This is an F-5E used in the movie Top Gun. In the film it is called a Mig-28 and that doesn’t make any sense. There never was a Mig-28, the Soviet Union (picture of Russian flag) uses MOSTLY (Su-22, Su-30) odd numbers to denote attack and fighter aircraft and MOSTLY (TU-95, SU-25) even numbers to denote support, transport and bomber aircraft. The F-5 was used as a stand in for a Mig-21 since Paramount couldn’t just go out and ask for a Mig-21 from… (Shows clicking on Wikipedia article Mig-21 operators). And the USAF wasn’t about to give up the goods with Constant Peg (USAF Mig-21). So they did the best they could, good job.

These are the main F-14s used in Top Gun, look like F-14s, sound like F-14s, except they aren’t from any actual F-14 squadron (VF-1 Wolf pack image). Let’s start with the easy one Pete and Nick’s F-14 is from VF-1 which was an actual F-14 squadron called the Wolf pack and was one of the first along with VF-2 to begin operationally using the F-14 back in the early 70s (‘72).

A little segue V is how the navy denotes its fixed wing squadrons. VF (F-14) fighters, VA is attack (A-6/A-7) and VFA is fighter attack (F/A-18), VAW (E-2) air warning, VP is patrol (P-8), VQ is for comm, recon, intel (E-6B), VAQ (EA-6B/EA-18G) electronic attack/jamming, VFC (F-16/F-5) fleet composite which are adversary, VR (C-130/C-40) transport, VRC (C-2) is for fleet transport, VRM (CV-22) fleet logistics/multi mission, VT (T-45) training, VX (F-35) evaluation/operational testing.

Wait what do you mean by fixed wing? Wellllllllllllllll… 900 years ago (17 Dec 1903) when Wright Brothers first flew and then the next day (8 years later) the US navy got interested in flying contraptions. Back then the sky was like the wild west of flying machines, there was all sorts of stuff flying around you had blimps which were given the letter Z zeppelin/goodyear or lighter than air aircraft and airplanes being heavier than air were given the letter V for heaVier-than-air and there were some birds and that was about it… and later there were helicopters and they got the perplexing squadron designator HSC/HM/HSM/HT/HX, but no one cares about them (show scene of SH-3 landing from top gun). Confused? Good.

Why did I say all of that? Well the VF-1 they used is from a former E-2C Hawkeye training squadron VAW-110 based at Miramar where they filmed Top Gun and not Judas Priest Screaming for Vengeance, but who can say (picture wrong).

VF-213 was also a real F-14 squadron called the Blacklions, but uses the symbolism from VA-25 Iron Hand which was an attack squadron flying A-7 and at the time F/A-18s as VFA-25 and now they are known as VFA-25 a fighter attack squadron.

While we’re on the topic of patches and symbolism that doesn’t make any sense here is the fabled flight jacket from Top Gun a conglomeration of

Computer voice (I clicked on this video to learn about the Top Gun jacket…)

**LEFT FRONT 4/1**

Texas Dallas – (the simpsons monorail picture Texas meaning Dallas and Dallas meaning one, any questions?)

Sea Bees – United States Naval Construction Battalions (Construction Battalions abbreviated CB equals sea bee, get used to it) (The simpsons and theirs a picture of bee on it)

3rd Marine Amphibious Force – Started out at 1st Marine Amphibious Corps created in October of 1942 and later drew first blood during the Bougainville invasion of 1943. In 1944 the 1st was then made into the 3rd Marine Amphibious Corps which was then deactivated in 1946 becoming the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. May 6 1965 the united was reactivated as the III Marine Expeditionary Force and the next day changed to Marine Amphibious Force. Then changed back to MEF in 1988. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y51CHN7dOhE)

DLG-32 Cruise – was a Belknap class destroyer lead… uh… destroyer. Hull was laid down in 1963 in Maine and launched December 1964. She went some places, did some stuff (Vietnam) and was upgraded to as a guided missile cruiser in 1975. For all her hard work and service she was sunk during a training exercise east of Australia in 1994.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-upGRiAh0AM> 14:00 DLG-32

Chief Petty Officer Pin – (shows Master Sergeant, Sergeant First Class, Gunnery Sergeant) is the navy E-7 is the equivalent to the first tier of Senior NCO ranks to the rest of DOD. Hey Coast Guard Thank You for You’re Service… see now we both feel awkward. What is a Senior NCO, the best way I can describe a Senior NCO if you are wondering. Go down to your local recruiter, don’t wear a mask, ‘cause everyone needs a 14 day vacation, bed rest, or death every now and then. Wait for your arbitration date. Go through your service equivalent boot camp get selected for maintenance or some type of gate duty. Report to your first duty location. Schedule a medical appointment after lunch and then after you max out your hearing test, go the local used car dealer just off station and buy a 2014 Dodge Charger for 15.8 APR. When you show up to work the next day and you supervisor questions what the hell you are doing. Tell them about the sweet deal you got as a 19 year old on a Dodge Challenger. Then you will get to meet a Senior NCO who will provide some invaluable life lessons you can promptly forget come Friday evening after commanders call.

Anyway This is the Chief Petty Officers Pin worn by Chief Petty Officers on their collar. (not a chief petty officer/chief petty officer/officer/chief petty officer)

**LEFT ARM 2**

NAS Jacksonville – Naval Air Station Jacksonville, located in Florida at the time of filming (1985) was a predominantly Antisubmarine focused Naval Air Station with P-3s of VP-62 BroadArrows, VR-52 Sun Seekers flying C-9B Skytrain IIs, and HS-75 Emrald Knights hovering SH-3s. Now a days NAS Jacksonville still supports the ASW mission, there are units operating P-3s, upgrading to P-8s, SH-60s, MQ-4C Triton (maritime version of the RQ-4 Global Hawk).

Tomcat -

**RIGHT FRONT 3**

VF-1 – A real squadron, in this case a fictional patch taken from VAW-110 which was a E-2 Replacement Air Group or RAG. Shown on the video, Judas Priest.

CV-34 Oriskany -

3rd Marine Wing – Formed at Cherry Point North Carolina in late 1942.

**RIGHT ARM 2**

CVW-19/VF-194

CVW-2 Top Ten USS Ranger

**BACK 6**

Jack of All Trades -Ship’s Service Activities -

COMCRUDES-9

Destroyers Vigilance

US 7th Fleet

American Flag

Far East Cruise 63-4 USS Galveston

And Sitting on the dock of the bay came out later.