NATO/US Navy/Naval Aviation/FA-18

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***F/A-18 Hornet***

The F/A-18 was fast turning into a success story for the USN but the initial ‘A’ model was a bit of a compromise.  It was not as good as the F-14 in the Air to Air role, and it did not have the bomb load or range of the A-6’s or A-7’s it was supposed to replace.  Nonetheless, it was modern, agile, quicker to repair and much cheaper to operate than the F-14, more importantly it was capable of fulfilling multiple roles. The airframe was also an international sales success with Canada, Australia, Spain and Kuwait already operating it and several others in negotiations.

The ramp up in tensions equated to an extension of F/A-18 production to equip an additional CVW and ensure there were enough capable airframes available.  In total Northern Fury has 10 additional VFA (USN Fighter Attack) squadrons and the USMC has 5 additional VMFA (USMC Fighter Attack) squadrons. Total production of F/A-18’s is up by 120 airframes over the historic figure.  Further the older ‘A’ model which was limited to using the Aim-7 Sparrow missile is being replaced by the ‘C’ model which can use the much more capable Aim-120 AMRAAM missile.



In the Northern Fury world there are some alterations to historical production facts:

* F/A-18A & B (2 seat) models was extended slightly to acquire 70 additional airframes for a total of 480
* F/A-18C & D (2 seat) models was extended with an additional 320 ordered and 50 delivered by the start of Northern Fury. Remainder to be delivered by the end of 1996.
* Instead of 896 airframes, Northern Fury starts with 1,016 F/A-18s. (+70 ‘A’, +50 ‘C’ models)
* Additional production was to enable the early retirement of the A-6E by the end of 1994
* Foreign production of CF-18 (Canada), AF-18 (Australia), EF-18 (Spain) and F/A-18C for Kuwait were complete.
* Foreign orders for Switzerland and South Korea are ongoing.
* Foreign order for Finland has not been entertained.
* F/A-18C & D production generally proceeded as originally planned, allowing the flow through of A models to the USMC and Reserve
* Ongoing refit of ‘A’ models to ‘C’ models is ongoing at the rate of 12/month
* Upgrade from early versions of the ‘C’ model to enable the use of AMRAAMs requires a software and minor hardware changes.

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| Sqn | Name | CVW | No. | Type | Remarks |
| VFA-15 | Valions | CVW-8 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS T Roosevelt |
| VFA-22 | Fighting Redcocks | CVW-11 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Abraham Lincoln |
| VFA-25 | Fist of the Fleet | CAW-14 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Carl Vinson |
| VFA-27 | Royal Maces | CVW-15 | 12 | F/A-18A | USS Kitty Hawk |
| VFA-37 | Bulls | CVW-3 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Eisenhower |
| VFA-81 | Sunliners | CVW-17 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Saratoga |
| VFA-82 | Marauders | CVW-17 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Saratoga |
| VFA-83 | Rampagers | CVW-7 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS JF Kennedy |
| VFA-86 | Sidewinders | CVW-1 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS America |
| VFA-87 | Golden Warriors | CVW-8 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS T Roosevelt |
| VFA-94 | Mighty Shrikes | CVW-11 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Abraham Lincoln |
| VFA-97 | Warhawks | CVW-15 | 12 | F/A-18A | USS Kitty Hawk |
| VFA-105 | Gunslingers | CVW-3 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Eisenhower |
| VFA-106 | Gladiators | FRS | 42 | F/A-18A/C | NAS Oceana |
| VFA-113 | Stingers | CAW-14 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Carl Vinson |
| VFA-125 | Rough Riders | FRS | 48 | F/A-18A/C | NAS Lenmoore |
| VFA-131 | Wildcats | CVW-7 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS JF Kennedy |
| VFA-132 | Privateers | CAW-6 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Enterprise |
| VFA-136 | Knighthawks | CVW-1 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS America |
| VFA-136 | Knight Hawks | CVW-10 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS George Washington |
| VFA-137 | Kestrels | CAW-6 | 12 | F/A-18A | USS Enterprise |
| VFA-146 | Blue Diamonds | CVW-9 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Nimitz |
| VFA-147 | Argonauts | CVW-9 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Nimitz |
| VFA-151 | Vigilantes | CVW-2 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Constellation |
| VFA-151 | Chargers | CVW-17 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Saratoga |
| VFA-161 | Chargers | CVW-10 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS George Washington |
| VFA-192 | Golden Dragons | CVW-5 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Independence |
| VFA-195 | Dam Busters | CVW-5 | 12 | F/A-18C | USS Independence |
| VFA-201 | Hunters | CVWR-20 | 12 | F/A-18A | JRB Fort Worth |
| VFA-203 | Blue Dolphins | CVWR-20 | 12 | F/A-18A | NAS Jacksonville |
| VFA-303 | Golden Hawks | CVWR-30 | 12 | F/A-18C | NAS Alameda |
| VFA-305 | Lobos | CVWR-30 | 12 | F/A-18C | NAS Los Alamitos |