

Filmography¹

A listing of movies accompanying the presentation “Navy Air Movies and Aerial Combat,” September 21, 2022. Most are available in whole or part on YouTube and streaming services. Sources are IMDb and Military Aviation Movie List.

Table 1: Movies Referenced

Year	Topic	Movie
1929	History	<i>The Flying Fleet</i> . Six midshipmen graduate from Annapolis. Their goal is to become U.S. Navy pilots.
1931	History	<i>Hell Divers</i> . Rival fighter-pilots train in the art of dive bombing while teasing each other about their bravery and manliness.
1936	History	<i>Mariners of the Sky</i> . After the death of one of their fellow pilots, a squadron of Navy airmen plots to keep his newborn son away from their superiors.
1941	History	<i>Dive Bomber</i> . A military surgeon teams with a ranking Navy flyer to develop a high-altitude suit which will protect pilots from blacking out when they go into a steep dive.
1945	History	<i>This Man's Navy</i> . Ned Trumpet, the chief pilot of a Navy blimp, is given to weaving accounts of the fighting prowess of his non-existent son.
1954	History	<i>The Bridges at Toko-Ri</i> . A Navy fighter pilot must come to terms with his own ambivalence towards the war and the fear of having to bomb a set of highly defended bridges.
1986	Top Gun	<i>Top Gun</i> . As students at the United States Navy's elite fighter weapons school compete to be best in the class, one daring young pilot learns a few things from a civilian instructor that are not taught in the classroom.
2022	Top Gun	<i>Top Gun: Maverick</i> . After thirty years, Maverick is still pushing the envelope as a top naval aviator, but must confront ghosts of his past when he leads TOP GUN's elite graduates on a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it.
1994	Top Gun	<i>Sleep With Me</i> . "It is a story about a man's struggle with his own homosexuality. It is! That is what Top Gun is about, man".
1964	Politics	<i>Seven Days in May</i> . United States military leaders plot to overthrow the President because he supports a nuclear disarmament treaty and they fear a Soviet sneak attack.
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Table 1 – continued from previous page

Year	Topic	Movie
1964	Politics	<i>Dr. Strangelove</i> . An insane American general orders a bombing attack on the Soviet Union, triggering a path to nuclear holocaust that a war room full of politicians and generals frantically tries to stop.
1997	Politics	<i>Wag the Dog</i> . Shortly before an election, a spin-doctor and a Hollywood producer join efforts to fabricate a war in order to cover up a Presidential sex scandal.
2009	Politics	<i>In the Loop</i> . A political satire about a group of skeptical American and British operatives attempting to prevent a war between two countries.
1952	Logistics	<i>The Red Ball Express</i> . Story of the military truck drivers who kept the Allied armies supplied in Europe during World War II.
1979	Logistics	<i>Zulu Dawn</i> . A dramatization of the Battle of Isandlwana, where the British Army met its match against the Zulu nation.
2019	Logistics	<i>Danger Close</i> . In August 1966, in a Vietnamese rubber plantation called Long Tan, 108 young and inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers are fighting for their lives against 2500 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers.
1998	Procurement	<i>The Pentagon Wars</i> . Evaluation of the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle, an Army troop carrier/scout vehicle that, in its final redesign, was effectively a deathtrap for its occupants.
2014	Intelligence	<i>The Imitation Game</i> . During World War II, the English mathematical genius Alan Turing tries to crack the German Enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians while attempting to come to terms with his troubled private life.
1987	Training	<i>Full Metal Jacket</i> . A pragmatic U.S. Marine observes the dehumanizing effects the Vietnam War has on his fellow recruits from their brutal boot camp training to the bloody street fighting in Hue.
2008	Attitude	<i>The Red Baron</i> . German biopic loosely based on the World War I fighter ace Manfred Von Richthofen, nicknamed the Red Baron by friend and foe alike.
2012	Luck	<i>The Lucky One</i> . A Marine travels to Louisiana after serving three tours in Iraq and searches for the unknown woman he believes was his good luck charm during the war.
1999	Corruption	<i>Three Kings</i> . In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, four soldiers set out to steal gold that was stolen from Kuwait, but they discover people who desperately need their help.
1970	Corruption	<i>Kelly's Heroes</i> . A group of U.S. soldiers sneaks across enemy lines to get their hands on a secret stash of Nazi treasure.
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Table 1 – continued from previous page

Year	Topic	Movie
2005	Futures	<i>Stealth</i> . Deeply ensconced in a top-secret military program, three pilots struggle to bring an artificial intelligence program under control before it initiates the next world war.
2013	Futures	<i>Good Kill</i> . A family man begins to question the ethics of his job as a drone pilot.
2019	Futures	<i>Angel Has Fallen</i> . Mike Banning is framed for the attempted assassination of the President by a drone swarm and must evade his own agency and the FBI as he tries to uncover the real threat.

Table 2: Other Navy Air Movies

Year	Movie
1955	<i>Air Strike</i> . A Navy Commander tries to mold a jet-fighter attack squadron into an efficient fighting machine.
1956	<i>Battle Stations</i> . Loosely based on the FRANKLIN and her crisis after kamikaze strikes. Stock footage of the real FRANKLIN; The rest was shot on PRINCETON.
1935	<i>Devil Dogs of the Air</i> . A talented but brash stunt pilot enters the Marine Corps and becomes more disciplined.
1931	<i>Dirigible</i> . Jack Bradon is tasked to reach the South Pole with a dirigible. Partly made at NAS Lakehurst and the old US Army Arcadia balloon base in California.
1955	<i>The Eternal Sea</i> . Rear Adm. John M. Hoskins (Sterling Hayden) fights to stay on after losing a leg on an aircraft carrier in World War II.
1944	<i>The Fighting Lady</i> . An indepth look at aircraft carrier combat operations during Wolrd War II. Real combat footage.
1980	<i>The Final Countdown</i> . A modern aircraft carrier is thrown back in time to 1941 near Hawaii, just hours before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
1952	<i>Flat Top</i> . During the Korean War, aboard the U.S.S. Princeton, Navy Commander Dan Collier reminisces about his first assignment on the same aircraft carrier in the war against Japan.
1940	<i>Flight Command</i> . A rookie flyer, Ens. Alan Drake (Robert Taylor, ex USAAF Flight Instructor), joins the famous Hellcats Squadron right out of flight school in Pensacola. He doesn't make a great first impression.
1991	<i>Flight of the Intruder</i> . During the air war over Vietnam, a U.S. Navy A-6 Intruder bomber pilot schemes with a hardened veteran to make an unauthorized air strike on Hanoi.
1951	<i>Flying Leathernecks</i> . Major Kirby leads The Wildcats squadron into the historic WWII battle of Guadalcanal.
1979	<i>The Great Santini</i> . As he approaches manhood, Ben Meechum struggles to win the approval of his demanding alpha male father, an aggressively competitive, but frustrated Marine pilot.
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Table 2 – continued from previous page

Year	Movie
1947	<i>High Barbaree</i> . Downed PBY Pilot (Van Johnson) has flashbacks about his life.
1991	<i>Hot Shots</i> . A parody of <i>Top Gun</i> in which a talented but unstable fighter pilot must overcome the ghosts of his father and save a mission sabotaged by greedy weapons manufacturers.
1940	<i>The Marines Fly High</i> . Marine lieutenants Dan and Jim fight bandits in the South American jungle, while competing for the attention of beautiful Joan Grant.
1954	<i>Men of the Fighting Lady</i> . A famous writer visits an aircraft carrier during the Korean war to learn more about it and the way it's run. He also gets to find out more about the Navy and Marine aviators themselves.
1976	<i>Midway</i> . A dramatization of the battle that was widely heralded as a turning point of the Pacific Theatre of World War II.
2019	<i>Midway</i> . The story of the Battle of Midway, told by the leaders and the sailors who fought it. Mostly CGI.
1948	<i>On an Island with You</i> . While shooting on location in the South Pacific, a movie star is pursued by a handsome Naval officer who is convinced she is the girl for him.
2001	<i>Pearl Harbor</i> . A tale of war and romance mixed in with history. The story follows two lifelong friends and a beautiful nurse who are caught up in the horror of an infamous Sunday morning in 1941.
1949	<i>Slattery's Hurricane</i> . A former WW2 naval pilot employed by a Miami civilian company reminisces about his past and present sins while flying a plane into an incoming hurricane.
1949	<i>Task Force</i> . As he is retiring, Jonathon Scott (Gary Cooper) reminisces about his long Navy career and the development of the role of the aircraft carrier from the early 20s.
1970	<i>Tora! Tora! Tora!</i> . The story of the 1941 Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor, and the series of preceding American blunders that aggravated its effectiveness.
1942	<i>Wake Island</i> . Story of fall of Wake Island and the Marine Wildcats that defended it.
1944	<i>Wing and a Prayer</i> . In WW2, an American aircraft carrier sails around the Pacific on a decoy mission until it joins the battle of Midway against the Japanese forces.
1957	<i>The Wings of Eagles</i> . A biography of Navy flier-turned-screenwriter Frank W. "Spig" Wead.
1939	<i>Wings of the Navy</i> . Biplanes flying in formation past the Washington Monument. A flotilla of seaplanes rising majestically off the surface of the Atlantic.
1937	<i>Wings over Honolulu</i> . A Navy pilot gets involved in a romantic triangle while stationed in Hawaii.
1977	<i>Young Joe: The Forgotten Kennedy</i> . Biography of Joe Kennedy, who was killed in a PB4Y Drone explosion.