arranging for advanced schooling of squadron members are Lieutenant Commander Robert L. Meier, officer in charge of Photo Squadron 206, and Lieutenant Robert P. Eichorn, officer in charge of Photo Squadron 306.

The commanding officers of the two squadrons, both Reserve officers, are Commander Frank Dunne and Commander Bob Smiley.

Thirty per cent of the personnel of the squadrons are active duty personnel and, if recalled for a national emergency, each squadron would report as a whole unit.

Some of the units’ active duty personnel are training with VFP-63 at NAS Miramar, California, and their knowledge will be passed on to the weekend Reserve pilots.



SAFETY FIRST – Seven pilots of the “Iron Angels” of VF-53 and Commander D. J. Ellison, commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 5, boosted their accumulated total of accident-free Crusader flight hours to more than 6,000 while serving aboard USS Bon Homme Richard off the coast of Vietnam.

Kneeling (left to right) Lieutenants Tom Smisek and Russ Berry, 500 hours each. Standing: Lieutenant Commander Bob Jurgens, 1,500 hours; Commander Paul Skarlatos, skipper of the squadron, 1,000 hours; Captain Frank T. Hemler, commanding officer of the “Bonnie Dick;” Commander Ellison, 1,000 hours; Commander G. R. Bailey, executive officer of the squadron, Lieutenant Bill Morris and Lieutenant Commander J. J. Adams, 500 hours.



PAST AND PRESENT – Back in 1968, Crusader pilot Commander G. R. Bailey flew the Navy acceptance check flight on F-8 Bureau No. 15081 at the Vought Aeronautics plant in Dallas.

Recently, while serving as executive officer of VF-53 aboard USS Bon Homme Richard in the Gulf of Tonkin, he flew the same aircraft when he achieved his 500th accident-free F-8 flight hour and his 500th carrier landing.



CRUSADER



*FIGHTER
REPORT*

1,000 F-8 HOURS LOGGED – Lieutenant Commander Bob “Snowball” Snow, serving with Fleet Composite Squadron 2 at NAS Oceana, Virginia, has logged his 1,000th hour in Crusader cockpits.

His F-8 flight time includes service with VC-8 at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California, and with VF-51 on deployment to WESTPAC.

Lieutenant Commander Snow and six other VC-2 pilots have accumulated a total of nearly 7,000 F-8 flight hours.



MILESTONE LANDING – Lieutenant Don Priest, of Fighter Squadron 194, has been credited with making the 155,000th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany, operating in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam.

The “Red Lightnings” pilot was presented with a cake and an engraved cigarette lighter by Captain John A. Gillcrist, commanding officer of the carrier.



FUTURE OFFICER – Under a select program open to Navy enlisted men, ATAN Carl K. Sasaoka is attending the U. S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, Bainbridge, Maryland.

After a year of study he will join the class of 1975 at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.

At the time of his selection, ATAN Sasaoka had served eight months as a plane captain for Fighter Squadron 191, currently operating from USS Oriskany.



XO's TEAM TOURS MIRAMAR – The visitors' list at NAS Miramar, California, has included members of the Cardinals, a San Diego Colt League baseball team coached by Captain George A. Parker, the station's executive officer.

During a full day's activity, including attendance at a pilots' briefing and pre-flight check conducted by VF-126, the visitors had their questions answered by Lieutenant (j.g.) Jay Johnson, of VF-124, who detailed the Crusader's mission in the Navy.



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READY FOR ACTION – One of the pilots of Fighter Squadron 194 gets the signal for launching from USS Oriskany, operating in the Gulf of Tonkin. VF-191 is the other Crusader squadron serving aboard the carrier.



RESERVE SQUADRON WINS SAFETY AWARD – Marine Reserve Fighter Squadron 351, NAS Atlanta, Georgia, has won the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award.

Receipt of the award was followed by a “well done” from Major General Robert P. Keller, commanding general of the 4th Marine Air Wing.

The commanding officer of VMF-351, which had an accident free record for the 1970 fiscal year, is Lieutenant Colonel Thomas M. Dorsett.



PROMOTIONS SCHEDULED – When selection board recommendations for promotion to the rank of captain are approved by the President, new shoulder boards will be in order for three NAS Miramar, California, commanders long associated with the Crusader.



Scheduled for promotion are (photos, left to right) Commander David J. Ellison, commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 5; Commander Crawford A. Easterling, commanding officer of VF-124, and Commander Berkeley W. Hall, commanding officer of VC-7.



PHOTO ALBUM – Deployment to the Mediterranean aboard USS Franklin D. Roosevelt provided busy days for the photo reconnaissance pilots of VFP-63, Detachment 42, led by Lieutenant Commander W. R. “Wild Bill” Evans. This photo shows one of the detachment’s own aircraft and Corsair II light attack aircraft of VA-15 and VA-215.



COMMANDER DUNNE LEADS RESERVE PHOTO UNIT – Commander Frank R. Dunne is the commanding officer of Light Photographic Squadron 206, commissioned recently at the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.



After 14 years in uniform Commander Dunne was released from the Navy in January 1968 and began flying for Eastern Airlines as a commercial pilot. In November of that year he joined the Naval Air Reserve as a member of Fighter Squadron 11A1 and began flying the Crusader as a weekend warrior.

When the Washington Naval Air Reserve Training Unit was designated to operate two photo squadrons, its fighter squadrons were decommissioned. Pilots of Light Photographic Squadrons 206 and 306 are now flying the RF-8G photo reconnaissance Crusader.

Commander Dunne began his Navy career as a naval aviation cadet in July 1954 and subsequently flew with VA-36 and VA-106 before being assigned to the staff of Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville. His next tour of duty was as an instructor for Training Squadron 4, Naval Air Training Command. In 1964 he reported to Heavy Attack Squadron 3 and began flying the RA-5C Vigilante attack bomber, equipped with cameras as well as weapon systems. In 1966 he was assigned to Heavy Attack Squadron 5 and he has flown the Vigilante from USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, USS Saratoga and USS America. During his active duty and Reserve service he has logged more than 3,500 flight hours and made about 450 carrier landings.

CRUSADER*FIGHTER
REPORT*

CRUSADER VETERANS – John Glenn, first American astronaut to orbit the earth, is shown inspecting the photo reconnaissance Crusader in which, as a Marine Corps major in 1957, he made the first supersonic transcontinental flight from Los Angeles to New York in three hours and 23 minutes. By coincidence, the aircraft was back at the Vought Aeronautics plant in Dallas for installation of newer radio equipment when the former astronaut paid a visit and toured the facility with R. W. “Duke” Windsor, executive assistant to Vought’s president. Mr. Windsor, also a record breaker, was a Navy commander in 1956 when he flew a Crusader at more than 1,000 miles an hour and won for the service its first Thompson Trophy, symbol of speed supremacy.



MEET “MISS FIGHTERTOWN” – “Miss Fightertown 1971” is Miss Joyce Anne Bowman, who is shown being crowned at NAS Miramar, California, by her predecessor, Mrs. Phyllis Chicote.

ORISKANY COMMAND CHANGES – The new commanding officer of USS Oriskany is Captain Frank S. Haak, who relieved Captain John A. Gillcrist.

Captain Gillcrist (left in photo) was assigned as chief of staff and aide to Commander First Fleet.

Captain Haak reported to the “Mighty O” after duty on the staff of Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet, where he had served as force personnel officer since January 1969.



The carrier’s aircraft complement for deployment to Southeast Asia included two Crusader squadrons, VF-191 and VF-194.



MILESTONE LANDING – When Lieutenant Gary Crowell, of Fighter Squadron 194, recorded the 157,000th landing aboard USS Oriskany congratulations were in order from Captain John A. Gillcrist, then the commanding officer of the carrier.

Lieutenant Crowell is carrying out his first tour of duty with a fleet unit. He joined the “Red Lightnings” of VF-194 in January 1970 after serving with VT-21 as a flight instructor at Kingsville, Texas, and receiving his Crusader training with VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California.



2,000-HOUR CRUSADER PLAQUE PRESENTED – Lieutenant Commander Rick “Cobra” Parker, former training officer of VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California, has received a plaque in recognition of his accomplishment in logging 2,000 hours in Crusader cockpits.

The presentation was made by Commander Crawford “Pete” Easterling, commanding officer of the “Gunfighters,” prior to Lieutenant Commander Parker’s transfer to VF-121.



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ORISKANY MARKS 20th BIRTHDAY – USS Oriskany marked her 20th birthday while conducting combat operations in the Gulf of Tonkin during her fifth combat cruise to Vietnam.

Captain Frank S. Haak, commanding officer of the carrier, presided at cake cutting ceremonies, assisted by the “oldest” and “youngest” enlisted men aboard. Steward’s Mate First Class Reynaldo Santiago (right in photo) has been a member of the crew since March 1960. Radioman Seaman Jacques L. Ricard (left) reported aboard last September 23.



The obelisk in the photo is a replica of a monument which stands near Rome, New York, to commemorate the battle of Oriskany, which helped turn the tide of the Revolutionary War in 1777.

The “Mighty O” was launched in 1945 but was not commissioned until five years later at the outbreak of the Korean conflict. For her four previous cruises to Vietnam she has been awarded three Navy Unit Commendations and one Meritorious Unit Commendation.



COMMANDER SONNIKSEN LEADS VC-1 – The new commanding officer of Fleet Composite Squadron 1, Barbers Point, Hawaii, is Commander Ronald Sonniksen, who relieved Commander Johnny B. McDaniel.

The new skipper (photo) reported to the squadron as executive officer in August 1969 after serving on the COMNAVAIRPAC staff and as officer in charge of Detachment 34 of VFP-63 aboard USS Oriskany.



For his tour of duty with the photographic detachment, which encompassed air operations over North Vietnam, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and received seven Air Medal awards.



VF-191 ACCUMULATES FLIGHT HOURS – When Lieutenant Steve Stevens, of Fighter Squadron 191, landed his F-8J Crusader on the deck of USS Oriskany in the Gulf of Tonkin after completing a mission, J. C. Retchless, maintenance chief petty officer, was waiting with important news.



Lieutenant Stevens’ flight had boosted VF-191 past the 700 flight hours mark for a 25-day period. The total flight time was recorded during 318 combat sorties.

COMMANDER JOHNSON LEADS VC-5 – Commander Alfred C. Johnson, Jr. became the new skipper of Fleet Composite Squadron 5 in a change of command ceremony at the Naval Air Facility, Naha, Okinawa.

Commander Johnson (left in photo) relieved Commander Gregory E. Lawrence, Jr., who completed a one-year tour of duty as the CO of the “Checkertails.”

The new commanding officer joined the Navy as an aviation cadet in May 1952 after attending the University of Illinois. He was designated a Naval Aviator and commissioned as an ensign in November 1953.

After service with VF-103 aboard USS Coral Sea in the Mediterranean he reported to the Naval Air Training Command and served as a primary flight instructor and as staff flight instructor in the basic standardization group. In 1958 he was ordered to the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

His next assignment was to VA-126 and he served as maintenance officer and operations officer as the squadron deployed to the western Pacific aboard USS Lexington and USS Hancock. In 1962 he reported to the staff of Commander Carrier Division 3 and deployed to WESTPAC aboard USS Ranger and USS Coral Sea as assistant operations officer. In 1965 he was graduated from the Naval War College.

He then served as a senior computer systems analyst for the National Military Command System, Joint Chiefs of Staff. During that tour of duty he completed his B.S. requirements in computer sciences and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his design accomplishments in national command and control systems.

In 1968 he reported to the Navy’s newest attack carrier, USS John F. Kennedy, as her first operations officer. After completion of a deployment to the Mediterranean he received orders as prospective commanding officer of VC-5.



STRIKE! – Fighter Squadron 124 was well represented when the varsity bowlers at NAS Miramar, California, turned over another trophy to Captain A. W. Chandler, Jr., commanding officer of the station.



The trophy was won in competition for an all-events championship at MCAS El Toro. Photo shows (left to right) Greg Pickens, VF-124; D. J. Johnson, NAMTRADETS; Captain Chandler, Jim Thompson, VF-126, and Dick DallaTorre, VF-124.

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“HUNTERS” CELEBRATE 10th ANNIVERSARY – When the “Hunters” of Fighter Squadron 162 celebrated their 10th anniversary, participants in the cutting of the birthday cake included AMS2 R. E. Lee (left), who was attached to the squadron when it was commissioned; Commander M. O. Wright (far right), executive officer, and (right) Lieutenant (j.g.) M. J. Scecina. The “Hunters” are serving aboard USS Shangri-La off the coast of Vietnam. Commander Wright has since relieved Commander R. G. Conaughton as skipper of the squadron.



CAPTAIN MAULDEN COMMANDS SHANGRI-LA – Captain Hoyt P. Maulden has assumed command of USS Shangri-La, operating in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam with an aircraft complement which includes two Crusader squadrons, VF-111 and VF-162.

The new skipper, who relieved Captain Herbert Poorman, reported on board from duty as commanding officer of USS Wrangell (AE-12). He also has served as commanding officer of USS Shasta (AE-6) and he served aboard the Shangri-La in 1962 and 1963 as commanding officer of Attack Squadron 176.

Other squadron assignments have included duty with VBF-19 aboard USS Antietam, VF-44 aboard USS Coral Sea, USS Lake Champlain and USS Boxer, and VA-35 aboard USS Saratoga. Shore assignments have included a tour of duty as assistant for aircraft requirements, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air).



Captain Maulden has a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Mississippi and a B.S. degree in economics and a master's degree in public and business administration from George Washington University. He is a graduate of the Naval War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.



NAS MIRAMAR CONDUCTS FIREFIGHTING SCHOOL – More than 11,000 students have been trained by a fleet aviation firefighting school at NAS Miramar, California, where the curriculum included fire survival training as well as techniques for battling blazes aboard carriers at sea.

In the photos above use of survival equipment is demonstrated by Ray Lutz, a Crusader trainee with Fighter Squadron 124, in the classroom and in a “smokehouse” at the base’s fire station.

One of the course instructors, Hoseman Norman Breton, told his classes: “Almost all of you will be going aboard ships as air wing personnel. You’ll be berthed below the flight deck. If anything happens on the flight deck, you’ll be the first to know. Firefighting is your responsibility. Here, I try to teach survival but you’re still firefighters.”

The curriculum included introduction to a “carrier survival package.” The first item in the package is a self-contained oxygen breathing apparatus capable of supporting a man in a smoke-filled compartment for 60 minutes. Oxygen is chemically generated in a disposable canister. The second item is the Mark V gas mask, a filtering system which can deliver pure air from dense smoke for about two hours.

The package items are provided by the Navy. The instructor suggested that each man equip himself with a flashlight for finding his way in areas of a ship blacked out because of fire and a pair of gloves to provide protection from hot bulkheads and ladders.

The firefighting students also were given instruction in the use of fire hoses, or “working lines.”

Firefighter training operations have been relocated at the 32nd Street Naval Station, where a \$2,000,000 smoke-free facility will meet the training needs of the 11th Naval District and a limited number of foreign personnel.



SCENIC SHOT – One of the Crusaders of the “Checkertails” of VF-24, piloted by Lieutenant J. P. Phelps, is shown in flight over Diamond Head, Oahu, Hawaii. The photo was taken during operational exercises aboard USS Hancock.



VF-51/VF-53 BACK FROM VIETNAM – Fighter Squadron 51, led by Commander Thomas A. Tucker, and Fighter Squadron 53, led by Commander Paul Skarlatos, have returned to NAS Miramar, California, after deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

Also serving with Carrier Air Wing 5, led by Commander D. J. Ellison, was VFP-63, Detachment 31, led by Lieutenant Commander R. L. White as officer in charge.



FORMER F-8 PILOT JOINS “BLUE ANGELS” – Lieutenant William H. Switzer, III, a former Crusader pilot who has been serving since January as a flight instructor at NAS Chase Field, Beeville, Texas, has been selected to join the “Blue Angels,” the Navy’s flight demonstration team.

Lieutenant Switzer won his wings in March 1967 and flew the F-8 during WESTPAC deployments with Fighter Squadron 191 aboard USS Ticonderoga and USS Oriskany.

CRUSADER



*FIGHTER
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MILESTONE LANDING – Commander Richard A. Peters, executive officer of the “Satan’s Kittens” of Fighter Squadron 191, has been credited with making the 160,000th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany.

The milestone was marked while the carrier was operating in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam.

Earlier, Commander Peters had recorded the 800th carrier landing of his Navy career, a total which included more than 600 traps in the Crusader. His logbooks show a total of more than 2,700 flight hours in the F-8 and he is a triple Centurion aboard the Oriskany. He began flight training at Pensacola, Florida, after being graduated from the University of Rochester and was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1956.



PILOT LOGS 2,000th F-8 FLIGHT HOUR – Lieutenant Commander Robert W. Geeding, operations officer of VF-191, logged his 2,000th hour in Crusader cockpits while serving aboard USS Oriskany.

He joined “Satan’s Kittens” when they returned to the United States after their previous WESTPAC deployment.

Previously, he had served with other F-8 squadrons and had been assigned to the U. S. Air Force Tactical Air Command for a tour of duty flying the F-104 Starfighter and the F-4C Phantom. He entered flight training after being graduated from Purdue University in 1959.



100th NIGHT TRAP – Flying from USS Oriskany, Lieutenant Commander John Welch, of VF-191, made his 100th night carrier landing in the Crusader.

The squadron’s maintenance officer had previously served with other F-8 squadrons and had been assigned to VX-4, evaluating air-to-air missiles and aircraft weapons systems. He began flight training after being graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1961.



GOAL ACHIEVED – Commander Jack Batzler, executive officer of VF-24, has finally achieved his goal of 1,000 hours of flight time in the Crusader. During his 14-year flying career, he made his first F-8 flight in 1959. Now, 11 years and 2,700 flight hours in various types of aircraft later, he has recorded his 1,000th Crusader hour.

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2,000-HOUR PILOTS HONORED – Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, did the honors when 2,000-hour Crusader plaques were presented to four pilots during the 14th annual Tailhook Reunion in Las Vegas. Photo shows (left to right) Dr. W. J. Hesse, Vought Aeronautics vice president-plans and requirements; Lieutenant Commander Bob Geeding, of Fighter Squadron 191, based at NAS Miramar, California; Commander Harry Sarajian, NAS Atlanta, Georgia; Admiral Zumwalt; Lieutenant Commander Tim Hubbard, VFP-63, NAS Miramar; Lieutenant Commander Jack Finley, VX-4, Point Mugu, California, and John J. “Jack” Welch, Vought vice president-programs.



COMMANDER JONES LEADS VC-2 – Commander R. C. Jones, Jr., is the new commanding officer of Fleet Composite Squadron 2, NAS Oceana, Virginia.

He relieved Commander C. H. Whelchel, Jr. (right in photo), assigned to duty as executive officer of USS Okinawa (LPH-3), presently homeported at San Diego, California.



Commander Jones had previously served as executive officer of VC-2, which received an aviation safety citation from COMNAVAIRLANT for fiscal 1970.



AWARDS CEREMONY – Commander Thomas A. Tucker, commanding officer of VF-51, addressed the squadron during an awards ceremony on the hangar deck of USS Bon Homme Richard while the carrier was en route to Yankee Station for the last period of a deployment to Vietnam.



At the right in the photo is Lieutenant Commander Jerry B. “Devil” Houston, who recently joined VF-51. He replaced Lieutenant Commander Jimmie W. Taylor, a 2,500-hour F-8 pilot who had received orders to report to VF-124, NAS Miramar, California.

MEDAL AWARDED FOR BRAVERY – Airman Raymond F. Regan, Jr., of VC-7, NAS Miramar, California, has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for bravery while rescuing a squadron mate from drowning.

The presentation was made by Captain B. W. Hall, then commanding officer of the squadron. Patrolman Michael Breen, of the San Diego Police Department, the first individual to aid Airman Regan, was present for the occasion.



The citation read in part: “For heroism while serving at Fleet Composite Squadron 7 on June 20, 1970. Upon observing a fellow shipmate dive from a high cliff and surface in a very seriously injured condition, AN Regan, with complete disregard of his own personal safety and aware of the personal dangers involved, descended the cliff, plunged into the dangerous and turbulent waters and effected the rescue of his shipmate. Airman Regan held his shipmate’s head above water for over 15 minutes until assistance arrived. His courageous and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk saved a shipmate from drowning.”



TAILHOOK PATCH ADOPTED – Very much in evidence when the Tailhook Association’s 14th annual reunion was conducted last month in Las Vegas, Nevada, was the organization’s newly-adopted official patch.

Selected from more than 50 entries, the patch design was the work of Lieutenant Commander Floyd E. Sykes, formerly a member of the “Black Knights” of Attack Squadron 23 and now attending the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.



The colors highlighting the patch are gold for the circling rope and the pilot’s wings, dark blue lettering on a light blue background, black and white for the tailhook and black for the aircraft carrier.



100th F-8 NIGHT LANDING – Lieutenant Commander Jim Lusk, of Fighter Squadron 53, recorded the 100th Crusader night landing of his Navy career while serving aboard USS Bon Homme Richard off the coast of Vietnam.

His first night carrier landing was made in 1962 while he was aboard USS Midway with Fighter Squadron 124 for night carrier qualifications.



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HOMEWARD BOUND – Before heading homeward to NAS Miramar, California, after deployment to Vietnam, the “Sundowners” of VF-111 assembled for this group photo on the flight deck of USS Shangri-La. Commander Bill Rennie is the skipper of the squadron.



“HUNTERS” COMMAND CHANGES – Commander Marshall O. Wright has assumed command of the “Hunters” of Fighter Squadron 162, relieving Commander Robert G. Conaughton, assigned to the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington.

The change of command took place aboard USS Shangri-La, operating off the coast of Vietnam.

The new skipper (photo) joined VF-162 as executive officer in October 1969 following a brief tour of duty with VF-124 at NAS Miramar, California. He had previously served with VF-211 and was credited with a MIG kill during his initial combat cruise in 1967. More than half of the 5,200 flight hours in his log-books have been flown in Crusaders.



GOLDEN TAILHOOK AWARD – Lieutenant Commander James B. Best, of Fighter Squadron 111, received the golden tailhook award for excellence in carrier landings during deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Shangri-La.

The award was made by the commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 8.

Lieutenant Commander Best left the “Sundowners” last month after receiving orders for transfer to the Bureau of Naval Personnel.



COMMANDER AVERYT LEADS VC-7 – The new skipper of VC-7 at NAS Miramar, California, is Commander Howell D. Averyt, who relieved Captain Berkeley W. Hall.

Captain Hall reported to Commander Fleet Air Miramar for temporary assignment.

The new commanding officer (photo) had previously served as the composite squadron's executive officer since October 1969.

Commander Averyt received his commission and wings in March 1952. His first assignment was to VF-22 and he participated in combat operations in the Korean conflict, flying from USS Lake Champlain.



During his Navy career he also has served as hangar deck officer aboard USS Hancock, as maintenance officer and operations officer of VF-162, and as maintenance officer and executive officer of VF-124. Prior to joining VC-7 he was a member of the staff of COMNAVAIRPAC as fighter class desk officer in the force material division.



NEW SHOULDER BOARDS – When his promotion to his new rank became official, Captain Berkeley W. Hall was the central figure in a ceremony at NAS Miramar, California.

His new shoulder boards were pinned on by Captain A. B. Smith, Jr., Commander Fleet Air Miramar, and Mrs. Hall.



WELL DONE! – Operating off the coast of Vietnam, Lieutenant Wayne Durham became a Double Centurion by making his 200th arrested landing aboard USS Oriskany and Commander Dave Metzler recorded the 500th Crusader carrier landing of his Navy career.

Lieutenant Durham (left) and Commander Metzler (right), executive officer of the "Red Lightnings" of VF-194, are shown receiving congratulations from Commander Jim Ryan, skipper of the squadron.



Lieutenant John Rockwell also achieved Double Centurion status aboard the Oriskany.