



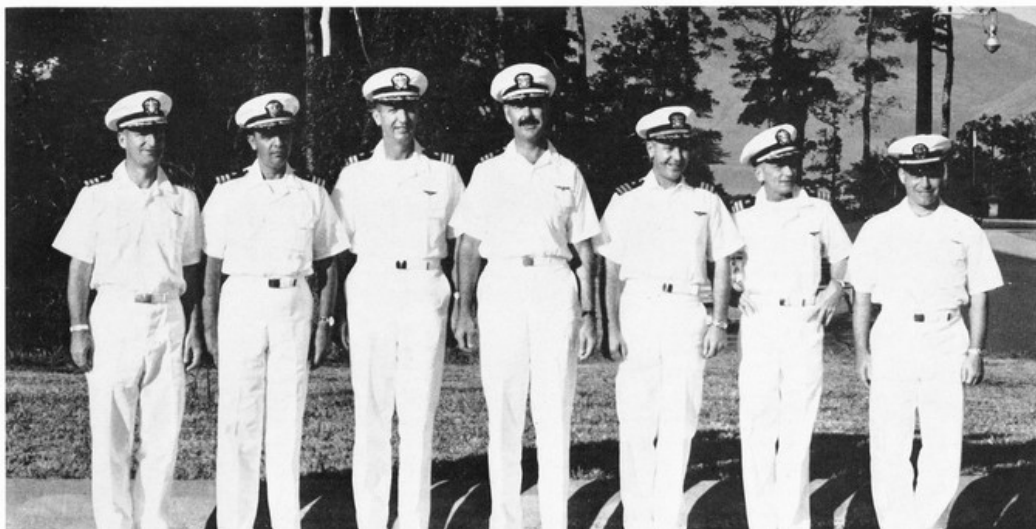
The Air Task Group concept was formulated at the beginning of the Korean War, in 1951, when the need for additional trained, deployable Air Groups became apparent. The Pacific Fleet met this need by reducing the number of squadrons on the Essex class carriers from five to four, and forming new Air Groups from the remaining squadrons. These Air Groups were designated Air Task Groups, and number ONE through FOUR. Operational control of the component squadrons was under the cognizance of an Air Task Group Commander, assigned by the Bureau of Personnel in the same manner as Carrier Air Group Commander, but administratively attached to Fleet Air Staffs. The advantages accruing from commissioning the Air Task Groups were increased mobility in the existing Air Groups, more trained naval aviators and enlisted personnel available for deployment, and increased training cycle time for all Air Groups.

The physical composition of the Air Task Groups is similar to a carrier Air Group, with a day fighter squadron, an all weather fighter squadron, and two light attack squadrons, currently one jet and one prop. In addition, special detachments for developments are assigned from parent squadrons with special and significant missions. For Air Task Group ONE, these detachments are designated "HOTEL", and accompany and are supported by the Air Task Group squadrons under deployments.

The missions of Air Task Group ONE are identical to those of all other commissioned Air Groups: (1) To implement the national policy; (2) To obtain and maintain local air superiority over any assigned area, target or ship; (3) To attack and destroy any assigned targets during time of war; (4) To support allied ground forces during wartime in the attainment of their objectives; To attain sea superiority, in war, by attacking and suppressing hostile surface and subsurface craft; and most important of all, to assure freedom of the sky and sea in peacetime.



Skippers





Air Task Group One: First Row; LTJG J.J. McLaughlin, LTJG J.T. Miller, CDR R.P. Regester, CDR D.S. Crockett, LT J.P. Miller, LT R.E. Kinneman, LT J.D. Frazier. Second Row; D.V. Orndorff, S.K. Inman, J.M. Spillane, K.C. Stags, A.L. Evasivs.

CDR David S. Crockett is a graduate of the University of Texas and was designated a Naval aviator at Pensacola in 1940. Although he has flown everything the Navy has had, CDR Crockett has spent twelve years in fighters.

During World War II, CDR Crockett served extensively in the South Atlantic, was Operations Officer in Air Group Nineteen and XO of VF-191. He was Commanding Officer of VF-64 during the closing phases of the Korean Conflict.

This was followed with tours as Commanding Officer of the Fleet Air Gunnery Unit at El Centro, California, and the Bureau of Aeronautics Representative at North American Aviation where he tested and purchased new Navy and Air Force fighters.

CDR Crockett took command of Air Task Group ONE in January 1957.

