

# Attack Squadron Histories (VA)

## VA-1E to VA-873

### VA-1E

#### Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron FORTY ONE (VT-41) on 26 March 1945.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE E (VA-1E) on 15 November 1946.

Disestablished on 1 September 1948. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-1E.

#### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VT-41's insignia was approved by CNO on 18 July 1945. The insignia depicted the multi-armament capability of the squadron's aircraft. Colors for the insignia were: light blue background with white cloud outlined in black; yellow torpedo with black markings; the machine gun and rockets were gray with black markings and the bomb was black; the shell and mouth of the turtle were green, while the arms, legs, neck and upper face were orange; the flight helmet and lower shell of the turtle were brown and the goggles were black. The outer circle of the insignia was outlined in black.



*Squadron insignia approved for use by VT-41.*

After VT-41 was redesignated VA-1E, the squadron apparently continued to use its original insignia. There is no record of approval for a VA-1E insignia.

Nickname: unknown.

#### Chronology of Significant Events

**1 Mar 1946:** Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet designated the primary mission of VA-1E as antisubmarine warfare (ASW).

**4 Dec 1946:** Escort Carrier Air Group 1 (CVEG-1) was assigned to *Badoeng Strait* (CVE 116) with VA-1E as part of this Hunter-Killer ASW team.

**1947-1948:** Squadron conducted Hunter-Killer ASW operations intermittently from *Badoeng Strait* (CVE 116) in the western Pacific off the coast of California.

#### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Seattle	26 Mar 1945
NAS Pasco	15 Apr 1945
NAS Seattle	04 Jul 1945
NAAS Arlington	10 Jul 1945
MCAAF Gillespie	01 Aug 1945
NAS San Diego	19 Sep 1945

#### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LT Joseph P. Keigher (acting)	26 Mar 1945
LT Charles A. Collins	29 Apr 1945
LCDR Kent M. Cushman	14 Sep 1946
LCDR Harold A. Robinson	24 Nov 1947

#### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM-1/1C	26 Mar 1945
TBM-3	26 Mar 1945
TBF-1	Apr 1945
TBF-1C/P	May 1945
TBM-3E	May 1945
TBM-3S	1948

#### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVEG-41/CVEG-1*	BS	26 Mar 1945

\* CVEG-41 was redesignated CVEG-1 on 15 November 1946.



*A squadron TBM-3S Avenger in flight, June 1950 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

## VA-1L

### *Lineage*

Established as Torpedo Squadron FIFTY EIGHT (VT-58) on 19 March 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE L (VA-1L) on 15 November 1946.

Disestablished on 20 November 1948. The Navy's first and only squadron to be designated VA-1L.

### *Squadron Insignia and Nickname*

CNO approved an insignia for VT-58 on 1 July 1946.



*Insignia approved for use by VT-58.*

The insignia represents the squadron's multimission, day-and-night carrier operational capabilities. Insignia colors were: a red background outlined in black; the aircraft and ship were black with white markings; lightning bolts were silver; lettering was yellow with black outlines; upper half of

the day circle was light blue and lower half was dark blue; the sun, moon and stars were yellow; and the night circle was dark blue on top and black on the bottom.

There is no record of approval for a VA-1L insignia. Nickname: unknown.

### *Chronology of Significant Events*

**Mar 1946:** The squadron's mission, when established, was to work with the Operational Development Force United States Fleet (COMOPDEVFOR). That organization's duties included the operational test and evaluation of new weapons, equipment and methods for use by the fleet; reporting the results; and recommending required training, operating procedures and tactical doctrine. To accomplish this mission, the squadron operated three different types of aircraft, the F6F-5N, SB2C-5 and TBM-3, giving them a day and night capability.

**13 Dec 1946:** The squadron's F6F-5Ns were transferred to VF-1L; thereafter, VA-1L operated only the SB2Cs and TBMs.

**4 Mar 1947:** When the squadron received the TBM-3W aircraft, it also received qualified personnel to support and operate the airborne early warning (AEW) TBMs.

**4 Apr-5 May 1947:** The squadron operated aboard *Saipan* (CVL 48) during her shakedown cruise in the Caribbean.

**Feb 1948:** Squadron aircraft participated in a fly-over during the inauguration ceremonies in Caracas, Venezuela, for President-elect Romulo Gallegos.

**20 Nov 1948:** When VA-1L was disestablished, elements of this squadron, as well as elements from VF-1L and Light Carrier Air Group 1 (CVLG-1), were combined to form Aircraft Development Squadron 3 (VX-3).

### *Home Port Assignments*

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Fentress	19 Mar 1946
NAS Atlantic City	19 Jun 1946

### *Commanding Officers*

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Dean S. Laird (acting)	19 Mar 1946
LCDR Samuel G. Parsons	29 Apr 1946
LCDR John W. Shong	20 Aug 1946
LCDR Laurence W. Abbott, Jr.	13 Jun 1948

### *Aircraft Assignment*

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F-5N	May 1946
SB2C-5	May 1946
TBM-3/3E	May 1946
TBM-3N	Dec 1946
TBM-3W	04 Mar 1947
XBT2D-1	Jan 1948
AD-2	19 Oct 1948



*A squadron TBM Avenger catches the wire aboard Saipan (CVL 48) (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
07 Feb 1948	24 Feb 1948	CVLG-1	CVL 48	TBM-3N/E	Carib

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVLG-58/CVLG-1*	SA	19 Mar 1946

---

\* CVLG-58 was redesignated CVLG-1 on 15 November 1946.

## VA-12

### Lineage

Established as Bomber-Fighter Squadron FOUR (VBF-4) on 12 May 1945.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron TWO A (VF-2A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron TWELVE (VF-12) on 2 August 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWELVE (VA-12) on 1 August 1955, the first squadron to be assigned the VA-12 designation.

Disestablished on 1 October 1986.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 19 December 1945. Insignia colors were as follows:



*The squadron's first approved insignia used by VBF-4.*

crimson circular background; four of spades on white background with black markings; black bomb with white eyes, mouth, arms and other white markings; brown gloves; gold wings; and pink fire on the bomb fuse.

There are no records indicating VF-2A changed the VBF-4 insignia following redesignation. In 1949, almost a year after VF-2A was redesignated VF-12, the squadron requested approval for a new insignia. CNO approved VF-12's new insignia on 29 September 1949. The theme of the new insignia, "Kiss of Death," was well illustrated: black background; white skull and letters; red lips; and the inner circle and squadron designation was outlined in red.

When VF-12 was redesignated VA-12, the squadron continued to use the "Kiss of Death" insignia. It became a well-known insignia and was used by the squadron until its disestablishment in 1986.

Nickname: Ubangis, Date unknown-1982

Clinchers, 1982-1986

### Chronology of Significant Events

**5 Oct 1945:** The squadron participated in an aerial parade over Washington, D.C., in honor of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. It also engaged in several other air parades and exhibition flights during the month of October.

**6 Oct 1945:** VBF-4's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Lackey, was killed during a training flight in an SNJ.

**21 Aug-19 Sep and Nov-Dec 1946:** The squadron



*The squadron's second insignia, the "Kiss of Death" design, was approved for squadron use in 1949.*

operated ashore at Kobler Field, Saipan. Conducted training and preparations for special fleet exercises while shore based.

**26 Apr 1952:** The squadron was embarked in *Wasp* (CV 18) en route to the Mediterranean when the carrier collided with the *Hobson* (DMS 26) which sank along with

her 176 men. There were no injuries to squadron personnel. The squadron's F2H-2s remained aboard until *Wasp* entered dry dock at New York to repair her catapults which were damaged in the collision.

**19 Aug 1953:** While operating from *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42) in the Mediterranean Sea, the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Breen, was lost at sea.

**Feb 1955:** VA-12 supported the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist civilians and military personnel from the Tachen Islands which were being bombarded by the People's Republic of China.

**1 Aug 1955:** With the redesignation of VF-12 to VA-12 and the acquisition of a new type of aircraft in December 1955, the F7U Cutlass, the squadron's mission changed from jet intercept to special weapons attack.

**14-27 Nov 1960:** VA-12, embarked in *Shangri-La* (CVA 38), was part of the task force ordered to the coast of Central America to counter the infiltration of Cubans into Guatemala and Nicaragua.

**21-27 Nov 1961:** VA-12, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, operated off the coast of the Dominican Republic to support the newly established democratic government.

**Apr 1962:** VA-12 was selected by CNO to conduct "Operation Trap," a test firing of Bullpup missiles to evaluate their usefulness to the Navy. The test firings took place while the squadron was based at their home port of NAS Cecil Field.

**Jul-Aug 1963:** A-4C detachments from the squadron operated aboard *Essex* (CVS 9) and *Intrepid* (CVS 11) as fighter support for antisubmarine exercises. These operations were also used to help develop and evaluate ASW tactics and doctrine.

**8-29 Aug 1964:** *Franklin D. Roosevelt* and her air wing were ordered to operate in the vicinity of Cyprus after fighting escalated between Turkish and Greek forces on the island.

**Aug 1966:** VA-12 flew its first combat sortie since its establishment 21 years earlier. The squadron completed its Vietnam deployment in December 1966 without sustaining any combat damage to its aircraft.

12 Nov 1966: VA-12's commanding officer, Commander Robert C. Frosio, was lost at sea during flight operations from *Franklin D. Roosevelt*.

14 Dec 1966: Commander Barnett, commanding officer of VA-12, led a 42-plane strike against a heavily defended target in North Vietnam and for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

Oct-Dec 1973: *Independence* (CV 62) and VA-12 took station southeast of Crete after the outbreak of war between Israel, Egypt and Syria on 6 October 1973. During this period of operations the squadron conducted surveillance flights against a large Soviet fleet that had sortied from the Black Sea.

Aug 1974: As a result of the crisis on Cyprus, *Independence*, with VA-12 aboard, was stationed off the coast of Crete. Tensions increased significantly on 19 August when the American Ambassador to Cyprus, Roger Davies, was killed by a Cypriot mob. The squadron prepared for possible assistance in the evacuation of American nationals. It flew surveillance of Greek, Turkish and Soviet naval and merchant activity in the area.

7 Sep 1974: The squadron participated in the search for victims of a TWA airliner crash in the Ionian Sea. No survivors were located.

15 Apr 1980: VA-12 deployed aboard *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) to the Indian Ocean in response to the Iran-American Embassy hostage situation. The squadron was at sea for 254 days with only one port call during the entire eight and one-half month deployment.

Jun, Aug and Sep 1983: VA-12 operated from *Dwight D. Eisenhower* while on station off the coast of Lebanon. The squadron flew in support of the multinational peacekeeping force stationed in Beirut.

23 Oct 1983: *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and her air wing returned to the coast of Beirut after 241 Marines died in a terrorist-suicide attack there.

1 Oct 1986: VA-12 was disestablished, bringing to a close the long history of the squadron and its motto "Kiss of Death."

**Home Port Assignment**

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	12 May 1945
NAAS Watsonville	21 May 1945
NAS Wildwood	09 Jul 1945
NAAS Groton	09 Sep 1945
NAS Norfolk	18 Jan 1946
NAS San Diego (North Island)	15 Jul 1946
NAS Norfolk	21 Feb 1949
NAAS Cecil Field	25 Feb 1949
NAS Jacksonville	24 Mar 1950
NAAS Cecil Field	25 Mar 1951
NAS Jacksonville	07 Oct 1951
NAAS Cecil Field	28 Feb 1952
NAS Jacksonville	16 May 1952
NAS Cecil Field	13 Oct 1952

**Commanding Officers**

	Date Assumed Command
LTJG Joseph F. Simpson (acting)	12 May 1945
LTJG John S. Tyler (acting)	15 May 1945
LCDR John H. Lackey	19 May 1945
LCDR William L. Conley	06 Oct 1945
LCDR Richard H. Guinn	21 Jun 1947
LCDR W. H. Kilgore (acting)	07 May 1948
LCDR Ronald W. Hoel	02 Jul 1948
LCDR Albert W. Newhall, Jr.	03 May 1949
CDR Brainard T. Macomber	29 Jun 1950
LCDR John L. Carter	02 Nov 1951
LCDR John M. Breen	15 Dec 1952
LCDR Hamilton McWhorter	19 Aug 1953
CDR Frederick G. Kidd	Oct 1954
CDR Paul H. Durand	Aug 1955
CDR Marshall P. Deputy, Jr.	Jan 1957
CDR Charles A. Pendleton, Jr.	10 Jan 1958
CDR William B. Barrow	22 Jan 1959
CDR Richard J. Deprez	Mar 1960
CDR John E. Hansen	18 Jun 1961
CDR Robert E. Oechslin	14 Jun 1962
CDR Max E. Malan	14 Jun 1963
CDR Burton E. Berglund	15 Jun 1964
CDR James D. Whyte	30 Apr 1965
CDR Robert C. Frosio	Apr 1966
CDR Gerald P. Barnett	18 Nov 1966
CDR Austin C. O'Brien, Jr.	21 Nov 1967
CDR Richard M. Fletcher	Nov 1968
CDR Walter R. Petersen	30 Sep 1969
CDR Daniel H. L. Gholson	10 Jul 1970
LCDR Henry E. Nelson	16 Jun 1971
CDR Anthony A. Less	30 Jun 1972
CDR John F. Calhoun	Oct 1973
CDR James M. Hickerson	1975
CDR Gary W. Mau	14 Feb 1976
CDR David R. Edwards	10 May 1977
CDR Richard B. Curtis	26 Jul 1978
CDR Robert A. Maier	01 Nov 1979
CDR Audrey B. Whitten	26 Feb 1981
CDR James M. Gill	19 May 1982
CDR Michael W. Samuels	01 Oct 1983
CDR Harry M. Conner	21 May 1985

**Aircraft Assignment**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F6F	23 May 1945
F4U-1/1D and FG-1/1D	23 May 1945
F4U-4	30 Sep 1945
F8F-1/1B	May 1947
F6F-5P	May 1947

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F2H-1	01 Sep 1950
F2H-2	Dec 1950
F7U-3	Dec 1955
A4D-1	Apr 1957
A4D-2	Jan 1958
A4D-2N (A-4C)*	08 Jan 1962
A-4E	08 Mar 1965
A-4C	09 Mar 1967
A-7E	01 Apr 1971

\*In 1962, the Navy's aircraft designation system was changed and the A4D-2N was redesignated the A-4C Skyhawk.



*A flight of squadron F4U-4s deployed aboard Tarawa (CV 40) operating from Naval Air Base Kobler, Saipan, in August 1946.*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Jun 1946	15 Jul 1946	CVG-4	CV 40	F4U-4	Transit to West Coast via Panama Canal
01 Aug 1946	29 Apr 1947	CVG-4/CVAG-1	CV 40	F4U-4	WestPac
01 Oct 1948	21 Feb 1949	CVG-1	CV 40	F8F-1	World Cruise
20 Mar 1951	06 Oct 1951	CVG-1	CVB 43	F2H-2	Med
24 May 1952	11 Oct 1952	CVG-1	CV 18	F2H-2	Med/NorLant
11 Jun 1953	03 Dec 1953	CVG-1	CVA 42	F2H-2	Med
27 Dec 1954	14 Jul 1955	CVG-1	CVA 41	F2H-2	World Cruise
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-10	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
06 Sep 1960	20 Oct 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2	NorLant
14 Nov 1960	27 Nov 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2	Carib
15 Feb 1961	28 Aug 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med



*The squadron's F2H Banshee, second from left, in formation with other aircraft from Air Group 1.*

**Major Overseas Deployments—Continued**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
19 Nov 1961	30 Nov 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Carib
14 Sep 1962	22 Apr 1963	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2N	Med
28 Apr 1964	22 Dec 1964	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
28 Jun 1965	17 Dec 1965	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4E	Med
21 Jun 1966	21 Feb 1967	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
24 Aug 1967	19 May 1968	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
07 Jan 1969	29 Jul 1969	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Mar 1970	17 Dec 1970	CVW-8	CVS 38	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Sep 1971	16 Mar 1972	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-7E	NorLant/Med
21 Jun 1973	19 Jan 1974	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-7E	Med
19 Jul 1974	21 Jan 1975	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	Med
15 Oct 1975	05 May 1976	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	NorLant/Med
31 Mar 1977	21 Oct 1977	CVW-7	CV 62	A-7E	Med
16 Jan 1979	13 Jul 1979	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
15 Apr 1980	22 Dec 1980	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	IO
20 Aug 1981	07 Oct 1981	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	NorLant
05 Jan 1982	13 Jul 1982	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
27 Apr 1983	02 Dec 1983	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
08 May 1984	20 Jun 1984	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	NorLant
10 Oct 1984	08 May 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-4/CVAG-1/CVG-1*	T†	12 May 1945
CVG-10	AK	20 Jan 1958
CVG-1/CVW-1‡	AB	05 Dec 1960
CVW-8	AJ	25 Aug 1968
CVW-7	AG	1971

\* CVG-4 was redesignated CVAG-1 on 15 November 1946 and CVG-1 on 1 September 1948.

† CVG-4 assigned the tail code T when it was assigned to the carrier *Tarawa* (CV 40) in January 1946.

‡ Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-1 became CVW-1.



*A couple of squadron A-4Cs with markings from their deployment aboard Shangri-La with Air Group 8.*



*A squadron F7U-3 Cutlass, circa 1956 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1964	30 Jun 1965
AFEM	06 Jun 1983	14 Jun 1983
	27 Jul 1983	30 Aug 1983
	01 Sep 1983	19 Oct 1983
	27 Oct 1983	20 Nov 1983
	11 Apr 1970	06 Nov 1970
MUC	29 Apr 1980	16 Jul 1980
	22 Jul 1980	08 Dec 1980
	25 May 1983	27 May 1983

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	29 Apr 1980	10 Dec 1980
	21 Jul 1983	20 Nov 1983
VNSM	30 Jul 1966	
	09 Aug 1966	12 Sep 1966
	01 Oct 1966	03 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	14 Nov 1966
	24 Nov 1966	28 Dec 1966
	20 Jan 1967	21 Jan 1967

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	10 Apr 1970	02 May 1970
	12 May 1970	29 May 1970
	13 Jun 1970	04 Jul 1970
	28 Jul 1970	19 Aug 1970
	30 Aug 1970	30 Sep 1970
	20 Oct 1970	07 Nov 1970
RVNGC	21 Oct 1966	



*A flight of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in their low-visibility paint scheme.*



## VA-15

### Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron FOUR (VT-4) on 10 January 1942.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWO A (VA-2A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FIFTEEN (VA-15) on 2 August 1948.

Disestablished on 1 June 1969. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-15 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by BuAer on 22 April 1942. The theme of the insignia was VT-4 sweeps the seas. The lion represented the



The squadron's first insignia was approved for VT-4 by the Bureau of Aeronautics.

TBD-1 Devastator, and the six teeth were for the number of Devastators assigned to it. Colors in the insignia were as follows: circular outline in black; background white; the sea a deep blue with pale blue marks, torpedo pearl gray with black outline and marks; lion other outlined in black with black markings; white eyes outlined in black with black pupils; nose black; teeth white, lips and mouth red; and the broom was lemon yellow outlined in black with red dashes on lower part of broom.

There is no record of VA-2A's changing the insignia following its redesignation from VT-4. Three years

after the squadron was redesignated, VA-15 requested a modification to the old VT-4 insignia. On 19 September 1951, CNO approved the modification. The lion was retained to represent the strong attack capabilities of the squadron and the torpedo was replaced by a missile. The background color of the upper half of the insignia was red



In 1951, a modification to the squadron's original lion insignia was approved.

to represent the flames of past targets, and the lower half was blue to indicate water and the squadron's carrier-based capabilities. Other insignia colors included a

white circular border; lion in gold with brown markings; and the missile and ripples in the water white. This insignia remained with VA-15 until it was disestablished in 1969.

Nickname: Valions, mid-1950s–1969

### Chronology of Significant Events

**10 Jan 1942:** Torpedo Squadron FOUR (VT-4) was established aboard *Ranger* (CV 4) while the ship was in port at Grassy Bay, Bermuda.



A squadron TBD-1 launches from *Ranger* (CV 4) sometime in early 1942.

**8 Aug 1943:** *Ranger*, with VT-4 aboard, met the convoy with the liner *Queen Mary*, which was bringing Winston Churchill to North America for the Quebec Conference.

**Aug–Nov 1943:** VT-4, while deployed aboard *Ranger*, operated as part of the British Home Fleet.

**4 Oct 1943:** The squadron participated in Operation Leader and struck at shipping targets around Kunna

Head, Norway, while other elements of CVG-4 struck targets at Bodo, Norway. The squadron's TBF-1 Avengers, along with its escort of F4F Wildcats, destroyed a German freighter and a small coaster and damaged a troop transport.



Squadron TBFs attack a German coaster off the coast of Norway in October 1943.

**Oct 1943:** VT-4, flying from *Ranger*, operated with the British Second Battle Squadron and patrolled the waters of the Norwegian Sea.

**1 May 1944:** CVG-4 reformed as a spare air group with a composition that was designed to include 36 fighter aircraft (F6F), 36 scout-bomber aircraft (SB2C) and 18 torpedo aircraft (TBF/TBM). This air group

composition was organized to operate from the large deck carriers of the *Essex* class. Squadrons in CVG-4 included VT-4, VF-4 and VB-4. This change also brought an end to Air Group FOUR's operations aboard *Ranger*.

**Jul 1944:** VT-4 and CVG-4 transferred from Atlantic to Pacific Fleet.

**15-21 Jul 1944:** VT-4 aboard *Barnes* (CVE 20) en route to Pearl Harbor from San Diego.

**21 Sep 1944:** During a pre-dawn sortie involving simulated torpedo tactics, three of the squadron's aircraft collided with each other, resulting in the loss of nine personnel, including the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Homer H. Hutcheson.

**4-17 Nov 1944:** CVG-4 and VT-4 were temporarily embarked on *Bunker Hill* (CV 17) for operations in support of landings at Leyte. The squadron participated in combat strikes at Ormoc Bay, Cavite and Clark Field.

**Dec 1944:** The squadron participated in combat operations in support of landings on Mindoro.

**Jan 1945:** While operating from *Essex* (CV 9), the squadron struck targets on Formosa, Luzon, Hainan and the Ryukyu Island chain as well as in French Indochina (Vietnam). Operations in Vietnam were around Saigon and Camranh Bay. These operations were in support of the continued assault against the Japanese in the Philippines.

**16 Feb 1945:** The squadron conducted its first strikes against the home islands of Japan, hitting Mawatari airfield on Honshu. Other strikes against targets on Honshu were conducted on 17 and 25 February.

**19-22 Feb 1945:** CVG-4 provided support for landings on Iwo Jima.

**1 Mar 1945:** The airfield, facilities and shipping at Naha, Okinawa, were hit by squadron aircraft.

**4 Mar 1945:** VT-4 disembarked from *Essex* at Ulithi completing the squadron's last combat cruise during World War II.

**9-23 Mar 1945:** CVG-4 aboard *Long Island* (CVE 1) for passage from Ulithi to Pearl Harbor. VT-4 eventually returned to the States in April 1945 for reforming following its combat cruise.

**15 Feb-15 Apr 1946:** VT-4 along with other squadrons in CVG-4, participated in *Tarawa's* (CV 40) shakedown cruise in the Caribbean Sea following the ship's commissioning in December 1945.

**Nov 1946:** Some squadron aircraft were fitted with sonobuoy gear and personnel were trained in antisubmarine missions as well as their normal torpedo-attack requirements.

**22 May 1950:** VA-15, along with the other squadrons in CVG-1, were designated as training squadrons and CVG-1 as a training air group. The squadron's primary mission was the training of fleet pilots in attack aircraft. VA-15's training syllabus emphasized glide

bombing, dive-bombing, rocket firing, day-and-night tactics and carrier qualifications in the AD Skyraider.

**13-23 Sep 1952:** VA-15, while deployed aboard *Wasp* (CVA 18), participated in the first NATO naval operation, Operation Mainbrace, conducted in the North Atlantic.

**Feb 1955:** While deployed aboard *Midway* (CVA 41), the squadron supported the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist civilians and military personnel from the Tachen Islands which were being bombarded by the People's Republic of China.

**Nov-Dec 1956:** As a result of the Suez Crisis, VA-15 deployed aboard *Forrestal* (CVA 59) and operated in the vicinity of the Azores.

**12 Sep 1958:** VA-15 was assigned the additional mission of in-flight refueling (Buddy Stores).

**14-28 Nov 1960:** VA-15, temporarily assigned to CVG-10, deployed aboard *Shangri-La* (CVA 38) to the Caribbean Sea to guard against possible infiltration into Guatemala and Nicaragua by insurgent organizations that were believed to have ties to Cuba.

**21-27 Nov 1961:** VA-15, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), operated off the coast of the Dominican Republic to support the newly established democratic government.

**Mar-Apr 1962:** VA-15 deployed aboard *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) to the Caribbean and participated in the shakedown cruise of the world's first nuclear powered carrier.

**Aug 1965:** VA-15 began training under VA-44 for transition to the A-4 Skyhawk.

**4 Apr-21 Nov 1966:** VA-15 deployed to Vietnam as a component of CVW-10 embarked on *Intrepid* (CVS 11). CVW-10 was an all-attack air wing comprised of four attack squadrons, two squadrons flying A-4 Skyhawks and two squadrons with A-1 Skyraiders.

**15 May 1966:** The squadron flew its first combat mission since March 1945 when it was designated VT-4 and a member of Carrier Air Group 4.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Norfolk	Mar 1942
NAS Quonset Point	Apr 1942
NAAF Ayer (Fort Devens)	May 1944
NAS Pearl Harbor	Jul 1944
NAS Hilo Field	Aug 1944
NAS Alameda	Apr 1945
NAAS Watsonville	21 May 1945
NAS Quonset Point	11 Jul 1945
NAAF Groton	Aug 1945
NAS Norfolk	Apr 1946
NAS San Diego	15 Jul 1946
NAAS Cecil Field	21 Mar 1949
NAS Jacksonville	09 Jan 1950
NAAS Cecil Field (NAS)*	29 Feb 1952

**Home Port Assignments—Continued**

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Jacksonville	Jul 1957
NAS Oceana	Apr 1965
NAS Cecil Field	Aug 1965

\* Naval Air Auxiliary Station, Cecil Field (NAAS Cecil Field), was redesignated Naval Air Station, Cecil Field (NAS), on 30 June 1952.

**Commanding Officers**

	Date Assumed Command
LT Wallace A. Sherrill	10 Jan 1942
LCDR David W. Taylor, Jr.	Dec 1942
LCDR Homer H. Hutcheson	Dec 1943
LT P. J. Davis, Jr.	Sep 1944
LT John Warren (acting)	12 May 1945
LT Frederic Viewig, Jr. (acting)	23 May 1945
LCDR J. P. Barron	26 Sep 1945
LCDR John A. Camera	Jul 1946
CDR Charles E. Roemer	07 Jul 1947
LCDR Robert A. Newcomb (acting)	29 May 1948
CDR Paul C. Lovelace	30 Aug 1948
LCDR Clay A. Mitchell (acting)	03 Jun 1950
LCDR John E. Lacouture	12 Jul 1950
LCDR Roy M. Isaman	21 Dec 1951
LCDR W. R. Prescott	05 Jan 1953
CDR John B. Bain	Jan 1954
CDR L. B. Jennings	24 Aug 1955
LCDR William J. Gray	10 Dec 1957
CDR J. Patterson, Jr.	18 Sep 1959

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Ted L. Farrell	30 Nov 1960
CDR David L. Munns	06 Nov 1961
CDR Joseph L. Coleman	26 Nov 1962
CDR R. G. Bowerman	04 Oct 1963
CDR Steven D. Marvin	01 Apr 1964
CDR Jack L. Gracey	12 Aug 1965
CDR Isaac F. Jones, Jr.	27 Sep 1966
CDR William K. Carr (acting)	29 Jan 1967
CDR William K. Carr	10 Feb 1967
CDR James M. Snyder	14 Feb 1968
CDR Richard G. Daly	15 Feb 1969

**Aircraft Assignment**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBD-1	Jan 1942
TBF-1	Aug 1942
TBF-1C/TBM-1C	Jan 1944
TBM-3	Jan 1945
TBM-3E	May 1945
TBM-3Q	1946
AD-4	19 Aug 1949
AD-4L	08 Mar 1951
AD-6/A-1H*	May 1954
A-4B	Dec 1965
A-4C	Dec 1966

\* AD-6 designation changed in 1962 to A-1H.



*It is believed that this photo of the squadron's AD-6 Skyraiders was taken in 1962 when they operated aboard Enterprise (CVAN 65) during its shakedown cruise in the Caribbean. The squadron never made an overseas deployment aboard Enterprise.*

**Major Overseas Deployment**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
10 Jan 1942	19 Mar 1942	<i>Ranger</i> Air Group	CV 4	TBD-1	Bermuda
02 Jun 1942	22 Jun 1942	<i>Ranger</i> Air Group	CV 4	TBD-1	Newfoundland
08 Jan 1943	30 Jan 1943	*	CV 4	TBF-1	Morocco
13 Feb 1943	06 Mar 1943	*	CV 4	TBF-1	Morocco
23 Mar 1943	27 Jul 1943	CVG-4	CV 4†	TBF-1	Newfoundland
05 Aug 1943	03 Dec 1943	CVG-4	CV 4	TBF-1	NorLant/ Norwegian Sea
05 Nov 1944	17 Nov 1944	CVG-4	CV 17	TBM-1C	Philippines
22 Nov 1944	02 Dec 1944	CVG-4	CV 9	TBM-1C	Philippines
11 Dec 1944	24 Dec 1944	CVG-4	CV 9	TBM-1C	Philippines
30 Dec 1944	26 Jan 1945	CVG-4	CV 9	TBM-1C/3	South China Sea/ Philippines/ Formosa/Okinawa
10 Feb 1945	04 Mar 1945	CVG-4	CV 9	TBM-3	Japan/Iwo Jima/ Okinawa
28 Jun 1946	15 Jul 1946	CVG-4	CV 40	TBM-3E/Q	Transit to West Coast via Panama Canal
01 Aug 1946	29 Apr 1947	CVG-4/CVAG-1	CV 40	TBM-3E/Q	WestPac
01 Oct 1948	23 Dec 1948	CVG-13	CV 37	TBM-3E	WestPac
20 Mar 1951	06 Oct 1951	CVG-1	CVB 43	AD-4/L	Med
24 May 1952	11 Oct 1952	CVG-1	CVA 18	AD-4/L	Med/NorLant
11 Jun 1953	03 Dec 1953	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-4/B/L	Med
27 Dec 1954	14 Jul 1955	CVG-1	CVA 41	AD-6	World Cruise
07 Nov 1956	12 Dec 1956	CVG-1	CVA 59	AD-6	Azores
15 Jan 1957	22 Jul 1957	CVG-1	CVA 59	AD-6	Med
16 Aug 1957	21 Oct 1957	CVG-1	CVA 59	AD-6	NorLant
13 Feb 1959	01 Sep 1959	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-6	Med
28 Jan 1960	24 Aug 1960	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-6	Med
14 Nov 1960	28 Nov 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	AD-6	Carib
15 Feb 1961	28 Aug 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-6	Med
19 Nov 1961	30 Nov 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-6	Carib
14 Sep 1962	22 Apr 1963	CVG-1	CVA 42	AD-6	Med
28 Apr 1964	22 Dec 1964	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-1H	Med
04 Apr 1966	21 Nov 1966	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-4B	Med/IO/WestPac/ Vietnam
11 May 1967	30 Dec 1967	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-4C	Med/IO/WestPac/ Vietnam
22 Jul 1968	29 Apr 1969	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-4C	Med

\* Half of VT-4's aircraft were aboard for this cruise which ferried Army P-40 fighters to Morocco. There were no other squadrons from *Ranger's* Air Group aboard for this cruise.

† *Ranger* returned to Boston during late March for four days of repairs and then back to Newfoundland for operations.

**Air Wing Assignments**

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
Ranger Air Group/ CVG-4/CVAG-1/CVG-1*	T†	10 Jan 1942
CVG-13	P	23 Sep 1948
CVG-1/CVW-1§	T/AB‡	23 Feb 1949
RCVW-4/VA-44**		Aug 1965
CVW-10	AK	Jan 1966
CVW-17	AA	16 Jan 1968

\* Ranger Air Group was formed on 1 July 1938. When VT-4 was established on 10 January 1942, it became part of the Ranger Air Group. The Ranger Air Group was redesignated Carrier Air Group FOUR (CVG-4) on 3 August 1943. CVG-4 was redesignated Attack Carrier Air Group ONE (CVAG-1) on 15 November 1946. The CVAG-1 designation was changed to CVG-1 on 1 September 1948.

† This tail code assignment was used beginning in 1946.

‡ Carrier Air Group 1's tail code was changed from T to AB in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

§ Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963; hence, CVG-1 became CVW-1.

\*\* During VA-15's transition to the A-4 Skyhawk, the squadron was assigned to VA-44, a Fleet Readiness Training Squadron, for operational training. VA-44 was assigned to Readiness Attack Carrier Air Wing FOUR (RCVW-4).

**Unit Awards Received**

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
NAVE	1953	
NUC RVNGC	01 Jul 1960	30 Jun 1961
	01 Jul 1961	30 Jun 1962
	12 Jun 1967	08 Dec 1967
	01 May 1966	01 Oct 1966
	21 Jun 1967	13 Jul 1967
	29 Jul 1967	27 Aug 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
	14 May 1966	15 Jun 1966
	08 Jul 1966	10 Aug 1966
VNSM	01 Sep 1966	23 Sep 1966
	02 Oct 1966	18 Oct 1966
	21 Jun 1967	13 Jul 1967
	29 Jul 1967	27 Aug 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
	11 Nov 1944	25 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
	16 Feb 1945	01 Mar 1945
PUC		
Campaign Medal (European)	02 Oct 1943	06 Oct 1943
	20 Nov 1961	29 Nov 1961
NEM		



A flight of squadron A-4C Skyhawks sport markings from its combat cruise to Vietnam on Intrepid. Notice the bomb silhouettes next to the squadron insignia identifying the number of combat sorties flown by the aircraft. The unofficial "Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club" insignia is on the tail of the planes.

## VA-16

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTEEN (VA-16) on 1 June 1955.

Disestablished on 1 March 1958. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-16.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VA-16's insignia was approved by CNO on 24 July 1956. The squadron's design centered around a black knight symbolizing valor and dedication to duty. The background was divided into two fields of gold and gray to signify vigilance both day and night. A blue border surrounded the insignia. VA-16's motto was "Per Aspera Ad Metam" (through adversities to the target). There is no copy of the insignia in the squadron's file.

Nickname: unknown

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Jun 1955:** The squadron was established with a mission of all-weather attack, including special (nuclear) weapons delivery.

### Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
21 Jan 1957	27 Jul 1957	ATG-182	CVA 39	AD-6	Med

### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
ATG-182*	O/AN†	01 Jun 1955

\* Air Task Group ONE EIGHTY TWO (ATG-182). Air Task Groups were non-established Carrier Air Group equivalents created for the first time during the Korean War when the requirement for such units exceeded the statutory limit on their number. They were composed of squadrons withdrawn from existing air groups, which had been determined to operate more effectively with four instead of a larger number of assigned squadrons. ATG-182 was organized in 1955 and remained in existence until 1959.

† Air Task Group 182's tail code was changed from O to AN in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

**Apr 1957:** VA-16, while deployed to the Mediterranean aboard *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39), operated off the coast of Lebanon during the Jordanian crisis.

**18 Dec 1957:** VA-16 conducted the first air-to-air refueling by an operational AD Skyraider squadron using the "buddy store." The refueling took place over NAS Oceana and the squadron's AD-6 refueled an F9F-8.

**9 Jan 1958:** The squadron conducted the first carrier-based AD Skyraider in-flight refueling while operating from *Ranger* (CVA 61).

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Oceana	01 Jun 1955

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Bartholomew J. Connolly III	Aug 1955
CDR Richard W. Willis	Jul 1957

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
AD-6	Jun 1955



The squadron's AD-6 Skyraiders are spotted on the flight deck aft of the rear centerline elevator. This photo was taken in June 1957 when *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39) was at anchor in Cannes, France.

## VA-21A

### Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron NINETY EIGHT (VB-98) on 28 August 1944.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY ONE A (VA-21A) on 15 November 1946.

Disestablished on 5 August 1947. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-21A.



The squadron's only officially approved insignia.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record of an approved insignia for VB-98. In 1947, an insignia was approved for VA-21A. However, squadron files do not indicate the colors used in the insignia.

Nickname: unknown

### Chronology of Significant Events

28 Aug 1944: VB-98 was established with the mission of providing a pool of trained dive-bomber pilots and aircrewmembers for assignment as replacements to squadrons operating in the Pacific. The training included carrier landing qualifications, gunnery, bombing and night flying. When VB-98 was redesignated VA-21A, the mission remained the same.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAS Ventura (Oxnard)	28 Aug 1944
NAAS Los Alamitos	25 Nov 1944
NAS San Diego	26 Aug 1946

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR James D. Ramage	05 Sep 1944
LCDR Martin D. Carmody	01 Jun 1946
LCDR Louis L. Bangs	18 Nov 1946
LT Mark T. Essling (acting)	07 Jun 1947
LCDR C. T. Durgin, Jr.	03 Jul 1947

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
SB2C-3	Sep 1944
SBD-6	Sep 1944
SB2C-4	Oct 1944
FM-2	Oct 1944
SBD-5	Nov 1944
SBW-3	Dec 1944
SBW-4E	Mar 1945
SB2C-5	Apr 1945

### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVG-98/CVAG-21*	RI†	28 Aug 1944

\* CVG-98 redesignated CVAG-21 on 15 November 1946.

† Tail code assigned to CVAG-21 on 12 December 1946.



A flight of squadron SB2C-3 Helldivers, September 1944.

## VA-22A

### *Lineage*

Established as Torpedo Squadron NINETY EIGHT (VT-98) on 28 August 1944.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY TWO A (VA-22A) on 15 November 1946.

Disestablished on 5 August 1947. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-22A.



*The time frame for the squadron's use of this insignia is unknown.*

### **Squadron Insignia and Nickname**

There is no record of an approval date for VT-98's insignia. The motto of the squadron was "Parati—in Pace-Aut Bello" (Prepared—in Peace or War). Colors of the insignia were: dark blue background; banners white with red lettering; gold naval aviator wings; light blue crest; yellow sword; white clouds outlined in blue; yellow and gold torch; and black torpedo.

There is no record of an approved insignia for VA-22A.

Nickname: unknown

### **Chronology of Significant Events**

**28 Aug 1944:** VT-98 was established with the mission of providing a pool of trained torpedo plane pilots and aircrewmembers for assignment as replacements to squadrons operating in the Pacific.

### **Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Ventura (Oxnard)	28 Aug 1944
NAAS Los Alamitos	01 Dec 1944
NAS San Diego	25 Aug 1946

### **Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Tom B. Bash	28 Aug 1944
LT Jack C. Heishman (acting)	03 May 1945
LCDR Leo Meacher	12 Jul 1945
LCDR Paul N. Gray	15 Jul 1947

### **Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBF-1	Aug 1944
TBM-1C	Aug 1944
TBM-3	Oct 1944
TBM-3E	May 1945

### **Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-98/CVAG-21*	RI†	28 Aug 1944

\* CVG-98 redesignated CVAG-21 on 15 November 1946.

† Tail code assigned to CVAG-21 on 12 December 1946.



## VA-23

### Lineage

Established as Reserve Fighter Squadron SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VF-653) in December 1949.

Called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VA-151) on 7 February 1956.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY THREE (VA-23) on 23 February 1959.

Disestablished on 1 April 1970. The first and only squadron to be designated VA-23.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 7 February 1951. The central figure is the dragon,



*The squadron's first officially approved insignia, used by VF-653.*

symbolizing the terrifying qualities representative of a fighter squadron, and the shield portraying its strength. Insignia colors were: yellow outer border; blue background; red dragon with yellow shaded areas and black markings; light blue shield with diamond and checkered bar in yellow.

When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, it adopted a new insignia sometime between 1953 and 1955. This insignia was a shield with a knight's helmet at the top and a scroll at the bottom. The Latin inscription "In Omnia Paratus" on the scroll translated as "Always Prepared." Colors for this insignia were: white background with the outer circle in black; the helmet, scroll, outer section of the shield and the bar across the shield were black; visor of the helmet was yellow with black markings; the two central portions of the shield and the Latin lettering was yellow; the helmet plume



*This insignia was adopted by the squadron sometime in the mid-1950s. It was used by VF-151 and VA-151. When VF-151 was redesignated VA-151, the appropriate change in the scroll showed the VA-151 designation.*



*The insignia used by VF-151 and VA-151 was adopted by VA-23.*

was yellow and black. There is no record relating to the use of this insignia following the squadron's redesignation to VA-151. However, on 29 April 1959, CNO approved VA-23's request to retain the insignia formerly used by VA-151. The insignia used by VA-23 was the Black Knight insignia.

Nickname: Black Knights, circa 1955–1970

### Chronology of Significant Events

**11 Dec 1951:** The squadron conducted its first combat strikes.

**Feb 1955:** The squadron, deployed aboard *Wasp* (CVA 18), provided air support during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalists from the Tachen Islands following the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

**Apr 1965:** While operating from *Midway*, on Yankee Station, VA-23 conducted its first combat operations since the Korean War.

**25 Apr 1965:** The squadron became the first to use the Shrike missile in combat. The Shrike is an antiradiation missile for use against radar sites.

**15–20 Mar 1968:** VA-23, along with other squadrons in CVW-19, conducted flight operations from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) in the Sea of Japan. These operations were part of a continuing show of American forces in the area, named Operation Formation Star, following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

**Apr 1968:** VA-23 flew combat strikes around Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, in support of the besieged Marine base.

**20 Mar 1970:** A disestablishment ceremony was held by the squadron under the direction of its last commanding officer, Commander Theodore L. Lloyd, Jr. Commander Lloyd accepted the colors of the squadron and brought to a close over 19 years of active service. The squadron was officially disestablished on 1 April 1970.

### Home Port Assignments

Location Assignment	Date
NAS Akron	Dec 1949
NAS Alameda	16 Apr 1951
NAS Lemoore	30 Sep 1961

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Cook Cleland	Dec 1949
LCDR J. M. Rickabaugh	28 Aug 1952
LCDR Benjamin Tappan, Jr.	Nov 1953
CDR E. S. Parks	Jun 1955
LCDR Robert H. Moore, Jr.	*
LCDR Bernard Sevilla	Jan 1957
CDR E. W. Blackburn	30 May 1958
CDR L. M. Cauble	06 Mar 1959
CDR S. G. Gorsline, Jr.	08 Apr 1960
LCDR Edward E. Riley (acting)	28 Sep 1961
CDR G. M. Veling	06 Nov 1961
CDR Edward E. Riley	18 Sep 1962
CDR Robert P. Smith	20 Aug 1963



*A squadron F4U-4 Corsair, July 1951 (Courtesy Robert Lauson Collection).*

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John R. Dewenter	02 Jul 1964
CDR Robert R. King, Jr.	02 Jul 1965
CDR Richard A. Mackell	01 Jul 1966
CDR Charles L. Bush	23 Jun 1967
CDR Morris A. Peelle	24 Jul 1968
CDR Theodore L. Lloyd, Jr.	09 Jul 1969

\* Lieutenant Commander Robert H. Moore assumed command of the squadron sometime between late 1955 and early 1956.

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FG-1D	*
F4U-4	1951†
F4U-4B	1951‡
F9F-2	28 Aug 1952
F9F-5	02 Oct 1952
F7U-3M	May 1955
F7U-3	Jun 1955
F9F-8B	Dec 1956
F9F-8	Jan 1957
FJ-4B	Jul 1957
A4D-2	18 May 1960
A-4E	26 Dec 1962
A-4F	13 Jul 1967

\* Prior to being activated, the squadron flew the FG-1Ds which were assigned to NAS Akron, a reserve naval air station.

† The squadron received the F4U-4 in either April or May 1951.

‡ The squadron received the F4U-4B sometime between June and August 1951.



*Two of the squadron's F9F-2 Panthers fly over Wasp (CVA 18) during her deployment to the western Pacific between September 1954 and April 1955 (Courtesy Robert Lauson Collection).*

**Major Overseas Deployment**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
12 Oct 1951	03 Jul 1952	ATG-1	CV 45	F4U-4/4B	WestPac/Korea
30 Mar 1953	28 Nov 1953	ATG-1	CVA 21	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
01 Sep 1954	11 Apr 1955	ATG-1	CVA 18	F9F-2	WestPac
25 May 1956	20 Dec 1956	ATG-1	CVA 16	F7U-3	WestPac
04 Oct 1958	16 Feb 1959	ATG-1	CVA 14	FJ-4B	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	25 Mar 1960	CVG-2	CVA 41	FJ-4B	WestPac
16 Feb 1961	28 Sep 1961	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2	WestPac
06 Apr 1962	20 Oct 1962	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2	WestPac
08 Nov 1963	26 May 1964	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4E	WestPac
06 Mar 1965	23 Nov 1965	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jul 1966	23 Feb 1967	CVW-2	CVA 43	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
28 Dec 1967	17 Aug 1968	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Apr 1969	17 Nov 1969	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam



*A squadron F7U-3 Cutlass prepares for a launch from Lexington (CVA 16) during her deployment to the western Pacific in 1956.*



An FJ-4B Fury prepares to engage a aerial refueling basket during the squadron's deployment aboard Ticonderoga (CVA 14) during its 1958–1959 deployment to WestPac.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-15	H	05 Apr 1951
ATG-1	*	03 Aug 1951
CVG-15	H	03 Jul 1952
ATG-1	U/NA*	01 Nov 1952
CVG-2/CVW-2†	NE	24 Feb 1959
CVW-19	NM	01 Jul 1967

\* The squadron deployed with ATG-1 but used its parent air group tail code (H) until the tail code "U" was assigned to ATG-1 on 24 July 1956. ATG-1's tail code was changed from U to NA in 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVG-2 became CVW-2) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KSM	04 Dec 1951	20 Jun 1952
	03 Apr 1953	09 Aug 1953
	22 Aug 1953	21 Nov 1953
NUC	11 Dec 1951	11 Jun 1952
	16 Apr 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Aug 1966	01 Feb 1967
	26 Jan 1968	23 Jul 1968
KPUC	07 Dec 1951	20 Jun 1952
	30 Apr 1953	27 Jul 1953
UNSM	04 Dec 1951	20 Jun 1952
	03 Apr 1953	09 Aug 1953
	22 Aug 1953	21 Nov 1953
NDSM (Korea)	Dec 1951	Jun 1952
AFEM	23 Oct 1958	01 Jan 1959
	28 Mar 1961	07 Apr 1961
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	17 Sep 1969	
MUC	28 Sep 1969	04 Oct 1969
	05 May 1969	03 Nov 1969
VNSM	22 Jul 1965	26 Aug 1965
	11 Sep 1965	09 Oct 1965
	12 Sep 1966	19 Oct 1966
	30 Oct 1966	04 Dec 1966
	26 Dec 1966	01 Feb 1967
	25 Jan 1968	04 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	08 Apr 1968
	16 Apr 1968	
	24 Apr 1968	12 May 1968
	20 May 1968	14 Jun 1968
25 Jun 1968	23 Jul 1968	
05 May 1969	04 Jun 1969	
15 Jun 1969	01 Jul 1969	
12 Jul 1969	30 Jul 1969	
14 Aug 1969	12 Sep 1969	
08 Oct 1969	31 Oct 1969	



Two of the squadron's A-4F Skyhawks fly a training mission over the Imperial Valley of southern California in 1967.