

CRUSADER



FIGHTER REPORT



VICE ADMIRAL WALKER JOINS "4-C" CLUB – Making his first flight in a Crusader, Vice Admiral Thomas J. Walker, Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, has completed his qualifications for membership in the "4-C" Club.

The club is composed of pilots who have flown all of four "C" aircraft built by the Vought Aeronautics Company – the piston engine F4U Corsair, the F7U Cutlass, the F-8 Crusader and the A-7 Corsair II.

Admiral Walker also became a member of the 1,000 MPH Club and was presented with a plaque.

His Crusader flight was made at NAS Miramar, California, in one of the F-8Js of VF-124, the "Crusader College" training squadron. His wingman was Commander Jack L. Finney, commanding officer of the squadron, and both pilots attained supersonic speed during an hour aloft over the California coast.

Photo shows (left to right) Commander Finney, Admiral Walker, Captain Armistead B. Smith, Commander Fleet Air Miramar, and Richard D. Greer, Jr., Vought Aeronautics Company representative.



VF-191, VF-194 RETURN FROM VIETNAM – Back at home base at NAS Miramar after deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Oriskany are the "Satan's Kittens" of Fighter Squadron 191, led by Commander Richard A. Peters, and the "Red Lightnings" of Fighter Squadron 194, led by Commander Fred D. Richardson, Jr.



VFP-63 DETACHMENT WINS GOLDEN TAILHOOK – Serving with Attack Carrier Air Wing 5 during deployment to Vietnam aboard USS Midway, Light Photographic Squadron 63, Detachment 3 won the golden tailhook award for the deployment by scoring first in carrier landing excellence during three of four line periods.

Photo shows (left to right) Lieutenant Gerald Brown, Captain James Morgan, Air Force exchange pilot; Lieutenant Commander Scott Ruby, officer in charge of the detachment; Captain William Harris, commanding officer of the Midway; Captain Ralph Rutherford, commander of the air wing; Lieutenant Paul Ringwood and Lieutenant Bruce Thompson, photo intelligence officer.

Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Ringwood also became Centurions by recording their 100th Midway arrested landings during the deployment.



ORISKANY CENTURIONS – Eight pilots of VF-194 gained status as Double Centurions aboard USS Oriskany and five pilots achieved Centurion status while the squadron served aboard the carrier during deployment to Southeast Asia.

Their 200th arrested landings aboard the Mighty “O” were recorded by Lieutenant Commander Kerm Jackson, operations officer; Lieutenant Commander Joe Phaneuf, maintenance officer, and Lieutenants “Buzz” Johnson, maintenance control officer; Don Priest, aircraft division officer; Rod Parker, line division officer; “Leif” Erickson, flight officer; Gary Crowell, NATOPS/training officer, and Fred Sage, administrative officer.

Qualifying as Centurions with 100 arrested landings were Commander Fred Richardson, commanding officer of the squadron, and Lieutenants “Bluto” Woltz, safety officer; Carl Swan, legal officer; Jon Eastman, personnel officer, and Alan Steinbrecher, public affairs officer.

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VF-201 WINS TOP RESERVE AWARD – VF-201, stationed at NAS Dallas, has been named winner of the Admiral J. S. McCain Award, established to designate the outstanding Naval Reserve fighter squadron. The trophy was presented to Commander John P. Lamers, commanding officer of the squadron, by Rear Admiral Lawrence Heyworth, Jr., deputy chief of staff for the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, during the annual convention of the American Fighter Pilots Association in Denver. Commander Chuck Blaker is executive officer of VF-201, which also has won the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for fiscal 1971.



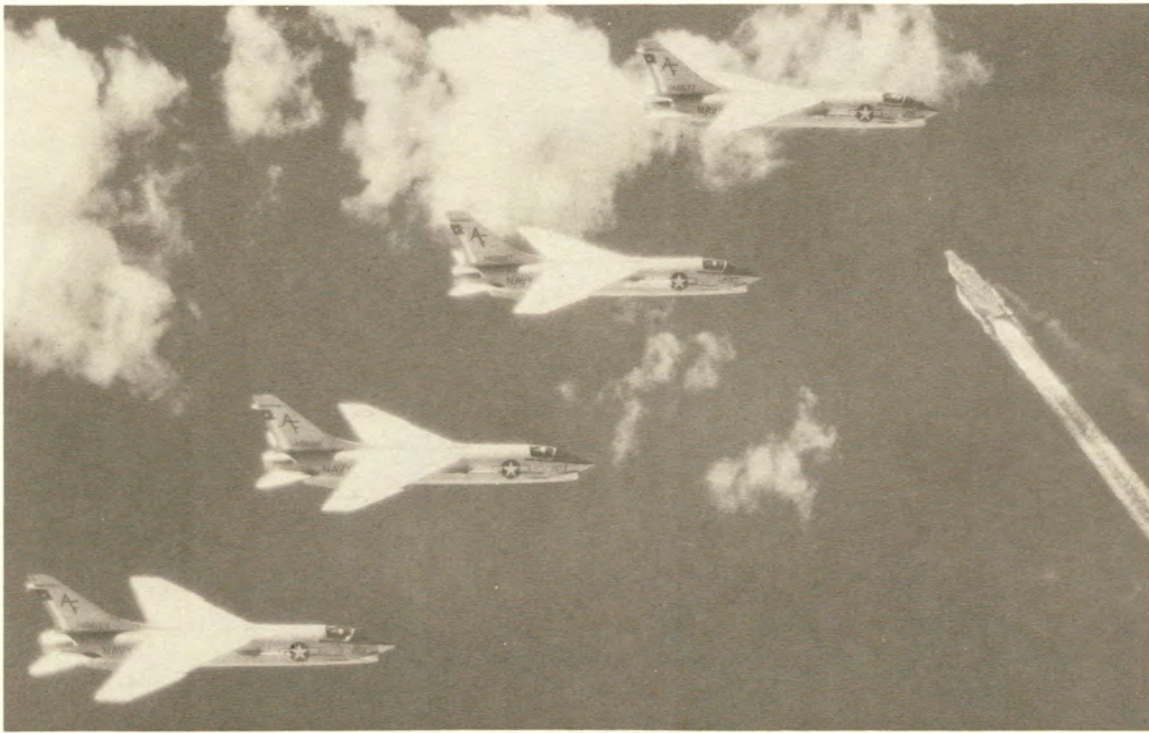
2,000 CRUSADER HOURS – Commander Lawrence P. Walsh, commanding officer of VC-10, stationed at NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has logged his 2,000th hour in Crusader cockpits.

Plaque presentation photo shows (left to right) Captain W. A. Mackey, Commander Fleet Air Caribbean; Commander Walsh and Captain E. M. Cadenas, commanding officer of the air station.



The milestone highlights an accident-free association with the Crusader that began in April 1959 in the F8U-1. In December 1959 Commander Walsh reported to Fighter Squadron 211 and made two WESTPAC deployments. He was then ordered back to VF-124, the “Crusader College” training squadron at NAS Miramar, California, as a flight instructor and squadron safety officer.

After a tour of duty as flight deck officer aboard USS Kitty Hawk, during which he made two combat deployments to WESTPAC, he returned to VF-124 for refresher training and in June 1968 he reported to VF-162 as maintenance officer and later made his third combat deployment. After completing that deployment in August 1969 he served as executive officer of VF-124 before reporting to VC-10 in July 1970 as executive officer.



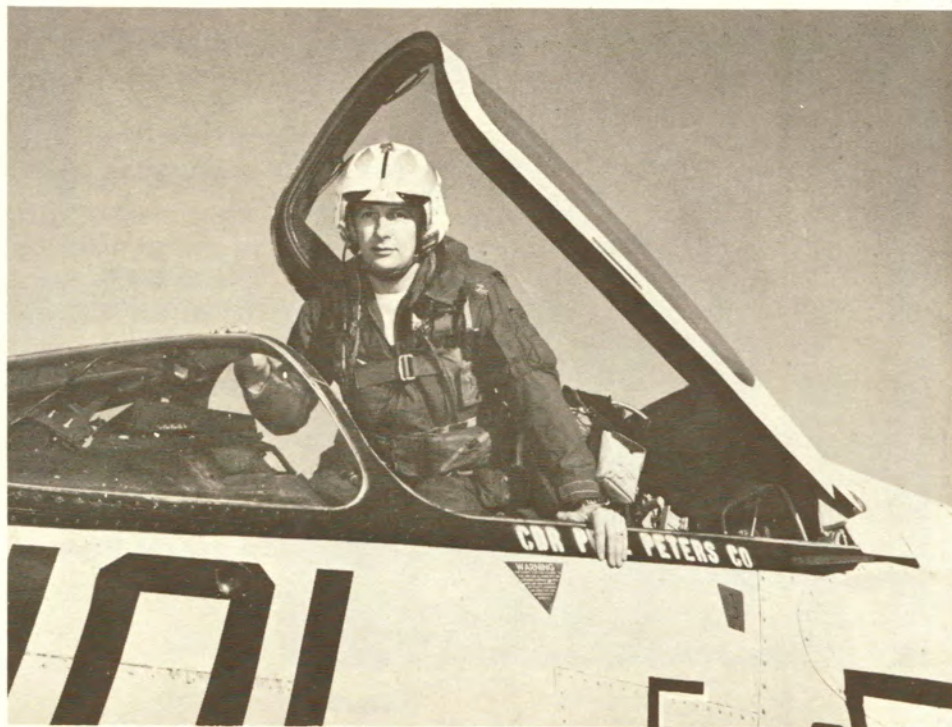
RESERVES COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT – Fighter Squadron 202, based at NAS Dallas and led by Commander Sam Jones, participated as a part of Reserve Air Wing 20 in a two-week operational readiness exercise deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, aboard USS John F. Kennedy. During the cruise VF-202 fired 20-millimeter cannons, Sidewinder missiles and Zuni rockets. Squadron ordnance availability and accuracy were cited by Commander Carrier Division 4 observers in assigning the squadron a “high excellent” grade in the air wing ORE. The overall grade for the wing, led by Commander E. W. Feeks, Jr., was “excellent”. Commander Feeks said “Our prime objective, a safe operation, was met in an extremely professional manner.”



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TOP CRUSADER PILOT REASSIGNED – Commander Richard A. “Pete” Peters, first pilot to log 3,000 hours of flight time in Crusader cockpits, has been assigned to attend the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

The former commander of Fighter Squadron 191 had recorded his major milestone at NAS Miramar, California, where the squadron is based. He had assumed command in May 1971 after serving as executive officer since May 1970 and led his “Satan’s Kittens” pilots in a deployment to Southeast Asia aboard USS Oriskany before being relieved by Commander Charles L. Tinker.

Commander Peters was graduated from the University of Rochester in July 1955 and was commissioned as an ensign under the NROTC program. Following his designation as a Naval Aviator in September 1956, he made two Mediterranean cruises in the FJ-3 and one in the F-8.

He then served as a Crusader instructor pilot with VF-174 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, before making two Mediterranean cruises on the staff of Carrier Air Wing 1. In February 1966 he joined VF-111 and made two WESTPAC combat cruises aboard USS Oriskany. His next assignment was as a flight instructor with VF-124, NAS Miramar. In January 1969 he reported to the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, and he was graduated in June of that year. Returning to Miramar, he served on the staff of RCVW 12 until he joined VF-191 as executive officer.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, 18 Air Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals.

FLEET AIR MIRAMAR COMMAND CHANGES – Concluding a Navy career spanning 30 years, Captain Armistead B. Smith, Jr., has relinquished his post as Commander Fleet Air Miramar, California.

Captain William E. Cross (photo), chief staff officer, has assumed interim duty as COMFAIRMIRAMAR.

Captain Smith had served in the senior command post since June 1970. He had previously been assigned to duty as commanding officer of NAS Miramar from June 1967 to June 1969.

During World War II, flying F-6F Hellcats in the Pacific, he had been credited with 11 aerial victories over Japanese pilots. His war decorations included the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses and eight Air Medals.



Captain Cross is a combat veteran of both World War II and the war in Vietnam. His decorations include the Navy Cross, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Navy Distinguished Service Order, second class; the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross).



VC-10 RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD – Fleet Composite Squadron 10, based at NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has received the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award.

Photo shows Vice Admiral R. L. Townsend, then Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet, presenting the award to Commander L. P. Walsh, commanding officer of the squadron.



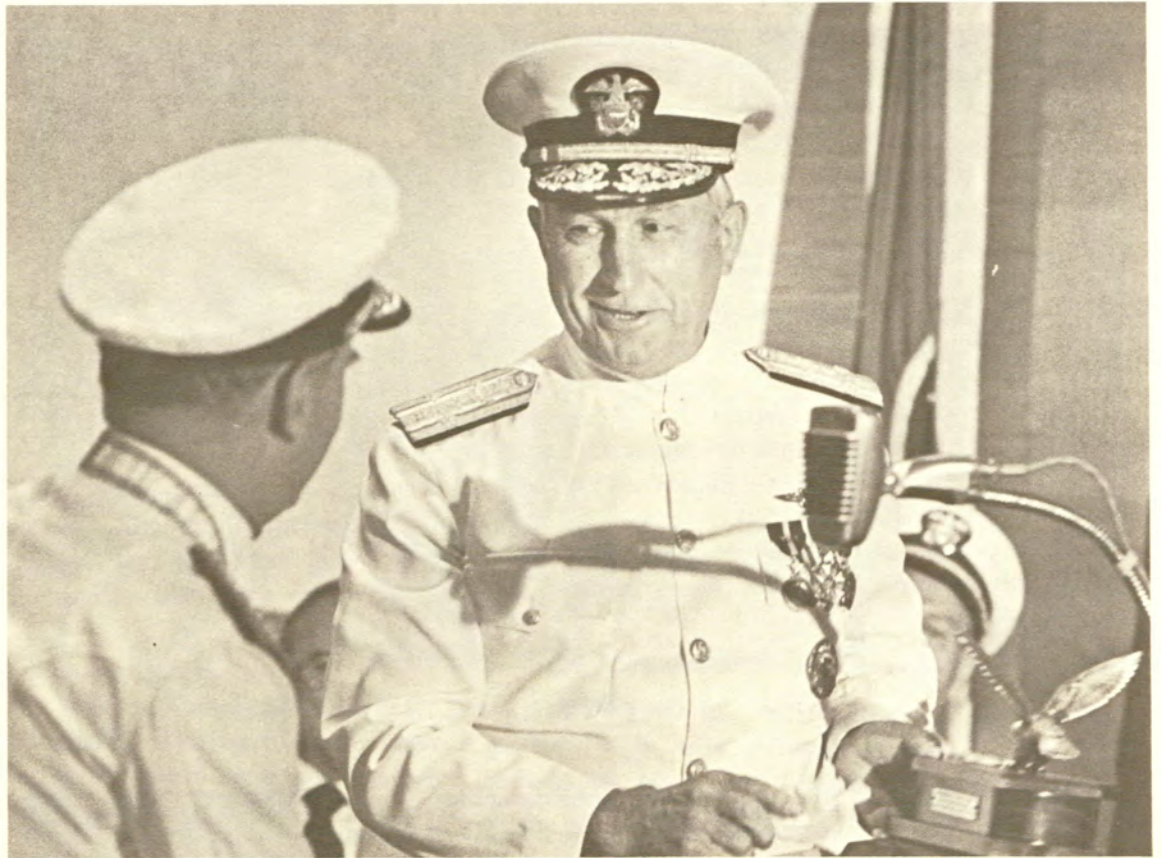
VC-10 is utilizing the F-8K Crusader. Working with the Fleet Training Group, it provides services for fleet training operations in the Guantanamo Bay area and also maintains a 24-hour alert status in defense of the Navy base.



GOALS ACHIEVED – Lieutenant Phil Colson, of Fighter Squadron 211, has entered his 1,000th Crusader flight hour in his logbook while flying from USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin.

He also has qualified as a Hancock Centurion by making his 100th arrested landing aboard the carrier.

Other new Centurions are Lieutenants Kevin Dwyer, Hank Livingston and Gene Brotherton.



ADMIRAL MOORER BECOMES "GRAY EAGLE" – Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the Navy's 23rd Gray Eagle, the officer still on active duty who holds the earliest designation as a Naval Aviator.

In a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Admiral Moorer received the Gray Eagle award trophy from Rear Admiral Francis D. Foley, who was preparing to retire after duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

The "Gray Eagle" is "the most ancient aviator on active duty" and the trophy, sponsored by the Vought Aeronautics Company, is presented "in recognition of a clear eye, a stout heart, a steady hand and daring defiance of gravity and the law of averages."



MIG DOWNED WITHOUT SHOT BEING FIRED – A widely circulated news report indicates that North Vietnamese pilots appear to have developed a healthy respect for American fliers because of the impressive number of MIG downings in recent months.

A clear example was provided when a MIG pilot bailed out of his plane before Navy fliers could even fire a shot at the aircraft. Two Crusaders from USS Hancock were providing cover for an air strike in North Vietnam when a MIG approached on an opposite course. As the enemy plane passed abeam one of the Crusaders turned directly into it but, before the F-8 pilot could shoot, the MIG pilot ejected and parachuted to safety. His plane crashed and the F-8 pilots returned to their carrier to report one MIG downed with no ordnance expended, an example of perfect cost-effectiveness.

CAPTAIN FOXGROVER COMMANDS NAS MIRAMAR – Captain James H. Foxgrover has relieved Captain George E. R. Kinnear, II, as commanding officer of NAS Miramar, California, “Fightertown U.S.A.”

At the conclusion of the change of command ceremony, Captain Kinnear’s promotion to rear admiral became official when his new flag officer’s shoulder boards were snapped on by Rear Admiral Newton P. Foss, chief of staff for COMNAVAIRPAC, who was assisted by Mrs. Kinnear.

Rear Admiral Kinnear has been assigned to duty in Washington as plans and programs assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Captain Foxgrover (photo) reported to Miramar after duty as force readiness officer, headquarters Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. He had previously been assigned as F-4 class desk officer in the Bureau of Naval Weapons and as head of the fighter branch of the Naval Air Systems Command. During his Navy career he has served with the flight test division of the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, with seven aircraft squadrons, and as executive officer of USS Independence.



COMMANDER TINKER HEADS VF-191 – Commander Charles L. Tinker has relieved Commander Richard A. “Pete” Peters as commanding officer of VF-191, based at NAS Miramar, California, and now deployed to Southeast Asia aboard USS Oriskany.

Commander Peters had received orders to attend the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

Commander Tinker (photo) had previously served as the squadron’s executive officer since December 1971. During his Navy career he has served as administrative officer of VF-162 and landing signal officer of Carrier Air Wing 16, making two combat cruises aboard the Oriskany. His awards include 10 Air Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals.



OBJECTIVE ATTAINED – Operating from USS Hancock off the coast of Vietnam, Lieutenant Commander Boyd Repsher, of Fighter Squadron 211, has recorded his 2,000th Crusader flight hour.

Lieutenant Commander Repsher also holds the distinction of being a Double Centurion aboard the Hancock by virtue of having made his 200th arrested landing aboard the carrier early in the current deployment.

Other new Double Centurions are Lieutenant Commander Frank Bachman and Lieutenants Rick Phillips, Ed Schrupp, Jerry Tucker and Brian Foye.



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SECOND 3,000-HOUR CRUSADER PILOT – The second pilot to record 3,000 flight hours in the Crusader is Commander David R. Morris, commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 24.

Commander Morris achieved his goal during a combat flight over North Vietnam from USS Hancock.

Captain A. J. Monger, commanding officer of the carrier, was among those waiting to extend congratulations when he returned from his mission.



Commander Morris recently relieved Commander Jack R. Batzler as commanding officer of the "Fighting Red Checkertails". During his Navy career he has flown nine different models of the F-8, accumulated more than 600 arrested landings on 10 different carriers, and served with eight Crusader squadrons.

His decorations include the Air Medal with two gold stars and 16 strike/flight awards, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V", the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation (three awards), the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnamese Service Medal with six bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.

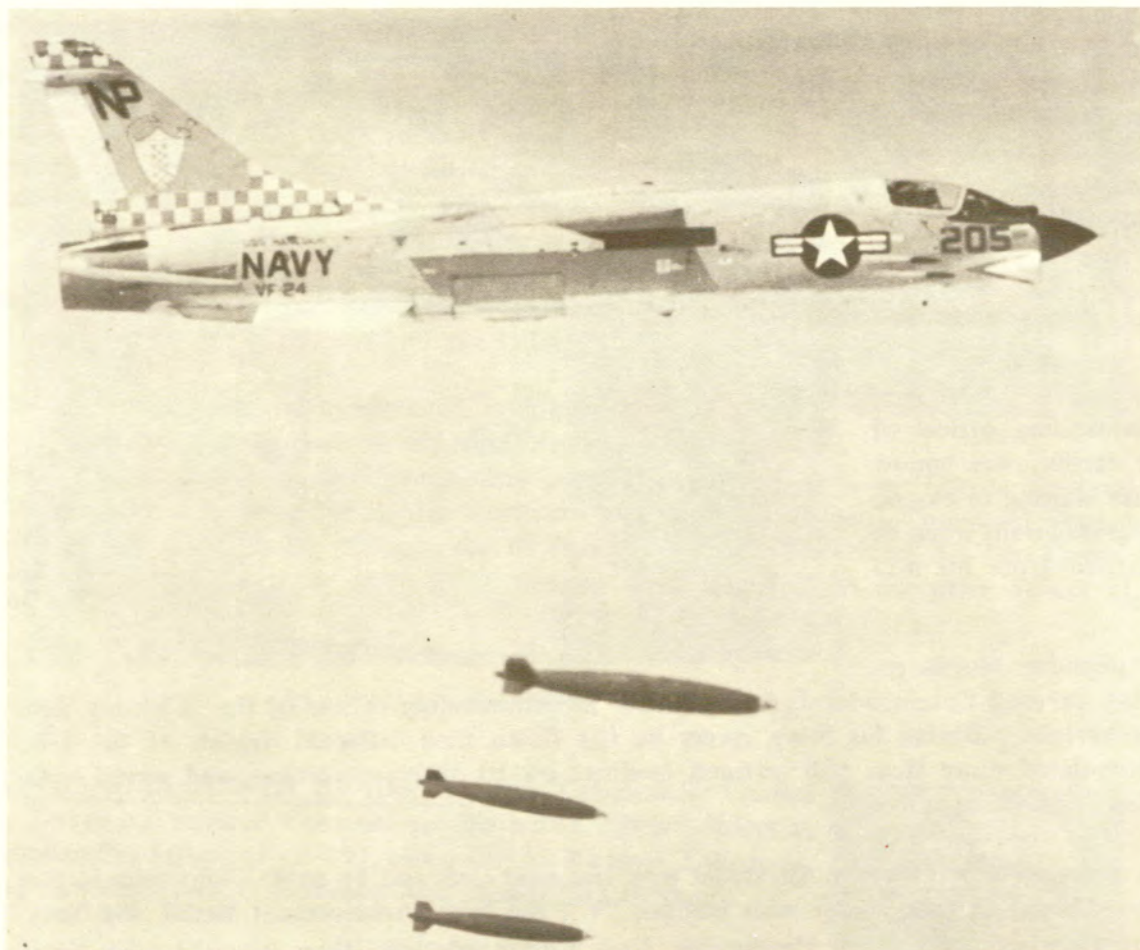


VF-211 COMMANDER RESCUED – After ejecting from his Crusader, crippled by enemy antiaircraft fire while he was bombing a troop concentration west of Hue, Commander Jimmy Davis, commanding officer of VF-211, spent a harrowing night in the jungles of northern South Vietnam before he was rescued.

During the course of a protracted search and rescue effort before he was returned to USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin, an A-1 Skyraider was shot down and a Jolly Green Giant helicopter was damaged. The Skyraider pilot also was rescued.

Earlier, Commander Davis had relieved Commander "Dusty" Rhodes as commanding officer of the "Checkmates". A veteran of 16 years of Navy service, he recently flew his 1,000th flight hour in the Crusader and also recorded his 300th F-8 arrested carrier landing.





VF-24, VF-211 ABOARD HANCOCK – Flying from USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin, the Crusaders of the “Fighting Red Checkertails” of VF-24 and the “Checkmates” of VF-211 are being utilized in both fighter and attack roles in the increased air strike effort against the North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam.

COMMANDER SOMERVILLE COMMANDS VF-202 – Commander Jack E. Somerville is the commanding officer of VF-202, Naval Air Reserve Force squadron based at NAS Dallas.

Commander Somerville (left in photo) relieved Commander Samuel R. Jones, who had served as commanding officer of the squadron since its formation in July 1970.



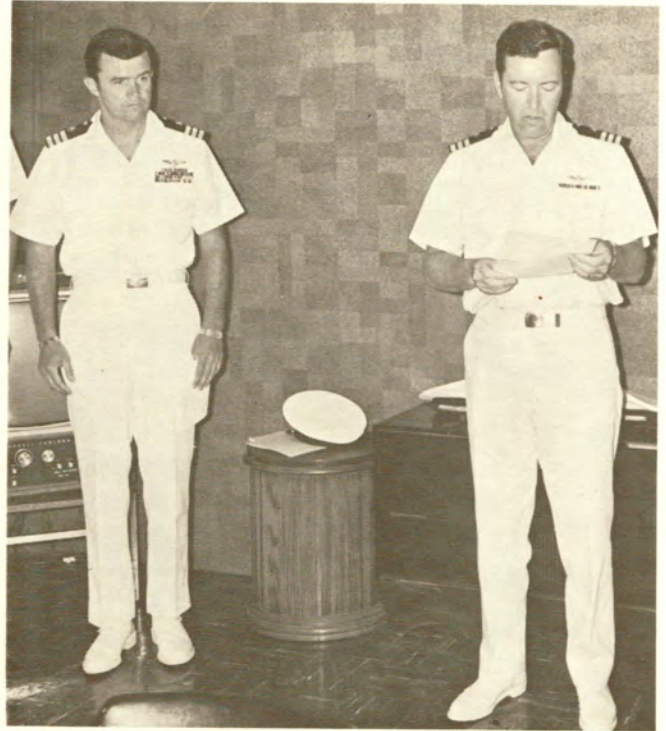
The new skipper entered the service as a Naval aviation cadet in 1955 and was commissioned and designated a Naval Aviator in March 1957. His first assignment, to ATU-213, was followed by tours with VF-193 and VF-121 and three WESTPAC deployments aboard USS Bon Homme Richard.

COMMANDER BROWN DIRECTS AIR WING 19 – Commander Thomas F. Brown, III

relieved Commander Samuel Walton Hubbard, Jr. as commanding officer of Carrier Air Wing 19 in a change of command ceremony aboard USS Oriskany prior to the carrier's deployment to Southeast Asia.

Commander Hubbard (right in photo) had received orders to report to the National War College after serving as the wing's commanding officer during the Oriskany's 1971 WESTPAC cruise.

Commander Brown assumed his new duties after serving as commanding officer of Attack Squadron 37, based at NAS Cecil Field, Florida.



700th ARRESTED LANDING – Flying from USS Hancock in the Gulf of Tonkin, Lieutenant Commander Frank Bachman, of Fighter Squadron 211, has recorded the 700th arrested carrier landing of his Navy career.

The operations officer of the "Check-mates", making his second cruise with the squadron, was congratulated by his commanding officer, Commander "Dusty" Rhodes.



COMMANDER HELLMAN LEADS "RED LIGHTNINGS" – Commander John S. Hellman has relieved Commander Fred D. Richardson as commanding officer of the "Red Lightnings" of VF-194, now serving aboard USS Oriskany off the coast of Vietnam.

The new skipper (photo) was designated a Naval Aviator in 1957 and is a veteran of combat in Vietnam. During his Navy career he has served with VF-124, VF-154 and VF-162 and as operations officer for Carrier Air Wing 21.

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat distinguished device and the South Vietnam Gallantry Cross with gold star.



VFP-63 GETS NEW SKIPPER – The new commanding officer of Light Photographic Squadron 63 (VFP-63) is Commander John M. Schulze, Jr., who relieved Commander Gail R. Bailey at NAS Miramar, California.

Commander Bailey had received orders to report to USS Hancock.

Commander Schulze (photo) was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy with the class of 1956 and was designated a Naval Aviator at Pensacola in 1958. After completing photo reconnaissance training he served with VFP-61 (now VFP-63), with VAP/VCP-61 in Guam, and then attended the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned his master's degree in aeronautical engineering.



In 1965 he returned to VFP-63 and made two deployments to Southeast Asia as officer in charge of reconnaissance detachments aboard USS Hancock and USS Bon Homme Richard. During that period he flew 160 photo combat missions in support of Seventh Fleet operations. He was then assigned as a project engineer and acceptance pilot for the Naval Plant Representative's Office at the Vought Aeronautics Company plant in Dallas before receiving orders to return to VFP-63 as executive officer.



2,000-HOUR PLAQUE PRESENTED – Lieutenant Commander Gary Harrell, of VT-21, NAS Kingsville, Texas, has recorded his 2,000th flight hour in the Crusader.

Presentation of a 2,000-hour plaque was made by Commander C. S. Wood, commanding officer of the squadron.



400th F-8 CARRIER LANDING – Lieutenant Commander Jerry Unruh, of Fighter Squadron 24, recorded his 400th F-8 landing on USS Hancock while the carrier was operating off the coast of Vietnam.

He was scheduled to leave VF-24 a short time later to attend the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.

