

STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE FOUR  
WINNER - COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE, US PACIFIC FLEET

Total Energy Saved:

- Energy conservation efforts during flight operations resulted in a lower fuel burn rate (gallons per flight hour) than the historical burn rate for all 26 F/A-18 E/F squadrons in two of the four quarters in FY 2014.
  - o Q1 Burn Rate: 1362      Q1 Historical Burn Rate: 1377
  - o Q2 Burn Rate: 1323      Q2 Historical Burn Rate: 1373
  - o Q3 Burn Rate: 1430      Q3 Historical Burn Rate: 1374
  - o Q4 Burn Rate: 1432      Q4 Historical Burn Rate: 1381

Awareness and Training:

- Squadron Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) limit Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) start time to 25 minutes prior to takeoff, which equates to the amount of time required to efficiently initialize aircraft systems while minimizing fuel burn while on deck awaiting takeoff.
- Aircrew fly maximum range and/or endurance flight profiles during transits to and from operational training areas, minimizing fuel consumption during administrative portions of flight.
- Senior aviators train, mentor and execute aggressive fuel conservation techniques to junior aviators, including fuel flow settings, airspeeds, alpha numbers, Flight Path Advisory System (FPAS) utilization and descents using "IDLE" thrust to minimize fuel burn during administrative portions of flight.
- VFA-14 aircrew brief aerial refueling consolidation techniques to relieve airborne tankers of excessive "give" when operating at sea in order to minimize fuel dumping.

Innovation:

- Provided four fuel-savings ideas to the Air ENCON IPT:
  - o Recommendation for a change in the course rules for arrival and departure which allows aircraft to remain at higher altitudes longer, a more fuel efficient flight regime.
  - o Shut down one of the two engines while hot pit refueling.
  - o Military thrust vice afterburner thrust take offs when light loaded on fuel, such as with field carrier landing practice (FCLP's).
  - o Recommendation for increasing the F/A-18E/F max trap landing weight onboard the aircraft carrier from 44,000 pounds to 48,000 pounds, which is equivalent to the EA-18G.