

**USS CORAL SEA CV-42, CVB-43, CVA-43 & CV-43 HISTORY,
AND THOSE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH
CORAL SEA DURING HER TOUR OF SERVICE AND A
TOUR OF DUTY IN THE U. S. NAVY (August 1977 to February 1983)**

INDEX

- CHAPTER I** **CONSTRUCTION to LAUNCHING
(10 July 1944 to 2 April 1946)**
- CHAPTER II** **SIX FLEET AND ATLANTIC FLEET CVs AND CVBs
DEPLOYMENTS (1946 to 1948)**
- CHAPTER III** **COMMISSIONING, SHAKEDOWN CRUISE &
TRAINING

([Guantanamo Bay](#), Cuba, [Caribbean Sea](#) for West Indies
and Panama Canal) CVs AND CVBs OPERATING WITH
CORAL SEA (1 January 1947 to 6 June 1948)**
- CHAPTER IV** **MEDITERRANEAN AND CARIBBEAN MIDSHIPMAN
CRUISE REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS & TRAINING off
the [Virginia Capes](#) (7 June 1948 to 2 May 1949)**
- CHAPTER V** **SECOND MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT
REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS & TRAINING off the
[Virginia Capes](#) (outbreak of hostilities in Korea) (3
May 1949 to 8 September 1950)**
- CHAPTER VI** **THIRD MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT
REPAIRS & TRAINING off the [Virginia Capes](#) (Hostilities
in Korea continue) (9 September 1950 to 19 March 1951)**
- CHAPTER VII** **FOURTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT &
OVERHAUL AT NORFOLK NAVY YARD (Local
[Virginia Capes](#) operations and refresher training out of
Guantanamo Bay) Iran History & Air Arm (Hostilities in
Korea continue) (20 March 1951 to 18 April 1952)**

- CHAPTER VIII** FIFTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT, OVERHAUL AT NORFOLK NAVY YARD VA. & CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS off the [Virginia Capes](#) to Mayport, Fl., and into Cuban waters and the West Indies (Hostilities in Korea continue & carriers participating with the Seventh Fleet) (19 April to 25 April 1953)
- CHAPTER IX** SIXTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT & CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS off the [Virginia Capes](#) carrying out tests for the Bureau of Aeronautics and trained members of the Naval Reserve at Mayport, Fl., and [Guantanamo Bay](#) (Iran History & Air Arm) (Hostilities in Korea continue) ([26 April](#) 1953 to 6 July 1954)
- CHAPTER X** KOREA AIRCRAFT CARRIER (CV-CVA, CVE & CVL) DEPLOYMENT DATES - Korean Theater of Operation (1950 to 1953)
- CHAPTER XI** SEVENTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS off the [Virginia Capes](#) to Mayport, Fl., and into Cuban waters and the West Indies (7 July 1954 to 4 April 1955)
- CHAPTER XII** EIGHTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT operated out of Norfolk, ranging from the [Virginia Capes](#) to Mayport, Fl., and into Cuban waters and the West Indies (Iran History and Air Arm) (5 April 1955 to 12 August 1956)
- CHAPTER XIII** NINTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT CARRIER QUALIFICATIONS SOUTHERN ATLANTIC, SOUTHERN & WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE AND TRANSFER TO THE WEST COAST FOR OVERALL AT PUDGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BREMERTON WA., ([Suez Canal Crisis](#)) 13 August 1956 to 25 February 1957)
- CHAPTER XIV** DEPLOYMENT HISTORY, AWARDS AND CITATIONS OPERATING with [United States Atlantic Command](#) ([Atlantic Fleet](#)) (8th/2nd) and [6th Fleet](#) operating in the [Mediterranean Sea](#) (19 January 1948 to 15 April 1957)

- CHAPTER XV SOUTHERN ATLANTIC, SOUTHERN & WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE AND TRANSFER TO THE WEST COAST FOR OVERALL AT PUDGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BREMERTON WASHINGTON**
(Amphibious units landed 1,800 Marines on the beach near Beirut, Lebanon – Lebanon Crisis of summer 1958 - Nationalist Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu were threatened with communist invasion in August 1958 - Evacuation of 56 U.S. citizens and three foreign nationals from Nicara, Cuba) Iran History & Air Arm (1 January 1957 to 10 March 1960)
- CHAPTER XVI PUDGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BREMERTON, WA. DEPLOYMENT TO ALAMEDA, CA. VIA VANCOUVER, B. C. (11 March 1960 to 18 September 1960)**
- CHAPTER XVII FIRST “WESTPAC” AND VIETNAM EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (VEF) DEPLOYMENT Vietnam History (19 September 1960 to 11 December 1961)**
- CHAPTER XVIII SECOND “WESTPAC” AND SECOND VIETNAM EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (VEF) DEPLOYMENT (Installation of the Pilot Landing Aid Television (PLAT)) OVERHAUL & REPAIR - CVAs OPERATING DURING THE CUBA MISSILE CRISIS (12 December 1961 to 2 April 1963)**
- CHAPTER XIX THIRD “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (Iran History Gulf of Tonkin Incident/Vietnam Conflict/War Begins (3 April 1963 to 6 December 1964)**
- CHAPTER XX FOURTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND FIRST VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE, U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - MAJOR OVERHAUL AT HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. AND LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (7 December 1964 to 28 July 1966)**

- CHAPTER XXI FIFTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND SECOND VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE - U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AT HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. & LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (29 July 1966 to 25 July 1967)**
- CHAPTER XXII SIXTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND THIRD VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE - U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - OVERHAUL AT HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. & LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (Iran History & Air Arm (26 July 1967 to 5 September 1968)**
- CHAPTER XXIII SEVENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND FOURTH VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE - U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA- RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AT BREMERTON, WA. & LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (6 September 1968 to 22 September 1969)**
- CHAPTER XXIV EIGHTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND FIFTH VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE - U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - OVERHAUL AT HUNTER’S POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. & LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (23 September 1969 to 11 November 1971)**
- CHAPTER XXV NINTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND SIXTH VIETNAM COMBAT CRUISE - U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA OVERHAUL AT HUNTERS POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. & LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (ReTra and air wing operations) Iran History & Air Arm - Operation Homecoming, the repatriation of U.S. POWs commenced 27 January 1973 (12 November 1971 to 8 March 1973)**

- CHAPTER XXVI** **USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT, VIETNAM EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (VEF), COMBAT CRUISE AND PEACE KEEPING PATROL DATES, PLANES LOST AND LINE DAYS/LINE PERIODS AWARDS/MEDALS/CITATIONS, KIA/MIA/POW, U.S. MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (19 September 1960 to 11 August 1973)**
- CHAPTER XXVII** **TENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND FIRST VIETNAM PEACE-KEEPING CRUISE - U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - CARQUALS AND RRESTRICTED AVAILABILTY (History & Air Arm) Operation Homecoming, the repatriation of U.S. POWs (9 March 1973 to 4 December 1973)**
- CHAPTER XXVIII** **ELEVENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT - U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (The evacuation of U.S. citizens from Cyprus - Collapse of Cambodia - Operation Eagle Pull AND Fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese - Operation Frequent Wind (Iran History & Air Arm - EXTENDED SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILTY (ERSA) NAVAL SHIPYARD, LONG BEACH, CA. (1 January 1974 to 31 December 1975)**
- CHAPTER XXIX** **U.S. ALLIES AND NORTH VIETNAM AIRCRAFT DURING VIETNAM CONFLICT-WAR/CAMBODIA INDEPENDENCE (1964 – 1975)**
- CHAPTER XXX** **U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA- CORAL SEA EXTENDED SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILTY (ERSA) NAVAL SHIPYARD, LONG BEACH, CA. - SEA TRIALS AND TRAINING (Iran History & Air Arm) (1 January 1976 to 1 December 1976)**
- CHAPTER XXXI** **SUMMARY OF U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER VIETNAM DEPLOYMENTS (Evacuation of the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh 12 April 1975 in Operation Eagle Pull and Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon 28 April 1975**

CHAPTER XXXII TWELFTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS (Multi-nation combat exercises with Japan, Korea, and the Republic of China) (Iran History & Air Arm) (1 January 1977 to 31 December 1977)

CHAPTER XXXIII ARRIVING ONBOARD CORAL SEA AT NAS ALAMEDA, CA. - LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS & CARQUALS (December 1977 to 5 March 1978) (Iran History & Air Arm)

CHAPTER XXXIV U. S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING ON “WESTPAC” AND INDIAN & ARABIAN SEA DEPLOYMENTS (1 January 1978 to 12 November 1979) (Iran History & Air Arm)

CHAPTER XXXV OVERHAUL AT PUDGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BREMERTON, WA. (Iran History & Air Arm) (6 March 1978 to 8 February 1979)

CHAPTER XXXVI ONBOARD CORAL SEA (CV-43) AT NAS ALAMEDA, CA. (9 February to 12 November 1979)

CHAPTER XXXVII THIRTEENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT AND FIRST INDIAN & ARABIAN SEA DEPLOYMENT - LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS & CARQUALS - OPERATION EAGLE CLAW - U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (Iran History & Air Arm) Iranian revolution & [Iran hostage crisis](#) - Cheju-Do Islands in the Sea of Japan on the way home via Korea (13 November 1979 to 11 June 1981)

CHAPTER XXXVIII ONBOARD CORAL SEA (CV-43) AT NAS Alameda, Ca. (11 June 1980 to 1 August 1981)

CHAPTER XXXIX U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN & ARABIAN SEA – (Iran History & Air Arm – [Iran hostage crisis](#) - Iraq and Iran War) (12 June 1980 to 30 August 1981)

- CHAPTER XL REINLISTED AND STATIONED AT NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE CORONADO, SAN DIEGO, CA., NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS SCHOOL AND NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING DEPARTMENT (NSWTD OR (BUDS/SEALS) (August 1981 to February 1983)**
- CHAPTER XLI FOURTEENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT - U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (Iran History & Air Arm - Iraq and Iran War) (20 August 1981 to 22 March 1983)**
- CHAPTER XLII FIFTHTEENTH “WESTPAC” DEPLOYMENT - CVs & CVNs OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA - 15-MONTH COMPLEX OVERHAUL & ALTERATIONS AT NORFOLK NAVY YARD, VA. (Iran History & Air Arm - Iraq and Iran War) (23 March 1983 to 24 May 1985)**
- CHAPTER XLIII TENTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT - CVs & CVNs OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (Exercise Dasix '85, Attain Document I, II & III in the Gulf of Sidra - Libya Air Attacks against Libya (Palestinian Liberation Front hijacked the Italian luxury liner, Achille Lauro – Bomb exploded on board a Trans World Airways flight en route to Athens from Rome, killing four American citizens) Operation Eldorado Canyon (Final Carrier launching of a Navy fleet F-4S Phantom II) (Iran History & Air Arm - Iraq and Iran War) SEA TRIALS AND CARQUALS - SELECTED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AT NORFOLK, VA. - LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS off the [Virginia Capes](#) & Cherry Point, while visiting Halifax, Nova Scotia (1 January 1985 to 18 September 1987)**

- CHAPTER XLIV** **ELEVENTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT - LOCAL TRAINING OPERATIONS off the [Virginia Capes](#) and Cherry Point (October 1988 to March 1989) *USS Enterprise* (CVN-65) responded during Iran 1 April incident in which *USS Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine in international waters (Iraq and Iran War) During Cuba and Panama Canal shakedown cruise (March to May 1989) *USS Coral Sea* (CV-43) responded to a call for assistance from *USS Iowa* (BB-61) operating in the [Caribbean Sea](#) due to an explosion in the battleship's number two gun turret in which 47 crewmembers were killed 19 April 1989 (19 September 1987 to 30 May 1989)**
- CHAPTER XLV** **TWELFTH MEDITERRANEAN SEA DEPLOYMENT - CVs & CVNs OPERATING WITH CORAL SEA (The evacuation of the American embassy in Beirut, Lebanon) (31 May 1989 to 30 Sep 1989)**
- CHAPTER XLVI** **DECOMMISSIONING 26 April 1990 AT NORFOLK, VA., NAVY SHIPYARD, PIER 12 (Sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 7 May 1993 - Scrapping completed as last 80' section is pulled ashore 9 August 2000 (13 April 1990 to 9 August 2000)**
- CHAPTER XLVII** **CORAL SEA DEPLOYMENT AND TOUR OF DUTY DATES (19/01/48 - 30/09/89)**
- CHAPTER XLVIII** **CORAL SEA (CV-43) AWARDS AND CITATION DATES (19/01/48 - 30/09/89)**
- CHAPTER XLIX** **U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER REFERENCES**