Carrier Squadrons and Non-Carrier Based Squadrons Involved in 1986 Libyan Operations

(24 March–15 April 1986)

The time frames for squadron involvement in Operation Prairie Fire during March and Operation Eldorado Canyon during April 1986 are not listed. Some of the squadrons involved in the March operations were not present during the April operations, and vice versa.

Carrier Based Squadrons

America (CV 66) with CVW-1 (Tail Code AB)

VA-34	A-6E and KA-6D
VA-46	A-7E
VA-72	A-7E
VF-33	F-14A
VF-102	F-14A
VS-32	S-3A
VAW-123	E-2C
HS-11	SH-3H
VMAQ-2 Det	EA-6B
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B

Coral Sea (CV 43) with CVW-13 (Tail Code AK)

VFA-131	F/A-18A
VFA-132	F/A-18A
VA-55	A-6E and KA-6D
VAW-127	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B
VMFA-314	F/A-18A
VMFA-323	F/A-18A
HS-17	SH-3H

Saratoga (CV 60) with CVW-17 (Tail Code AA)

VA-81	A-7E
VA-83	A-7E
VF-74	F-14A
VF-103	F-14A
VA-85	A-6E and KA-6D
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VAW-125	E-2C
VS-30	S-3A
HS-3	SH-3H
VQ-2 Det	EA-3B

Guadalcanal (LPH 7) (Tail Code EG for HMM-263)

HMM-263	AH-1T, CH-53E and CH-46E

Note: Dets (Detachments) aboard the carriers did not use the same Tail Code assigned to the air wing (CVW).

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons

Squadron	Tail Code	Aircraft
HSL-32 Dets	HV	SH-2F
HSL-34 Dets	HX	SH-2F
HSL-36 Dets	HY	SH-2F
HSL-42 Dets	HN	SH-60B
VP-23	LJ	P-3C
VP-56	LQ	P-3C
HC-4	HC	CH-53E
HC-6 Det	HW	UH-46D and CH-46D
VR-22	JL	C-130F
VAQ-138 Det	*	EA-6B
VR-24	JM	C-2A
HC-8 Dets	BR	UH-46A and CH-46D
HS-1 Det	AR	SH-3
HC-9 Det	NW	HH-3A
VQ-2	JQ	EP-3A

See the chronology section for March and April 1986 for a more detailed account of these operations.

* VAQ-138 was under the control of Commander Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet and did not have a permanently assigned tail code until it became part of CVW-8 in June 1986.

GBU-10E/B Paveway II laser-guided bombs are prepared for war on the deck of John F. Kennedy *the day before Desert Strom began.*

Saratoga *operating in the Red Sea during Desert Storm and the flight deck of* John F. Kennedy *is in the foreground with F-14 Tomcats on deck.*