

BLACK KNIGHTS REUNION



NAS PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 11, 12, 13, 1994

HOME BASES, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AIRCRAFT, & AIR WINGS

HOME PORT	DATE ASSIGNED
NAS Akron, Ohio	Dec 1949
NAS Alameda, California	16 Apr 1951
NAS Lemoore, California	30 Sep 1961

COMMANDING OFFICERS	ASSUMED COMMAND
LCDR Cook Cleland	December 1949
LCDR J.M. Rickabaugh	28 Aug 1952
LCDR Benjamin Tappan, Jr.	November 1953
CDR E.S. Parks	June 1955
CDR Robert H. Moore, Jr.	late 1955 or early 1956
LCDR Bernard Sevilla	January 1957
CDR E.W. Blackburn	30 May 1958
CDR L.M. Cauble	06 Mar 1959
CDR S.G. Gorsline, Jr.	08 Apr 1960
LCDR Edward E. Riley (acting)	28 Sep 1961
CDR G.M. Veling	06 Nov 1961
CDR Edward E. Riley	18 Sep 1962
CDR Robert P. Smith	20 Aug 1963
CDR John R. Dewenter	02 Jul 1964
CDR Robert R. King, Jr.	02 Jul 1965
CDR Richard A. Mackell	01 Jul 1966
CDR Charles L. Bush	23 Jun 1967
CDR Morris A. Peelle	24 Jul 1968
CDR Theodore L. Lloyd, Jr.	09 Jul 1969

AIRCRAFT ASSIGNMENT		
TYPE	FIRST RECEIVED	REMARKS
FG-1D Corsair	A/C assigned to NAS Akron	Flown prior to activation.
F4U-4 Corsair	April or May 1951	
F4U-4B Corsair	Between Jun & Aug 1951	
F9F-2 Panther	28 Aug 1952	
F9F-5 Panther	02 Oct 1952	
F7U-3M Cutlass	May 1955	
F7U-3 Cutlass	Jun 1955	
F9F-8B Panther	Dec 1956	
F9F-8 Panther	Jan 1957	
FJ-4B Fury	Jul 1957	
A4D-2 Skyhawk	18 May 1960	
A4E Skyhawk	26 Dec 1962	1st A4E squadron
A4F Skyhawk	13 Jul 1967	2nd A4F squadron

AIR GROUP / AIR WING ASSIGNMENTS

Air Wing	Tail Code	Date Assigned
CVG-15	H	05 Apr 1951
ATG-1	*	03 Aug 1951
CVG-15	H	03 Jul 1952
ATG-1	U/NA*	01 Nov 1952
CVG-2 / CVW-2**	NE	24 Feb 1959
CVW-19	NM	01 Jul 1967

* The squadron deployed with ATG-1 but used its parent air group tail code (H) until U was assigned to ATG-1 on 24 July 1956. ATG-1's tail code was changed from U to NA in 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 1958 (01 July 1957).

** Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 Dec 1963.

UNIT AWARDS

Awards and inclusive dates covering awards.

Korea Service Medal

04 Dec 1951 03 Jun 1952
 03 Apr 1953 09 Aug 1953
 22 Aug 1953 21 Nov 1953

Navy Unit Commendation

11 Dec 1951 11 Jun 1952
 16 Apr 1965 04 Nov 1965
 12 Aug 1966 01 Feb 1967
 26 Jan 1968 23 Jul 1968

Korea Presidential Unit Citation

07 Dec 1951 20 Jun 1952
 30 Apr 1953 27 Jul 1953

United Nations Service Medal

04 Dec 1951 20 Jun 1952
 03 Apr 1953 09 Aug 1953
 22 Aug 1953 21 Nov 1953

National Defense Service Medal (Korea)

Dec 1951 June 1952

Armed Forces

Expeditionary Medal

23 Oct 1958 01 Jan 1959
 28 Mar 1961 07 Apr 1961
 23 Jan 1968 22 Mar 1968
 17 Sep 1969
 28 Sep 1969 04 Oct 1969

Meritorious Unit Commendation

05 May 1969 03 Nov 1969

Viet Nam Service Medal

22 Jul 1965 26 Aug 1965
 11 Sep 1965 09 Oct 1965
 12 Sep 1966 19 Oct 1966
 30 Oct 1966 04 Dec 1966
 26 Dec 1966 01 Feb 1967
 25 Jan 1968 04 Mar 1968
 25 Mar 1968 08 Apr 1968
 16 Apr 1968
 24 Apr 1968 12 May 1968
 20 May 1968 14 Jun 1968
 25 Jun 1968 23 July 1968
 05 May 1969 04 Jun 1969
 15 Jun 1969 01 Jul 1969
 12 Jul 1969 30 Jul 1969
 14 Aug 1969 12 Sep 1969
 08 Oct 1969 31 Oct 1969



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DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

VF-653

01 FEB 1951 - 04 FEB 1953

Deployment Dates	A/C	MODEX	Air Wing	OPS Area	CV	Reference
15 OCT 51 - 03 JUL 52	F4U-4B Corsair	300	ATG-1	KOREA	45 Valley Forge	HOOK SP83-22; SU 89-44

VF-151

04 FEB 1953 - 07 FEB 1956

Deployment Dates	A/C	MODEX	Air Wing	OPS Area	CV	Remarks
30 MAR 53 - 28 NOV 53	F9F-2 Panther	300	ATG-1	KOREA	21 Boxer	HOOK SP 83-23
01 SEP 54 - 11 APR 55	F9F-2 Panther	300	ATG-1	WESTPAC	18 Wasp	HOOK SP 83-23; SU 89-42

VA-151

07 FEB 1956 - 23 FEB 1959

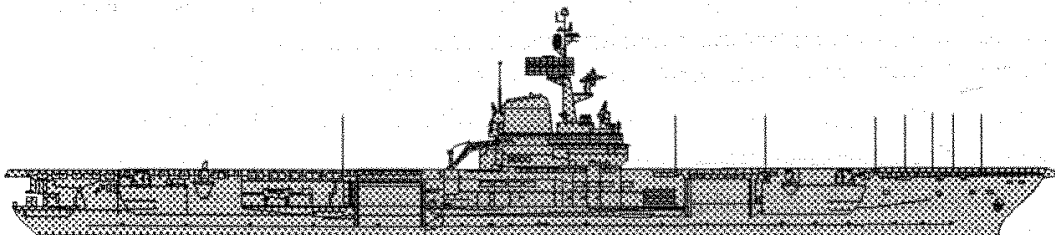
Deployment Dates	A/C	MODEX	Air Wing	OPS Area	CV	Remarks
28 MAY 56 - 20 DEC 56	F7U-3 Cutlass	300	ATG-1	WESTPAC	16 Lexington	HOOK SP 83-22
04 OCT 58 - 17 FEB 59	FJ-4B Fury	300	ATG-1	WESTPAC	14 Ticonderoga	HOOKSP 83-23

VA-23

23 FEB 1959 - 21 MAR 1970

(Disestablished 01 APR 1970)

Deployment Dates	A/C	MODEX	Air Wing	OPS Area	CV	Remarks
15 AUG 59 - 25 MAR 60	FJ-4B Fury	600	CVG-2	WESTPAC	41 Midway	HOOK SU 78-27
15 FEB 61 - 28 SEP 61	A4D-2 Skyhawk	400	CVG-2	WESTPAC	41 Midway	HOOK SU 78-27
06 APR 62 - 20 OCT 62	A4D-2 Skyhawk	400	CVG-2	WESTPAC	41 Midway	HOOK SU 78-27
08 NOV 63 - 26 MAY 64	A4E Skyhawk	330	CVG-2	WESTPAC	41 Midway	USNACAU V2-57
08 MAR 65 - 23 NOV 65	A4E Skyhawk	330	CVW-2	SE ASIA	41 Midway	Koku Fan #21-190
29 JUL 66 - 23 FEB 67	A4E Skyhawk	330	CVW-2	SE ASIA	43 Coral Sea	HOOK SP 90-77
28 DEC 67 - 17 AUG 68	A4F Skyhawk	300	CVW-19	SE ASIA	14 Ticonderoga	Koku Fan #21-197
14 APR 69 - 17 NOV 69	A4F Skyhawk	300	CVW-19	SE ASIA	34 Oriskany	NAHO-5/4-7/87; Koku Fan #21-197



U.S.S. Midway
CVA 41

BLACK KNIGHTS

LINEAGE & HISTORY

LINEAGE

DEC 1949. Established as Reserve Fighter Squadron SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VF-653) based at NAS Akron, Ohio.

01 FEB 1951. Called to active duty.

04 FEB 1953. Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151)

07 FEB 1956. Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VA-151)

23 FEB 1959. Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY THREE (VA-23)

01 APR 1970. Disestablished. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-23.

INSIGNIA

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 07 February 1951. The central figure is the dragon, symbolizing the terrifying qualities representative of a fighter squadron, and the shield portraying its strength. Insignia colors were: yellow outer border; blue background; red dragon with yellow shaded areas and black markings; light blue shield with diamond and checkered bar in yellow.

When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, it adopted a new insignia sometime between 1953 and 1955. This insignia was a shield with a knight's helmet at the top and a banner at the bottom with the Latin inscription "In Omnia Paratus" translated as "Always Prepared." Colors were: white background with black outer circle; black helmet, banner, outer border of shield and diagonal bar ascending from left to right across the shield; helmet visor was yellow with black markings; the two central portions of the shield and Latin motto were yellow; two plumes trailing from the helmet were one yellow and one black. There is no record relating to the use of this insignia following the squadron's redesignation to VA-151. However, on 29 April 1959, CNO approved VA-23's request to retain the insignia formerly used by VA-151. The insignia used by VA-23 was the same Black Knight design.

NICKNAME: Black Knights, circa 1955 - 1970.

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

11 December 1951: The squadron conducted its first combat strikes.

February 1955: Deployed aboard Wasp (CVA-18) the squadron provided air support during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalists from the Tachen Islands following the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

April 1965: While operating from Midway (CVA-41) on Yankee Station VA-23 conducted its first combat operations since the Korean War.

25 April 1965: VA-23 became the first squadron to use the Shrike anti-radiation (radar) missile in combat.

15-20 March 1968: VA-23 and other CVW-19 squadrons conducted flight operations from Ticonderoga (CVA-14) in the Sea of Japan as part of Operation Formation Star. This show of American forces was in response to the capture of Pueblo (AGER-2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

April 1968: VA-23 flew combat strikes around Khe Sanh, South Viet Nam in support of the besieged Marine base.

20 March 1970: A disestablishment ceremony was held by the squadron under the direction of its last commanding officer, CDR Theodore L. Lloyd, Jr. CDR Lloyd accepted the colors of the squadron and brought to a close over 19 years of distinguished active service. The squadron was officially disestablished on 1 April 1970.