

## SECOND VA-34

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron TWENTY (VF-20) on 15 October 1943.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron NINE A (VF-9A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron NINETY ONE (VF-91) on 12 August 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron THIRTY FOUR (VF-34) on 15 February 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTY FOUR (VA-34) on 1 July 1955.

Disestablished on 1 June 1969. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-34 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The first insignia used by the squadron was a “Joker” breaking out of a deck of cards carrying a machine gun. This insignia was selected by the squadron because the young and inexperienced pilots in the squadron were referred to as the “Jokers.” It was approved by CNO on 15 March 1944. Colors for the insignia were: the deck of cards was outlined in black with the diamond marking on the back of the card in blue and white; the face



*The squadron's first insignia was approved for use by VF-20 during World War II.*

of the card was white with black outlines and lettering; the Joker's hat and neck garment were blue; his right arm was yellow and the other arm white, outlined in black; a black and white machine gun; facial features of Joker outlined in black; and the ripped portion of the card was in the blue and white diamond design.

The next insignia adopted by the squadron was the outline of a human skull. This insignia was approved by CNO on 1 February 1946. Superimposed on the nose of a skull was a human skeleton with the arms holding paddles that became the eyes of the skull, while the teeth were represented by the word “Fighting 20.” The colors were primarily black and white, with the exception of the paddles (eyes) and the lettering which were red. On 28 February 1947 CNO, approved a modification of this insignia which changed the Fighting 20 to Fighting 9A.

On 10 June 1949, CNO approved another modification to the squadron insignia which embellished the skull design. The background became a blue diamond



*A new insignia was adopted by the squadron and approved in 1946. A modification to this insignia was made in 1947 that changed the “Fighting 20” to “Fighting 9A.”*



*A new insignia was adopted by the squadron and approved in June 1949. This insignia is a well-known design that was in use from 1949 until the squadron's disestablishment in 1969.*

outlined in black. Red stylized wings outlined in blue and white were added, as well as a black and white machine gun in the shape of a cigarette with a yellow ammunition belt and red bullets. The machine gun was held by the skeleton's hand which was outlined in black. Fighting 9A was dropped and replaced by regular shaped teeth. The skull remained white outlined in black and the LSO paddles were red and white.

Nickname: Blue Blasters, 1957–1969

### Chronology of Significant Events

**16 Apr 1944:** The squadron departed NAS Alameda aboard *Essex* (CV 9) en route to Hawaii for four months of operational training prior to its first combat tour.

**31 Aug 1944:** Combat strikes were flown against the Bonin Islands. This was the squadron's first combat action.

**24–25 Oct 1944:** The squadron participated in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, sometimes referred to as the Second Battle of the Philippines Sea. VF-20 aircraft struck elements of all three Japanese Task Forces which were converging on Leyte Gulf.

**Aug–Nov 1944:** The squadron flew strikes against targets on the Bonin Islands, Yap and Palau Islands, Peleliu Island, Okinawa, Formosa, Luzon, and Leyte.

**14 Dec 1944:** Lieutenant (jg) Douglas Baker was on a strike mission against Clark Field on Luzon when he encountered Japanese fighter opposition. During this engagement he destroyed four Japanese aircraft before being shot down by anti-aircraft fire and lost in the action. This final action brought his air-to-air kills to 16, making him one of the high ranking aces for the Navy. Only eight other Navy pilots equalled or exceeded this record.

**Dec 1944–Jan 1945:** VF-20 engaged in another series of combat actions, flying missions against targets on and around Luzon, Formosa, French Indochina (Vietnam), Hong Kong, the South China Sea, and

Okinawa. Many of these operations were in support of the landings at Lingayen Gulf.

**22 Jan 1945:** This was the last day of combat action for the squadron during World War II. During the period from 31 August 1944, the squadron compiled a formidable combat record. There were 8 aces (9 counting the Commander of CVG-20 who flew the squadron's aircraft), 12 individuals received the Navy Cross and 22 individuals received the Silver Star. VF-20 credits itself with the destruction of over 15 ships and 407 aircraft, not counting an even greater number that were damaged but not destroyed.

**Feb 1945:** Embarked in *Kwajalein* (CVE 98) at Ulithi and departed for the United States, arriving there in the latter part of the month.

**Jul-Sep 1948:** In cooperation with Commander Operational Development Force, Atlantic Fleet, the squadron participated in the experimental carrier controlled approach program aboard *Philippine Sea* (CV 47).

**Apr 1953:** The squadron embarked on *Antietam* (CVA 36) with its F2H-2s to conduct evaluation tests on the Navy's first angled deck carrier.

**26 May 1954:** The squadron was aboard *Bennington* (CVA 20), en route to the Mediterranean Sea, when an explosion aboard ship resulted in the death of 7 squadron personnel. The ship returned to the States and the squadron disembarked.

**31 Oct 1954:** Ensign Duane L. Varner completed a 1,900 mile nonstop, non-refueling, transcontinental flight from Los Alamitos, California, to NAS Cecil Field, Florida, in a squadron F2H-2 Banshee. His flight took 3 hours and 58 minutes and set a new long distance record for the Banshee.

**4 Mar 1958:** During cross-deck operations the squadron landed its A4D-1 Skyhawks aboard HMS *Ark Royal*.

**Jul 1958:** VA-34 flew support missions during the amphibious landings in Beirut, Lebanon, by U.S. Marines.

**Jun 1959:** Operating from NAAS Mayport, the squadron conducted the first operational firing of the Bull Pup air-to-ground missile in the Atlantic Fleet.

**Apr 1961:** VA-34's A4D-2 Skyhawks operated from *Essex* (CVS 9) in the Caribbean Sea during the Bay of Pigs invasion. This operation involved the first use of jet attack aircraft as part of an ASW Air Group, CVSG-60, operating aboard an ASW designated carrier.

**26 Oct-18 Nov 1962:** During the Cuban missile crisis the entire squadron flew aboard *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) on 26 October to augment the assigned air wing. *Enterprise* had departed for the Caribbean on 19 October. VA-34 flew numerous missions in support of Cuban quarantine.

**18-26 Nov 1962:** On 18 November the squadron transferred from *Enterprise* to *Independence* (CVA 62) during the quarantine operations. VA-34 continued to

fly quarantine missions aboard *Independence* until her return to the States on 26 November.

**3-21 Dec 1962:** The squadron was aboard *Saratoga* (CVA 60) for carrier refresher training in the Caribbean and continued operations relating to the Cuban missile crisis.

**Dec 1963 and Jan-Feb 1964:** The squadron provided detachments of A-4C Skyhawks aboard *Intrepid* (CVS 11) and *Randolph* (CVS 15). The aircraft were used for Combat Air Patrol to provide a fighter capability for the ASW carriers.

**May-Dec 1967:** VA-34 deployed to Vietnam as a component of an Attack Carrier Air Wing (CVW-10) embarked in *Intrepid* (CVS-11). This was the squadron's first combat action since 1945.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS San Diego	15 Oct 1943*
NAS Atlantic City	16 Apr 1945
NAS Edenton	26 Jun 1945
NAS Elizabeth City	02 Nov 1945
NAAS Charlestown	11 Mar 1946
NAS Quonset Point	01 May 1947
NAAS Charlestown	26 Jun 1948
NAS Quonset Point	01 Dec 1949
NAAS Sanford	01 May 1951
NAS Jacksonville	06 Oct 1952
NAS Cecil Field	04 Feb 1953

\* During the squadron's Pacific tour from April 1944 to February 1945 it operated from numerous air and shore stations.

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Frederick E. Bakutis	15 Oct 1943
LCDR Herbert D. Remington	17 Apr 1945
LCDR T. W. Ramsay	11 Feb 1946
LCDR W. W. Brehm	28 Oct 1947
LCDR Thomas C. Provost, III	01 Jul 1948
LCDR Donald K. Olson	12 Dec 1949
LCDR Robert A. Sweatt	21 Feb 1951
LCDR H. B. Gibbs	01 May 1952
LCDR F. H. O'Brien	10 May 1953
CDR A. L. Detweiller (acting)	05 Jul 1955
CDR Charles W. Pittman	28 Oct 1955
CDR Ernest L. McClintock	Jan 1957
CDR George C. Talley, Jr.	07 Oct 1958
CDR Mitchell C. Griffin	11 Mar 1960
CDR William J. Forgy	26 May 1961
CDR Hector W. Davis, Jr.	29 May 1962
CDR Walter T. Zebrowski	05 May 1963
CDR Grant C. Young	05 May 1964
CDR Rodney B. Carter	05 May 1965
CDR Robert A. Zajichuk	07 May 1966
CDR Richard A. Wigent	11 May 1967
CDR Mark E. Perrault	04 May 1968



The squadron's CO, Commander H. W. Davis, Jr., stands in front of the squadron's first A4D-2N (A-4C) Skyhawk.

**Aircraft Assignment**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F6F-3	Oct 1943
F6F-5	Jul 1944
F8F-1	03 Apr 1946
F8F-2	03 Dec 1948
F9F-2	27 Nov 1950
F2H-2	14 Feb 1952
F7U-3	06 Oct 1955
A4D-1	Jan 1957
A4D-2	Nov 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	07 Jul 1962

\* A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.

A squadron F6F-5 Hellcat in flight, circa 1945 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



**Major Overseas Deployment**

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
16 Aug 1944*	21 Nov 1944	CVG-20	CV 6	F6F-3	WestPac
11 Dec 1944*	26 Jan 1945	CVG-20	CV 16	F6F-3	WestPac
20 Feb 1948	26 Jun 1948	CVAG-9	CV 47	F8F-1	Med
03 Sep 1951	20 Dec 1951	CVG-3	CV 32	F9F-2	Med
28 Aug 1952	04 Feb 1953	CVG-3	CVA 32	F2H-2	Med
30 Nov 1954	18 Jun 1955	ATG-181	CVA 15	F2H-2	Med
01 Feb 1958	01 Oct 1958	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-1	Med
15 Aug 1959	16 Feb 1960	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2	Med
22 Aug 1960	25 Feb 1961	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2	Med/NorLant
28 Nov 1961	12 May 1962	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2	Med
29 Mar 1963	25 Oct 1963	CVG-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
28 Nov 1964	12 Jul 1965	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
11 Mar 1966	26 Oct 1966	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
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

\* These deployment dates only cover the squadron's combat operations while staging out of Ulithi.



*Squadron F8F-1 Bearcats in flight, circa 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-20/CVAG-9/CVG-9*	PS	15 Oct 1943
CVG-3	K	01 Dec 1949
ATG-181		01 Nov 1953
CVG-3/CVW-3†	K/AC‡	18 Jun 1955
CVW-10	AK	01 Feb 1967§
CVW-17	AA	16 Jan 1968

\* Carrier Air Group 20 (CVG-20) was redesignated CVAG-9 on 15 November 1946 and was assigned the tail code PS on 12 December 1946. CVAG-9 was redesignated CVG-9 on 1 September 1948.

† Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-3 became CVW-3.

‡ CVG-3's tail code was changed from K to AC in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

§ CVW-3 records for 1967 list VA-46 being transferred from the air wing on 1 February 1967 but does not list VA-34. VA-34, as well as VA-46 and VA-103, were part of CVW-3 for the entire year of 1966, consequently, VA-34 probably was transferred from CVW-3 at the same time as VA-46 and VA-103, although such a transfer was not recorded in the air wing's history report.

### Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1948	30 Jun 1949
NUC	31 Aug 1944	18 Sep 1944
	10 Oct 1944	22 Nov 1944
	12 Jun 1967	08 Dec 1967
PUC	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
AFEM	17 Jul 1958	25 Jul 1958
	29 Jul 1958	11 Aug 1958
RVNGC	19 Aug 1958	07 Sep 1958
	26 Oct 1962	18 Nov 1962
	18 Nov 1962	20 Nov 1962
	03 Dec 1962	20 Dec 1962
	21 Jun 1967	13 Jul 1967
VNSM	29 Jul 1967	27 Aug 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
	14 Sep 1967	12 Oct 1967
	31 Oct 1967	24 Nov 1967
NEM	13 Apr 1961	26 Apr 1961



*Squadron F2H-2 Banshees on the deck of Randolph (CVA 15) during her cruise to the Med in 1954–1955.*

## THIRD VA-34

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THIRTY FOUR (VA-34) on 1 January 1970. This is the third squadron to be designated VA-34.



When the third VA-34 squadron was established, it adopted this insignia which had been used by the second VA-34 squadron.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

When VA-34 was established, it adopted the insignia and Blue Blasters nickname used by the previous VA-34 squadron (the second VA-34). Colors for the insignia are as follows: blue diamond background outlined in black, red stylized wings outlined in blue and white, black and

white machine gun in the shape of a cigarette, with a yellow ammunition belt and red bullets, white skull and skeleton with black markings and outline, red teeth, and red markings on the paddles (eyes).

Nickname: Blue Blasters, 1970-present

### Chronology of Significant Events

**17 Apr 1970:** VA-34's establishment ceremony was conducted at NAS Oceana.

**18 Sep 1970:** The squadron boarded *Kennedy* (CVA 67) and departed on 14 September for final training and an Operational Readiness Inspection prior to its scheduled November deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. However, while en route to the Caribbean, the ship was ordered to deploy to the Mediterranean after Syria invaded Jordan.

**Sep 1972:** A squadron A-6 Intruder conducted cross-decking operations on HMS *Ark Royal* while operating in the Norwegian Sea.

**Oct-Nov 1973:** Due to the outbreak of war in the Middle East (Yon Kippur War), VA-34 and *Kennedy* departed the Norwegian Sea and reentered the Mediterranean, conducting surveillance operations south of Crete.

**Sep-Oct 1982:** During the deployment to the North Atlantic, *America* (CV 66), with VA-34 embarked, received orders on 22 September to proceed to the Mediterranean due to the continuing crisis in Lebanon.

**Jan and May 1983:** While in the Eastern Mediterranean the squadron conducted air operations from *America* in support of the multinational peace-keeping forces in Beirut, Lebanon.

**Sep 1985:** While deployed aboard *America* to the North Atlantic, the squadron conducted flight operations from the carrier while it operated within Vestfjord, a Norwegian fjord.

**24 Mar 1986:** Libyan missiles were fired at U.S. Navy forces operating in the Gulf of Sidra. As a result of this hostile act retaliatory strikes, known as Operation Prairie Fire, were initiated against Libya by the American naval forces in the area. VA-34's A-6E Intruders, operating from *America*, attacked and damaged a Libyan Combattante II G-class fast attack missile craft with a Harpoon missile. A follow-up attack by VA-85 aircraft with Rockeye bombs resulted in the sinking of the Combattante II. The Harpoon firing was the first use of this missile in combat and the squadron's first combat action since its establishment in 1970.

**14 Apr 1986:** Due to continued Libyan sponsorship of terrorist activity the United States initiated Operation Eldorado Canyon. VA-34 participated in this operation with its A-6Es, conducting a night, low level high speed attack against terrorists targets at the Benina airfield and military barracks in Banghazi, Libya.

**Aug 1990:** The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Oceana	01 Jan 1970

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Robert W. Miles	Feb 1970
CDR Samuel L. Sayers	25 Jun 1971
CDR Philip M. Shannon	Jul 1972
CDR Lester T. Jackson	28 Jul 1973
CDR William R. Westerman	19 Jul 1974
CDR Gary F. Wheatley	29 Oct 1975
CDR Robert H. Byng	03 Jan 1977
CDR John M. McNabb	21 Apr 1978
CDR John G. Hawley	03 Jul 1979
CDR Brinley K. McDanel	20 Oct 1980
CDR Bennice L. Liner	25 Nov 1981
CDR Garth A. Van Sickle	13 Feb 1983
CDR James B. Dadson	07 Aug 1984
CDR Richard G. Coleman	27 Jan 1986
CDR Bernis H. Bailey	05 Jun 1987
CDR Eugene K. Nielsen	04 Nov 1988
CDR Ronald K. Alexander	16 May 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Total of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-6A	17 Apr 1970
A-6B	May 1970
KA-6D	1971*
A-6C	1971†

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Total of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-6E	Dec 1973
* The squadron received its first KA-6D sometime between April and June 1971.	
† The squadron received its first A-6C sometime between July and September 1971.	



*A squadron A-6E Intruder conducts operations off the coast of Norway in 1985.*

**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>
14 Sep 1970	01 Mar 1971	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-6A/B	Carib/Med/ NorLant
01 Dec 1971	06 Oct 1972	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-6A/B/C & KA-6D	Med/NorLant
16 Apr 1973	01 Dec 1973	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-6A/B/C & KA-6D	Med/NorLant
28 Jun 1975	27 Jan 1976	CVW-1	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
02 Sep 1976	09 Nov 1976	CVW-1	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
15 Jan 1977	01 Aug 1977	CVW-1	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
29 Jun 1978	08 Feb 1979	CVW-1	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
04 Aug 1980	28 Mar 1981	CVW-1	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
23 Aug 1982	30 Oct 1982	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant/Med/ Carib
08 Dec 1982	02 Jun 1983	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
24 Apr 1984	14 Nov 1984	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/Med/IO
24 Aug 1985	09 Oct 1985	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
10 Mar 1986	10 Sep 1986	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
29 Feb 1988	29 Aug 1988	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/Red Sea

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-1	AB	02 Mar 1970
CVW-7	AG	01 Oct 1986

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	29 Sep 1970	31 Oct 1970
	01 Dec 1977	01 Mar 1979
	29 Aug 1985	20 Sep 1985

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
	01 Jan 1982	31 Dec 1982
NEM	01 Jan 1983	20 Jan 1983
	06 May 1983	08 May 1983
	21 Mar 1986	27 Jun 1986
NUC	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
SLOC	04 Aug 1980	28 Mar 1981
	23 Aug 1982	02 Jun 1983
SASM	08 Aug 1990	24 Aug 1990



*A VA-34 A-6E makes a low-level strike at Vieques Island bombing range in the Caribbean in 1988.*

## VA-35

### Lineage

Established as Torpedo and Bombing Squadron TWO (VT-2) on 6 July 1925.

Redesignated Torpedo and Bombing Squadron TWO B (VT-2B) on 1 July 1927.\*

Redesignated Torpedo Squadron THREE (VT-3) on 1 July 1937.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FOUR A (VA-4A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTY FIVE (VA-35) on 7 August 1948.

Disestablished on 7 November 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-35 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was a winged dragon holding the sun in its webbed foot. Several years later a bomb replaced the sun in the dragon's foot to symbolize the squadron's mission. The dragon's color was red, and was spitting fire from its mouth. There are no records indicating an approval date, however, there are references to the insignia in a newspaper published by *Saratoga* (CV 3).

A modification to the original insignia was approved sometime in 1928 or 1929. The new insignia depicted a dragon astride a bomb. Colors for the dragon were red with a green spine, yellow claws and the tip of the tail in yellow. The bomb was black. When the squadron was redesignated in 1937 it continued to use this insignia.

During World War II the dragon took on a fatter, more stylized shape, however, the colors remained the same. There are no records indicating the squadron changed its insignia following its designation changes in the 1940s.

Nickname: unknown

\* The squadron designation system was changed on 1 July 1930 by General Order 202 and Bombing was dropped from the designation Torpedo and Bombing Squadron. However, there was no change to the abbreviated squadron designation, it still remained VT.



*The final version of the dragon insignia was used by the squadron during World War II and into the postwar period.*

### Chronology of Significant Events

6 Jul 1925: VT-2 was established on board *Aroostook* (CM 3) at Pearl Harbor. *Aroostook* had been a minelayer that was refitted as an aircraft tender but continued to carry the CM minelayer designation.

Aug 1926: The squadron was engaged in experimental work relating to the use of signal lights as a means of communicating between aircraft and ships.

1928: With the arrival of the T3M-2 aircraft, the squadron began the transition from water based aircraft to land planes. The squadron continued its aircraft transition from T3M-2s, which were difficult to land on the carrier, to T4M-1s. Primary mission with the T4M-1s was bombing, although they could be used for torpedo work and laying smoke screens.

Jan-Feb 1929: Fleet Problem IX was the first time the Navy's two large carriers, *Saratoga* (with VT-2B embarked) and *Lexington* (CV 2), participated in a major fleet exercise.

Mar-Apr 1930: In March the squadron participated in Fleet Problem X which was conducted in the Caribbean Sea, followed by the Fleet Problem XI in April.

May 1930: VT-2B's aircraft joined with the planes from 9 other squadrons, which included the *Saratoga*, *Lexington*, and *Langley* Air Groups, for a three-day tour of east coast cities from Norfolk, Virginia to Boston. The flight was commanded by Captain Kenneth Whiting and consisted of 36 torpedo and bombing planes, 57 fighting planes, 24 scouting planes, 3 amphibian utility planes, 3 Ford trimotored transports



*This was the first version of the dragon insignia used by the squadron. It dates from the mid-1920s.*



*A more detailed version of the dragon insignia was adopted by the squadron in the late 1920s.*



*A VT-2B T3M-2 with parachutists jumping from the wing, circa 1935.*



and 2 staff planes. It was the largest air parade that had ever been assembled on the east coast.

**1931–1934:** The squadron participated in Fleet Problems XII through XV.

**31 May 1934:** A Fleet Review for President Franklin D. Roosevelt was held in New York Harbor.

**1935–1938:** The squadron participated in Fleet Problems XVI through XIX.

**May 1937:** VT-2B participated in the celebration marking the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**Apr–May 1940:** The squadron participated in Fleet Problem XXI. This was the last major Fleet Problem conducted before America's involvement in World War II.

**May–Jun 1942:** VT-3, consisting primarily of its pilots, flight crews and a limited number of ground crewmen, operated from *Yorktown* (CV 5) during the Battle of Midway. The other officers and ground crews remained ashore at NAS Kaneohe. Shortly after noon on the 4th, Lieutenant Commander Massey led a flight of 12 TBD-1 Devastors into the attack against the Japanese carriers. They were the last of the three torpedo squadrons to engage the enemy. Only two aircraft survived, both flown by enlisted pilots. The two surviving TBDs returned to the task force while *Yorktown* was under attack from Japanese carrier aircraft. These two TBDs were ditched and their crews picked up by ships in the task force. VT-3's survivors from *Yorktown* returned to the squadron at NAS Kaneohe.

**4 Jun 1942:** Lieutenant Commander Massey was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his action during the battle. Eleven other squadron TBD pilots also were awarded the Navy Cross, they were Ensign Wesley F. Osmus, Ensign Carl A. Osberg, Lieutenant Patrick H. Hart, Enlisted Pilot Harry L. Corl, Enlisted Pilot Wilhelm G. Esders, Lieutenant (jg) Curtiss W. Howard, Ensign Leonard L. Smith, Enlisted Pilot John W. Haas, Ensign David J. Roche, Ensign Oswald A. Powers, and Lieutenant (jg) Richard W. Suesens.

**Aug 1942:** Operating from *Enterprise* (CV 6), VT-3 participated in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons.

**Nov 1942–Jul 1943:** VT-3 operated from *Saratoga*, flying combat missions against various Japanese held islands in the South Pacific and providing air cover for American forces operating in the Eastern Solomons. When the squadron was not operating from *Saratoga* it was based ashore at various places, including Fiji; Efate and Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides; Tontouta, New Caledonia, and Guadalcanal, Solomons.

**May 1943:** The British carrier HMS *Victorious* joined the *Saratoga* task force and operated with it until the latter part of July.

**31 Jul 1943:** VT-3's TBFs were transferred to Tontouta on 30 July and the following day squadron personnel embarked on HMS *Victorious* for transfer to CONUS to reform. This ended the air group and squadron's association with *Saratoga*.

**25 Sep 1943:** VT-3 and *Saratoga* Air Group were reformed at NAS Seattle. The *Saratoga* Air Group was reformed as Carrier Air Group THREE (CVG-3) with VT-3 as one of the three squadrons.

**Nov 1944:** VT-3 conducted combat operations from *Yorktown* (CV 10) against targets in the Philippines in support of the Leyte invasion.

**Dec 1944:** The squadron flew combat operations from *Yorktown* against targets on Luzon in preparation for the invasion of the island. While retiring from the combat area Task Force 38, which included *Yorktown* and CVG-3, sailed through a typhoon which sank three destroyers and extensively damaged other ships in the task force.

**Jan 1945:** Combat operations were conducted against targets in Formosa and the Philippines in support of the Lingayen Gulf landings on Luzon in early January. With *Yorktown* leading the way, Task Force 38 entered the South China Sea on 10 January. VT-3 struck targets near Saigon and along the Vietnamese coast, Hong Kong and Canton areas, Formosa and Okinawa.

**9 Jan 1945:** For actions against enemy targets on Formosa Lieutenant Frank F. Frazier was awarded the Silver Star.

**Feb 1945:** VT-3 participated in the first carrier strikes against the Tokyo area, bombing the Tachikawa Engine Factory, 16 miles from the Imperial Palace. Following these strikes the squadron concentrated its attention on Chichi Jima and air support for the invasion of Iwo Jima. This operation was the last combat action for the squadron during World War II. In early March VT-3 transferred to *Lexington* (CV 16) for transit to the States.

**Jun–Oct 1948:** During the squadron's tour of duty in the Mediterranean the Sixth Fleet was placed on alert due to the out break of war between Israel and the Arab countries following the establishment of the state of Israel.

**Nov 1948:** The squadron participated in cold weather operations in the Northern Atlantic.



This is a well-known photo of the squadron's T4M-1 making an approach on *Saratoga* (CV 3). Notice the squadron's dragon insignia on the fuselage just aft of the lower wing.

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
<i>Aroostook</i> (CM 2)*	06 Jul 1925
NAS San Diego	Sep 1925
Ford Island (NAS Pearl Harbor)	Jan 1942†
NAS Kaneohe	03 Feb 1942†
Efate	Aug 1942‡
Hawaii	Sep 1942†
NAS Seattle	Sep 1943
NAS Whidbey Island	11 Oct 1943
NAS Pasco	02 Feb 1944
NAS Alameda	05 Apr 1944†
NAS Puunene	22 Apr 1944†
NAS Hilo	07 Jun 1944†
NAS Kahului	22 Jul 1944†
NAS Seattle	Mar 1945
NAAF Lewiston	07 May 1945
NAS Key West	15 Jun 1945
NAAS Oceana	15 Jul 1945
NAS Quonset Point	11 Aug 1947
NAAS Charlestown	13 Oct 1947
NAS Quonset Point	21 Mar 1949

\* The ship was at NAS Pearl Harbor.

† Temporarily based ashore during World War II.

‡ When *Enterprise* (CV 6) was damaged by air attacks on 24 August, during the Battle of the Eastern Solomons, VT-3's surviving aircraft were flown to Efate. These aircraft remained at Efate while the majority of the squadron personnel went aboard *Saratoga* (CV 3) and returned to Hawaii in September 1942.

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT A. O. Rule, Jr.	06 July 1925
LT J. B. Kniep	Sep 1925
LCDR M. Griffin	Oct 1925
LCDR J. G. Strong	18 Jan 1926
LCDR J. B. Kniep	Jun 1926
CDR Read	Jul 1926
LCDR J. B. Kniep	Sep 1926
LT A. P. Schneider	Aug 1927
LCDR Harry R. Bogusch	Feb 1928
LCDR A. E. Montgomery	Jul 1929
LCDR William Masek	Jul 1930
LCDR J. L. Cotton	Mar 1931
LT T. C. Lonquest (acting)	Jun 1931
LCDR J. J. Ballentine	Jul 1931
LCDR Theodore C. Lonquest	Dec 1932
LCDR Harold J. Brow	May 1933
LCDR Herman E. Halland	Jun 1934
LCDR William H. Buracker	Jun 1936
LCDR Marion E. Crist	Jun 1937
LCDR Frank C. Sutton	27 Jun 1938
LT Austin V. Magly	28 May 1940
LT J. C. Clark	27 Jun 1941

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR John A. Collett	Jan 1942
LT John N. Myers (acting)	Jan 1942
LCDR Lance E. Massey	17 Apr 1942
LT John N. Myers (acting)	Jun 1942
LCDR Charles M. Jett	20 Jun 1942
LT John N. Myers (acting)	29 Dec 1942
LT Charles H. Turner (later LCDR)	Apr 1943
LT Roy S. Belcher, Jr. (later LCDR)	24 May 1945
LCDR Norman D. Johnson	Jan 1948
LCDR Roy P. Gee	24 Aug 1949



*A squadron TG-2 with its dragon insignia on the fuselage, circa mid 1930s.*

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
DT-2*	Jul 1925
SC-2	Nov 1925
SC-1	Mar 1926
CS-1	Nov 1926
T2D-1	Jun 1927
T3M-2	Aug 1927
TB-1	Sep 1927
T4M-1	Jul 1928
TG-1	Jun 1930
TG-2	Apr 1932
TBD-1	05 Oct 1937
TBF-1	Jul 1942†
TBM-1C	15 Mar 1944
TBM-3E	Jun 1945
TBM-3Q	Jun 1946
TBM-3J	May 1947
TBM-3W	Sep 1947
AD-1	Apr 1949
AD-2	May 1949

\* The aircraft were on loan to the squadron from NAS Pearl Harbor.

† VT-3's shore detachment received its first TBF-1 in early May 1942. However, the squadron continued to operate the TBD-1s aboard the carrier until the latter part of July 1942 when it became an all TBF unit.



*A TBD-1 with VT-3 markings and the ever-present dragon insignia on the fuselage (Courtesy Harry Gann and the Douglas 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>
15 Jan 1929	Mar 1929	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	T4M-1	Canal Zone (Pac side)
15 Feb 1930	21 Jun 1930	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	T4M-1	Canal Zone/ Carib
05 Feb 1931	15 Apr 1931	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TG-1	Canal Zone/ Carib
Feb 1932	19 Mar 1932	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 2/3*	TG-1	Hawaii
23 Jan 1933	17 Feb 1933	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TG-2	Hawaii
09 Apr 1934	09 Nov 1934	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3/ CV 2†	TG-2	Canal Zone/ Carib & East Coast of U.S.
May 1935	Jun 1935	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TG-2	Hawaii/ NorPac
Apr 1936	Jun 1936	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TG-2	Canal Zone/ Pac
Apr 1937	May 1937	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TG-2	Hawaii/Pac
15 Mar 1938	Apr 1938	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TBD-1	Hawaii/Pac
02 Apr 1940	21 Jun 1940	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	TBD-1	Hawaii/Pac
08 Dec 1941	Jan 1942	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3‡	TBD-1	Hawaii/Pac

**Major Overseas Deployment—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>
May 1942	Jun 1942	<i>Yorktown</i> Air Group	CV 5	TBD-1	Midway Island
15 Jul 1942	Aug 1942	<i>Enterprise</i> Air Group	CV 6	TBF-1	Pacific ops
10 Nov 1942	Jul 1943	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3§	TBF-1	Pacific ops
24 Oct 1944	27 Mar 1945	CVG-3	CV 10/ CV 16**	TBM-1C	Pacific ops
07 Jun 1947	11 Aug 1947	CVAG-3	CV 33	TBM-3E/Q & TBM-3J	NorLant/ Carib
01 Jun 1948	02 Oct 48	CVG-3	CV 33	TBM-3E/J & TBM-3W	Med

\* The squadron's cruise to Hawaii began aboard *Lexington* (CV 2) and prior to the beginning of Fleet Problem XXIII in late February it was transferred to *Saratoga*.

† During the squadron's 7 month deployment in 1934 VT-2B was divided into two divisions, with division 1 aboard *Saratoga* and division 2 aboard *Lexington*. VT-2B's division 2 operated with *Lexington's* Air Group.

‡ The squadron was operating from *Saratoga* in the Hawaiian area when the ship was hit by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine on 11 January 1942. *Saratoga* departed Hawaii and returned to Bremerton, Washington for repairs and VT-3 remained in Hawaii.

§ The squadron and air group transferred from *Saratoga* to HMS *Victorious* in July 1943 and returned to Hawaii aboard the British carrier. *Saratoga* remained in the South Pacific and continued her combat operations with a different air group embarked.

\*\* On 5 March 1945 VT-3 and CVG-3 were transferred from *Yorktown* to *Lexington* for its return to the States via Hawaii. *Lexington* departed Ulithi on 6 March, arriving in Hawaii on 17 March, departing on the 20th and arriving at Bremerton, Washington on 27 March.



*Squadron TBM-3 Avenger at NAAS Oceana in 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, <i>Aroostook</i> (CM 2)		06 Jul 1925
<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group*		09 Apr 1927
<i>Yorktown</i> Air Group†		May 1942
<i>Enterprise</i> Air Group		Jul 1942
<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group/ CVG-3/CVAG-3/CVG-3‡	K‡	Sep 1942

\* CNO's Assignment of Naval Aircraft (Naval Aeronautic Organization) for FY 27 (July 1927–June 1928) assigned VT-2B to *Saratoga* (CV 3) prior to the carrier's commissioning. Evolution of the *Saratoga* Air Group was as follows: *Saratoga* (CV 3) was commissioned 16 November 1927 with squadrons previously assigned; the squadrons assigned to the carrier were known as the *Saratoga* Air Group. However, it was not until 1 July 1938 when the Air Group Commander billets were established that the air group became an official organization.

† Temporarily assigned to *Yorktown* Air Group during the Battle of Midway.

‡ The tail code K was assigned to *Kearsarge* (CV 33) on 7 November 1946. Since CVG-3 was assigned to *Kearsarge* its

squadrons used the K tail code. On 12 December 1946 the tail code K was removed from *Kearsarge* and assigned to CVG-3.

§ *Saratoga* Air Group redesignated Carrier Air Group THREE (CVG-3) on 25 September 1943. The CVG-3 designation was changed to CVAG-3 on 15 November 1946 to show the air wing's association with an attack carrier. CVAG-3 was changed back CVG-3 on 1 September 1948 regardless of the air groups' assignment to an attack or battle carrier.

**Unit Awards**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	11 Nov 1944	19 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
	16 Feb 1945	25 Feb 1945
	23 Aug 1942	25 Aug 1942
Campaign Medal (Asiatic-Pacific)	Nov 1942	08 Feb 1943
	11 Nov 1944	19 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
	16 Feb 1945	25 Feb 1945



*A squadron AD-1 trapping aboard Leyte (CV 32), November 1950 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).*

## SECOND VA-35

### Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron THREE B (VB-3B) on 1 July 1934.

Redesignated Bombing Squadron FOUR (VB-4) on 1 July 1937.

Redesignated Bombing Squadron THREE (VB-3) on 1 July 1939.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THREE A (VA-3A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTY FOUR (VA-34) on 7 August 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTY FIVE (VA-35) on 15 February 1950. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-35 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The original squadron diving panther insignia is one of the oldest squadron insignias in continuous use by a naval aviation command.

There is no record of official approval for the diving black panther insignia used by VB-3B. However, by mid-1935, the design appeared in Navy documents as Bombing THREE's insignia. The diving black panther design has been carried on through the various redesignations of the squadron and is the present insignia for VA-35. It was officially approved for VA-35 by CNO on 1 October 1957.

Nickname: Black Panthers.

### Chronology of Significant Events

May 1935: *Ranger* (CV 4) and her embarked air group, including VB-3B, participated in Fleet Exercise XVI. This was the first time VB-3B and *Ranger* participated in a Fleet Exercise.

25 Nov 1935–25 Feb 1936: A detachment from VB-3B, including six BG-1s, was assigned to *Ranger's* Cold Weather Test Detachment and operated aboard *Ranger* in Alaskan waters.

Apr–Jun 1936: The squadron participated in Fleet Problem XVII.

Apr–May 1937: The squadron participated in Fleet Problem XVIII.

28 May 1937: VB-3B participated in an aerial review celebrating the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Jul 1937: The squadron, embarked in *Lexington* (CV 2), participated in the search for Amelia Earhart Putnam and Fred Noonan.

Sep 1937: VB-4, embarked in *Ranger*, visited Lima, Peru, in conjunction with the International Aviation Conference being held there.

Mar–Apr 1938: The squadron participated in Fleet Problem XIX.

Apr–May 1940: The squadron participated in Fleet Problem XXI. This was the last major fleet problem conducted before America's involvement in World War II.

Apr 1942: VB-3, embarked in *Enterprise* (CV 6), provided escort patrols for the task force which launched Colonel Doolittle's B-25 raid against Tokyo.

4 Jun 1942: At the Battle of Midway, VB-3, embarked in *Yorktown* (CV 5), engaged in its first combat operations. *Yorktown's* first strike included 17 SBD-3's from VB-3 led by Lieutenant Commander Leslie. Approximately an hour after launch, VB-3's aircraft sighted the Japanese Fleet and commenced their dive-bombing attack; the primary target was the carrier *Soryu*. Lieutenant (jg) Paul A. Holmberg was the first to drop his 1,000 pounder on the *Soryu*. His hit was followed by two more from VB-3's SBDs. *Soryu* erupted into flames and eventually sank.

With the *Soryu* in flames, the other VB-3 SBDs directed their attack against other targets. They attacked a destroyer, the *Isokaze*, making one hit on her fantail and "what appeared to be a battleship," claiming a hit on her stern. All 17 SBDs from VB-3 escaped the attack without a hit and returned to *Yorktown*. Prior to landing on the carrier, they were directed to leave the area due to incoming enemy aircraft. All VB-3's SBDs landed on *Enterprise* except for Lieutenant Commander Leslie and his wingman, Lieutenant (jg) Holmberg. These two men, low on fuel, ditched their aircraft along side the cruiser *Astoria* and were picked up by the ship's motor whaleboat.

The battle was still not over for VB-3. In late afternoon, 14 of VB-3's SBDs were launched from *Enterprise* as part of a strike group ordered to attack the fourth Japanese carrier, *Hiryu*. Lieutenant Shumway was in charge of VB-3's formation. The strike force located *Hiryu* and again caught a Japanese carrier in the vulnerable position of having armed and fueled planes on deck. Direct hits from Shumway's SBD's resulted in a torched *Hiryu* and her eventual sinking. Several of VB-3's aircraft suffered heavy damage from attacking Japanese aircraft. However, all but



The squadron's insignia with the scroll and designation added to the original design.

two of VB-3's aircraft returned to *Enterprise*. Seventeen of VB-3's pilots received the Navy Cross for their action during the Battle of Midway, they were Ensigns Benson, Butler, Campbell, Cobb, Cooner, Elder, Hanson, Isaman, Lane, Merrill and Schoegel; Lieutenant (jg)s Holmberg, Sherwood and Wiseman; Lieutenants Bottomley and Shumway; and Lieutenant Commander Leslie.

**Aug 1942:** While operating from *Saratoga* in the South Pacific, the squadron participated in strikes against Guadalcanal and other enemy installations in the Solomon Islands in support of the occupation of Guadalcanal.

**24 Aug 1942:** VB-3 participated in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons, attacking *Ryujo*, a Japanese light carrier, and helping to sink her.

**Jan–Jul 1943:** VB-3 operated in the South Pacific flying combat sorties against various Japanese-held islands and providing air cover for American forces.

**July 1943:** VB-3 and the *Saratoga* Air Group were relieved by Air Group 12 and boarded HMS *Victorious* for transfer to CONUS to reform, arriving at San Diego on 18 August. This ended the air group and VB-3's association with *Saratoga* (CV 3).

**Nov 1944:** VB-3 conducted combat operations from *Yorktown* (CV 10) against various targets, including shipping, in support of the Leyte invasion.

**Jan 1945:** Combat operations were conducted against targets in Formosa and the Philippines in support of the Lingayen Gulf landings on Luzon in early January. With *Yorktown* leading the way, Task Force 38 entered the South China Sea on 10 January. VB-3 struck targets near Saigon and along the Vietnamese coast, Canton and Hong Kong areas, Formosa and Okinawa.

**Feb 1945:** VB-3 participated in the first carrier strikes against the Tokyo area, bombing the Kasumiga-ura Airfield, an air depot 25 miles north of Tokyo, and the Tachikawa Aircraft Engine Plant, located 16 miles west of the Imperial Palace. Following these strikes, the squadron concentrated its attention on air support for the invasion of Iwo Jima. This operation was the last combat action for the squadron during World War II. On 6 March, the squadron transferred from *Yorktown* to *Lexington* (CV 16) for transfer to CONUS.

**11 Oct 1950:** While deployed to the Korean Theater aboard *Leyte* (CV 32), the squadron launched its first combat mission since February 1945, striking North Korean targets.

**12 Dec 1950:** The squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Bagwell, crash-landed in North Korea and was taken prisoner.

**Jul–Aug 1958:** VA-35, along with other squadrons from CVG-3, provided support for U.S. Marines landing in Lebanon.

**Oct–Nov 1962:** VA-35 deployed to McCalla Field, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Cuban Missile

Crisis. During December, the squadron was embarked in *Saratoga* (CVA 60).

**4 Feb 1965:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Richard G. Laysen, was killed in an accident.

**15 Aug 1965:** VA-35 transferred from CVW-3 in preparation for its transition to the A-6A Intruder. This brought to a close an illustrious career with CVW-3 that began in 1939.

**26 Feb 1967:** The squadron participated in the first combat aerial mining operations since World War II, when its A-6A Intruders dropped mines in the Song Ca and Song Giang Rivers of North Vietnam.

**1 Oct 1967:** During a weapons training deployment to NAS Yuma, Arizona, VA-35 became the first A-6A squadron to fire the AIM-9 Sidewinder missile.

**Jan–Feb 1968:** While embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) and en route to Yankee Station, the carrier was ordered to the Sea of Japan for operations following the seizure of the *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans.

**12 Mar 1968:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Kollmann, was lost in an operational accident.

**17 Sep 1972:** While on a mission over North Vietnam the squadron's commanding officer, Commander Donnelly, was lost and is still listed as missing in action.

**3 Jan 1980:** VA-35 departed Naples, Italy, embarked in *Nimitz* (CVN 68), en route to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope after the U.S. Embassy staff was taken hostage in Tehran, Iran. This was the beginning of 144 consecutive days at sea for the squadron.

**26 May 1981:** While on a training exercise aboard *Nimitz* off the coast of Charleston, S.C., an EA-6B from VMAQ-2 crashed into parked aircraft while attempting to land. VA-35 personnel provided firefighting support and assistance to the injured. There were no injuries to VA-35 personnel. Over 130 members of the squadron received awards for fighting fires and assisting the injured.

**Jun 1985:** *Nimitz* and VA-35 were ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon due to the hijacking of TWA flight 847 by Arab radicals. The carrier and squadron remained on station until the release of the hostages in the latter part of June.

**Feb 1987:** VA-35, embarked in *Nimitz*, operated off the coast of Lebanon after three U.S. citizens were taken hostage from the American University in Beirut.

**Jul 1988:** VA-35 participated in a firepower demonstration for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and his guest, the Marshal of the Soviet Union.

**Sep 1988:** While deployed to the North Atlantic aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), the squadron conducted flight operations from the carrier while in the Vestfjord of Norway.

**Aug–Dec 1990:** The squadron flew missions in sup-

port of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



*The BM-1 was the first type of aircraft operated by the squadron. The vertical fin of the aircraft was most likely painted willow green, indicating it was assigned to the Ranger air group.*

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Norfolk	01 Jul 1934
NAS San Diego	14 Apr 1935
Ford Island (NAS Pearl Harbor)*	Jan 1942
NAS Kaneohe*	Feb 1942
NAS Ewa*	Jun 1942
NAS Kaneohe*	Sep 1942
Nandi Field, Fiji Islands*	Nov 1942
Tontouta Airfield, New Caledonia*	Dec 1942
NAS Sand Point	Sep 1943
NAS Whidbey Island	Oct 1943
NAS Pasco	02 Feb 1944
NAS Alameda*	05 Apr 1944
NAS Puunene*	22 Apr 1944
NAS Hilo*	07 Jun 1944
NAS Kahului*	22 Jul 1944
NAS Seattle	28 Mar 1945
NAS Wildwood	07 May 1945
NAAS Oceana	19 Jul 1945
NAAS Charlestown	15 Apr 1947
NAS Quonset Point	14 Aug 1947
NAAS Charlestown	01 Oct 1947
NAS Quonset Point	01 Feb 1949
NAAS Oceana*	24 Aug 1950
NAS Quonset Point	03 Feb 1951
NAAS Sanford	30 Apr 1951
NAS Cecil Field	Feb 1953
NAS Jacksonville	01 Oct 1958
NAS Oceana	Aug 1965

\* Temporary shore base assignment during World War II.

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR George C. Fairlamb, Jr.	01 Jul 1934
LCDR Robert H. Harrell	10 Jun 1935
LCDR Paul E. Roswall	05 Jun 1937
LCDR Edgar A. Cruise	Jul 1938
LCDR Robert E. Blick, Jr.	01 Jul 1939
LCDR Maxwell F. Leslie	1942
LCDR Dewitt W. Shumway	15 Jun 1942
LT Harold S. Bottomley, Jr	16 Apr 1943
LCDR John T. Lowe, Jr.	29 Sep 1943
LT Raymond S. Osterhoudt (acting)	22 Dec 1944
LT Raymond S. Osterhoudt	23 Feb 1945
LT. H. N. Murphy	07 May 1945
LCDR Heber J. Badger	04 Oct 1946
LCDR Ralph M. Bagwell	30 Nov 1948
LCDR John G. Osborn	19 Dec 1950
LCDR James W. Conger	31 Mar 1952
LCDR David G. Adams, Jr.	10 Aug 1953
CDR C. W. Johnson	Nov 1954
CDR Alfred E. Brown	Sep 1956
CDR Harlan W. Foote	07 Oct 1958
CDR William F. Bailey	21 Mar 1960
CDR E. C. Hastings II	28 Apr 1961
CDR W. F. Walker	29 May 1962
CDR J. R. Constantine	07 Mar 1963
CDR J. B. Allred	13 Mar 1964
CDR Richard G. Layser	22 Jan 1965
LCDR Joseph F. Frick (acting)	04 Feb 1965
CDR John W. Shute	22 Mar 1965
CDR Donald S. Ross	13 Aug 1965
CDR Arthur H. Barie	29 Jul 1966
CDR Glenn E. Kollmann	14 Jul 1967
CDR Herman L. Turk	15 Mar 1968
CDR Joseph F. Frick	29 May 1969
CDR Hugh J. Campbell	02 Jun 1970
CDR Kenneth B. Russell	12 Apr 1971
CDR Verne G. Donnelly	24 May 1972
CDR Milton D. Beach (acting)	17 Sep 1972
CDR Milton D. Beach	26 Sep 1972
CDR Gerald H. Hesse	21 Sep 1973
CDR Ronald P. Hyde	15 Aug 1974
CDR Brian K. Bryans	10 Dec 1975
CDR George D. O'Brien	31 Mar 1977
CDR James D. Joyner	23 Jun 1978
CDR John A. Pieno, Jr.	19 Jul 1979
CDR J. M. Luecke	05 Feb 1981
CDR A. H. White	24 Jun 1982
CDR Stephen A. Richmond	15 Dec 1983
CDR Ronald S. Pearson	24 Jun 1985
CDR Louis P. Lalli	24 Oct 1986
CDR James A. Bolcar	08 Apr 1988
CDR James B. Andersen	06 Sep 1989





One of the squadron's early aircraft, a BG-1, at Floyd Bennett Field, New York. Note the diving panther insignia on the fuselage. The squadron was assigned to the Ranger air group when this photo was taken.

**Aircraft Assignment**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
BM-1 and BM-2	Jul 1934
BG-1*	Nov 1934
SB2U-2	Jan 1938
SB2U-1	Jul 1940
BT-1	Mar 1941
SBC-4	Mar 1941
SBD-3	Aug 1941
SBD-4	Apr 1943
SBD-3P	Apr 1943
SBD-5	Aug 1943
SB2C-1C	Dec 1943
SBW-3	Jul 1944
SB2C-4	Sep 1944
SB2C-5	Jan 1946
AD-2	24 Nov 1948
AD-2Q	Feb 1949
AD-1	Feb 1949

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
AD-4	Oct 1950
AD-3	May 1950
AD-4L	Feb 1951
AD-4B	Mar 1953
AD-4N	Aug 1953
AD-6/A-1H†	Sep 1953
AD-5	Oct 1954
A-6A	15 Dec 1965
A-6B	Jan 1968
KA-6D	Dec 1970
A-6C	Feb 1971
A-6E	19 Apr 1973

\* The XBG-1 was received by the squadron in October 1934, followed by the BG-1 production versions in November 1934.

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



*A formation of the squadron's SB2U Vindicators. The squadron's diving panther insignia is barely visible on the fuselage of the aircraft.*

### **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>
28 Mar 1935	15 Apr 1935	<i>Ranger</i> Air Group	CV 4	BG-1	Carib/Panama Canal/West Coast
May 1935	May 1935	<i>Ranger</i> Air Group	CV 4	BG-1	Hawaii
*	*	*	CV 4	BG-1	Alaska
27 Apr 1936	Jun 1936	<i>Lexington</i> Air Group	CV 2	BG-1	Central America/West Coast
Apr 1937	May 1937	<i>Lexington</i> Air Group	CV 2	BG-1	Hawaii
Mar 1938	Apr 1938	<i>Ranger</i> Air Group	CV 4	BG-2	Hawaii
02 Apr 1940	21 Jun 1940	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	SB2U-2	Hawaii
08 Dec 1941	†Jan 1942	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	SBD-3	Hawaii

**Major Overseas Deployment—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>
Apr 1942	Apr 1942	<i>Enterprise</i> Air Group	CV 6	SBD-3	Pacific Ops
30 May 1942	Jun 1942	<i>Yorktown</i> Air Group	CV 5‡	SBD-3	Battle of Midway
07 Jul 1942	21 Sep 1942	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3	SBD-3	SoPac
12 Nov 1942	26 Jul 1943	<i>Saratoga</i> Air Group	CV 3§	SBD-3	SoPac
24 Oct 1944	27 Mar 1945	CVG-3	CV 10/ CV 16**	SB2C-4	Pacific Ops
07 Jun 1947	11 Aug 1947	CVAG-3	CV 33	SB2C-5	NorLant/Carib
01 Jun 1948	02 Oct 1948	CVG-3	CV 33	SB2C-5	Med
02 May 1950	24 Aug 1950	CVG-3	CV 32	AD-3	Med
06 Sep 1950	18 Sep 1950	CVG-3	CV 32	AD-3	Carib/Panama Canal/West Coast
19 Sep 1950	03 Feb 1951	CVG-3	CV 32	AD-3/4	WestPac/ Korea
03 Sep 1951	21 Dec 1951	CVG-3	CV 32	AD-4/L	Med
29 Aug 1952	Feb 1953	CVG-3	CVA 32	AD-4	Med
12 Nov 1953	Sep 1954	CVG-3	CVA 40	AD-6	World Cruise
04 Nov 1955	02 Aug 1956	CVG-3	CVA 14	AD-6	Med
01 Feb 1958	01 Oct 1958	CVG-3	CVA 60	AD-6	Med
16 Aug 1959	26 Feb 1960	CVG-3	CVA 60	AD-6	Med
22 Aug 1960	26 Feb 1961	CVG-3	CVA 60	AD-6	NorLant/Med
28 Nov 1961	11 May 1962	CVG-3	CVA 60	AD-6	Med
29 Mar 1963	25 Oct 1963	CVG-3	CVA 60	AD-6	Med
28 Nov 1964	12 Jul 1965	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-1H	Med
19 Nov 1966	06 Jul 1967	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1968	18 Jul 1968	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jul 1971	16 Dec 1971	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-6A/B/C & KA-6D	Med
05 Jun 1972	24 Mar 1973	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-6A/C & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1974	03 Aug 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
06 Sep 1974	12 Oct 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
16 Jul 1975	24 Sep 1975	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/NorLant
07 Jul 1976	07 Feb 1977	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
01 Dec 1977	20 Jul 1978	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/ NorLant
10 Sep 1979	26 May 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/SoLant/ IO
29 Aug 1980	17 Oct 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
03 Aug 1981	12 Feb 1982	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
10 Nov 1982	20 May 1983	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/Med

**Major Overseas Deployment—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>
08 Mar 1985	04 Oct 1985	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/Med
15 Aug 1986	16 Oct 1986	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
30 Dec 1986	26 Jul 1987	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/SoLant/ West Coast
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	Med
07 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-17	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/Red Sea

\* Detachments from Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, including a detachment from VB-3B, were organized as *Ranger's* Cold Weather Test Detachment and operated on a northern cruise to Alaska sometime between late November 1935 and 25 February 1936.

† The squadron was operating from *Saratoga* in the Hawaiian area when the ship was hit by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine on 11 January 1942. *Saratoga* departed Hawaii for repairs at Bremerton, Washington, and VB-3 remained in Hawaii.

‡ After the squadron's first strike against the Japanese carriers, it operated from *Enterprise* (CV 6) for the remainder of the Midway battle.

§ While deployed to the South Pacific, as part of the *Saratoga* Air Group, the squadron operated from *Saratoga* and various shore stations in New Caledonia, Fiji Islands, and Solomon Islands.

\*\* On 5 March 1945, VB-3 and CVG-3 were transferred from *Yorktown* (CV 10) to *Lexington* (CV 16) for its return to CONUS via Hawaii. *Lexington* departed Ulithi on 6 March, arriving in Hawaii on 17 March, departing on the 20th and arriving at Bremerton, Washington, on 27 March.



The squadron's SBD Dauntlesses are in the foreground on the deck of *Saratoga* (CV 3), circa late 1941. In the background are F4F Wildcats and TBD Devastators from *Saratoga's* air group.



*SB2C-4 Helldivers from VB-3 fly over the invasion fleet at Iwo Jima en route to bomb targets on the island, 22 February 1945.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
Ranger Air Group*		01 Jul 1934
Lexington Air Group*		Nov 1935
Ranger Air Group		01 Jul 1937
Saratoga Air Group		01 Jan 1939
Yorktown Air Group		May 1942
Saratoga Air Group/ CVG-3/CVAG-3/ CVG-3/CVW-3†	K/AC‡	Jun 1942
CVW-4		15 Aug 1965
COMFAIRNORFOLK		16 Dec 1965
CVW-9	NG	22 Sep 1966
COMFAIRNORFOLK		Jul 1968
CVW-15	NL	31 Jul 1969
COMFAIRNORFOLK		01 Jul 1970
CVW-8	AJ	01 Jan 1971
CVW-17	AA	07 Sep 1989

\* *Ranger* (CV 4) was commissioned on 4 June 1934 and VB-3B was assigned to *Ranger* on 1 July 1934. Squadrons assigned to the carri-



*A squadron AD-6 (A-1H) Skyraider, circa late 1950s or early 1960s.*

ers prior to 1 July 1938 were part of that carrier's air group. However, it was not until after 1 July 1938, when Air Group Commander billets were established, that the air group became an official organization.

† The *Saratoga* Air Group was redesignated Carrier Air Group THREE (CVG-3) on 25 September 1943. The CVG-3 designation was changed to CVAG-3 on 15 November 1946 to show the air wing's association with an attack carrier. It was changed back to CVG-3 on 1 September 1948 and no longer indicated the air group's association to a particular carrier designation, such as attack or battle carrier. On 20 December 1963, all Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW).

‡ The tail code K was assigned to *Kearsarge* (CV 33) on 7 November 1946. Since CVG-3 was assigned to *Kearsarge*, its squadrons used the K tail code. On 12 December 1946, the tail code K was removed from *Kearsarge* and assigned to CVG-3. Carrier Air Group 3's tail code was changed from K to AC in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	11 Nov 1944	19 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
NAVE	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	01 Oct 1976	30 Sep 1977
	01 Oct 1978	30 Sep 1979
	01 Oct 1980	31 Dec 1981
	01 Jan 1983	31 Dec 1983
PUC	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
	11 Nov 1944	19 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
KPUC	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
	16 Feb 1945	25 Feb 1945
	05 Oct 1950	19 Jan 1951
NUC	09 Oct 1950	19 Jan 1951
	18 Dec 1966	20 Jun 1967
MUC	22 Feb 1968	26 Jun 1968
	23 Jan 1980	01 May 1980
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
	14 Jul 1972	20 Feb 1973
	01 Dec 1977	21 Dec 1979
	01 Jan 1981	12 Feb 1982
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
	18 Oct 1962	23 Oct 1962
RVNGC	14 Jan 1980	14 May 1980
	05 Dec 1982	31 Dec 1982
	21 Jan 1983	13 Feb 1983
	18 Feb 1983	24 Feb 1983
	19 Mar 1983	21 Mar 1983
	18 Apr 1983	22 Apr 1983
	22 Feb 1968	24 Feb 1968
	26 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	05 Mar 1968	08 Mar 1968
	12 Mar 1968	
13 Mar 1968		

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	14 Mar 1968	
	16 Mar 1968	
	29 Mar 1968	30 Mar 1968
	01 Apr 1968	05 Apr 1968
	07 Apr 1968	10 Apr 1968
	12 Apr 1968	
	14 Apr 1968	
	16 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968
	22 Apr 1968	23 Apr 1968
	02 May 1968	
	01 Jun 1968	02 Jun 1968
	04 Jun 1968	
	15 Jun 1968	
	16 Aug 1968	10 Sep 1968
VNSM	19 Dec 1966	17 Jan 1967
	31 Jan 1967	03 Mar 1967
	20 Mar 1967	18 Apr 1967
28 Apr 1967	28 May 1967	
	04 Jun 1967	21 Jun 1967
	21 Feb 1968	17 Mar 1968
	26 Mar 1968	24 Apr 1968
	30 Apr 1968	21 May 1968
	30 May 1968	27 Jun 1968

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
	22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
	17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
	19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
	28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
	02 Jul 1972	04 Jul 1972
	11 Jul 1972	24 Jul 1972
	10 Aug 1972	28 Aug 1972
	06 Sep 1972	07 Oct 1972
	11 Oct 1972	12 Oct 1972
	20 Oct 1972	01 Dec 1972
	09 Dec 1972	27 Dec 1972
	09 Jan 1973	02 Feb 1973
	12 Feb 1973	16 Feb 1973
	21 Feb 1973	25 Feb 1973
KLM	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
SASM	22 Aug 1990	21 Sep 1990
	23 Oct 1990	09 Dec 1990
	06 Jan 1991	11 Mar 1991
Campaign Medal	(Asiatic-Pacific) For numerous periods during World War II.	



*A squadron A-6 Intruder with its famous diving panther insignia on the tail.*

## VA-36

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO (VF-102) on 1 May 1952.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTY SIX (VA-36) on 1 July 1955.

Disestablished on 1 August 1970. The first squadron to be designated VA-36.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VF-102's first insignia was approved by CNO in October 1952. Unfortunately, the squadron's insignia file does not contain a drawing or photograph of the design. The insignia included: a blue circular design with a black winged wolf leaping diagonally from left to right in front of a yellow moon and over a red lightning bolt; and a blue sea depicted in the lower part of the circle. The wolf, lightning bolt, blue sea and circular insignia were outlined in yellow.



*It is believed the squadron adopted the roadrunner insignia sometime after receiving its first A-4 Skyhawks. One of the nicknames for the A-4 was "Heinemann's Hot Rod" and the logo on the insignia may be indicative of that nickname.*

The squadron also used an insignia design with a roadrunner.

However, there is no indication when it was approved or used by the squadron. Colors for the roadrunner insignia were: a green background outlined in yellow; and a gray roadrunner with blue wings and head feathers, a yellow beak, red tongue and white legs holding white rockets with red tips. The insignia's upper and lower scrolls had a blue background with Attack Squadron 36 in white on the upper and Hotrodus Supersonic in white on the lower. Both scrolls were outlined in yellow.

Nickname: Roadrunners, timeframe unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

Nov 1953-Sep 1954: During the squadron's world cruise aboard *Tarawa* (CVA 40), it visited 14 different ports in 10 foreign countries and transited the Suez and Panama Canals.

Jul-Aug 1961: While deployed on a training cruise aboard *Saratoga* in the Caribbean, the squadron was on an alert status due to the Bay of Pigs invasion.

2 Dec 1965: The squadron conducted its first combat operations, flying from *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) on

Dixie Station in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. This marked the first time a nuclear powered ship had engaged in combat.

Dec 1965-Jun 1966: During this period of combat operations squadron personnel were awarded over 170 Air Medals.

May-Jun 1967: VA-36, embarked on *America*, was on station in the eastern Mediterranean during the Middle East War between Israel and Egypt and Syria. Units of *America's* air wing were launched to provide air cover for *Liberty* (AGTR 5) when it came under attack by Israeli forces.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAS Cecil Field	01 May 1952
NAS Jacksonville	Jul 1955
NAS Cecil Field	Apr 1956

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR R. B. Dalton	01 May 1952
CDR R. A. Clarke	1953
CDR L. A. Menard, Jr.	10 Sep 1954
CDR Thad T. Coleman, Jr.	31 May 1956
CDR Hugh M. Garvey	26 Jul 1957
CDR A. L. Detweiler	22 Jul 1958
LCDR P. D. Davidson	30 Jan 1960
CDR G. L. Ayers, Jr.	28 Apr 1961
CDR E. J. Carroll	29 May 1962
CDR H. K. Matthes	18 May 1963
CDR R. W. Somers	01 May 1964
CDR J. E. Marshall	22 Apr 1965
CDR T. F. Rush	02 Apr 1966
CDR A. R. Cunningham	19 May 1967
CDR E. H. Brooks	24 May 1968
CDR N. H. Rose	29 May 1969
CDR W. C. Nix	30 Mar 1970

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
FG-1D	May 1952
F9F-5	Oct 1952
F9F-8 & F9F-8B	02 Nov 1956
F9F-8T	14 Apr 1957
A4D-2	11 Sep 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	21 Mar 1961
A-4E†	Oct 1967

\* The A4D-2N designation changed to A-4C in 1962.

† The squadron began its transition to A-4Es in October 1967 and in November 1967 transitioned back to A-4Cs.



*In the background is a squadron F9F-5 Panther and the pilots who night carrier qualified aboard Bennington (CVA 20) in September 1955 prior to the squadron's WestPac deployment on the carrier. VA-36 pilots are: Bottom row, left to right: Lt. K. T. Weaver; Lt. P. M. McGucken, Cdr. L. A. Mendar, Jr., CO; Cdr. T. T. Coleman, Jr., XO; and LCdr. R. G. Altman. Top row, left to right: Lt. (jg) D. R. Fall, Lt. P. E. Johnson, Lt. (jg) D. A. Brown, Lt. (jg) A. J. Cooper, Lt. R. C. Doan, Lt. (jg) B. J. Gordon, Lt. T. W. Lockett, Ens. G. V. Smith, Lt. (jg) H. L. Brooks, Lt. H. A. Lackey II, Lt. A. J. Kermes, Lt. (jg) H. W. Neubard, Lt. (jg) W. D. Baker, Lt. (jg) M. N. Guess, Ens. L. Ames (AIO), Lt. (jg) R. C. Scott, Lt. J. D. Blackwood, Lt. (jg) J. B. Busey and Lt. (jg) M. E. Hill.*

### **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>
Nov 1953	Sep 1954	CVG-3	CVA 40	F9F-5	World Cruise
31 Oct 1955	16 Apr 1956	ATG-201	CVA 20	F9F-5	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	26 Feb 1960	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2	Med
22 Aug 1960	26 Feb 1961	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2	NorLant/Med
05 Jul 1961	22 Aug 1961	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2N	Carib
28 Nov 1961	11 May 1962	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2N	Med
03 Dec 1962	21 Dec 1962	CVG-3	CVA 60	A4D-2N	Carib
29 Mar 1963	25 Oct 1963	CVG-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
28 Nov 1964	12 Jul 1965	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
26 Oct 1965	21 Jun 1966	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	SoLant/IO/ WestPac/ Vietnam
10 Jan 1967	20 Sep 1967	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-4C	Med
04 Jun 1968	08 Feb 1969	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-4C	SoLant/IO/ Pacific/Vietnam
02 Dec 1969	08 Jul 1970	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-4C	Med



**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-10	P	01 May 1952
CVG-3	K	Nov 1953
CVG-10	P	Sep 1954
ATG-201	J/AP*	May 1955†
ATG-202	AQ	15 Jan 1958
CVG-17	AL	14 Mar 1958
CVG-3/CVW-3‡	AC	11 Oct 1958
CVW-9	NG	22 Sep 1965
CVW-8	AJ	15 Jul 1966
CVW-6	AE	01 Sep 1966
CVW-10	AK	16 Oct 1967
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1969

\* The tail code J was assigned to ATG-201 on 24 July 1956 and changed to AP in the latter part of 1957. The effective date for the change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† The specific date the squadron was assigned to Air Task Group 201 (ATG-201) has not been verified. However, it probably was in May 1955, the date the squadron deployed aboard *Bennington* (CVA 20) for a shakedown cruise to Guantanamo Bay.

‡ Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-3 became CVW-3.

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	07 Jul 1961	19 Aug 1961
RVNGC	02 Dec 1965	
	11 Dec 1965	
	21 Dec 1965	
	24 Dec 1965	
	26 Dec 1965	30 Dec 1965
	01 Jan 1966	02 Jan 1966
	04 Jan 1966	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	
	19 Feb 1966	
	23 Feb 1966	
	27 Mar 1966	28 Mar 1966
	30 Mar 1966	31 Mar 1966
	02 Apr 1966	
	11 Apr 1966	
	29 Apr 1966	
	01 Oct 1968	01 Nov 1968
VNSM	02 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	23 Feb 1966
	16 Mar 1966	12 Apr 1966
	22 Apr 1966	14 May 1966
	23 May 1966	06 Jun 1966
	11 Jul 1968	12 Jul 1968
	14 Jul 1968	15 Jul 1968
	23 Jul 1968	22 Aug 1968
	14 Oct 1968	14 Nov 1968
	03 Dec 1968	27 Dec 1968
NUC	06 Jul 1968	16 Jan 1969

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	Jul 1958	Jun 1959
	01 Jan 1967	30 Jun 1968
AFEM	03 Dec 1962	20 Dec 1962



*Squadron A-4C Skyhawks assigned to CVW-9 deployed aboard Enterprise (CVAN 65).*

## SECOND VA-36

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THIRTY SIX (VA-36) on 6 March 1987.

Disestablished on 1 April 1994. The second Navy squadron to be assigned the VA-36 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The insignia adopted by VA-36 is a modification of the Roadrunner insignia used by the first VA-36 squadron. The old insignia had been a Roadrunner cartoon character, but the modification depicted a real bird with its primary enemy clutched in its talons. Colors for the insignia are: blue background and scrolls; silver and black bird with a red eye and tongue; yellow snake with black markings; and red lettering in the scrolls.



*The squadron adopted a roadrunner insignia similar to the first VA-36 squadron.*

VA-36's insignia was tentatively approved by CNO on 6 April 1987.

Nickname: Roadrunners, 1987–1994.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**30 Dec 1988:** VA-36 deployed aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) for the carrier's maiden cruise to the Mediterranean Sea.

**20 Jan–28 Feb 1991:** The squadron participated in Operation Desert Storm, combat operations against Iraq.

**Apr–Jun 1991:** The squadron participated in Operation Provide Comfort, a multi-national operation providing relief and aid for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq.

**Mar–Sep 1993:** The squadron, along with other units of CVW-8, deployed aboard *Roosevelt* (CVN 71) in a new approach to joint operations to test the Navy's ability to project a wide range of power and mobility from the sea. The composition on the carrier during the deployment included the regular air wing, minus an F-14 and S-3 squadron, and a Special Marine Air-Ground Task Force consisting of a Marine Corps fixed-wing and helo squadron and a company of Marines. The mix of units provided the carrier with the ability to project air and ground striking power ashore from a single deck.

**Jun 1993:** The squadron, along with other units embarked on *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), operated in the Red Sea in support of a strike on the Iraqi Intelligence Service headquarters building in Baghdad in response to Iraq's attempt on the life of former President Bush while on a visit to Kuwait in April. During this time, the squadron also participated in Operation Southern Watch missions, enforcing the U. N. no-fly zone within southern Iraq.

### Home Port Assignments

	<i>Location Assignment Date</i>
NAS Oceana	06 Mar 1987

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR T. Lamar Willis	06 Mar 1987
CDR Daniel J. Franken	01 Dec 1988
CDR T. Ladson Webb, Jr.	04 May 1990
CDR Thomas M. Deyke	27 Aug 1991
CDR Mark T. McNally	03 Sep 1992
CDR Mark J. Himler	23 Sep 1993

### Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-6E	May 1987

### 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>
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	Med/IO
11 Mar 1993	08 Sep 1993	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	Med/IO

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-8	AJ	Sep 1987

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
SASM	14 Jan 1991	20 Apr 1991
JMUA	05 Apr 1991	16 Jul 1991
MUC	01 Mar 1993	01 Aug 1993



*A squadron A-6E Intruder on a mission over the northern Arabian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. Note the cluster bombs on the wing pylons.*

## **VA-38**

### ***Lineage***

Established as Attack Squadron THIRTY EIGHT (VA-38) on 1 March 1967.

Disestablished on 1 October 1968. The first and only squadron to be assigned the VA-38 designation.

### ***Chronology of Significant Events***

The establishment of VA-38 was directed by CNO.

The squadron's administrative assignment was to Commander Fleet Air, Jacksonville. However, it appears VA-38 existed only on paper. The squadron was established while the A-7A Corsair II was being introduced to the fleet and may have been programmed to be a new A-7A attack squadron. However, according to the CNO publication, *Allowances and Location of Navy Aircraft*, the squadron was not assigned aircraft. The only records on the squadron are the CNO messages establishing and disestablishing the unit.