

GOLDEN DRAGONS HISTORY

Attack Squadron ONE NINE TWO has a very distinguished and colorful history. It evolved from Fighter Bomber Squadron 19 of World War II fame, in which the Presidential Unit Citation was earned aboard USS LEXINGTON (CVA 16) for action in the South West Pacific. The title was later changed to Fighter Squadron 15A following World War II.

Several years later, the Squadron was designated Fighter Squadron ONE NINE TWO, under which title it spread death and destruction on the Communists during the Korean War.

The Squadron, during the year 1949, began training in the F8F "Bearcat", while based at NAS Alameda, California. In January 1950, the squadron sailed from Alameda aboard the USS BOXER (CV-21) and upon their return in June 1950, received the F4U "Corsair". In November of that year, VF-192 was engaged in the Hungnam Evacuation, and assisted in filming the motion picture "Flight Surgeon".

Early in 1953, while based at NAS Moffett Field, California the Squadron shifted to their new F9F-5 "Panther" jet aircraft. The next cruise was to be one of movie fame for the fighting men of VF-192. The Dragons departed on the USS ORISKANY (CVA-34) in September 1953. During this cruise to the Orient, the pilots participated in the filming of "Bridges of Toko-ri" and "Men of the Fighting Lady".

The year 1956 held a special event in store for Fighter Squadron 192. On 19 January the mission of the Squadron was changed to include a special delivery capability in the new F9F-6 "Cougar", and on 15 March 1956, the official designation of the squadron was elevated from Fighter to Attack Squadron 192.

Through the next two years, Attack Squadron 192 cycled through North American FJ-4B "Furies" and in July 1959, a complete evolution was accomplished when the Squadron exchanged pilots, planes, men and support equipment with Attack Squadron 216. The "new look" now for VA-192 included the introduction of the A4D-2 "Skyhawk", mighty midget atomic bomber of the fleet.

At the return of a five month WestPac cruise in May 1960, the new "World Famous Golden Dragons" received the new A4D-2N all-weather "Skyhawk". In December 1962, the squadron moved from Moffett Field to its present location at NAS Lemoore, California.

"The World Famous Golden Dragons" returned from their fourth consecutive cruise aboard the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) on 21 November 1964, after completing almost ten months in the Western Pacific. During this cruise, the squadron participated in the First Concord Squadron Cruise - a good will tour of the Indian Ocean - and was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for duty in the South China Sea. The nine month and three week cruise is the longest cruise made by any Pacific Fleet carrier during peace time.

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After a short four month turnaround the "World Famous Golden Dragons" deployed aboard Bonnie Dick in April for another Orient cruise. On 13 January 1966 a tired and very proud Golden Dragon Team returned to their families and loved ones. During the cruise they spent eight-tenths of their time at sea in support of American foreign policy in Southeast Asia. The Dragon Team compiled over 5783 flight hours, flying over 2800 combat missions and delivering over 5,000,000 pounds of ordnance on enemy troops, facilities and installations.

In June of 1966 the Golden Dragons received their first A4E "Skyhawks", a newer, more powerful "Skyhawk" with the ability to carry a greater bomb load.

After a nine month turnaround, "The World Famous Golden Dragons" once again prepared to deploy to WESTPAC in October 1966. The week of their departure, Captain SANGER of COMFAIRALAMEDA presented Attack Squadron ONE NINE TWO the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award for the fiscal year 1966. Three days later on October 15 the Golden Dragons deployed for WESTPAC as part of Air Group NINETEEN on board the USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14).

Logging some 5483 flight hours, 2624 combat sorties, 3029 arrested landings, in the support of our countries policies in South East Asia, the Dragons participated in the first major strikes on Hanoi and Haiphong, North Vietnam. While on cruise, on 18 March 1967, Attack Squadron ONE NINE TWO was officially notified that they were the recipients of the coveted Battle Efficiency Award ("E") for 1966. On 29 May 1967 the Dragons returned to their families and loved ones at NAS, Lemoore.

On 6 July 1967 the Golden Dragons took delivery on their first A4F "Skyhawks", becoming the first operational fleet squadron to fly the new "Skyhawks". In December they deployed aboard the USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14), dropping more ordnance and flying more combat sorties than any other A4 squadron. The Dragons returned to NAS, Lemoore in August of 1968. Upon their return they received their third consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award (Fiscal year 1968).

Attack Squadron ONE NINE TWO is justifiably proud of the Golden Dragon Team and the vital part they play and have played in their country's national defense and the cause of freedom.