

US NAVAL FORCES IN VIETNAM

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VIETNAM SERIES

Author's Note. The "Vietnam Series" orders of battle began life several years ago as a method of helping designers create more accurate Vietnam war scenarios for TalonSoft's *The Operational Art of War*® computer wargame. (This was later taken over by Matrix Games and revised as *The Operational Art of War III*®.) The particular web site hosting scenarios, order of battle, and TOE information has long since disappeared, although those original documents might still have a life somewhere on the internet. I have returned to all of them from time to time, adding additional information and doing some editing. However, their origin as wargame aids remains most visible in the documents on non-Vietnamese armed forces, which often contain information organized by arrival and departure in the theater.

The cover illustration is a screen shot of Stéphane "Boonierat" Moutin Luyat's scenario, "Vietnam Combat Operations, Volume 2: Defense Campaign—Stemming the Tide," created for *The Operational Art of War III*® and used with his permission.

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SEVENTH FLEET

Stationed in Japan and subordinate to Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT). Responsible for the Navy's portion of the air war and for some operations in Vietnam.

Task Force 77 (Attack Carrier Strike Force)

The heart of Seventh Fleet's combat power were the carriers in Task Force 77. Before May 1966, TF 77 usually had two or three carriers at Dixie Station, which was southeast of Cam Ranh Bay. At that point they supported operations throughout South Vietnam as well as the ROLLING THUNDER attacks on North Vietnam. By the summer of 1966 this force shifted northward to Yankee Station, just north of the 17th parallel. At this point, the carriers primarily supported the attack on North Vietnam and the supply routes in Laos and along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, but did also support operations in I Corps Tactical Zone. With the limitation on attacks against North Vietnam in April 1968 and the prohibition in November 1968, TF 77 devoted its efforts to support in I Corps Tactical Zone and strikes in Laos. After 1968, the force dropped to two carriers, although it increased to three in March 1971 to support South Vietnamese operations in Laos. It increased to five during the North Vietnamese Easter offensive of 1972.

A complete list of carriers (with assigned fighter and attack squadrons) stationed off Vietnam between May 1965 and 1975 is contained below at page 6.

TF 77 also included escorts for the carriers.

Task Force 76 (Amphibious Task Force)

Seventh Fleet maintained an Amphibious Ready Group and Special Landing Force (ARG/SLF) under TF 76. The ARG (Task Group 76.5) usually had three or four ships: an amphibious assault ship (LPH), a landing ship, dock (LSD), an attack transport (APA) or an amphibious transport dock (LPD), and a tank landing ship (LST), but could be augmented. The SLF (Task Group 79.5) was composed of a Marine medium helicopter squadron (24 UH-34s) and a battalion landing team (infantry battalion with artillery, armor, engineers, and support units). The Marines were divided among the ships, and could be landed by helicopter or the 41 landing vehicles, tracked (LVTs) carried by the force. In some cases there could be a second ARG/SLF in the area. The most notable use of this force early in the war was Operation STARLITE in August 1965.

Once the entire 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions were ashore, there was no other source for the SLF, so battalions from those divisions would periodically be pulled out of other duties and tasked as the SLF. The result was to always have an amphibious element in the area, and the ARG/SLF conducted operations throughout the war. The final operation was in September 1969. After that date, Seventh Fleet no longer kept an ARG/SLF in Vietnam waters.

Task Group 70.8 (Cruiser-Destroyer Group)

Elements of TG 70.8 attacked enemy shipping and bombarded targets along the coast of North Vietnam. This effort began October 1966 and was designated Operation SEA DRAGON. (The battleship *New Jersey* participated for one month.) SEA DRAGON operations could range as far north as the 20th parallel from 1967; this was restricted to the 19th parallel from April 1968. Operations were reduced after early 1969 (as the Marines began to withdraw) and missions in

North Vietnamese waters restricted. Naval vessels were used to attack targets near Haiphong as part of Operation LINEBACKER in 1972.

An element of TG 70.8 was **Task Unit 70.8.9 (Naval Gunfire Support Unit)**. This provided support for Allied forces in South Vietnam, primarily in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Normal strength was one cruiser, four destroyers, an inshore fire support ship (IFS) and two landing ships, medium, rocket (LSMR). U.S. vessels were sometimes joined by destroyers from the Royal Australian Navy.

Actual strength could vary, and during 1968 the task unit reached two cruisers, 18 destroyers, and two LSMR's. The battleship *New Jersey* (BB 62) was available from September 1968 through March 1969, supporting both SEA DRAGON and gunfire support operations. During this period, the available strength was usually one battleship, one cruiser, four to ten destroyers, and two LSMRs. This gradually fell off; average availability in 1971 was three ships (one in I Corps and the others in the Ca Mau and U Minh areas). However, following the 30 March 1972 Easter Offensive, some 15-20 ships a day were utilized to provide gunfire support in I CTZ.

NAVAL FORCES, VIETNAM

Naval Forces, Vietnam, was established 1 April 1966 to control various Naval operations outside the I CTZ, as well as the Naval Advisory Group (to the South Vietnamese Navy), Seabees of the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, the commander of Coast Guard activities in Vietnam, and various support activities. Naval Forces, Vietnam, was subordinate to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, rather than to Pacific Fleet.

Task Force 115 (Coastal Surveillance Force)

Coastal surveillance came under the code name MARKET TIME, established 11 March 1965 as a joint effort with the South Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Force. The American component initially came under Seventh Fleet and was designated Task Force 71. On 31 July 1965 responsibility moved to the Naval Advisory Group and the force was redesignated Task Force 115. When Naval Forces, Vietnam was established 1 April 1966 it took over TF 115. TF headquarters moved from Saigon to Cam Ranh Bay in July 1967.

The shore was divided into 9 sectors. In 1965, an average of 15 destroyers or minesweepers were used, with at least one in each sector. The destroyers were later replaced with radar picket escorts (DER). The Coast Guard began to send cutters (WPB)¹ in June 1965; this force eventually grew to 16 cutters, divided among Coast Guard Division 11 at An Thoi, Coast Guard Division 12 at Da Nang, and Coast Guard Division 13 at Cat Lo. For inshore patrolling, the Navy acquired 84 Swift (PCF) boats.² These were grouped as Boat Divisions 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105 (redesignated Coastal Divisions 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 on 1 January 1967) and stationed at An Thoi, Da Nang, Cat Lo, Cam Ranh Bay, and Qui Nhon, respectively. In June 1967 Coastal Division 16 was activated at Chu Lai. The Coast Guard divisions were grouped as Coast Guard Squadron 1, and the boat/coastal divisions as Boat (later Coastal) Squadron 1. There were additional, smaller craft for harbor defense and surveillance.

¹ These had a twin 40mm grenade launcher and the crew's personal weapons.

² The Swift boats were armed with .50-caliber machine guns and an 81mm mortar and had a speed of 23 knots.

In 1967-68 the Coast Guard sent 15 high endurance cutters (WHEC), as Coast Guard Squadron 3. These had one 5-inch gun, six 50-caliber machine guns, and two 81mm mortars. Additional craft arriving from March 1967 were the Asheville-class patrol gunboats (PG). Each was armed with a 3-inch gun forward, a 40mm gun after, and four .50-caliber machine guns. These became Coastal Squadron 3.

These vessels were supported in MARKET TIME activities by a variety of Naval reconnaissance planes and seaplanes.

TF 115 seems to have effectively closed down in September 1970, turning over the last PCFs and WPBs to the Vietnamese Navy. Other vessels continued to be turned over into 1971.

Task Force 116 (River Patrol Force)

The River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) was activated 18 December 1965 and established between then and March 1966. It was built around patrol boats, river (PBRs). By 31 August 1968 it had grown to five river divisions, each 20 boats (two sections of 10 each) and a base ship (usually a converted LST). These were:

- River Division 51: Can Tho/Binh Thuy
- River Division 52: Sa Dec, later Vinh Long
- River Division 53: My Tho
- River Division 54: Nha Be River
- Division 55: Da Nang

The PBRs were armed with two twin-mounted .50-caliber machine guns forward, M-60 machine guns (or a grenade launcher) port and starboard amidship, and a .50-caliber machine-gun aft. The original Mark I began to be supplemented by Mark II from December 1966; the new boats had an increased top speed of 29 knots (up from 25). Operations to control the rivers were code-named GAME WARDEN. The patrol boats were also supplemented with SEAL teams, and later with minesweeping boats.

The patrol boats were supported by helicopters, initially detachments of two Army squadrons. Beginning August 1966, crews from Helicopter Support Squadron 1 began replacing the Army personnel. On 1 April 1967 the Navy activated Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron (HAL) 3 at Vung Tau. By September 1968 this squadron had 16 armed UH-1B helicopters, in detachments of two each at Nha Be, Binh Thuy, Dong Tom, Rach Gia, Vinh Long and on three LSTs stationed in larger rivers in the Mekong Delta. The squadron grew to 25 helicopters. It was supplemented April 1969 by Attack Squadron Light (VAL) 4, with 15 armed fixed-wing OV-10 Bronco aircraft.

TF 116 began to turn its assets and responsibilities over to the South Vietnamese Navy in 1969 and was inactivated in December 1970.

Task Force 117 (Mobile Riverine Force)

The Mobile Riverine Force was a joint venture of the Army (principally the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, under the operational control of II Field Force Vietnam) and the Navy's TF 117. TF 117 initially had River Assault Squadrons 9 and 11. With the arrival of new squadrons in June 1968, these were grouped as Mobile Riverine Group Alpha and River Assault Squadrons 13 and 15 (the newcomers) were grouped as Mobile Riverine Group Bravo.

TF 117 was activated 28 February 1967, and established gradually in 1967. River Assault Squadron 9 had arrived at Vung Tau in January 1967, and River Assault Squadron 11 came in

March 1967. Support ships began to arrive June 1967. The Army brigade was based at Dong Tam.

A River Assault Squadron had about 400 men, divided into two river assault divisions. Each division had five monitors, two similar craft for command and control, and 26 armored troop carriers. Beginning September 1967 each squadron received 8 to 16 assault support patrol boats (ASPBs) for escort and minesweeping.

For the most part, these vessels were modified Landing Craft, Medium (LCM-6). The monitor had a 40mm cannon in a forward turret, a 20mm cannon and two .50-caliber machine-guns aft, two .30-caliber machine-guns amidships, and an 81mm mortar. Some monitors were later modified with a flamethrower forward in place of the 40mm cannon, and also had two 20mm cannon. The command and communications boat resembled the monitor but had additional communications equipment. The armored troop carrier kept its bow ramps; these had a 20mm cannon and two .50-caliber machine-guns aft. Some later had a 40mm grenade launcher, and most were later fitted with a helicopter platform. The ASPBs had a five-man crew and speed of 16 knots; each was armed with a 20mm cannon forward, mid-ship .50-caliber machine-gun, and aft-mounted mortar.

There was also a Mobile Riverine Base, from which one or two infantry battalions and one river assault squadron operated. This included two self-propelled barracks ships (APB); an LST (with another LST operated between the MRF and Vung Tau), a landing craft repair ship (ARL), a non-self-propelled barracks craft (APL), and four other craft.

The MRF became an early part of the Vietnamization of the war. The 9th Infantry Division was the first division slated for withdrawal from Vietnam; its 2nd Brigade left the end of July 1969. Task Force 117 itself was inactivated 25 August 1969, having turned over 64 riverine assault craft to the Vietnamese Navy in June.

Task Force 194

Building on earlier operations was the new SEALORDS (Southeast Asia Lake, Ocean, River, and Delta Strategy) program. This was designed to cut enemy supply lines from Cambodia and disrupt enemy base areas deep in the Delta. The MARKET TIME, GAME WARDEN, and Mobile Riverine Force all continued operations, but a new Task Force 194 was established to control SEALORDS. The other forces scaled down operations (with resources going to TF 194) or operated in support of the SEALORDS strategy. After January 1969, operations were also extended to I CTZ and to the area north of Saigon, as well as more remote areas of the Mekong Delta. Gradually, more and more craft and responsibility was given to the Vietnamese Navy. By April 1971 Navy operations in the Delta area were largely over, other than continued support to the Vietnamese Navy provided by HAL-3 and VAL-4.

Construction Battalions (Seabees)

Seabee teams were in Vietnam from 1963, working throughout the country, generally in rural areas. Only two teams at a time were present, but gradual expansion raised the number in country to 17 teams by 1969. The first full battalion arrived 7 May 1965, to build an airfield at Chu Lai. Peak strength, following Tet 1968, was 11,000 Seabees in country out of 26,000 in the entire Navy. The demands of the war resulted in battalions normally assigned to Atlantic Fleet called on for Vietnam duty, and two Reserve battalions were activated in May 1968.

3rd Naval Construction Brigade was in Vietnam from 1 June 1966 to 9 November 1971, controlling Naval construction forces and operations. It was assisted by 30th Naval Construction Regiment (in Vietnam 10 May 1965 to 8 December 1969) and 32nd Naval Construction Regiment (in Vietnam 1 August 1967 to 1 May 1971). These were all headquarters elements.

It appears that full construction battalions did not necessary deploy to Vietnam. Rather, each sent a number of teams, which might have tours of eight to ten months. Thus, the dates shown below for each battalion represent the first date a team from that unit arrived in Vietnam and the last date that a team (not necessarily the same one) left. From 1970, departing teams were not replaced. I have not seen data on service of battalion headquarters.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Left</u>
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 10	16	7 May 1965	16 Sep 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 3	12	28 May 1965	23 Apr 1971
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 9	9	27 Jun 1965	29 May 1968
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 8	5	11 Sep 1965	22 Nov 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 5	14	25 Sep 1965	7 Nov 1971
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 4	7	9 Dec 1965	2 Dec 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 11	6	3 Feb 1966	18 Nov 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 1	7	8 Mar 1966	22 Mar 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 7	8	13 Apr 1966	23 Jun 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 6	5	21 May 1966	7 Apr 1968
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 40	4	14 Aug 1966	21 Jul 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 58	4	29 Oct 1966	10 Oct 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 62	6	8 Dec 1966	13 Nov 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 133	6	10 Feb 1967	16 Jan 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 71	7	10 Apr 1967	18 Nov 1968
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 74	6	5 Jun 1967	12 Apr 1971
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 121	4	2 Aug 1967	20 Jul 1970
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 128	2	24 Oct 1967	18 Aug 1969
Naval Mobile Construction Bn 53	1	18 Jan 1968	4 Nov 1969

In addition, the Navy Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 12 and 22 had headquarters (numbers of teams, if any, unknown) in Vietnam 21 September 1968 to 21 April 1969 and 13 August 1968 to 5 March 1969, respectively.

Carriers Serving in Western Pacific, May 1965 -- 1975

[Listing of Naval Aviation is limited to fighter and attack squadrons. See note on designations at the end.]

ASSIGNED 1964, SERVICE TO AT LEAST MAY 1965

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-9 (5 Aug 1964 to 6 May 1965)

VF-92, VF-96	F-4
VA-93, VA-94	A-4C
VA-95	A-1

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (21 Oct 1964 to 29 May 1965)

VA-212, VA-216	A-4
VA-215	A-1
VF-24, VF-211	F-8

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (7 Dec 1964 to 1 Nov 1965)

VA-153, VA-155	A-4
VA-165	A-1
VAH-2	A-3
VF-151	F-4
VF-154	F-8

1965 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Midway* (CVA-41) with CVW-2 (6 Mar 1965 to 23 Nov 1965)

VF-111	F-8
VF-21	F-4
VA-22, VA-23	A-4
VA-25	A-1
VAH-8	A-3

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-16 (5 Apr 1965 to 16 Dec 1965)

VF-162, VMF(AW)-212	F-8
VA-152	A-1
VA-163, VA-164	A-4

USS *Independence* (CVA-62) with CVW-7 (10 May 1965 to 13 Dec 1965)

VF-41, VF-84	F-4
VA-72, VA-86	A-4
VA-75	A-6

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31) with CVW-19 (21 Apr 1965 to 13 Jan. 1966)

VF-191, VF-194	F-8
VA-192, VA-195	A-4
VA-196	A-1

USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) with CVW-5 (28 Sep 1965 to 13 May 1966)

VF-51, VF-53	F-8
VA-52	A-1
VA-56, VA-144	A-4

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-9 (26 Oct 1965 to 21 Jun 1966)

VA-36, VA-76, VA-93, VA-94	A-4
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USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (10 Nov 1965 to 1 Aug 1966)

VA-212	A-4
VA-215	A-1
VA-216	A-4

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (19 Oct 1965 to 13 Jun 1966)

VA-85	A-6
VA-113	A-4
VA-115	A-1

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-14 (10 Dec 1965 to 25 Aug 1966)

VF-142, VF-143	F-4
VA-145	A-1
VA-146, VA-55	A-4

1966 WESTPAC/VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Intrepid* (CVS-11) with CVW-10 (4 Apr 1966 to 21 Nov 1966)

VA-95, VA-15	A-4
VA-165, VA-176	A-1

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-15 (12 May 1966 to 3 Dec 1966)

VF-151, VF-161	F-4
VA-153, VA-155	A-4
VA-65	A-6
VAH-8	A-3

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-16 (26 May 1966 to 16 Nov 1966)

VF-111, VF-162	F-8
VA-163, VA-164	A-4
VA-152	A-1
VAH-4 Det G	A-3

USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42) with CVW-1 (21 Jun 1966 to 21 Feb 1967)

VF-14, VF-32	F-4
VA-12, VA-72, VA-172	A-4
VAH-10 Det 42	A-3

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-2 (29 Jul 1966 to 23 Feb 1967)

VF-21, VF-154	F-4
VA-22, VA-23	A-4
VA-25	A-1
VAH-2 Det A	A-3

USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) with CVW-19 (15 Oct 1966 to 29 May 1967)

VF-191, VF-194	F-8
VA-192, VA-195	A-4
VA-52	A-1
VAH-4 Det E	A-3

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (5 Nov 1966 to 19 Jun 1967)

VF-213, VF-114	F-4
VA-112, VA-144	A-4
VA-85	A-6

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-9 (19 Nov 1966 to 6 Jul 1967)

VA-56, VA-113	A-4
VA-35	A-6
VF-92, VF-96	F-4

1967 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-5 (5 Jan 1967 to 22 Jul 1967)
 VF-51, VF-53 F-8
 VA-93, VA-94 A-4
 VA-115 A-1
 VAH-4 Det B A-3

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31) with CVW-21 (26 Jan 1967 to 25 Aug 1967)
 VF-211, VF-24 F-8
 VA-212, VA-76 A-4
 VA-215 A-1
 VAH-4 Det 31 A-3

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-14 (29 Apr 1967 to 4 Dec 1967)
 VF-142, VF-143 F-4
 VA-55, VA-146 A-4
 VA-196, *VA-65 A-6

USS *Intrepid* (CVS-11) with CVW-10 (11 May 1967 to 30 Dec 1967)
 VSF-3, VA-15, VA-34, VA-145 A-4

USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) with CVW-17 (6 Jun 1967 to 15 Sep 1967)
 VF-11, VF-74 F-4
 VA-46 A-4
 VA-65, VA-106 A-6

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-16 (16 Jun 1967 to 31 Jan 1968)
 VF-111, VF-162 F-8
 VA-152 A-1
 VA-163, VA-164 A-4

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (26 Jul 1967 to 6 Apr 1968)
 VF-151, VF-161 F-4
 VA-153, VA-155 A-4
 VA-25 A-1

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (4 Nov 1967 to 25 May 1968)
 VF-154, VF-21 F-4
 VA-22 A-4
 VA-165 A-6
 VA-147 A-7

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (18 Nov 1967 to 28 Jun 1968)
 VF-213, VF-114 F-4
 VA-75 A-6
 VA-112, VA-144 A-4

USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) with CVW-19 (28 Dec 1967 to 17 Aug 1968)
 VF-191, VF-194 F-8
 VA-23, VA-192, VA-195 A-4

1968 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-9 (3 Jan 1968 to 18 Jul 1968)
 VF-92, VF-96 F-4
 VA-35 A-6
 VA-56, VA-113 A-4

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31) with CVW-5 (27 Jan 1968 to 10 Oct 1968)
 VF-51, VF-53 F-8
 VA-93, VA-94, VA-212 A-4

USS *America* (CVA-66) with CVW-6 (10 Apr 1968 to 16 Dec 1968)
 VF-33, VF-102 F-4
 VA-82, VA-86 A-7
 VA-85 A-6

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-14 (29 May 1968 to 31 Jan 1969)
 VF-142, VF-143 F-4
 VA-27, VA-97 A-7
 VA-196 A-6

USS *Intrepid* (CVS-11) with CVW-10 (4 Jun 1968 to 8 Feb 1969)
 VA-36, VA-66, VA-106 A-4
 VF-111 Det 11 F-8

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (18 Jul 1968 to 3 Mar 1969)
 VA-55, VA-163, VA-164 A-4
 VF-24, VF-211 F-8

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (7 Sep 1968 to 18 Apr 1969)
 VF-151, VF-161 F-4
 VA-52 A-6
 VA-153, VA-216 A-4

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (26 Oct 1968 to 17 May 1969)
 VA-165 A-6
 VF-21, VF-154 F-4
 VA-147 A-7
 VA-155 A-4

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (30 Dec 1968 to 4 Sep 1969)
 VF-114, VF-213 F-4
 VA-37, VA-105 A-7
 VA-65 A-6

1969 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-9 (6 Jan 1969 to 2 Jul 1969)
 VF-92, VF-96 F-4
 VA-145 A-6
 VA-146, VA-215 A-7

USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) with CVW-16 (1 Feb 1969 to 18 Sep 1969)
 VA-87, VA-25 A-7
 VF-111, VF-162 F-8
 VA-112 A-4

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31) with CVW-5 (18 Mar 1969 to 29 Oct 1969)
 VF-51, VF-53 F-8
 VA-22, VA-94, VA-144 A-4

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-19 (14 Apr 1969 to 17 Nov 1969)
 VF-191, VF-194 F-8
 VA-23, VA-192, VA-195 A-4

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (2 Aug 1969 to 15 Apr 1970)
 VF-24, VF-211 F-8
 VA-55, VA-164, VA-212 A-4

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-14 (11 Aug 1969 to 8 May 1970)

VF-142, VF-143	F-4
VA-27, VA-97	A-7
VA-85	A-6

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (23 Sep 1969 to 1 Jul 1970)

VF-151, VF-161	F-4
VA-82, VA-86	A-7
VA-35	A-6

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (14 Oct 1969 to 1 Jun 1970)

VF-21, VF-154	F-4
VA-56, VA-93	A-7
VA-196	A-6

1970 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Shangri-La* (CVS-38) with CVW-8 (5 Mar 1970 to 17 Dec 1970)

VA-12, VA-152, VA-172	A-4
VF-111, VF-162	F-8

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31) with CVW-5 (2 Apr 1970 to 12 Nov 1970)

VF-51, VF-53	F-8
VA-22, VA-94, VA-144	A-4

USS *America* (CVA-66) with CVW-9 (10 Apr 1970 to 21 Dec 1970)

VF-92, VF-96	F-4
VA-146, VA-147	A-7
VA-165	A-6

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-19 (14 May 1970 to 10 Dec 1970)

VF-191, VF-194	F-8
VA-153, VA-155	A-7

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (22 Oct 1970 to 3 Jun 1971)

VF-24, VF-211	F-8
VA-55, VA-164, VA-212	A-4

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (27 Oct 1970 to 17 Jun 1971)

VF-21, VF-154	F-4
VA-25, VA-113	A-7
VA-145	A-6

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (6 Nov 1970 to 17 Jul 1971)

VF-114, VF-213	F-4
VA-192, VA-195	A-7
VA-52	A-6

1971 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Midway* (CVA-41) with CVW-5 (16 Apr 1971 to 6 Nov 1971)

VF-151, VF-161	F-4
VA-56, VA-93	A-7
VA-115	A-6

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW 19 (14 May 1971 to 18 Dec 1971)

VF-191, VF-194	F-8
VA-153, VA-155, VA-215	A-7

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-14 (11 Jun 1971 to 12 Feb 1972)
 VF-143, VF-142 F-4
 VA-97, VA-27 A-7
 VA-196 A-6A

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-9 (1 Oct 1971 to 30 Jun 1972)
 VF-92, VF-96 F-4
 VA-146, VA-147 A-7
 VA-165 A-?

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (12 Nov 1971 to 17 Jul 1972)
 VF-51, VF-III F-4
 VA-22, VA-94 A-7
 VMA(AW)-224 A-?

1972 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (7 Jan 1972 to 3 Oct 1972)
 VA-55, VA-164, VA-212 A-4
 VF-24, VF-211 F-8

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (17 Feb 1972 to 28 Nov 1972)
 VA-195, VA-192 A-7
 VA-52 A-6A
 VF-114, VF-213 F-4

USS *Midway* (CVA-41) with CVW-5 (10 Apr 1972 to 3 Mar 1973)
 VF-151, VF-161 F-4
 VA-56, VA-93 A-7
 VA-115 A-6

USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) with CVW-3 (11 Apr 1972 to 13 Feb 1973)
 VF-31, VF-103 F-4
 VA-75 A-6
 VA-37, VA-105 A-7

USS *America* (CVA-66) with CVW-8 (5 Jun 1972 to 24 Mar 1973)
 VF-74 F-4
 VA-35 A-6
 VA-82, VA-86 A-7

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-19 (5 Jun 1972 to 30 Mar 1973)
 VF-191, VF-194 F-8
 VA-153, VA-155, VA-215 A-7

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-14 (12 Sep 1972 to 12 Jun 1973)
 VF-143, VF-142 F-4
 VA-27, VA-97 A-7
 VA-196 A-6

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (16 Nov 1972 to 23 Jun 1973)
 VF-21, VF-154 F-4
 VA-25, VA-113 A-7
 VA-145 A-6

1973 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-9 (5 Jan 1973 to 11 Oct 1973)
 VF-92, VF-96 F-4
 VA-146, VA-147 A-7
 VA-165 A-6

USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) with CVW-21 (8 May 1973 to 8 Jan 1974)
 VF-24, VF-211 F-8
 VA-55, VA-164, VA-212 A-4

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (9 Mar 1973 to 8 Nov 1973)
 VF-51, VF-111 F-4
 VA-22, VA-94 A-7
 VA-95 A-6

USS *Midway* (CVA-41) with CVW-5 (11 Sep 1973 to 31 Dec 1973)³
 VF-151, VF-161 F-4
 VA-56, VA-93 A-7
 VA-115 A-6

USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) with CVW-19 (18 Oct 1973 to 5 Jun 1974)
 VF-191, VF-194 F-8
 VA-153, VA-155, VA-215 A-7

USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) with CVW-11 (23 Nov 1973 to 9 Jul 1974)
 VF-114, VF-213 F-4
 VA-192, VA-195 A-7
 VA-52 A-6

1974 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS *Midway* (CVA-41) with CVW-5 (1 Jan to 31 Dec 1974)⁴
 VF-151, VF-161 F-4
 VA-56, VA-93 A-7
 VA-115 A-6

USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) with CVW-2 (7 May 1974 to 18 Oct 1974)
 VA-25, VA-113 A-7
 VA-145 A-6
 VF-21, VF-154 F-4

USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) with CVW-9 (21 Jun 1974 to 22 Dec 1974)
 VF-92, VF-96 F-4
 VA-146, VA-147 A-7
 VA-165 A-6

USS *Enterprise* (CVAN-65) with CVW-14 (17 Sep 1974 to 20 May 1975)
 VF-1, VF-2 F-14
 VA-27, VA-97 A-7
 VA-196 A-6

USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) with CVW-15 (5 Dec 1974 to 2 Jul 1975)
 VF-51, VF-111 F-4
 VA-22, VA-94 A-7
 VA-95 A-6

³ The *Midway* was permanently home-ported in WESTPAC.

⁴ The *Midway* was permanently home-ported in WESTPAC.

1975 WESTPAC/ VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS

USS <i>Midway</i> (CV-41) with CVW-5 (1 Jan to 31 Dec 1975) ⁵	
VF-161, VF-151	F-4
VA-93, VA-56	A-7
VA-115	A-6
USS <i>Hancock</i> (CV-19) with CVW-21 (18 Mar 1975 to 20 Oct 1975)	
VA-55, VA-164, VA-212	A-4
VF-24, VF-211	F-8
USS <i>Kitty Hawk</i> (CV-63) with CVW-11 (21 May 1975 to 15 Dec 1975) ⁶	
VF-213, VF-114	F-4
VA-52	A-6
VA-192, VA-195	A-7
USS <i>Oriskany</i> (CV-34) with CVW-19 (16 Sep 1975 to 3 Mar 1976)	
VF-191, VF-194	F-8
VA-153, VA-155, VA-215	A-7

Naval Aviation designations. Squadrons with heavier than air rotary or jet aircraft had designations beginning with V; F indicated fighter (VF) and A indicated attack (VA). Marine squadrons added the letter M (VMF or VMA) and some served on carriers. A carrier wing formed with such squadrons would be abbreviated as CVW. Helicopter squadron designations began with H.

Notes on Naval Aircraft

The main fighter was the familiar F-4 Phantom. This could carry various combinations of ordnance on centerline and wing pylons. The F-4B had no guns, relying on air to air missiles for defense against other aircraft. The next version acquired by the Navy was the F-4J, entering service from 1966. Ordnance capacity was probably around 9,000 pounds maximum while carrying four Sparrow air to air missiles.

The F-8E Crusader was intended primarily as an air superiority fighter. It came with four 20mm cannon in the nose, and could carry two to four Sidewinder air to air missiles. Alternative loads included two 2,000 bombs or two Bullpup air to ground missiles, or unguided air to surface rockets.

The old propeller-driven A-1 Skyraider was still in use at the beginning of the war. This had two to four 20mm cannon and up to 8,000 lbs of ordnance.

The A-4 Skyhawk was an attack bomber. The A-4E version could carry 8,200 pounds of ordnance on fuselage and underwing attachments. The earlier A-4C had a payload of around 6,200 pounds. Either version could be fitted Bullpup air to surface missile.

⁵ The *Midway* was permanently homeported in WESTPAC.

⁶ This deployment involved an experiment with the composition of the carrier air wing in a multi-mission role. Several of the squadrons were shore-based in the Philippines during different periods of this deployment.

The A-6A Intruder was an all-weather strike aircraft. It could carry around 15,000 pounds of ordnance in various combinations of bombs or Bullpup air to surface missiles.

The last of the Navy's attack aircraft was the A-7A Corsair II, with squadron deliveries beginning in October 1967 and the first use in combat only two months later. The A-7B was an improved version, first used in March 1969. The aircraft had a 20mm Vulcan gun in the fuselage and could carry over 15,000 lbs of ordnance.

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