

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE THREE ONE  
WINNER - COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE, US ATLANTIC FLEET

Total Energy Saved:

- Energy conservation efforts focused on ground operation efficiencies to minimize fuel consumption during post-landing operations, hot refueling and crew switch. Reduced fuel use techniques during ground operations resulted in greater fuel availability for inflight training. In a single quarter, the squadron saved 33,000 pounds (4,800 gallons) of fuel for training, which would otherwise have been consumed on the ground.
- Energy conservation efforts during flight operations resulted in a fuel burn rate (gallons per flight hour) that was lower in two of the four quarters in FY 2014 than the historical burn rate for all 9 F/A-18 A-D squadrons.
  - o Q1 Burn Rate: 1153      Q1 Historical Burn Rate: 1137
  - o Q2 Burn Rate: 1045      Q2 Historical Burn Rate: 1130
  - o Q3 Burn Rate: 1069      Q3 Historical Burn Rate: 1134
  - o Q4 Burn Rate: 1195      Q4 Historical Burn Rate: 1143

Awareness and Training:

- VFA-131 developed single-engine hot pit refueling and taxi procedures, and provided training to aircrew and ground crew in order to safely initiate the practice.

Innovation:

- VFA-131 realized that single-engine hot pit refueling would save approximately 200 pounds (30 gallons) of fuel per aircraft per refueling operation. Additional savings would also be achieved during post-refueling taxi. These techniques resulted in a 13% cost per flight hour reduction in a single quarter. The F/A-18C operated by VFA-131 has redundant systems and does not require both engines to be operating to safely conduct hot pit operations.