

Grenada Combat Operations

25 October–2 November 1983

Operation Urgent Fury

The mission of Operation Urgent Fury, as stated by Adm. Wesley L. McDonald, while testifying before the Senate Committee on Armed Services on 3 November 1983, was to

protect and/or evacuate American citizens, to provide stability for the area, and at the invitation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to help establish a government, which would be more democratic in nature than the existing government, which had taken over rather rigorously and had placed the country into complete isolation for a period of four days.

Adm. McDonald was Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, during the Grenada operations. The following is a list of naval aviation forces (does not include all Marine Corps aviation) participating in the Grenada operations:

Carriers	
<i>Independence</i> (CV 62) with CVW-6 (Tail Code AE)	
Squadron	Aircraft
VA-87	A-7E
VA-15	A-7E
VA-176	A-6E, KA-6D
VF-32	F-14A
VF-14	F-14A
VAW-122	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
VS-28	S-3A
HS-15	SH-3H
Amphibious Ships	
<i>Guam</i> (LPH 9) (HMM-261 Tail Code EM)	
HMM-261	AH-1T, CH-53D
<i>Saipan</i> (LHA 2) [1–7 November 1983]	
<i>Saipan</i> provided seaborne security, surveillance operations, communications, and medical support during the operation. It did not have a deployed Marine Corps squadron on board.	

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
VP-10	P-3C	LD
VP-16	P-3C	LF
VP-23	P-3C	LJ
HSL-34 Dets	SH-2F	HX
HSL-32 Dets	SH-2F	HV
HSL-32 Detachments provided support for the Grenada operations from 30 October to 8 December, but were not involved in flying combat missions.		
VR-56	C-9B	JU
VR-58	C-9B	JV
VR-59	C-9B	RY
VRC-40	C-1A	JK

Transport squadrons were used to provide support for units operating in Grenada, but were not involved in flying combat missions.

Operations by CVW-6 Aircraft

CVW-6 aircraft embarked on *Independence* flew search and rescue (SAR), medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), combat air patrol (CAP), reconnaissance, close air support, and surface, sub-surface search coordination (SSSC) missions.

Attack squadrons conducted daily surgical bombing missions (close air support) to quell enemy resistance, as well as reconnaissance missions. Their activities during Operation Urgent Fury included:

- VA-15 flew 143 combat sorties.
- VA-176 flew 350 combat flight hours (the number of combat sorties is not listed).
- VA-87 flew close air support combat missions (the specific number of sorties was not identified).
- HS-15 flew combat SAR missions under enemy fire and also dropped leaflets over the central portion of the island. The squadron flew 97 sorties.

Fighter squadrons flew CAP, reconnaissance and photographic missions over the island using the Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System (TARPS). VF-32 aircraft participated in the TARPS evolution. Fighter squadron activities included: 256 combat sorties flown by VF-32 in 1983 (includes sorties in Grenada and Lebanon, with no break down on how many for each operation) and 82 combat sorties flown during Operation Urgent Fury by VF-14.

- VAQ-131 flew electronic surveillance missions (the specific number of combat sorties not identified).
- VS-28: Combat sorties unknown.
- VAW-122: Combat sorties unknown.

The Navy did not lose any aircraft or aviation personnel to combat action during Operation Urgent Fury. However, several Marine Corps and Army helicopters were shot down by anti-aircraft batteries and personnel were lost to combat action.

Squadrons Involved in Libyan Operations

24 March–15 April 1986

The time frames for squadron involvement in Operation Prairie Fire during March and Operation Eldorado Canyon during April 1986 are not listed. Some of the squadrons involved in the March operations were not present during the April operations, and vice versa.

Carrier-Based Squadrons	
America (CV 66) with CVW-1 (Tail Code AB)	
VA-34	A-6E, KA-6D
VA-46	A-7E
VA-72	A-7E
VF-33	F-14A
VF-102	F-14A
VS-32	S-3A
VAW-123	E-2C
HS-11	SH-3H
VMAQ-2 Det	EA-6B
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B
Coral Sea (CV 43) with CVW-13 (Tail Code AK)	
VFA-131	F/A-18A
VFA-132	F/A-18A
VA-55	A-6E, KA-6D
VAW-127	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B
VMFA-314	F/A-18A
VMFA-323	F/A-18A
HS-17	SH-3H
Saratoga (CV 60) with CVW-17 (Tail Code AA)	
VA-81	A-7E
VA-83	A-7E
VF-74	F-14A
VF-103	F-14A
VA-85	A-6E, KA-6D
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VAW-125	E-2C
VS-30	S-3A
HS-3	SH-3H
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B
Guadalcanal (LPH 7) (HMM-263 Tail Code EG)	
HMM-263	AH-1T, CH-53E, CH-46E

Note: Detachments (Dets) on board the carriers did not use the same tail code assigned to the air wing (CVW).

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
HSL-32 Dets	HV	SH-2F
HSL-34 Dets	HX	SH-2F
HSL-36 Dets	HY	SH-2F
HSL-42 Dets	HN	SH-60B
VP-23	LJ	P-3C
VP-56	LQ	P-3C
HC-4	HC	CH-53E
HC-6 Det	HW	UH-46D, CH-46D
VR-22	JL	C-130F
VAQ-138 Det		EA-6B
VR-24	JM	C-2A
HC-8 Dets	BR	UH-46A, CH-46D
HS-1 Det	AR	SH-3
HC-9 Det	NW	HH-3A
VQ-2	JQ	EP-3A

* VAQ-138 was under the control of Commander Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet and did not have a permanently assigned tail code until it became part of CVW-8 in June 1986.

Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm

Naval Aviation Units Involved in the Persian Gulf War 16 January–27 February 1991

Carrier and Carrier-Based Squadrons	
<i>Saratoga</i> (CV 60) with CVW-17 (Tail Code AA) 7 Aug 1990–28 Mar 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VF-74	F-14A+
VF-103	F-14A+
VFA-83	F/A-18C
VFA-81	F/A-18C
VA-35	A-6E KA-6D
VAW-125	E-2C
VAQ-132	EA-6B
HS-3	SH-3H
VS-30	S-3B
<i>John F. Kennedy</i> (CV 67) with CVW-3 (Tail Code AC) 15 Aug 1990–28 Mar 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VF-14	F-14A
VF-32	F-14A
VA-46	A-7E
VA-72	A-7E
VA-75	A-6E KA-6D
VAW-126	E-2C
HS-7	SH-3H
VAQ-130	EA-6B
VS-22	S-3B
<i>Midway</i> (CV 41) with CVW-5 (Tail Code NF) 2 Oct 1990–17 Apr 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VFA-195	F/A-18A
VFA-151	F/A-18A
VFA-192	F/A-18A
VA-185	A-6E KA-6D
VA-115	A-6E KA-6D
VAW-115	E-2C
VAQ-136	EA-6B
HS-12	SH-3H
VRC-50 Det	C-2A
<i>Ranger</i> (CV 61) with CVW-2 (Tail Code NE) 8 Dec 1990–8 Jun 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VF-1	F-14A
VF-2	F-14A
VA-155	A-6E
VA-145	A-6E

VAW-116	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
HS-14	SH-3H
VS-38	S-3A
VRC-30 Det	C-2A
<i>America</i> (CV 66) with CVW-1 (Tail Code AB) 28 Dec 1990–18 Apr 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VF-102	F-14A
VF-33	F-14A
VFA-82	F/A-18C
VFA-86	F/A-18C
VA-85	A-6E KA-6D
VAW-123	E-2C
HS-11	SH-3H
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VS-32	S-3B
<i>Theodore Roosevelt</i> (CVN 71) with CVW-8 (Tail Code AJ) 28 Dec 1990–28 Jun 1991	
Squadron	Aircraft
VF-41	F-14A
VF-84	F-14A
VFA-15	F/A-18A
VFA-87	F/A-18A
VA-65	A-6E
VA-36	A-6E
VAW-124	E-2C
HS-9	SH-3H
VAQ-141	EA-6B
VS-24	S-3B
VRC-40 Det	C-2A

Non-Carrier Based Navy Squadrons		
Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
HC-1	UP	SH-3G, SH-3H, CH-53E
HC-2	SA	SH-3G, CH-53E
HC-4	HC	CH-53E
HC-5	RB	HH-46D
HC-6	HW	CH-46D, HH-46D, UH-46D
HC-8	BR	CH-46D, HH-46D, UH-46D

Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
HC-11	VR	CH-46D, HH-46D, UH-46D
HCS-4 [†]	NW	HH-60H
HCS-5 [†]	NW	HH-60H
HM-14	BJ	MH-53E
HM-15	TB	MH-53E
HS-75 [†]	NW	SH-3H
HSL-32	HV	SH-2F
HSL-33	TF	SH-2F
HSL-34	HX	SH-2F
HSL-35	TG	SH-2F
HSL-36	HY	SH-2F
HSL-37	TH	SH-2F
HSL-42	HN	SH-60B
HSL-43	TT	SH-60B
HSL-44	HP	SH-60B
HSL-45	TZ	SH-60B
HSL-46	HQ	SH-60B
HSL-47	TY	SH-60B
HSL-48	HR	SH-60B
HSL-49	TX	SH-60B
VC-6	JG	Pioneer RPV
VP-1	YB	P-3C
VP-4	YD	P-3C
VP-5	LA	P-3C
VP-8	LC	P-3C
VP-11	LE	P-3C
VP-19	PE	P-3C
VP-23	LJ	P-3C
VP-40	QE	P-3C
VP-45	LN	P-3C
VP-46	RC	P-3C
VP-91 [†]	PM	P-3C
VP-MAU [†]	LB	P-3C
VPU-1	OB	P-3
VPU-2	SP	P-3
VQ-1	PR	EP-3E, UP-3A, P-3B
VQ-2	JQ	EP-3E, EA-3B, UP-3A
VQ-4	HL	TC-130Q
VR-22	JL	C-130F, KC-130F
VR-24	JM	C-2A, CT-39G
VR-51 [†]	RV	C-9B
VR-52 [†]	JT	DC-9
VR-55 [†]	RU	C-9B
VR-56 [†]	JU	C-9B
VR-57 [†]	RX	C-9B
VR-58 [†]	JV	C-9B

Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
VR-59 [†]	RY	C-9B
VR-60 [†]	RT	DC-9
VR-61 [†]	RS	DC-9
VR-62 [†]	JW	DC-9
VRC-30	RW	C-2A
VRC-40	JK	C-2A
VRC-50	RG	C-2A, US-3A, C-130F

[†] Naval Air Reserve unit.

Marine Corps Squadrons		
Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
HMA-773 [†]	MP	AH-1J
HMA-775 [†]	WR	AH-1J
HMH-362	YL	CH-53D
HMH-461	CJ	CH-53E
HMH-462	YF	CH-53E
HMH-465	YJ	CH-53E
HMH-466	YK	CH-53E
HMH-772 Det A [†]	MT	RH-53D
HML-767 [†]	MM	UH-1N
HMLA-169	TV	UH-1N, AH-1W
HMLA-269	HF	UH-1N, AH-1W, AH-1T
HMLA-367	VT	UH-1N, AH-1W
HMLA-369	SM	UH-1N, AH-1W
HMM-161	YR	CH-46E
HMM-164(C)	YT	CH-46E, CH-53E, UH-1N, AH-1W
HMM-165	YW	CH-46E
HMM-261	TV	CH-46E
HMM-263	EG	CH-46E
HMM-265	EP	CH-46E
HMM-266	ES	CH-46E
HMM-268(C)	YQ	CH-46E, CH-53E, UH-1N, AH-1W
HMM-365	YM	CH-46E
HMM-774 [†]	MQ	CH-46E
VMA-231	CG	AV-8B
VMA-311	WL	AV-8B
VMA-331	VL	AV-8B
VMA-513 Det B	WF	AV-8B
VMA-542	CR	AV-8B
VMA(AW)-224	WK	A-6E
VMA(AW)-533	ED	A-6E
VMFA-212	WD	F/A-18C
VMFA-232	WT	F/A-18C
VMFA-235	DB	F/A-18C
VMFA-314	VW	F/A-18A

Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
VMFA-451	VM	F/A-18A
VMFA(AW)-121	VK	F/A-18D
VMGR-252	BH	KC-130F, KC-130R
VMGR-352	QB	KC-130R
VMGR-452 [†]	NY	KC-130T
VMO-1	ER	OV-10A, OV-10D+
VMO-2	UU	OV-10A, OV-10D, OV-10D+

[†] Marine Corps Reserve Unit

Brief Chronology Of Operation Desert Shield

(August–December 1990)

2 Aug—Iraq invaded Kuwait. At the time, eight U.S. Navy Middle East Force ships were in the Persian Gulf. The carrier battle group of *Independence* (CV 62), with CVW-14 on board, was in the Indian Ocean and *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), with CVW-7, was in the Mediterranean.

2 Aug—The *Independence* battle group was directed to proceed to the northern Arabian Sea in support of Operation Desert Shield.

5 Aug—*Independence*'s battle group arrived on station in the Gulf of Oman.

7 Aug—*Saratoga* (CV 60) left the United States for a previously scheduled deployment to the eastern Mediterranean with CVW-17 on board.

7 Aug—*Dwight D. Eisenhower* and her battle group transited the Suez Canal and entered the Red Sea on 8 August.

15 Aug—Leading a carrier battle group, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) deployed from her homeport, Norfolk, Va., with CVW-3 on board. The battle group would be available for potential relief of the *Dwight D. Eisenhower* battle group or additional tasking to be determined by the situation in the Middle East.

16 Aug—Consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 661, a multinational maritime intercept operation involving naval aviation forces began intercepting ships going to or from Iraq and Kuwait.

22 Aug—*Saratoga* transited the Suez Canal to take up her station in the Red Sea where she would relieve *Dwight D. Eisenhower* who would then proceed home.

30 Aug—*John F. Kennedy*'s battle group transited the Strait of Gibraltar en route to the Mediterranean Sea.

3 Sep—*Dwight D. Eisenhower* transited the Strait of Gibraltar en route to homeport.

6 Sep—Amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4) transited the Suez Canal.

7 Sep—Amphibious assault ships *Iwo Jima* (LPH 1) and *Guam* (LPH 9) transited the Suez Canal.

14 Sep—*Nassau* arrived in the Gulf of Oman.

14 Sep—*John F. Kennedy*'s battle group transited the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

16 Sep—*Iwo Jima* and *Guam* arrived in the Gulf of Oman.

1 Oct—*Independence* transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to the Persian Gulf.

3 Oct—*Independence* conducted flight operations in the Persian Gulf. She was the first carrier to do so since 1974 when *Constellation* (CV 64) operated there.

4 Oct—*Independence* left the gulf after spending three days in its relatively confined and shallow waters. A Pentagon spokesman said the aircraft carrier had successfully completed its mission, which was “to demonstrate to our friends and allies in the region that it is possible to put a carrier in the Gulf and carry out operations.”

8 Oct—The two U.S. Marine Corps UH-1N Huey helicopters based on the amphibious assault ship *Okinawa* (LPH 3) in the Gulf of Oman disappeared with eight men on board during “routine night training operations.” No survivors were found.

28 Oct—U.S. Marines from the amphibious transport ship *Ogden* (LPD 5) boarded the Iraqi vessel *Amuriyah*, bound for Iraq through the gulf. The vessel refused to halt despite summons from U.S. and Australian ships. The allied ships fired shots across *Amuriyah*'s bow and warplanes from *Independence* buzzed low in warning passes. The Marine boarding party found no banned cargo and the Iraqi craft was allowed to proceed.

1 Nov—*Midway* (CV 41), with CVW-5 on board, replaced *Independence* in the northern Arabian Sea.

8 Nov—President George H. W. Bush announced a decision to double the number of carrier battle groups deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield. *Ranger* (CV 61) with CVW-2, *America* (CV 66) with CVW-1, and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) with CVW-8 were scheduled to be on station by 15 January 1991. The three were to join *Saratoga*, *John F. Kennedy*, and *Midway*, which had replaced *Independence*.

15 Nov—U.S. and Saudi forces began Imminent Thunder, an eight-day combined amphibious landing exercise in northeastern Saudi Arabia, which involved about 1,000 U.S. Marines, 16 warships, and more than 1,100 aircraft. Close air support was provided by Marine aircraft as well as planes from the carrier *Midway*, which had entered the gulf from the northern Arabian Sea for the exercise.

29 Nov—The UN Security Council approved a resolution authorizing the use of military force unless Iraq vacated Kuwait by 15 January 1991.

8 Dec—*Ranger*, with CVW-2 on board, departed San Diego, Calif., on an unscheduled deployment in support of Desert Shield.

20 Dec—*Independence* returned to San Diego homeport from her Persian Gulf deployment.

21 Dec—An Israeli-chartered liberty ferry shuttling 102 crewmembers from the Israeli port of Haifa back to *Saratoga* capsized and sank off the coast of Israel. Israeli military and police officers rushed out in boats and helicopters to pull sailors from the water. Helicopters flew injured men to two hospitals in Haifa. Twenty U.S. sailors died. In addition, one crewmember was missing and presumed drowned.

28 Dec—*America*, with CVW-1 on board, and *Theodore Roosevelt*, with CVW-8, departed Norfolk, Va., on deployment in support of Desert Shield.

Brief Chronology Of Operation Desert Storm

(January–August 1991)

1 Jan—HC-4 relocated its detachment from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Hurghada, Egypt, constructed an airhead operating site within 48 hours, and began transporting passengers, cargo, and mail to the Red Sea carrier battle groups.

6 Jan—*Saratoga* (CV 60) transited the Suez Canal en route to the Red Sea.

9 Jan—*America* (CV 66) transited the Strait of Gibraltar and arrived in the Mediterranean Sea.

12 Jan—Congress voted 52-to-47 in the Senate and 250-to-183 in the House on a joint resolution that gave President Bush the authority to go to war against Iraq.

12 Jan—*Ranger* (CV 61) carrier battle group arrived on station in the north Arabian Sea.

12 Jan—Amphibious Group 3 (with 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade embarked) arrived on station in the Arabian Sea. Eighteen ships, including *Okinawa* (LPH 3), *Tarawa* (LHA 1), *Tripoli* (LPH 10), and *New Orleans* (LPH 11) were to join the 13-ship amphibious group, to comprise the largest amphibious task force since the Korean War.

12 Jan—*Midway* (CV 41) carrier battle group reentered the Persian Gulf.

14 Jan—*Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) carrier battle group passed through the Suez Canal and assumed battle station in the Red Sea.

15 Jan—*America* carrier battle group transited the Suez Canal and arrived on station in the Red Sea.

15 Jan—*Ranger*, with CVW-2 onboard, and her carrier battle group transited to station in the Persian Gulf.

16 Jan—*Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Bab el-Mandeb Strait from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

16 Jan—At 1650 EST, a squadron of fighter-bombers took off from an air base in central Saudi Arabia. Targets in Iraq and Kuwait began being hit before 1900 EST. (It was the night of January 17 in the Middle East.) At the time, six Navy carrier battle groups, two battleships, and a 31-ship amphibious task force were operating in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea areas. The Navy had more than 100 ships in the area and 75,000 Navy personnel afloat and ashore, while more than 67,000 Marines ashore comprised a Marine Expeditionary Force and nearly 18,000 Marines embarked on board naval vessels brought the Marine Corps presence to nearly 85,000.

16 Jan—President Bush addressed the nation at 2100 EST and announced that the liberation of Kuwait, Operation Desert Storm, had begun.

17 Jan—More than 100 Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched at preprogrammed targets by nine U.S. Navy ships in the Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea. This was the start of Operation Desert Storm and marked the first combat launch of the Tomahawk missile. Next, the Navy launched 228 combat sorties from six aircraft carriers. *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), *Saratoga*, and *America* were in the Red Sea; *Midway* and *Ranger* were in the Persian Gulf; and *Theodore Roosevelt* was en route to the Persian Gulf.

17 Jan—An F/A-18C from *Saratoga's* VFA-81 was shot down by an Iraqi surface-to-air missile. Pilot Lt. Cmdr. Michael Speicher became the first American casualty of the Persian Gulf War.

17 Jan—At 1915 EST (0215 local time), an estimated eight Iraqi Scud missiles attacked the Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv, causing property damage. The Pentagon announced that stationary Scud sites in Iraq had been destroyed and the mobile sites were being sought out. The United States was also preparing to send additional Patriot antimissile missiles to Israel.

17 Jan—F/A-18Cs piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Mark Fox and Lt. Nick Mongillo of VFA-81, assigned to *Saratoga*, each shot down a MiG-21. They were the first-ever aerial victories for the Hornet.

18 Jan—Navy lost two additional aircraft, both A-6s. The crewmen, Lts. Jeffrey Zaun and Robert Wetzels of *Saratoga's* VA-35 and Lts. Charles Turner and William Costen of *Ranger's* VA-155 were first reported missing and later as prisoners of war.

18 Jan—A Marine Corps OV-10A observation aircraft was shot down by Iraqi forces. Lt. Col. Clifford M. Acree and CWO4 Guy L. Hunter Jr. of VMO-2 were both captured.

18 Jan—*Nicholas's* (FFG 47) HSL-44 (Det 8) SH-60Bs provided air targeting while a Kuwaiti patrol boat, two Army helicopter gunships, and *Nicholas* engaged and neutralized Iraqi forces on nine oil platforms in the Durrah oil field. The Iraqi forces were manning anti-aircraft artillery sites on the platforms. This was the first combined helicopter, missile, and surface-ship gun engagement of the war and resulted in the destruction of the positions and capture of the first Iraqi prisoners of war.

19 Jan—*Theodore Roosevelt* and her battle group transited the Strait of Hormuz and entered the Persian Gulf.

19 Jan—The first combat use of the Standoff Land Attack Missile occurred with launches from A-6 Intruders and A-7 Corsair IIs based on *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga*.

20 Jan—Iraqi television broadcast what it claimed were interviews with three U.S. and four allied military airmen shot down in the war in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. State Department called the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Washington to protest that the broadcast was contrary to the Third Geneva Convention governing treatment of prisoners of war and to demand that any prisoners be given immediate access to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the internationally recognized overseer of the convention. The tapes were shown on U.S. television the following day.

20 Jan—Department of Defense announced that an Iraqi artillery battery was destroyed by USN A-6 and USAF A-10 aircraft.

21 Jan—President Bush signed an executive order designating the Arabian Peninsula areas, airspace, and adjacent waters as a combat zone.

21 Jan—An F-14 was downed by a surface-to-air missile over Iraq. Pilot Lt. Devon Jones and radar intercept officer Lt. Lawrence Slade of *Saratoga*'s VF-103 were reported missing. Jones was recovered the next day.

21 Jan—*Theodore Roosevelt* carrier battle group arrived on station in the Persian Gulf.

23 Jan—Navy A-6s disabled an *al-Qaddisiya*-class Iraqi tanker that had been collecting and reporting intelligence data. The A-6s also attacked and sank a *Winchester*-class hovercraft (being refueled by the tanker) and a Zhuk-class patrol boat.

24 Jan—Navy A-6s attacked and destroyed an Iraqi Spasilac minelayer. An A-6 sank an Iraqi Zhuk-class patrol boat and another Iraqi minesweeper hit an Iraqi mine while attempting to evade the attack. A-6s and F/A-18s attacked the Umm Qasr Naval Base.

24 Jan—The first Kuwaiti territory, the island of Jazirat Qurah, was reclaimed.

28 Jan—Navy A-6s attacked Iraqi ships at Bubiyan Channel, at Umm Qasr Naval Base, and in Kuwait harbor.

28 Jan—Capt. Michael Berryman of VMA-311 was captured by Iraqi forces after his AV-8B Harrier was shot down.

30 Jan—Navy A-6s attacked three Iraqi landing craft in the vicinity of Shatt al-Arab Channel.

30 Jan—All 18 F/A-18s on board *Saratoga* delivered 100,000 pounds of MK 83 1,000-pound bombs on Iraqi positions in Kuwait. This was the largest amount by weight carried in a single mission.

1 Feb—VAW-123 coordinated aircraft on the first of 11 Scud missile patrols flown from 1–7 February. On 3 February, *America* confirmed the destruction of two Scud-related vehicles.

2 Feb—A Navy A-6 with crew Lt. Cmdr. Barry Cooke and Lt. Patrick Kelly Connor, from *Theodore Roosevelt*'s VA-36, were shot down by anti-aircraft fire. The crewmen were reported missing in what was the carrier's first combat loss of the war.

5 Feb—A Navy F/A-18A crashed while returning from a combat mission. The pilot, Lt. Robert Dwyer of VFA-87 from *Theodore Roosevelt*, was killed.

6 Feb—A VF-1 F-14A off *Ranger*, piloted by Lt. Stuart Broce, with Cmdr. Ron McElraft as radar intercept officer, downed a Mi-8 Hip helicopter with an AIM-9M Sidewinder missile.

7 Feb—A-6s attacked and heavily damaged two Iraqi patrol boats in the northern Persian Gulf near al-Faw Peninsula.

8 Feb—A-6s attacked and neutralized an Iraqi training frigate collocated with a TMC-45-class patrol boat (Exocet-capable craft) at Cor al-Zubayr.

9 Feb—Capt. Russell Sanborn was captured by Iraqi forces after his VMA-231 AV-8B was shot down.

14 Feb—*America* carrier battle group transited Strait of Hormuz en route to operations in the Persian Gulf.

15 Feb—*America* became the first and only carrier to conduct strikes from both sides of the Arabian Peninsula.

18 Feb—An Iraqi mine blasted a 20-by-30 foot hole in the forward section of the 18,000-ton helicopter carrier *Tripoli* during mine clearance operations in the northern Persian Gulf. After continuing her duty for five days, the flagship of the minesweeping operation sailed to a shipyard drydock in Bahrain for a month of repairs.

20 Feb—*America*'s VS-32 became the first S-3 squadron to engage, bomb, and destroy a hostile vessel—an Iraqi gunboat.

20–24 Feb—Using AV-8B Harriers, the VMA-331 Bumblebees flew 243 sorties along the Iraqi border and throughout Kuwait.

23 Feb—*America*, *Midway*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *Ranger* were in the Persian Gulf. *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga* were operating from the Red Sea.

23 Feb—Aircraft from *America* destroyed a Silkworm antiship missile battery after Iraq unsuccessfully fired a missile at *Missouri* (BB 63).

23 Feb—A VMA-542 AV-8B Harrier was shot down by Iraqi forces. Capt. James Wilbourn was killed in action.

24 Feb—Operation Desert Sabre, the ground offensive against Iraq, began. General Norman Schwarzkopf's plan was based on the classic principles of deception, concentration of force, and speed.

25 Feb—Two Marine Corps aircraft were shot down by Iraqi forces. Capt. Scott Walsh was rescued after his VMA-542 AV-8B was lost and Maj. Joseph Small was captured and Capt. David Spellacy was killed when their OV-10A went down.

26 Feb—A-6Es from *Ranger*'s VA-155 bombed Iraqi troops fleeing Kuwait City to Basra in bumper-to-bumper convoys along two multi-lane highways. Numerous tanks, armored vehicles, jeeps, cars, and tractor-trailers were destroyed.

27 Feb—At 2100 EST, President Bush declared that Kuwait had been liberated and the Persian Gulf War over. At midnight EST, all U.S. and coalition forces would suspend further offensive combat operations.

27 Feb—Forty Iraqi soldiers surrendered to battleship *Wisconsin*'s (BB 64) remotely piloted vehicle when it flew over their position.

27 Feb—Capt. Reginald Underwood was killed when his VMA-331 AV-8B was shot down by Iraqi forces.

3 Mar—CH-46 helicopters with loudspeakers rounded up surrendering Iraqi troops on Faylaka Island. The enemy prisoners of war were ferried by helicopter to *Ogden* (LPD 5) for further transport to Saudi POW facilities.

4 Mar—Iraq released POWs including the Navy's Lts. Jeffrey Zaun, Robert Wetzell, and Lawrence Slade. They were turned over to U.S. officials by the International Committee of the Red Cross near the Jordanian border station of Ruwayshid.

4 Mar—*America* departed the Persian Gulf and returned to the Red Sea after conducting 3,008 combat sorties during the war.

6 Mar—*New Orleans*, with a mine countermeasures squadron on board and four minecountermeasures ships, led minesweeping activities.

6 Mar—President Bush reported to a joint session of Congress, "Aggression is defeated. The war is over."

8 Mar—The first Navy personnel from the Persian Gulf theater arrived in CONUS.

9 Mar—*America* arrived on station in the Red Sea.

11 Mar—*Saratoga* and *Midway* carrier battle groups departed the Persian Gulf area for their respective homeports. *Saratoga* transited the Suez Canal en route to Mayport, Fla.; *Midway* departed the Persian Gulf en route to Yokosuka, Japan.

12 Mar—*John F. Kennedy* transited the Suez Canal en route to the Mediterranean.

13 Mar—President Bush established the Southwest Asia Service Medal by executive order. It was awarded to U.S. military personnel who served in the Persian Gulf area during the operations.

16–22 Mar—*America* conducted a port visit to Hurghada, Egypt, making the first port call of the deployment after 78 consecutive days at sea.

17 Mar—Crew of *Tripoli* awarded Combat Action Ribbon for being endangered by enemy mine attack on February 18.

28 Mar—*John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga*, leading their carrier battle groups, arrived at their homeports of Norfolk, Va., and Mayport, Fla., respectively. They were the first carrier battle groups involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to CONUS.

1 Apr—*Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb and began three weeks of Red Sea operations.

3 Apr—*America* transited the Suez Canal and returned to the Mediterranean.

6 Apr—Iraq accepted United Nations terms for formal ceasefire in the Persian Gulf War.

8 Apr—*America* transited the Strait of Gibraltar and returned to the Atlantic.

8 Apr—Having left from both NAS Sigonella, Sicily, and Hurghada, Egypt, for Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 6 April, HC-4 detachments flew Secretary of State James Baker and his party of 60 along the border between Turkey and civil war-torn Iraq to a remote Kurdish refugee camp. A popular uprising in Kurdistan had taken place in March against Saddam Hussein, but the Iraqi forces quickly recaptured the main towns and cities of Kurdistan. The Iranians had allowed the Kurds to flee into their country, but the Turks had not, and the Kurds were stranded in the mountains in the cold.

9 Apr—HC-4 returned to Incirlik, Turkey, to become the primary and first heavy-lift helicopter combat logistics support asset for Operation Provide Comfort. The squadron delivered massive amounts of relief aid to Kurdish refugees and flew needy people to safe havens.

9 Apr—UN Security Council approved Resolution 689 establishing a United Nations-Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission to monitor permanent ceasefire.

11 Apr—The Persian Gulf War came to its official conclusion at 1000 EDT as UN Security Council Resolution No. 687, establishing a permanent ceasefire in the Persian Gulf War, went into effect.

17 Apr—*Midway* returned from the Persian Gulf War to her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan.

17 Apr—Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney signed an order directing military commanders to begin implementing the president's plan, announced the previous day at a press conference, which called for the establishment of several encampments in northern Iraq. U.S., British, French, and Turkish military personnel had been delivering relief supplies to the refugees. The U.S. Sixth Fleet's 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit commenced operations 17 hours after arrival at the Humanitarian Service Support Base at Silopi, Iraq. A forward humanitarian service support base was also established at Diyarbakir, Turkey.

18 Apr—*America* returned from the Persian Gulf War to Norfolk, Va.

20 Apr—*Theodore Roosevelt* transited the Suez Canal and began support of Operation Provide Comfort, the allied nations' effort to aid Kurdish refugees in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War.

20 Apr—*Theodore Roosevelt* joined the U.S. naval forces, including *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7), positioned off Turkey to support an estimated 7,000 American ground troops participating in Operation Provide Comfort.

7–8 May—Two A-6E Intruders on a reconnaissance mission over northern Iraq were attacked by Iraqi artillery units. These were the first confirmed incidents of hostile fire since allied forces began occupying a designated security zone for Kurdish refugees. The planes were unscathed, continued their mission, and returned safely to *Theodore Roosevelt*, positioned off the coast of Turkey to support U.S. military operations in northern Iraq.

23 May—The Commander of the Naval Forces in the Middle East declared the Kuwaiti port of Ash-Shuwaikh free of ordnance and Iraqi mines, making it the fifth and final in a series of port clearing missions by allied forces.

30 May—*Forrestal* (CV 59), leading a carrier battle group, departed from its homeport of Mayport, Fla., for a scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean Sea to relieve the *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group on station in the eastern Mediterranean in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

6 Jun—*America* was among the ten U.S. Navy ships that, returning from the Persian Gulf, sailed into New York Harbor as part of the city's fourth annual Fleet Week celebration.

10 Jun—A traditional New York ticker tape "Parade of Heroes" to salute all the men and women who served during Desert Storm culminated the city's Fleet Week.

18 Jun—*Tripoli* turned over her duties as flagship for Commander, U.S. Mine Countermeasures Group, to *Texas* (CGN 39). The group had located and destroyed nearly 1,200 mines in the Persian Gulf.

23 Jun—*Tripoli* transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to San Diego, Calif., her homeport, completing a tour in the Persian Gulf, which began on 1 December 1990.

28 Jun—*Theodore Roosevelt* battle group returned to Norfolk, Va. She was the last carrier involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to homeport.

13 Jul—*Nimitz* (CVN 68) carrier battle group turned over operations in the Persian Gulf to *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) carrier battle group and transited the Strait of Hormuz.

27 Aug—The last U.S. Navy participants of the Persian Gulf War arrived home, including *New Orleans*, with HMM-268 embarked.

Operation Desert Fox

16–20 December 1998

From 16 to 20 December 1998 the coalition launched Operation Desert Fox—strikes against Iraq in response to Saddam Hussein’s failure to comply with UN resolutions to allow international inspections of sites suspected of housing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programs. The Iraqi air defenses included 310 combat aircraft—operational strength varied—approximately 100 ground radars, and mobile and fixed anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles.

Lts. Lyndsi N. Bates and Carol E. Watts of VFA-37 and Kendra Williams of VFA-105 became the first Navy female fighter/strike pilots to fly into battle from a carrier. Allied aircraft flew more than 650 strike and strike support sorties. Ten vessels fired 330 BGM/UGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles, and Air Force Boeing B-52H Stratofortresses launched more than 90 AGM-86C Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missiles. These attacks eviscerated Iraqi air defense and early warning systems, airfields, command and control, communications, presidential sites (palaces), and facilities housing Special Republican Guard and Republican Guard security details. The campaign continued the ongoing disruption of the weapons of mass destruction program caused by sanctions, inspections, and air and missile strikes; temporarily crippled the Republican Guard infrastructure; and impeded a plan to convert Aero L-29 Delphin trainers into unmanned aerial vehicles capable of carrying biological or nerve agents. The allies did not lose any aircraft.

Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
<i>Enterprise</i> (CVN 65)		AC (CVW-3)
VF-32	F-14B	
VFA-37	F/A-18C	
VFA-105	F/A-18C	
VMFA-312	F/A-18C	
VAW-126	E-2C	
VAQ-130	EA-6B	
VQ-6 Det A	ES-3A	
VRC-40 Det 4	C-2A	
VS-22	S-3B	
HS-7	SH-60F/HH-60H	
<i>Carl Vinson</i> (CVN 70) [*]		NH (CVW-11)
VF-213	F-14D	
VFA-22	F/A-18C	
VFA-94	F/A-18C	
VFA-97	F/A-18C	
VAW-117	E-2C	
VAQ-135	EA-6B	
VQ-5 Det C	ES-3A	
VRC-30 Det 2	C-2A	
VS-29	S-3B	
HS-6	SH-60F/HH-60H	
Non-Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
HC-2 Det [†]	UH-3H	HU
HC-4 Det	MH-53E	HC
HC-6 Det	CH-46D/HH-46D	HW

HC-11 Det	CH-46D/HH-46D	VR
HSL-37 Det	SH-60B	TH
HSL-42 Det	SH-60B	HN
HSL-43 Det	SH-60B	TT
HSL-44 Dets	SH-60B	HP
HSL-45 Det	SH-60B	TZ
HSL-46 Det	SH-60B	HQ
HSL-47 Dets	SH-60B	TY
HSL-48 Dets	SH-60B	HR
VAQ-128 Det	EA-6B	8K
VP-4 Det	P-3C	YD
VP-9 Det	P-3C	PD
VQ-1 Det	EP-3E	PR

Belleau Wood Amphibious Ready Group		
<i>Belleau Wood</i> (LHA 3) Staging platform for combat search and rescue		
<i>Dubuque</i> (LPD 8)		
<i>Germantown</i> (LSD 42)		
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Predominately landed at Camp Doha, Kuwait, on 18 December		
HC-5 Det 6 [‡]	HH-46D	RB
VMA-311 Det	AV-8B	EP
HMLA-169 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W	EP
HMM-265	CH-46E	EP
HMH-465 Det	CH-53E	EP

^{*} Launched her first strikes on 19 December.

[†] Permanently deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

[‡] While on deployment, HC squadron detachments served under the command of the amphibious assault carriers rather than their embarked Marine helicopter squadrons, and therefore retained their own squadron tail codes.

Operation Enduring Freedom Phase I

7 October–30 November 2001

On 7 October 2001, aircraft flying from *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) and *Enterprise* (CVN 65) took part in the first coalition strikes of the Global War on Terrorism against al-Qaeda terrorists and Taliban Islamic extremists within Afghanistan. Waves of about 25 Navy and 15 Air Force jets and approximately 50 BGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles struck 40 target areas including aircraft on the ground, airfields, antiaircraft and surface-to-air missile batteries and radar sites, command and control nodes, and terrorist training camps. Critics questioned the raids on the camps because al-Qaeda had largely abandoned the facilities, but the assaults destroyed terrorist infrastructure.

EA-6B Prowlers suppressed Taliban and al-Qaeda air defense electronic emissions and jammed their ground communications. The Taliban refused to give battle in the air, but Navy fighters escorted Air Force bombers until air supremacy was attained. Strike jets flew time-staggered missions supported by S-3B Vikings and Air Force and British tankers, which refueled them. P-3C Orions and EP-3E Aries IIs flew intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance patrols. Strike aircraft then flew close air support missions for coalition special operations teams and allied Northern Alliance (the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan) tribesmen, and a confederation of primarily Pashtun tribesmen known as the Eastern Alliance. Enemy antiaircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles failed to shoot down a single aircraft. The attacks devastated al-Qaeda and Taliban command and control, communication, computer, and intelligence capabilities; but terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and professed Taliban head of state Mullah Muhammad A. Umar subsequently escaped.

Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
<i>Carl Vinson</i> (CVN 70)		NH (CVW-11)
VF-213	F-14D	
VFA-22	F/A-18C	
VFA-94	F/A-18C	
VFA-97	F/A-18C	
VAW-117	E-2C	
VAQ-135	EA-6B	
VRC-30 Det 3	C-2A	
VS-29	S-3B	
HS-6	SH-60F/HH-60H	
<i>Enterprise</i> (CVN 65)		AJ (CVW-8)
VF-14	F-14B	
VF-41	F-14B	
VFA-15	F/A-18C	
VFA-87	F/A-18C	
VAW-124	E-2C	
VAQ-141	EA-6B	
VRC-40 Det 5	C-2A	
VS-24	S-3B	
HS-3	SH-60F/HH-60H	
<i>Kitty Hawk</i> (CV 63)[*]		NF (CVW-5)
VFA-27	F/A-18C	
VFA-192	F/A-18C	
VFA-195	F/A-18C	
VS-21	S-3B	

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
VRC-30 Det 5	C-2A	
HS-14	SH-60F/HH-60H	
2nd Bn 160th SOAR	MH-60L/MH-47E	
<i>Theodore Roosevelt</i> (CVN 71)		AB (CVW-1)
VF-102	F-14B	
VFA-82	F/A-18C	
VFA-86	F/A-18C	
VMFA-251 (DW) [†]	F/A-18C	
VAW-123	E-2C	
VAQ-137	EA-6B	
VS-32	S-3B	
VRC-40 Det 2	C-2A	
HS-11	SH-60F/HH-60H	

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
HC-2 Det [‡]	UH-3H	HU
HC-5 Det	HH-46D	RB
HC-6 Det	HH-46D/UH-46D	HW
HC-8 Dets	CH-46D/HH-46D/UH-46D	BR
HC-11 Dets	CH-46D/HH-46D/UH-46D	VR
HM-14 Det [‡]	MH-53E	BJ
HSL-42 Dets	SH-60B	HN
HSL-43 Det	SH-60B	TT
HSL-44 Dets	SH-60B	HP
HSL-45 Det	SH-60B	TZ

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
HSL-46 Dets	SH-60B	HQ
HSL-47 Det	SH-60B	TY
HSL-48 Dets	SH-60B	HR
HSL-51 Det	SH-60B	TA
VAQ-133 Det	EA-6B	8K
VAQ-142 Det	EA-6B	8K
VP-4 Det	P-3C	YD
VP-9 Dets	P-3C	PD
VQ-1 Det	EP-3E	PR
VR-48 Det	C-20G	JR
Bataan Amphibious Ready Group		
<i>Bataan (LHD 5)</i>		
<i>Shreveport (LPD 12)</i>		
<i>Whidbey Island (LSD 41)</i>		
26th MEU [§]		
HC-6 Det 1	HH-46D/UH-46D	HW
VMA-223	AV-8B	WP
HMLA-269 [‡]	UH-1N/AH-1W	HF
HMM-365	CH-46D	YM
HMH-464 Det	CH-53E	EN
Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group		
<i>Peleliu (LHA 5)</i>		
<i>Dubuque (LPD 8)</i>		
<i>Comstock (LSD 45)</i>		
15th MEU [§]		
HC-11 Det 6	HH-46D	VR
VMA-311	AV-8B	WL
HMLA-169 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W	SN
HMM-163	CH-46E	YP
HMH-361 Det	CH-53E	YN
20th SOS Det [#]	MH-53M	

^{*} Served as an afloat forward staging base for Task Force Sword, USA, including Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta and the 2d Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

[†] While on deployment, VMFA-251 used the tail code of the air wing. The squadron's original tail code is noted in parentheses.

[‡] Permanently deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

[§] Marine Expeditionary Unit

^{||} While on deployment, HC squadron detachments served under the command of the amphibious assault carriers rather than their embarked Marine helicopter squadrons, and therefore retained their own squadron tail codes.

[#] USAF Special Operations Squadron, embarked 5–9 October 2001.

Operation Iraqi Freedom Phase I

19 March–1 May 2003

On 19 March 2003 the coalition began Operation Iraqi Freedom, the principal objectives of which included the end of the regime of Saddam Hussein and the elimination of suspected Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Enemy aerial opposition proved minimal at 325 combat aircraft, but they deployed numerous surface-to-air missiles and more than 6,000 mobile and fixed antiaircraft guns. The allies also contended with a strong *shamal* (sandstorm) that swept across portions of southern Iraq.

On 20 March, two Air Force Lockheed F-117A Nighthawks and other coalition aircraft and 24 BGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs) struck the Dora Farms complex near Baghdad. The CIA had uncovered intelligence that indicated a meeting of Hussein and his senior Iraqi leadership, but the dictator survived. Following the raid, an additional 537 strike sorties and 34 TLAM launches shaped the battlespace.

On 21 March the coalition initiated strategic air operations. Aircraft flew more than 1,700 sorties—832 strike—that day, and aircraft, ships, and submarines let loose a staggering barrage of 381 TLAMs and 124 AGM-86C Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missiles against Iraqi command and control, communications, computers, and intelligence, airfields, and air defense facilities.

EA-6B Prowlers suppressed Iraqi air defenses through the use of electronic warfare and AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missiles. A P-3C Orion of VP-46, SH-60F and HH-60H Seahawks of HS-2, and SH-60Bs of HSL-47 and -48 supported special operations forces that secured the Rumaylah oil fields before their Iraqi garrisons set the platforms afire. The enemy set other gas oil separation plants ablaze and the smoke hindered low-flying aircraft.

The allies recorded the largest use of precision guided munitions to date, the first drop of a Joint Direct Attack Munition by an F-14D Tomcat, and the initial operations of F/A-18E Super Hornets for aerial refueling. In addition, the Marines operated RQ-2A/B Pioneer and RQ-14A Dragon Eye unmanned aerial vehicles. Naval aircraft combat losses comprised one F/A-18C of VFA-195 on 2 April and one AH-1W of MAG-39 on 14 April. The operational losses consisted of: one CH-46E of HMM-268 on 21 March; one UH-1N of HMLA-169 on 30 March; one S-3B of VS-38, one AV-8B of VMA-231, and one F-14A of VF-154 on 1 April; one AH-1W of HMLA-267 on 4 April; one SA.330 from combat store ship *Spica* (T-AFS 9) on 7 April; one CH-46E of HMM-264 on 22 April; and one CH-53E of HMH-465 on 30 April.

Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)		NK (CVW-14)
VF-31	F-14D	
VFA-25	F/A-18C	
VFA-113	F/A-18C	
VFA-115	F/A-18E	
VAW-113	E-2C	
VAQ-139	EA-6B	
VRC-30 Det 1	C-2A	
VS-35	S-3B	
HS-4	SH-60F/HH-60H	
Constellation (CV 64)		NE (CVW-2)
VF-2	F-14D	
VFA-137	F/A-18C	
VFA-151	F/A-18C	
VMFA-323 (WS)	F/A-18C	
VAW-116	E-2C	
VAQ-131	EA-6B	

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
VRC-30 Det 2	C-2A	
VS-38	S-3B	
HS-2	SH-60F/HH-60H	
HSL-47 Det 4	SH-60B	
Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)		AC (CVW-3)
VF-32	F-14B	
VFA-37	F/A-18C	
VFA-105	F/A-18C	
VMFA-115 (VE)	F/A-18A+	
VAW-126	E-2C	
VAQ-130	EA-6B	
VRC-40 Det 1	C-2A	
VS-22	S-3B	
HS-7	SH-60F/HH-60H	
Kitty Hawk (CV 63)		NF (CVW-5)
VF-154	F-14A	
VFA-14	F/A-18C	
VFA-27	F/A-18C	

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
VFA-195	F/A-18C	
VAW-115	E-2C	
VAQ-135	EA-6B	
VRC-30 Det 5	C-2A	
VS-21	S-3B	
HS-14	SH-60F/HH-60H	
Nimitz (CVN 68)		NH (CVW-11)
VFA-14	F/A-18E	
VFA-41	F/A-18F	
VFA-94	F/A-18C	
VFA-97	F/A-18A	
VAW-117	E-2C	
VAQ-135	EA-6B	
VRC-30 Det 3	C-2A	
VS-29	S-3B	
HS-6	SH-60F/HH-60H	
Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)		AJ (CVW-8)
VF-213	F-14D	
VFA-15	F/A-18C	
VFA-87	F/A-18C	
VFA-201 [†]	F/A-18A	
VAW-124	E-2C	
VAQ-141	EA-6B	
VRC-40 Det 5	C-2A	
VS-24	S-3B	
HS-3	SH-60F/HH-60H	

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons		
Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
HC-2 Det [†]	UH-3H	HU
HC-4 Det [§]	MH-53E	HC
HC-5 Dets	MH-60S	RB
HC-11 Dets	CH-46D/HH-46D/UH-46D	VR
HM-14 Det [‡]	MH-53E	BJ
HM-15 Det	MH-53E	TB
HSL-37 Dets	SH-60B	TH
HSL-42 Dets	SH-60B	HN
HSL-43 Dets	SH-60B	TT
HSL-44 Dets	SH-60B	HP
HSL-45 Dets	SH-60B	TZ
HSL-46 Dets	SH-60B	HQ
HSL-47 Dets	SH-60B	TY
HSL-48 Dets	SH-60B	HR
HSL-49 Dets	SH-60B	TX
HSL-51 Dets	SH-60B	TA
VAQ-134 Det	EA-6B	8K
VP-46 Dets	P-3C	RC
VQ-1 Det	EP-3E	PR
VR-48 Det	C-20G	JR

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
VR-51 Det	C-20G	RV
VR-52	DC-9	JT
VR-54	C-130T	CW
VR-57	C-9B/DC-9	RX
VR-61	DC-9	RS
VR-62	C-130T	JW
Coast Guard Det [#]	HH-65A	CG 6502
HMLA-169	UH-1N/AH-1W	SN
HMLA-369	UH-1N/AH-1W	SM
HMM-163	CH-46E	YP
HMM-262	CH-46E	ET
HMM-264	CH-46E	EH
HMM-268	CH-46E	YQ
HMM-364	CH-46E	PF
HMH-462	CH-53E	YF
VMA-214	AV-8B	WE
VMFA-232	F/A-18C	WT
VMFA-251	F/A-18C	DW
VMFA(AW)-121	F/A-18D	VK
VMFA(AW)-225	F/A-18D	CE
VMFA(AW)-533	F/A-18D	ED
VMAQ-1 Det	EA-6B	CB
VMAQ-2 Det	EA-6B	CY
VMGR-234 Det	KC-130T	QH
VMGR-352 (-)	KC-130F/R	QB
VMGR-452 Det	KC-130T	NY
VMU-1	RQ-2A/B	FZ
VMU-2	RQ-2A/B	FF
Bataan (LHD 5)		
HC-6 Det 3 [”]	MH-60S	HW
VMA-223 (-)	AV-8B	WP
VMA-542	AV-8B	WH
Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)		
HC-11 Det 4	CH-46	VR
VMA-211 (-)	AV-8B	CF
VMA-311 (-)	AV-8B	WL
HMH-465 Det	CH-53E	YJ
Boxer (LHD 4)		
HC-11 Det 6	CH-46	VR
HMM-165	CH-46E	YW
HMH-465	CH-53E	YN
Kearsarge (LHD 3)		
HC-8 Det 6	CH-46	BR
HMLA-269 Det	AH-1W	HF
HMM-365 (-)	CH-46E	YM
HMH-464	CH-53E	EN
Nassau (LHA 4)		
HC-6 Det 7	HH-46D	HW
VMA-231 Det	AV-8B	EG

Squadron	Aircraft	Tail Code
HMLA-269 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W	EG
HMM-263	CH-46E	EG
HMH-772 Det	CH-53E	EG
Saipan (LHA 2)		
HC-6 Det 2	MH-60S	HW
HMLA-167 Det ^{††}	UH-1N/AH-1W	HF
HMLA-269 (-)	UH-1N/AH-1W	HF
HMM-162	CH-46E	YS
Tarawa (LHA 1)		
HC-11 Det 7	CH-46	VR
VMA-311 Det	AV-8B	YR
HMLA-267 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W	YR
HMM-161	CH-46E	YR
HMH-361 Det	CH-53E	YR

Aviation-capable dock landings ships and amphibious transport docks comprised: *Anchorage* (LSD 36), *Ashland* (LSD 48), *Comstock* (LSD 45), *Duluth* (LPD 6), *Dubuque* (LPD 8), *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), *Pearl Harbor* (LSD 52), *Ponce* (LPD 15), *Rushmore* (LSD 47), *Tortuga* (LSD 46)

* While on deployment, VMFA squadrons used the tail codes of their air wings. Their original tail codes are noted in parentheses.

† Naval Air Reserve squadron.

‡ Permanently deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

§ Permanently deployed to Fujairah, U.A.E.

|| HM-15 Det 2 relieved HM-14 Det 1 permanently deployed to Manama, Bahrain.

Deployed from CGAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, on board cutter *Boutwell* (WHEC 719).

** While on deployment, HC squadron detachments served under the command of amphibious assault carriers rather than their embarked Marine helicopter squadrons, and therefore retained their own squadron tail codes.

†† The detachment from HMLA-167 reinforced HMLA-269 to make up for the aircraft assigned to the already deployed HMLA-269 Det attached to HMM-263 on board *Nassau* (LHA 4).