

We take great pride in remembering the VMF-115 Veterans who served in Korea. Prior to its Korean War assignment, in 1949 VMF-115 was the first Marine Corps squadron equipped with Grumman F9F-2 Panther jets, and in 1950, the first Marine squadron to carrier qualify all 18 pilots aboard the USS Roosevelt.

The squadron then deployed to Pohang, Korea, for combat operations in February 1952. Throughout the Korean War, VMF-115 expended more ordnance than any other Marine jet fighter squadron. A total of 15,350 flight hours were logged on 9,250 combat sorties with a price of 19 aircraft lost. Six pilots were lost with their aircraft in a single day and a total of 14 pilots were killed in action. Close air support was provided by VMF-115 in battles such as Bunker Hill, The Hook, Reno, Carson-Elko, Vegas, Berlin, East Berlin, and the Marines famous battle at the Chosin Reservoir.

Following the signing of the Armistice on July 27, 1953 the Able Eagles would remain in Korea for another 21 months.

Just think of the number of Marines who served with 115 from the time the unit arrived in Korea in February 1952 until the squadron departed in April 1955. Many of the men who served in the combat zone would go on to become career Marines, the NCOs and Officers that the next generation would be privileged to work with side-by-side at the airfields in Vietnam. Their Korean experience proved very helpful in many stressful situations.

VMF-115 gets a note in most Korean War history books thanks to Major John F. Bolt. While on temporary exchange duty with the Fifth Air Force (flying the F-86 Sabre), he shot down six MIG-15's becoming the Marine Corps' only jet ace.

There many, many resources for Marine Aviation involvement in the Korean War. I would like to point out this internet site:

The Homepage:

<http://www.koreanwar.org/>

The VMF-115 link:

<http://www.koreanwar.org/html/units/usmc/vmf115.htm>

These few pages are but a small token to a group of Marines who deserve so much more for your dedication to duty 65 years ago. We will always remember your past accomplishments and the excellent record you left in the VMFA-115 History Book.

Thanks and Semper Fi from the VMFA-115 Reunion Association.

Van McCarty
Chairman

Thanks to the squadron's current Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Shannon Brown, for the following letter in recognition of our Korean Veterans.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 31, 2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
P.O. BOX 66125
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-6125

IN REPLY REFER TO
5760
CO
24 Oct 16

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115
To: Marines and Sailors who served in VMF-115 during the Korean War

Subj: REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON 115, THE ABLE
EAGLES, DURING THE KOREAN WAR

1. It has been almost sixty-five years since VMF-115 first took part in the Korean War. The current members of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 remember and appreciate your tremendous service and sacrifices to our great nation. We also recognize the incredible legacy that you built for our squadron, a lineage that is second to none in Marine aviation.

2. You are part of a very special time in our squadron's history. Not only did you help usher in the jet age for the Marine Corps with the F9F Panther, but in doing so, you made significant contributions on the battlefield. A Navy Unit Commendation, five Korean Service Streamers, and a Korean Presidential Unit Citation Streamer earned by your blood, sweat, and tears still adorn the squadron's colors today. Flying aerial interdiction and close air support missions from K-3 airfield in Pohang, with a new aircraft and new types of ordnance in the harsh conditions of combat on the Korean Peninsula, are singular achievements that stand the test of time. From strikes around the Chosin Reservoir, to bombing missions against targets in Pyongyang, to close air support sorties in support of the 5th Marines fighting for Outpost Vegas, the Able Eagles always delivered. In the end, you helped Marine Fighter Squadron 115 amass a remarkable record of 9253 combat sorties and more than 15,350 combat hours in Korea. These achievements are simply amazing.

3. We thank you and honor you for your accomplishments and faithful service to our country. We remember those who did not come home. We promise you that we will do our best each and every day to live up to the rich legacy that you have built for us.

Semper Fidelis,

S. M. BROWN
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Commanding



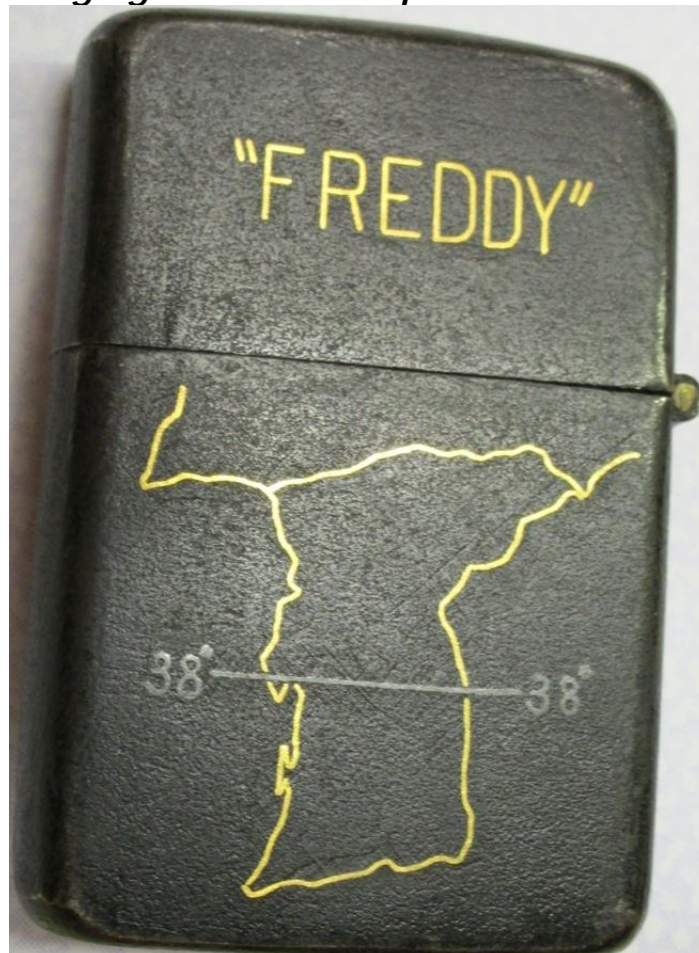
Insignia when the squadron left Cherry Point.

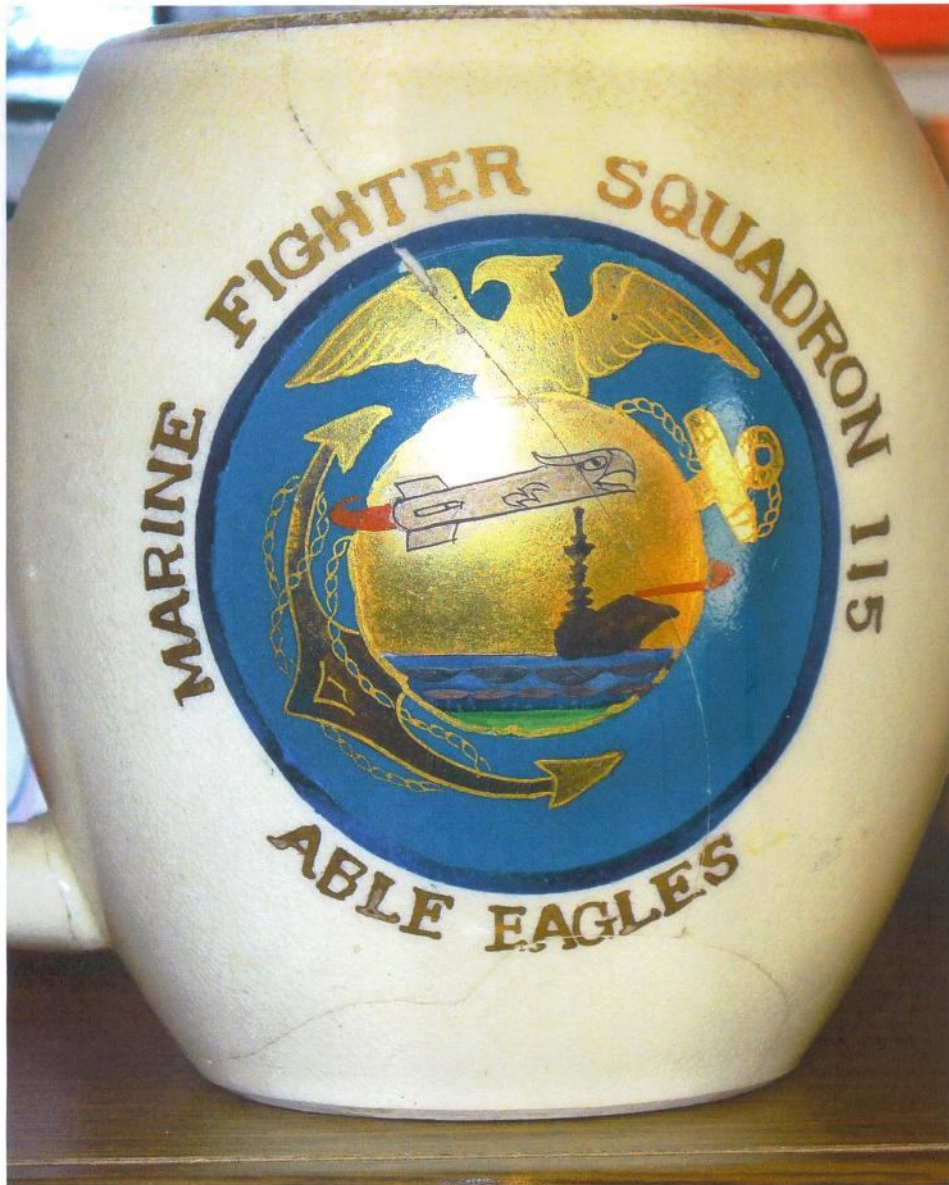


Patch from Korea
(Insignia above w/115 and Panther [reference to jet] added to top)



Lighter belonging to the late Capt. Norman I. Frederickson





Coffee Mug courtesy of Neal Simon

And finally, a few flicks from those years....





