

474 TFW F-111A Unit Plaque Proposal for USAFA SEA Memorial Pavilion

The USAF Academy hosts a number of memorials and displays recognizing the contributors and aircraft that have made significant impacts on the security of our country. One of the most recent and most ambitious of these is the SEA Memorial Pavilion sponsored by the Class of 1970. More information can be found at the following website:

https://www.usafa.org/Heritage/South_East_Asia_Pavilion

In addition to providing a way to remember those USAFA graduates who were lost, this is recognition of the impact of this war on many individuals, our country and the USAF. An important benefit of this facility is to help connect the more recent graduates and cadets to their history and provide inspiration for their service and commitments to the nation.

A section of the memorial is dedicated to the units and aircraft that served in that war.



The 474 TFW Reunion Committee has developed a proposal that a plaque in recognition of the F-111A be added to this site to memorialize the significant leadership and contributions of the aircrew and support team of the Roadrunners. The cost will be approximately \$6,000 for a 21" x 20" bronze plaque. We propose to raise this amount through contributions from our members. A representation of the plaque in its current draft is shown below. Comments and suggestions about this proposal and the draft are welcome and solicited. Please contact either Rick Sine (ricksine1@msn.com) or Roger Peterson (rogerepetersonusafa70@gmail.com) with your input so your thoughts can be incorporated into the proposal. This project will be discussed in more detail and a decision on the way forward will be reached at the business meeting during our reunion on Thursday, Nov. 10th.



General Dynamics



F-111A

The North Vietnamese propaganda broadcasts referred to the F-111A as “Whispering Death” because in many cases, the first awareness that they were under attack was a swift rush of air and then the exploding bombs.

During two deployments to RTAFB Takhli, Thailand, the F-111As of the 474 TFW from Nellis AFB, NV flew over 3600 combat sorties almost exclusively single ship, low level, at night and in bad weather. Combat Lancer in 1968, saw the 428th TFS deploy six aircraft from the development program. Unfortunately three aircraft and four crew members were lost in a short exposure to combat before they were recalled to Nellis AFB, NV. September, 1972 saw the 429 TFS and 430 TFS deployed for Linebacker II. This time the results were much better, but six aircraft and ten crewmembers were lost and two became POWs before the war ended in January, 1973.

Because of the type of missions flown, the cause and location of most of these losses are still unidentified and thus far the remains of only four of the missing crewmen have been identified and returned to the US for burial. No USAFA graduates were lost, but many served with the 474TFW during this period and contributed to the success of the deployments that helped end the SEA conflict.

