

**VMA(AW)-224 BENGALS (USS Coral Sea 1971-72)**

By no means all-inclusive, this chart was primarily compiled from in-theater photographs and is provided to show some of the known loadouts used by the Bengals onboard USS *Coral Sea*. Due to USS *Coral Sea's* age/capabilities, the A-6 was load (weight) restricted. The large Mk.84 2000lb bombs were especially used for bridge strike missions and the Mk.52-2 1000lb naval mine for the North Vietnamese harbor mining operations.

A thermal protective coating was developed and applied to Navy Mk.80 series of bombs later in the war following the shipboard fires that had ravaged several carriers. The thermally protected bombs were designated by two yellow bands to differentiate them from the original (unprotected) bomb that identified with a single yellow band. Both types of bombs were in use on the 1971-72 USS *Coral Sea* cruise; photos show a single MER carrying a mix of both types. (Note that these early thermally protected bombs did not have the external rough coating in use today.)

OUTBOARD	INBOARD	CENTERLINE	INBOARD	OUTBOARD
<b>A-6A</b>				
<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x6	<u>MER</u> - (empty)	FUEL TANK	<u>MER</u> - (empty)	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x6
<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x5 <i>(rear inboard empty)</i>	<u>MER</u> - (empty)	FUEL TANK	<u>MER</u> - (empty)	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x5 <i>(rear inboard empty)</i>
<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x4 <i>(2x outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x3 <i>(1x front outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	FUEL TANK	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 (LD) x3 <i>(1x front outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x4 <i>(2x outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>
<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x5 <i>(rear inboard empty)</i>	AIM-9G/H Sidewinder x1 <i>(on LAU-7 rail)</i>	Mk.84	AIM-9G/H Sidewinder x1 <i>(on LAU-7 rail)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.82 x5 <i>(rear inboard empty)</i>
<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x4 <i>(2x outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x3 <i>(1x front outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	FUEL TANK	<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x3 <i>(1x front outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x4 <i>(2x outboard &amp; 2x lower)</i>
<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x6*	AIM-9G/H Sidewinder x1* <i>(on LAU-7 rail)</i>	FUEL TANK*	AIM-9G/H Sidewinder x1* <i>(on LAU-7 rail)</i>	<u>MER</u> - Mk.20 Rockeye x6*
Mk.84	Mk.84	FUEL TANK	Mk.84	Mk.84
Mk.52	Mk.52	FUEL TANK	Mk.52	Mk.52

\* Presumed load configuration based on CAPT Charlie Carr's statement from May 1972 MiG encounter.

<b>A-6B</b>				
AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	FUEL TANK	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>
FUEL TANK	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	- empty -	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	FUEL TANK
- empty -	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	FUEL TANK	AGM-78 <i>(on LAU-77 rail)</i>	- empty -
<b>KA-6D</b>				
FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK
FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK	<u>MER</u> - (empty)	FUEL TANK	FUEL TANK