

Eighteenth Squadron

When the Eighteenth was added to the Third Group in the autumn of 1961, the Group had finally reached its quota of squadrons. Created by a combination of cadets from the Thirteenth through the Sixteenth Squadrons, the early history of the Eighteenth rests in the actions and accomplishments of its cadets when they were assigned to their parent units.

However, indications of the probable future quality of the Eighteenth can perhaps be drawn from glancing at its first Squadron Commander, Cadet Robert Henry Baxter. Cadet Baxter, an exemplary military figure, gained honorable mention as a tackle on the 1959 All-American football team, and was a 1962 winner of a coveted Rhodes Scholarship. He was followed by Gerald A. Daniel. The versatility of these cadets is well complemented by the officer leadership given the Eighteenth. Here, joint-service tradition was given a considerable boost by AOCs Lt Commander Roderick B. Moore (USN) and Captain Verle L. Johnston. The Eighteenth's sponsor unit is the 56th Fighter Wing, an Air Defense unit stationed at K. I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan.

In the spring of '62, Cadet Baxter was named Wing Training Officer, thus making him one of the very few cadets to have held Cadet Lieutenant Colonel rank for two semesters.

The lack of cohesiveness with this newly formed squadron was apparent in only one area. Eighteenth finished the '61-'62 year in 21st place in intramurals.

When L/Cdr Moore left the Academy in the summer of 1962, Captain Johnston moved up to primary AOC status. His new assistant was