

SECOND VA-64

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTY FOUR (VA-64) on 1 July 1961.

Disestablished on 7 November 1969. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-64 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 December 1961. Colors for the insignia were: a



The Black Lancers' insignia.

white background outlined in black; the knight's helmet was black with white markings and red plumage; and the scrolls had a white background, outlined in black, with black lettering.

Nickname: Black Lancers, circa 1961–1969.

Chronology of Significant Events

17 Feb–17 Jun 1962: VA-64 Det 48, formed to provide an air defense capability for Carrier Anti-Submarine Air Groups, deployed aboard *Wasp* (CVS 18) for a North Atlantic cruise. The detachment's designation was changed to VA-64 Det 18B in April 1962. Lieutenant Commander E. D. Herbert was officer-in-charge of the detachment during the cruise.

Oct–18 Nov 1962: The squadron was embarked in *Independence* (CVA 62) operating in the Caribbean Sea in support of the Cuban quarantine.

18 Nov–5 Dec 1962: On 18 November, in an unusual at-sea evolution, VA-64 switched places with VA-34 and embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65). The complements of both squadrons were lifted between carriers by helicopters. Following the transfer the squadron continued to operate in the Caribbean as part of the Cuban quarantine.

Mar 1964: The squadron conducted operations in the vicinity of Cyprus during a conflict between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

31 Jul–3 Oct 1964: The squadron participated in operation Sea Orbit, the first circumnavigation of the world by a nuclear task force. The sixty-five day voyage was accomplished without logistic replenishment. The squadron participated in numerous air power demonstrations during the voyage.

8 Jun 1967: VA-64's aircraft were part of an Air Wing 6 strike group that was launched to defend *Liberty* (AGTR 5) when she came under attack by the Israelis. When word was received that the attack had been a mistake on the part of the Israelis the aircraft were recalled.

Nov 1968: The squadron provided an A-4C, two pilots and seven enlisted personnel to augment the VSF-1 detachment aboard *Wasp*. The detachment provided the ship with a day time air defense capability.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Oceana	01 Jul 1961
NAS Cecil Field	15 Feb 1965

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Paul A. Anderson	01 Jul 1961
CDR R. A. Uhwat	31 May 1962
CDR F. E. Babineau	20 Jun 1963
CDR David E. Scherrer	28 Jun 1964
CDR Max D. Barr	12 Jun 1965
CDR James E. Kneale	07 Jun 1966
CDR Keith C. Spayde, Jr.	12 Jun 1967
CDR Jerald W. Bucklin	29 May 1968
CDR Stuart T. Meredith	1969

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A4D-2N/A-4C*	18 Jul 1961
A4D-2†	28 Dec 1961

* The A4D-2N was redesignated A-4C in 1962.

† The A4D-2 was used by VA-64 Detachment 48.

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>
06 Feb 1963	04 Sep 1963	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med
08 Feb 1964	03 Oct 1964	CVW-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med/World Cruise
30 Nov 1965	10 Jul 1966	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-4C	Med
10 Jan 1967	20 Sep 1967	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-4C	Med
30 Apr 1968	27 Jan 1969	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4C	Med
03 Sep 1969	09 Oct 1969	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4C	NorLant

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-6	AF	01 Jul 1961
CVG-1	AB	08 Feb 1962
COMFAIRNORFOLK		31 Jul 1962
CVG-7	AG	01 Oct 1962
CVG-6/CVW-6*	AF/AE*	18 Nov 1962
CVW-7	AG	16 Oct 1967

* CVG-6 was redesignated CVW-6 when all Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were changed to Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963. Sometime in the latter part of 1962 CVG-6's tail code was changed from AF to AE.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	24 Oct 1962	20 Nov 1962



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk is prepared for launch from America (CVA 66) in 1965.

SECOND VA-65

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron SEVENTY FOUR (VT-74) on 1 May 1945.

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

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VA-25) on 1 September 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY FIVE (VA-65) on 1 July 1959.

Disestablished on 31 March 1993. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-65 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO



The beast was the squadron's first insignia. It was designed by the squadron when they were flying the SB2C, nicknamed the "Beast."

on 9 August 1945. During the time when the squadron's insignia was approved, VT-74 was flying the SB2C which was nicknamed the Beast. Consequently, the squadron's insignia took on the shape of a beast riding a torpedo. There is no record of the colors used for this insignia.



Following the squadron's redesignation as an attack squadron, the knight chess piece insignia was approved.



The squadron's last insignia, the prowling tiger, was in use for over 40 years and was a well-known insignia in naval aviation.

After VT-74 was redesignated VA-2B, it continued to use the old insignia until 17 April 1947 when CNO approved a new insignia for the squadron. The insignia adopted by VA-2B reflected the squadron's new attack mission. The horsehead chess piece was designed to relate the squadron's power to that of a medieval knight and the fleur-de-lis represented integrity. Colors for the insignia were: a yellow background; red scroll with yellow lettering, black banner with a black and white pole; white knight with a yellow collar; a white lightning bolt; and the Fleur-de-lis was red with a black band.

The Knight insignia continued as the official insignia for the squadron following its redesignation to VA-25 on 1 September 1948. A new insignia for VA-25 was approved by CNO on 4 April 1950. The new insignia was a front view of a tiger on the prowl. Colors were: yellow background; brown tiger with green eyes, and white teeth, whiskers and claws; and a red tongue and mouth. When VA-25 was redesignated VA-65 in 1959 the tiger insignia was retained and remained VA-65's insignia until its disestablishment.

Nickname: Tigers, 1950–1993.

Chronology of Significant Events

7 Nov 1945: Squadron embarked in *Midway* (CVB 41) for her shakedown cruise. The squadron had originally been established for the purpose of being part of the *Midway* Air Group.

Jul-Aug 1948: The squadron participated in operation CAMID III, close air support for amphibious landings. During this operation the squadron became the first VA unit in the Atlantic Fleet to fire Tiny Tim rockets.

1-20 Jun 1961: Following a four-hour notice for an emergency deployment, VA-65 deployed to the Caribbean Sea aboard *Intrepid* (CVA 11) due to unsettled conditions in the Dominican Republic following the assassination of General Trujillo.

3 Aug-11 Oct 1962: VA-65 was aboard for the maiden cruise of the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), during her deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

19 Oct-6 Dec 1962: VA-65 was back at sea aboard *Enterprise* one week after returning from a Med cruise and headed for the Caribbean Sea due to the Cuban missile crisis. The squadron participated in the naval quarantine of Cuba.

31 Jul-3 Oct 1964: The squadron participated in Operation Sea Orbit as part of CVW-6 aboard *Enterprise*. This operation was an around-the-world voyage of a task force composed of all nuclear powered ships. The sixty-five day cruise was accomplished without logistic support, which demonstrated the capability of these ships to steam to any area in the world and project power without support.

15 Jun 1966: VA-65 conducted its first combat sortie.

1 Jul 1966: VA-65's aircraft joined other CVW-15 aircraft in attacking and sinking three North Vietnamese patrol vessels that were approaching *Coontz* (DLG 9) at high speed.

25-31 Oct 1966: Due to the inclement weather, the squadron's all-weather A-6As were used to the maximum. During this period VA-65 flew 37 percent of all Yankee Team sorties in North Vietnam.

29 Jul 1967: VA-65 personnel were among those killed or injured when a flight deck explosion and fire occurred on *Forrestal* (CVA 59) during operations on Yankee Station.

Jul-Dec 1967: Due to the fire on the *Forrestal* and her departure from combat duty on Yankee Station, VA-65 sent a detachment (Det-64) to the *Constellation* (CVA 64) to augment VA-196 for the remainder of the ship's 1967 combat tour in Vietnam.

May-Jun 1969: *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63), with VA-65 aboard, relieved *Enterprise* in the Sea of Japan. *Enterprise* had been ordered to operate in the area as a result of the shoot down in April of an unarmed Navy EC-121 reconnaissance aircraft by North Korean MiGs. VA-65 conducted operations in the area during this two month period.

9 Sep-5 Oct 1970: VA-65 operated from *Independence* (CVA 62) on Bravo Station off the coast of Israel as a result of the crisis in Jordan and the hijacking of three commercial airliners.

7 Oct-3 Nov & 9-21 Nov 1973: After the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War (Arab-Israeli War of 1973), VA-65 operated from *Independence* in an area southwest of Crete and provided tanker support to fighter aircraft escorting Air Force One on Secretary of State Kissinger's mission to Israel as well as tanker support for A-4 Skyhawks being ferried to Israel from the United States.

4-22 Aug 1974: *Independence*, with VA-65 embarked, operated between Crete and Cyprus in response to the crisis in Cyprus and the death of the American Ambassador to Cyprus at the hands of anti-American demonstrators.

12 Mar 1975: During exercises in the Caribbean Sea, VA-65 conducted cross deck operations with HMS *Ark Royal*.

Nov 1975: During the NATO exercise Ocean Safari in the North Atlantic, the squadron once again conducted cross deck operations with HMS *Ark Royal*.

15 Apr 1980: VA-65 deployed aboard *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) to the Indian Ocean after Iranians took the American Embassy personnel hostage.

22 Dec 1980: VA-65 returned from its deployment that included only one port visit of five days in duration and a total of 246 days at sea.

24 Jun 1982: VA-65 provided support during the evacuation of American and foreign civilians from Beirut, Lebanon.

7 Mar 1985: VA-65 and *Dwight D. Eisenhower* cut short a port visit to Palma, Spain and departed on a high speed transit to the Eastern Mediterranean due to the increased tension in Lebanon. The squadron operated in the vicinity of Lebanon until early April.

1 Sep 1986: VA-65 was assigned to CVW-13 and *Coral Sea* (CV 43) as part of the *Coral Sea* Concept whereby two A-6 Intruder squadrons would be part of the air wing and share a common aircraft maintenance department. The concept was intended to reduce the number of personnel needed to support the squadrons.

29 Sep 1987: VA-65 deployed to the Mediterranean Sea aboard *Coral Sea* as the first Night Vision Goggle (NVG) capable A-6 squadron.

Aug-Sep 1989: *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VA-65 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon following terrorist claims to have killed an American hostage, Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, and the capture of Sheik Obeid from Lebanon by Israeli forces. The unstable situation in Lebanon ultimately led to the evacuation of the American Embassy. Squadron aircraft flew missions in support of the evacuation.

Jan-Feb 1990: The squadron was embarked in *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) for her shakedown cruise.

Jan-Feb 1991: The squadron participated in Operation Desert Storm, the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi forces. Squadron aircraft struck targets in Iraq, Iraqi forces in Kuwait, and Iraqi naval units. The squadron claimed the destruction (sinking) of 22 Iraqi naval vessels during the conflict.

Apr-May 1991: VA-65 participated in Operation Provide Comfort, flying close air support sorties over Northern Iraq in support of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's mission to aid the Kurdish refugees in Iraq.

26 Mar 1993: The squadron held a disestablishment ceremony at NAS Oceana, it was officially disestablished on 31 March 1993.



A rare photo of a squadron SB2C in post-World War II markings. What is even more interesting is the fact that a torpedo squadron was assigned an aircraft designed primarily as a bomber.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAF Otis Field, Camp Edwards	01 May 1945
NAS Norfolk	Oct 1945
NAAS Charlestown	Feb 1946
NAAS Oceana	Jun 1946
CGAS Elizabeth City	20 Nov 1950
NAAS Oceana/NAS Oceana*	20 Sep 1951

* NAAS Oceana was redesignated NAS Oceana on 1 April 1952.

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Howard U. Bush	01 May 1945
LCDR John J. Hilton	05 Oct 1945
LCDR J. C. Micheel	16 Nov 1946
CDR K. W. Caffey	09 Apr 1947
CDR Arthur B. Sweet	11 Jun 1948
LCDR William W. Jones (Acting)	07 Sep 1949
CDR Arthur M. Ershler	10 Nov 1949
CDR Ray C. Tylutki	31 May 1951
LCDR Jean C. Mills	27 Oct 1952
CDR Thomas H. Stetson	Sep 1953
CDR Roy P. Gee	Feb 1955
CDR William G. Weber	Apr 1956
LCDR John R. O'Neil, Jr.	25 Nov 1957
CDR Leland B. Cornell	17 Dec 1957
CDR William D. McNair	11 Sep 1959
CDR Maurice O. Rishel	16 Nov 1960
CDR W. F. Offtermatt	23 Oct 1961
CDR Harry W. Swinburne, Jr.	19 Oct 1962
CDR William J. Whitney	04 Jul 1963
CDR Norman E. Larsen	01 May 1964
CDR William N. Small	30 Nov 1964
CDR Robert C. Mandeville	30 Jun 1966
CDR Frank Cramblet	Jun 1967
CDR St. Clair Smith	14 Jun 1968
CDR Michael F. Andrassy	16 Jun 1969
CDR Peter B. Easton	19 Jun 1970
CDR William P. Lyons	10 Jun 1971
CDR Thomas E. Shanahan	23 Jun 1972
CDR Paul F. Hollandsworth	29 Jun 1973
CDR Charles D. Hawkins, Jr.	25 Jun 1974
CDR George H. Strohsahl, Jr.	27 Jun 1975
CDR Donald L. Hahn	14 Sep 1976
CDR William R. Needham	16 Dec 1977
CDR Herbert A. Browne, Jr.	23 Mar 1979
CDR Joseph W. Prueher	20 Jun 1980
CDR Dickey P. Davis	25 Sep 1981
CDR Robert E. Houser	07 Dec 1982
CDR William J. Fallon	03 May 1984
CDR Robert L. Leitzel	06 Sep 1985
CDR Stephen H. Baker	13 Feb 1987
CDR Michael C. Vogt	12 Aug 1988

Commanding Officers—Continued

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Ralph H. Coon	23 Feb 1990
CDR Thomas J. Ross	12 Aug 1991
CDR James K. Stark, Jr.	04 Sep 1992



Squadron AD-6 Skyraiders are directed to the catapult aboard Intrepid (CVA 11) in 1961.

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
SBW-4E	May 1945
SB2C-4E	Jul 1945
SB2C-5	Feb 1946
TBM-3E	Feb 1946
SBW-5	1946
SNJ-4	Jul 1947
AD-1	Jul 1947
AD-4	01 Dec 1949
AD-6/A-1H*	Oct 1953
A-6A	Mar 1965
A-6B	Dec 1968
KA-6D	1971†
A-6E	03 May 1972

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

† The KA-6D was received sometime between April and June 1971.



A squadron A-6A Intruder in flight with a load of bombs, 1970.

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>
29 Oct 1947	11 Mar 1948	CVBG-1	CVB 41	AD-1	Med
03 May 1949	25 Sep 1949	CVG-2	CVB 43	AD-1	Med
10 Jan 1951	18 May 1951	CVG-6	CVB 42	AD-4	Med
09 Jan 1952	05 May 1952	CVG-6	CVB 41	AD-4	Med
26 Aug 1952	08 Oct 1952	CVG-6	CVB 41	AD-4	NorLant
01 Dec 1952	19 May 1953	CVG-6	CVA 41	AD-4	Med
04 Jan 1954	04 Aug 1954	CVG-6	CVA 41	AD-6	Med
09 Oct 1955	30 Apr 1956	CVG-6	CVA 39	AD-6	Med
03 Sep 1957	21 Oct 1957	CVG-6	CVA 11	AD-6	NorLant
12 Feb 1959	30 Aug 1959	CVG-6	CVA 11	AD-6	Med
04 Aug 1960	17 Feb 1961	CVG-6	CVA 11	AD-6	Med
03 Aug 1961	01 Mar 1962	CVG-6	CVA 11	AD-6	Med
03 Aug 1962	11 Oct 1962	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-1H	Med
19 Oct 1962	06 Dec 1962	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-1H	Carib
06 Feb 1963	04 Sep 1963	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-1H	Med
08 Feb 1964	03 Oct 1964	CVW-6	CVAN 65	A-1H	Med/World Cruise
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jun 1967	15 Sep 1967	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
30 Dec 1968	04 Sep 1969	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Jun 1970	31 Jan 1971	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-6A	Med
16 Sep 1971	16 Mar 1972	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-6A/KA-6D	NorLant/Med
21 Jun 1973	19 Jan 1974	CVW-7	CV 62	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
19 Jul 1974	21 Jan 1975	CVW-7	CV 62	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
15 Oct 1975	05 May 1976	CVW-7	CV 62	A-6E/KA-6D	NorLant/Med
31 Mar 1977	21 Oct 1977	CVW-7	CV 62	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
16 Jan 1979	13 Jul 1979	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
15 Apr 1980	22 Dec 1980	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	IO
20 Aug 1981	07 Oct 1981	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	NorLant
05 Jan 1982	13 Jul 1982	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
27 Apr 1983	02 Dec 1983	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
08 May 1984	20 Jun 1984	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Carib/NorLant
10 Oct 1984	08 May 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Med
08 Jul 1985	22 Aug 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-6E/KA-6D	Carib
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	A-6E	Med
31 May 1989	30 Sep 1989	CVW-13	CV 43	A-6E	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	A-6E	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf



A KA-6D from VA-65 refuels an RA-5C Vigilante, 1971.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-74		01 May 1945
CVBG-1*	M	15 Nov 1946
CVG-2†	M	01 Sep 1948
CVG-6	C	Aug 1950
CVG-6	AF‡	
CVG-6/CVW-6§	AE§	
RCVW-4	AD	01 Jan 1965
COMFAIRNORFOLK		05 Jun 1965
CVW-15	NL	20 Feb 1966
COMFAIRNORFOLK		03 Dec 1966
CVW-17	AA	22 Dec 1966
COMFAIRNORFOLK		15 Sep 1967
CVW-11	NH	1968
COMFAIRNORFOLK		Sep 1969
CVW-7	AG	Feb 1970
CVW-13	AK	01 Sep 1986
CVW-8	AJ	30 Oct 1989

* CVG-74 was redesignated CVBG-1 on 15 November 1946.
 † CVBG-1 was redesignated CVG-2 on 1 September 1948.
 ‡ CVG-6's tail code was changed from C to AF in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).
 § CVG-6's tailcode was changed from AF to AE sometime in the latter part of 1962. Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-6 became CVW-6.

Unit Awards

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	1948	1948*
	01 Jul 1951	30 Jun 1952
	01 Jul 1959	30 Jun 1960
	1967	1967†
	01 Oct 1977	30 Sep 1978
	01 Oct 1979	30 Sep 1980
	01 Jan 1984	31 Dec 1984

Unit Awards—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Jan 1991	31 Dec 1991
AFEM	24 Oct 1962	21 Nov 1962
	15 May 1969	
	25 May 1969	27 May 1969
	05 Jun 1969	
	07 Jun 1969	15 Jun 1969
	25 Jun 1969	
	06 Jun 1983	14 Jun 1983
	27 Jul 1983	30 Aug 1983
	01 Sep 1983	19 Oct 1983
	27 Oct 1983	20 Nov 1983
MUC	09 Sep 1970	05 Oct 1970
	30 Mar 1988	30 Sep 1989
NEM	29 Apr 1980	16 Jul 1980
	22 Jul 1980	08 Dec 1980
	25 May 1983	27 May 1983
NUC	15 Jan 1969	27 Aug 1969
	29 Apr 1980	10 Dec 1980
	21 Jul 1983	20 Nov 1983
	27 Oct 1984	24 Apr 1985
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
VNSM	14 Jun 1966	13 Jul 1966
	27 Jul 1966	31 Aug 1966
	08 Sep 1966	01 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	09 Nov 1966
	23 Jul 1967	30 Jul 1967
	12 Aug 1967	
	27 Jan 1969	01 Mar 1969
	12 Mar 1969	05 Apr 1969
	17 Apr 1969	10 May 1969
	28 Jun 1969	15 Jul 1969
	27 Jul 1969	16 Aug 1969
KLM	7 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
SASM	14 Jan 1991	20 Apr 1991
JMUC	05 Apr 1991	16 Jul 1991

* The award covers the competitive year 1948.
 † The award covers the competitive year 1967.



A British Victor tanker refuels a squadron KA-6D Intruder and an F-4 Phantom II. Note the refueling line and basket being trailed by the squadron's KA-6D.

SECOND VA-66

Lineage

Reserve Fighter Squadron SIX SEVENTY ONE (VF-671) was called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VF-81) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY SIX (VA-66) on 1 July 1955.

Disestablished on 1 October 1986. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-66 designation. A VA-66 detachment continued in existence until 31 March 1987.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 28 September 1953. No description or photograph of it is available in the squadron records.



The official records do not contain a copy of the squadron's first insignia. However, the second insignia, a rooster toting a machine gun, is a well-known design in naval aviation.

The squadron's second insignia was approved by CNO on 25 January 1955. This insignia, a rooster toting a machine gun, became a well known design during the next three decades. Colors for the insignia were: a black background outlined in red; the rooster was red with black markings; his feet and beak were yellow, as well as the life vest; the face, hands and neck were white with black markings

and he had black eyes; his claws and spurs were gray; the machine gun was gray with black markings and white smoke trailing from the barrel; and the banner was white, outlined in black and with black letters. The insignia continued in use following the squadron's redesignation on 1 July 1955.

Nickname: Waldomen, circa 1950s-early 1960s.

Waldos, circa early 1960s-1987.

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan-Feb 1953: VF-81, with its F9F-5s, participated in operational tests aboard the Navy's first angled deck carrier, *Antietam* (CVA 36).

Apr 1954: VF-81 became the first operational fleet squadron to receive and operate the F7U Cutlass.

27 May 1959: During the squadron's deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, the commanding officer, Commander McNeil, was killed in an aircraft accident during a practice Carrier Controlled Approach.

14 Aug 1962: The squadron participated in cross deck operations aboard the British carrier HMS *Hermes* (R-12).

Oct-Dec 1962: While embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), the squadron participated in the Cuban Blockade.

31 Jul-3 Oct 1964: *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), with VA-66 embarked, participated in operation Sea Orbit, the first circumnavigation of the world by a nuclear task force. The sixty-five day voyage was accomplished without replenishment. The squadron participated in numerous air power demonstrations during the voyage.

8 Jun 1967: VA-66's aircraft were part of an Air Wing 6 strike group that was launched to defend *Liberty* (AGTR 5) when she came under attack by the Israelis during the 1967 Israeli-Arab War. When word was received that the attack had been a mistake on the part of the Israelis, the aircraft were recalled.

Jun 1970: VA-66, embarked in *Forrestal* (CVA 59), operated in the Eastern Mediterranean after Americans were taken hostage by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Amman, Jordan.

Oct-Nov 1973: Embarked on *Independence* (CV 62), the squadron operated south of Crete during the Arab-Israeli War.

Aug 1974: *Independence* (CV 62) relieved *America* (CV 66) off Cyprus following a coup on the island. During the crisis the American Ambassador was killed and anti-American demonstrations took place which led to the evacuation of U.S. citizens to American vessels.

15 Apr 1980: *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) deployed to the Indian Ocean as part of the continuing response to the hostage crisis in Iran.

22 Dec 1980: The squadron returned from its deployment to the Indian Ocean after spending a total of 246 days at sea. With only one port visit, the longest at sea period was for 153 days.

Jun 1982: After the Israeli invasion of Lebanon on 6 June, VA-66 operated in the Eastern Mediterranean. During the latter part of June the American carrier forces in the Mediterranean included *Eisenhower* (CVN 65), *Independence* (CV 62), *Forrestal* (CV 59), and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

24 Jun 1982: VA-66 provided air support during the evacuation of Americans from Beirut, Lebanon, prior to the siege of Beirut by the Israelis.

25 Oct 1983: Due to the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, *Eisenhower* (CVN 65) terminated its visit to Naples and departed for the eastern Mediterranean. The squadron operated in the vicinity of Lebanon until the latter part of November.

7 Mar 1985: *Eisenhower* (CVN 65) cut short a visit to Palma, Spain, and made a high speed transit to the Eastern Mediterranean due to the increased tension in Lebanon.

1 Oct 1986: The Waldos of VA-66 were officially disestablished but continued to operate as a detachment. The detachment continued to operate because its pri-

mary mission during the deployment was to provide Harm missile support for the air wing and carrier.

30 Jan 1987: *Kennedy* (CV 67) cancelled its port visit to Malaga, Spain, and made a high speed transit to the eastern Mediterranean due to the increased tension over the hostages held in Lebanon.

31 Mar 1987: VA-66 Detachment was disestablished.



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair during its deployment to the Med aboard Tarawa (CV 40) in 1952 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Atlanta	01 Feb 1951
NAS Jacksonville	05 Apr 1951
NAS Quonset	28 Sep 1951
NAS Oceana	11 Jun 1952
NAS Cecil Field	15 Mar 1965

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR H. K. Pryce	01 Feb 1951
CDR J. M. James	30 Sep 1952
CDR Herman J. Harders	Oct 1953
CDR W. Manby, Jr.	Jun 1955
CDR Uncas L. Fretwell	Aug 1955
CDR Robert J. Selmer	Sep 1956
CDR W. J. McNeil, Jr.	16 Dec 1957
CDR D. V. Marshall, Jr. (acting)	27 May 1959

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR E. C. Griffin	28 Jun 1959
CDR R. I. Kasten	06 Jul 1960
CDR J. S. Herman	26 May 1961
CDR J. M. Tierney	04 May 1962
CDR R. E. Spruit	31 May 1963
CDR D. L. Hancock	11 May 1964
CDR W. B. Bagwell	23 Apr 1965
CDR L. Wayne Smith	06 Jun 1966
CDR E. M. Crow	06 Jun 1967
CDR W. E. Ramsey	May 1968
CDR A. J. Karpaitis	Feb 1969
CDR B. A. White	Jan 1970
CDR W. C. Nix	Aug 1970
CDR J. J. Fleming	Jun 1971
CDR L. E. Barringer	Jun 1972
CDR R. C. Macke	13 Aug 1973
CDR D. P. March	Nov 1974
CDR Robert T. Davis	05 Mar 1976
CDR Stuart J. Fitrell	03 Jun 1977
CDR James E. Gill	Jun 1978
CDR Frank H. Gerwe, Jr.	02 Aug 1979
CDR Kent W. Ewing	11 Oct 1980
CDR Richard D. Lichtermann II	05 Feb 1982
CDR Robert W. Nordman	13 Apr 1983
CDR Robert J. Kelsey	03 Oct 1984
CDR Richard L. Marquis	15 Apr 1986

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Feb 1951
F8F-2	13 Jun 1952
F9F-5	05 Dec 1952
F7U-3	Apr 1954
F9F-8B	Aug 1956
A4D-1	Mar 1958
A4D-2	Jun 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	Mar 1961
A-7E	Oct 1970

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

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 Nov 1951	11 Jun 1952	CVG-8	CV 40	F4U-4	Med
26 Apr 1953	21 Oct 1953	CVG-8	CVA 43	F9F-5	Med
04 Nov 1955	02 Aug 1956	CVG-3	CVA 14	F7U-3	Med
03 Sep 1957	22 Oct 1957	CVG-6	CVA 11	F9F-8B	NorLant
13 Feb 1959	30 Aug 1959	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1960	17 Feb 1961	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2	Med
03 Aug 1961	01 Mar 1962	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2N	Med

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>
03 Aug 1962	11 Oct 1962	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A4D-2N	Med
06 Feb 1963	04 Sep 1963	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med
08 Feb 1964	03 Oct 1964	CVW-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med/World Cruise
30 Nov 1965	10 Jul 1966	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-4C	Med
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	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Dec 1969	08 Jul 1970	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-4C	Med
16 Sep 1971	16 Mar 1972	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-7E	NorLant/Med
21 Jun 1973	19 Jan 1974	CVW-7	CV 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	Carib/NorLant
10 Oct 1984	08 May 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
08 Jul 1985	22 Aug 1985	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Carib
18 Aug 1986	02 Mar 1987	CVW-3	CV 67	A-7E	Med



A squadron F7U-3 Cutlass on the flight line, believed to be at NAS Port Lyautey, Morocco. The squadron was stationed at the air station during part of its 1953 Med cruise.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	09 Apr 1951
CVG-6	C	01 Jul 1955
CVG-3	K	Nov 1955
CVG-6/CVW-6*	C/AF/AE†	Aug 1956
CVW-7	AG	06 Oct 1967
CVW-10	AK	Jan 1968
CVW-17	AA	02 Jun 1969

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING-1		09 Jul 1970
CVW-7	AG	1971
CVW-3		01 Oct 1986‡

* CVG-6 was redesignated CVW-6 when all Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† CVG-6's tail code was changed from C to AF in 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957). Sometime in the latter part of 1962 CVG-6's tail code was changed from AF to AE.

‡ VA-66 deployed with CVW-3 in *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) in August 1986. Administratively, it continued to be assigned to CVW-7 until its official disestablishment on 1 October 1986. After that date, the same organization continued to operate as a detachment assigned to CVW-3 until the deployment ended in March 1987.



A squadron A4D-2 Skyhawk in 1959.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	24 Oct 1962	03 Dec 1962
	06 Jun 1983	14 Jun 1983
	27 Jul 1983	30 Aug 1983
	01 Sep 1983	19 Oct 1983
	27 Oct 1983	20 Nov 1983
NEM	19 Oct 1962	23 Oct 1962
	29 Apr 1980	16 Jul 1980
	22 Jul 1980	08 Dec 1980
NUC	25 May 1983	27 May 1983
	06 Jul 1968	16 Jan 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	29 Apr 1980	10 Dec 1980
	21 Jul 1983	20 Nov 1983
RVNGC	01 Oct 1968	01 Nov 1968
SLOC	Oct 1978	Dec 1979
VNSM	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



Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs show the difference between the old and new paint schemes in 1984. The gun-toting rooster insignia is on the tail of both aircraft.

VA-72

Lineage

Established as Bomber Fighter Squadron EIGHTEEN (VBF-18) on 25 January 1945.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHT A (VF-8A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron SEVENTY TWO (VF-72) on 28 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVENTY TWO (VA-72) on 3 January 1956.

Disestablished on 30 June 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-72 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 9 April 1946. Colors for the bear-cat insignia were:



The bearcat was the squadron's first insignia.

white upper background and sky blue lower background outlined in black; black bear-cat with white markings and a red tongue; white cloud with sky blue markings; white and black carrier and the waves extending from the carrier were white, streaked with black; and a black bomb and gun with white markings.

On 5 December 1950 a new insignia was approved by CNO. Colors for the peregrine falcon were: a red outline with upper background white and the lower background blue; the falcon had a black head with gray feathers and black markings; the beak, eye and feet were yellow with black markings and the tongue was red.

Following the squadron's redesignation in 1956 it continued to use the falcon insignia but modified it to include a scroll with the word **ATAKRON 72**. The scroll is outlined in red, with a white background and blue letters.



The hawk insignia was adopted by the squadron in 1950.



In the mid-1950s, the squadron modified the hawk insignia. This insignia was used by VA-72 for 35 years until its disestablishment.

Nickname: Hawks, circa early 1950s-early 1960s.

Blue Hawks, early 1960s-1991.

Chronology of Significant Events

Sep-Dec 1946: Participated in *Leyte* (CV 32) shakedown cruise in the Caribbean and a goodwill cruise to South

America for the inauguration of Chile's President.

19 Aug 1948: Squadron commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander B. F. Haker, lost at sea while attempting a carrier approach.

25 Jan 1949: Cross deck operations with the British carrier HMS *Triumph* in the Mediterranean.

Apr 1961: The squadron operated from *Independence* (CVA 62) in an area south of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Bay of Pigs, the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by American supported Cuban exiles.

22 Oct-22 Nov 1962: Participated in the Cuban Quarantine while embarked in *Independence*.

10-16 May 1963: A detachment of three aircraft deployed in *Wasp* (CVS 18) to provide courier service during a Mercury Project space flight of the Faith 7 capsule.

17 Oct 1965: The squadron's executive officer, Commander H. B. Southworth, led the first successful strike against a surface-to-air SA-2 missile installation in North Vietnam. The strike was composed of four VA-72 A-4Es and one A-6A from VA-75.

18 Sep 1970: While operating in the Caribbean aboard *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67), the squadron was ordered to deploy with the carrier to the Mediterranean due to the fighting between Jordanian and Palestinian forces and the intervention of Syria on behalf of the Palestinians.

Oct 1973: With the outbreak of war in the Middle East (Yon Kippur War), *Kennedy* and her air wing, while operating in the North Atlantic after just completing a Mediterranean deployment, were ordered back to the Mediterranean. VA-72 conducted flight operations while the carrier was on station south of Crete, from the latter part of October through mid November.

17-19 Sep 1985: VA-72, along with other units of CVW-1, were the first to conduct flight operations from a carrier operating inside a fjord. *America* (CV 66) operated in Vestfjord, Norway, during this evolution.

22–27 Mar 1986: During Freedom of Navigation Exercises in the Gulf of Sidra and the resulting combat action with Libyan forces, VA-72 flew patrols to protect the task force from attack by surface ships or submarines and also provided tanker missions for fighters flying combat air patrols.

14 Apr 1986: The United States initiated Operation Eldorado Canyon, air strikes against targets in Libya. VA-72 provided air-to-surface missile support for possible employment against surface-to-air missile radar sites.

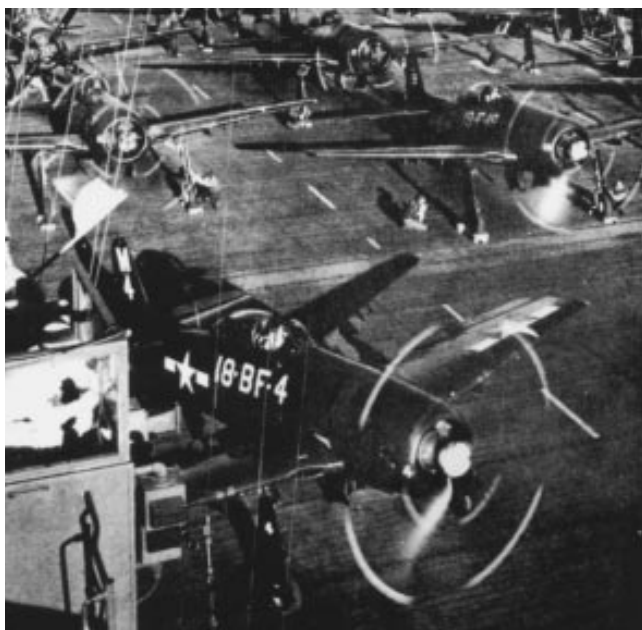
Sep–Oct 1990 and Dec 1990–Jan 1991: The squadron participated in Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

17 Jan 1991: Operation Desert Storm, combat operations to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait, was launched. The squadron's A-7E Corsair IIs participated in the first combat strike against Iraqi targets in Baghdad.

29 Jan 1991: Squadron aircraft flew their first combat mission in the Kuwait theater, striking Iraqi troops, tanks and artillery positions.

27 Feb 1991: Squadron aircraft participated in the last naval air combat strike of the war, hitting retreating Iraqi troops east of An Najef, Iraq. During the 43 days of war the squadron flew 362 sorties without the loss of a pilot or aircraft.

8 Jun 1991: The last two squadron aircraft participated in the Desert Storm Victory Parade Fly Over in Washington, D.C.



A VBF-18 F8F Bearcat on Leyte's (CV 32) flight deck during her goodwill cruise to South America in 1946. In the background are other Carrier Air Group 18 aircraft.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Astoria	25 Jan 1945
NAS San Diego	22 Apr 1945
NAS Quonset Point	14 Nov 1945
NAS Oceana	03 Sep 1957
NAS Cecil Field	15 Feb 1966

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Mohl C. Norton, Jr. (Acting)	25 Jan 1945
LCDR Jeremy Morrison	05 Mar 1945
CDR Sam E. Clark	14 Sep 1945
LCDR Frank Malinasky	11 Jun 1947
LCDR Burton F. Haker	06 Jul 1948
LT G. F. Colleran (acting)	19 Aug 1948
LCDR Frank Malinasky	20 Oct 1948
LCDR Carlton H. Clark	20 Jun 1949
LCDR John B. Jorgensen	04 Jul 1950
LCDR Archibald W. Curtis	09 Jul 1951
CDR Gordon J. Brown	Jan 1953
LCDR Carlton F. Naumann	12 Nov 1954
LCDR Robert F. Hunt	08 Feb 1956
CDR C. K. Ruiz	23 Jul 1957
CDR John K. Beling	04 Feb 1959
CDR C. A. Hill, Jr.	04 Mar 1960
CDR W. W. Kendall Miller, Jr.	12 May 1961
CDR Frederick S. Gore	16 Apr 1962
CDR T. L. Neilson	25 Mar 1963
CDR Grover C. Walker	17 Feb 1964
CDR Joe D. Adkins	10 Feb 1965
CDR Harrison B. Southworth	11 Feb 1966
CDR E. J. Hofstra	15 Mar 1967
CDR R. A. Phillips	15 Mar 1968
CDR S. E. Latimer, Jr.	10 Apr 1969
CDR D. B. Young, Jr.	17 Oct 1969
CDR R. K. Shea	09 Sep 1970
CDR M. G. Basford	02 Jul 1971
CDR J. F. Donahue	08 Jul 1972
CDR Robert J. Kelly	14 Jul 1973
CDR Edward D. Estes	12 Sep 1974
CDR Robert F. Brennock	16 Oct 1975
CDR Patrick M. Commons	16 Dec 1976
CDR Hugh A. Merrill	06 Apr 1978
CDR Howard E. Koss	Jul 1979
CDR Carter B. Refo	Oct 1980
CDR Robert L. Kiem	16 Feb 1982
CDR C. A. Cook	09 Jun 1983
CDR Arthur F. Richardson	21 Nov 1984
CDR Gordon G. Stewart	03 May 1986
CDR James B. Waddell	15 Oct 1987
CDR John R. Sanders	15 Jun 1989



A F9F-5 Panther on Bennington's (CVA 20) elevator during her cruise to the Med in 1953–1954. This particular squadron F9F was assigned to Captain H. E. Ball, an Air Force exchange pilot with VF-72.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F-3/5	07 Feb 1945
F8F-1	10 Aug 1945
F8F-1B	Jan 1947
F8F-2	20 Mar 1948
F8F-1	01 Dec 1948
F8F-1B	09 Feb 1950
F9F-2	16 Mar 1951
F9F-5	11 Oct 1951
F9F-2	Feb 1952

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-5	Feb 1953
A4D-1	Sep 1956
A4D-2	12 Feb 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	Mar 1961
A-4E	May 1964
A-4B	Mar 1967
A-7B	Jan 1970
A-7E	13 Sep 1977

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

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>
16 Sep 1946	12 Dec 1946	CVG-18	CV 32	F8F-1	Carib/East Coast of South America
03 Apr 1947	09 Jun 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	F8F-1B	Med
30 Jul 1947	19 Nov 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	F8F-1B	Med
04 Jan 1949	23 May 1949	CVG-7	CV 47	F8F-1	Med
10 Jul 1950	10 Nov 1950	CVG-7	CVB 41	F8F-1B	Med
20 May 1952	08 Jan 1953	CVG-7	CV 31	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
16 Sep 1953	21 Feb 1954	CVG-7	CVA 20	F9F-5	NorLant/Med
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-7	CVA 15	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1960	03 Mar 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1961	19 Dec 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2N	Med
19 Apr 1962	27 Aug 1962	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2N	Med
06 Aug 1963	04 Mar 1964	CVG-7	CVA 62	A-4C	Med
08 Sep 1964	05 Nov 1964	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	NorLant/Med
10 May 1965	13 Dec 1965	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
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-4B	Med
07 Jan 1969	29 Jul 1969	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4B	Med
14 Sep 1970	01 Mar 1971	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-7B	Carib/Med/NorLant
01 Dec 1971	06 Oct 1972	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-7B	Med/NorLant
16 Apr 1973	01 Dec 1973	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-7B	Med/NorLant/Med
28 Jun 1975	27 Jan 1976	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7B	Med
02 Sep 1976	09 Nov 1976	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7B	NorLant
15 Jan 1977	01 Aug 1977	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7B	Med
29 Jun 1978	08 Feb 1979	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7E	Med
04 Aug 1980	28 Mar 1981	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7E	Med
23 Aug 1982	30 Oct 1982	CVW-1	CV 66	A-7E	NorLant/Med/Carib
08 Dec 1982	02 Jun 1983	CVW-1	CV 66	A-7E	Med/IO
24 Apr 1984	14 Nov 1984	CVW-1	CV 66	A-7E	Carib/Med/IO
24 Aug 1985	09 Oct 1985	CVW-1	CV 66	A-7E	NorLant
10 Mar 1986	10 Sep 1986	CVW-1	CV 66	A-7E	Med
29 Feb 1988	29 Aug 1988	CVW-7	CVN 69	A-7E	Med
15 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-3	CV 67	A-7E	Med/Red Sea



A squadron A-4 Skyhawk launches from Independence (CVA 62). Notice the combat markings on the aircraft just forward of the jet intake showing the number of combat sorties flown by the aircraft.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing Tail</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-18/CVAG-7/CVG-7/ CVW-7*	L/AG†	25 Jan 1945
CVW-1	AB	07 Mar 1966
CVW-8	AJ	26 Aug 1968
RCVW-4‡	AD	22 Sep 1969
CVW-1	AB	02 Mar 1970
CVW-7	AG	01 Oct 1986
COMLATWING 1§		Sep 1988
CVW-3	AC	01 Mar 1989

* CVG-18 was redesignated CVAG-7 on 15 November 1946. On 1 September 1948, CVAG-7 was redesignated CVG-7. CVG-7 was redesignated CVW-7 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The tail code was changed from L to AG in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

‡ The squadron was assigned to RCVW-4 during its transition to the A-7B.

§ The squadron detached from CVW-7 and came under the operational and administrative control of Commander Light Attack Wing 1.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
AFEM	24 Oct 1962	20 Nov 1962
	15 Jun 1965	
	29 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
MUC	29 Sep 1970	31 Oct 1970

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Dec 1977	01 Mar 1979
	29 Aug 1985	20 Sep 1985
NEM	18 Oct 1962	23 Oct 1962
	01 Jan 1983	20 Jan 1983
	06 May 1983	08 May 1983
	21 Mar 1986	27 Jun 1986
NUC	05 Jun 1965	21 Nov 1965
	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
RVNGC	21 Oct 1965	
	23 Oct 1965	
	25 Oct 1965	02 Nov 1965
	09 Nov 1965	10 Nov 1965
SLOC	04 Aug 1980	28 Mar 1981
	23 Aug 1982	02 Jun 1983
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	09 Aug 1965
	25 Aug 1965	21 Sep 1965
	14 Oct 1965	12 Nov 1965
	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
KSM	18 Jun 1952	24 Dec 1952
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
SASM	14 Sep 1990	12 Mar 1991



A flight of squadron A-7 Corsair IIs.

VA-75

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron EIGHTEEN (VT-18) on 20 July 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHT A (VA-8A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVENTY FIVE (VA-75) on 27 July 1948.

Disestablished on 30 November 1949. The first squadron to be designated VA-75.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was in use by the squadron prior to its approval by CNO on 24 March

1945. Colors for "The Carrier Clowns" insignia were: a blue background with an orange center and a dark blue strip through the center; the words "The Carrier Clowns" in black; a white Zebra with black markings; a black bird with white markings; orange bombs; and a torpedo with yellow tip,



The Carrier Clowns insignia was used by VT-18.

a white front section and the remainder in black.

Following the squadron's redesignation a new insignia was approved by CNO on 30 December 1946. Colors for the knight insignia were: a rust background with a gold border; a white horse with blue bridle and gold harness; the shield was blue with a gold anchor; a silver knight holding a gold torpedo. The squadron continued to use this insignia following its redesignation to VA-75.

Nickname: The Carrier Clowns, circa 1943–1946.



Following the squadron's redesignation to attack, the knight insignia was approved

Chronology of Significant Events

24–26 Oct 1944: The squadron participated in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. On 24 October VT-18's TBMs flew sorties against a powerful Japanese surface force

in the Sibuyan Sea. These attacks contributed to the sinking of the *Musashi*, one of the two largest battle-ships in the world. On 25 October, the squadron's planes were part of a Fast Carrier Task Force that attacked a Japanese carrier force in the Battle of Cape Engano. Four Japanese carriers were sunk during that engagement. On the 26th, squadron planes participated in an attack on the Japanese surface force which was retiring from the Battle Off Samar.

Sep-Dec 1946: The squadron participated in *Leyte* (CV 32) shake-down cruise in the Caribbean and a goodwill cruise to South America for the inauguration of Chile's President.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	20 Jul 1943
NAAS Monterey	28 Oct 1943*
NAAS Hollister	Nov 1943*
NAS Hilo	Feb 1944*
NAS Kaneohe	Jun 1944*
NAS Alameda	20 Dec 1944
NAS Astoria	25 Jan 1945
NAS San Diego	22 Apr 1945
NAS Quonset Point	14 Nov 1945

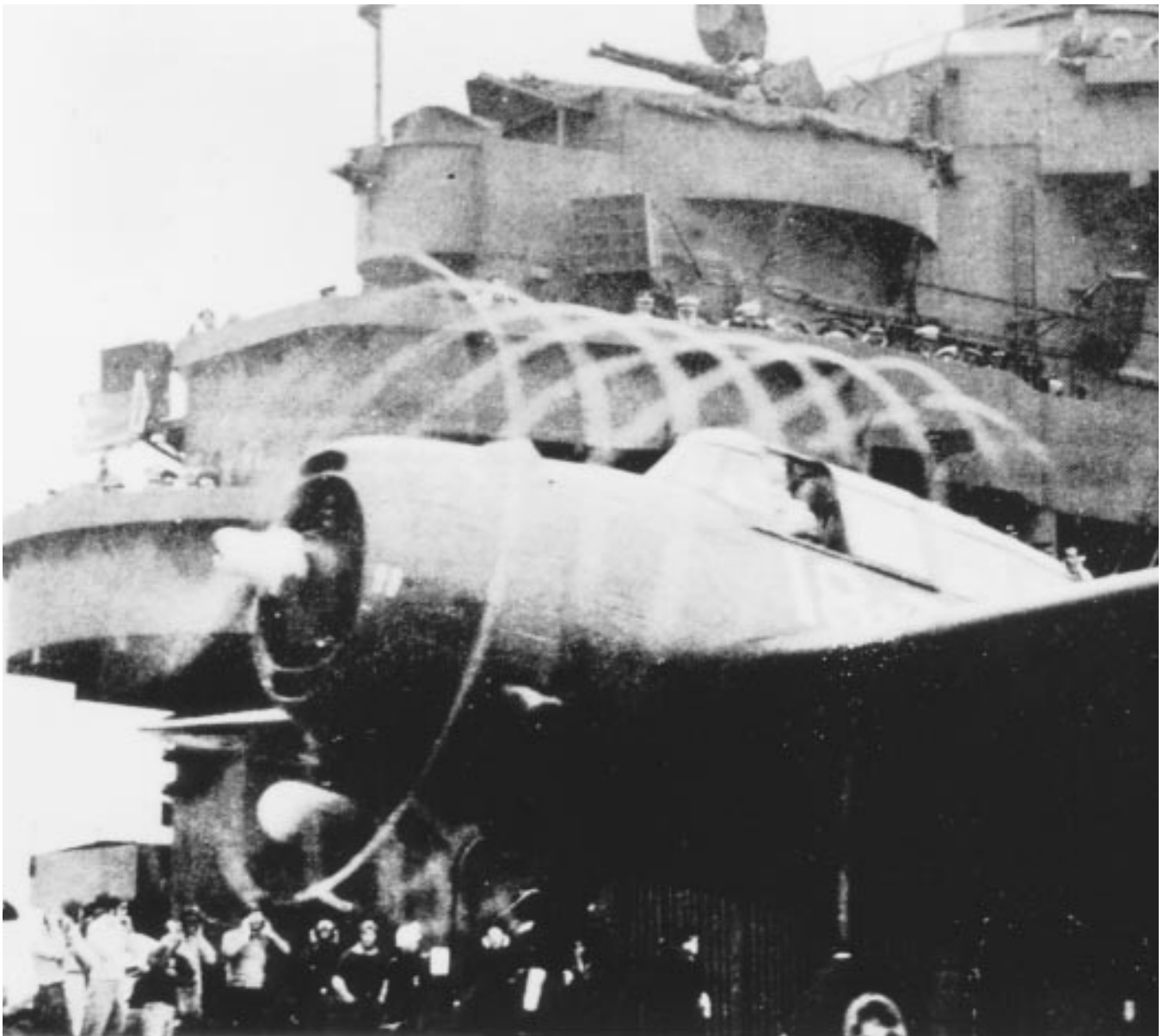
* Temporary shore assignments while the squadron conducted training in preparation for combat deployment.

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LTJG Al Long (acting)	20 Jul 1943
LCDR Lloyd W. Van Antwerp	02 Aug 1943
ENS Joseph B. Baker (acting)	25 Jan 1945
LT John G. Williams (acting)	31 Jan 1945
LT John G. Williams	25 Apr 1945
LT Jack C. Heishman	19 Sep 1945
LCDR James L. Hooper	04 Feb 1946
LCDR Charles A. Iarrobino	01 Dec 1947
CDR Morris R. Doughty	13 Oct 1948

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBF-1	Jul 1943
TBM-1	Sep 1943
TBM-1C	Nov 1943
TBM-3	Feb 1945
TBM-3E	22 Apr 1945
TBM-3Q	06 May 1946
AD-3	18 Apr 1949



A squadron TBM-3 takes off from Leyte (CV 32) during its goodwill cruise to South America in 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>
16 Aug 1944	20 Dec 1944	CVG-18	CV 11	TBM-1C	Pacific
16 Sep 1946	12 Dec 1946	CVG-18	CV 32	TBM-3E/Q	Carib/East Coast of South America
03 Apr 1947	09 Jun 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	TBM-3E/Q & TBM-3J	Med
30 Jul 1947	19 Nov 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	TBM-3E/Q	Med
04 Jan 1949	23 May 1949	CVG-7	CV 47*	TBM-3E/Q	Med

* Only half of the squadron's personnel and aircraft deployed aboard *Philippine Sea* (CV 47), the other half remained at NAS Quonset Point.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-18/CVAG-7/CVG-7*	L†	20 Jul 1943

* CVG-18 was redesignated CVAG-7 on 15 November 1946 and then redesignated CVG-7 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code L was assigned to CVAG-7 in December 1946.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
WW-II Campaign Medal (Asiatic/Pacific)	Oct 1944	Nov 1944



A squadron AD-4 Skyraider launches from deck of Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31), November 1952 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

SECOND VA-75

Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron EIGHTEEN (VB-18) on 20 July 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVEN A (VA-7A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVENTY FOUR (VA-74) on 27 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVENTY FIVE (VA-75) on 15 February 1950. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-75 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 14 January 1944. Colors for the Sunday Punchers



The winged glove was the squadron's first insignia used between 1944 to 1947. It was readopted sometime after 1950.

for the insignia of a boy riding a bomb were: a light blue background outlined in gold; Sunday Punchers lettering was medium blue and the VA-7A lettering on the trunks was gold; the bomb was medium blue with black highlights; the boy had tan skin with red cheeks,



This insignia was used by the squadron from 1947 to sometime around 1950.

winged glove and bomb insignia were: white background with royal blue outlines and lettering; the glove was dark brown with yellow lacing; wings were yellow with black outlines; and the bomb was black with black and yellow fins.

Following the squadron's redesignation in 1946, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 25 June 1947. Colors

for the insignia of a boy riding a bomb were: a light blue background outlined in gold; Sunday Punchers lettering was medium blue and the VA-7A lettering on the trunks was gold; the bomb was medium blue with black highlights; the boy had tan skin with red cheeks, yellow hair, black eyes; wearing red trunks and black boots with white tops; the gloves were brown.

Sometime after the squadron's redesignation to VA-75 it reverted to the winged glove and bomb insignia. The colors are the same as those used in the previously approved insignia.

Nickname: Sunday Punchers, 1943-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

5 Feb 1944: Lieutenant Commander Dickson, the squadron's commanding officer, was killed in a training exercise when his aircraft went into a high speed stall and crashed during a practice dive.

12 Oct 1944: Squadron commanding officer, Commander Mark Eslick, was lost in combat during an attack on Kiirun Harbor, Formosa.

24–26 Oct 1944: The squadron participated in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, part of the operations surrounding the occupation of Leyte. On 24 October VB-18's SB2Cs flew sorties against a powerful Japanese surface force in the Sibuyan Sea. These attacks contributed to the sinking of the mighty *Musashi*, one of the two largest battleships in the world. On 25 October the squadron's planes were part of a Fast Carrier Task Force that attacked the Japanese carrier force in the Battle of Cape Engano. Four Japanese carriers were sunk during this engagement. On the 26th, squadron planes participated in attacks on the Japanese surface force which was retiring from the Battle Off Samar.

24 Oct 1944: While assigned to VB-18, Lieutenant Donald L. Wilson was awarded the Navy Cross for scoring a direct hit on a Japanese battleship during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Following World War II, Lieutenant Wilson became the squadron's commanding officer.

25 Oct 1944: The squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander George D. Ghesquiere was awarded the Navy Cross for leading his squadron in an attack against a Japanese carrier task force during the Battle of Cape Engano, in which he scored a direct hit on a Japanese carrier.

26 Oct 1944: Lieutenant Benjamin G. Preston was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of his third Navy Cross for leading a division of dive bombers in an attack against the Japanese carrier task force during the Battle of Cape Engano. In 1953 he became the commanding officer of the squadron.

Sep–Dec 1946: The squadron participated in *Leyte* (CV 32) shake-down cruise in the Caribbean and a goodwill cruise to South America for the inauguration of Chile's President.

25 Jan 1949: Cross deck operations with the British carrier HMS *Triumph* in the Mediterranean.

23 Jun 1952: The squadron's first combat action in Korea was a joint operation with Air Group 7 and the U.S. Air Force in an attack against hydro-electric complexes in North Korea that had previously been restricted from attack.

11 Jul 1952: The squadron participated in a combined attack against Pyongyang, North Korea, with aircraft from CVG-7, *Princeton* (CV 37), the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, Australian Air Force and British Royal Navy.

5 Dec 1952: On a strike against enemy troop concentrations the squadron's commanding officer, Commander H. K. Evans, was lost when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed.

Apr 1961: The squadron operated from *Independence* (CVA 62) in an area south of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Bay of Pigs, the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by American supported Cuban exiles.

22 Oct–22 Nov 1962: Participated in the Cuban Quarantine while embarked in *Independence*.

14 Nov 1963: The first operational fleet squadron to be assigned the A-6A Intruder.

May–Dec 1965: VA-75 was the first squadron to deploy with the A-6A Intruder and operate the aircraft in a combat environment.

18 Sep 1965: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Leonard Vogt, was lost during a combat mission while engaged in a night bombing attack on enemy patrol boats.

24 Feb 1968: Commander Jerrold M. Zacharias and Lieutenant Commander Michael L. Hall were awarded the Navy Cross for their action with VA-35 in planning and executing a coordinated A-6A strike on Hanoi.

Sep and Oct 1970: VA-75 operated from *Saratoga* (CVA 60) while on station in the eastern Mediterranean during the continuing crisis with the Palestinians in Jordan and the invasion of Jordan by Syria.

7 Oct 1971: VA-75 became the first A-6 squadron to drop sonobuoys. The integrated A-6A radar system and the A-6B antiradiation system were utilized for exact positioning and release of the sonobuoys. This event was part of an overall evaluation of the CV Concept being conducted by the *Saratoga* to determine the carrier's capability to operate effectively in both the attack and ASW roles.

Jun–Oct 1972: Participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam and mining operations along coastal waters.

6 Aug 1972: Commander Charles Earnest and Lieutenant Commander Grady L. Jackson were awarded the Silver Star for directing a successful night inland rescue of a downed pilot in a heavily defended area of North Vietnam.

10 Oct 1972: Lieutenant Commander John A. Pieno and Lieutenant Junior Grade John R. Fuller were awarded the Silver Star for their actions as bombardier/navigators of a two plane attack, at dusk, on the North Vietnamese airfield of Bai Thong.

28 Nov 1972: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Charles Earnest, was lost in an aircraft accident following a catapult launch from *Saratoga* while operating on Yankee Station.

19–29 Dec 1972: Participated in Linebacker II operations, the resumption of heavy bombing strikes above the 20th parallel in North Vietnam. This operation concentrated attacks around Hanoi and the coastal areas of Haiphong.

18 Jan 1975: Following violent demonstrations against the American Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus, VA-75 operated from *Saratoga* off the coast of Cyprus.

Apr 1976: As tensions increased in Lebanon, *Saratoga* and her air wing wing operated south of Crete, prepared to provide support for the evacuation of Americans from that country if it became necessary.

8 Jan 1980: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander A. J. Lynch, and Lieutenant Charles J. Morrow were lost when their aircraft struck several parked planes during a night landing and careened into the sea.

Jun 1982: Israel invaded Lebanon and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon. VA-75 operated from the carrier, preparing for possible air support if it became necessary to evacuate Americans from Beirut, Lebanon.

4 Dec 1983: During *Kennedy's* operations off the coast of Lebanon in support of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force, several of the carrier's F-14 reconnaissance aircraft received hostile fire from Syrian surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft positions on 3 December. A retaliatory strike was flown by elements from CVW-3 and aircraft from *Independence* (CV 62) against the Syrian anti-aircraft positions near Hammana, Lebanon. The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Glover, led three of VA-75's A-6Es in the strike and succeeded in destroying an anti-aircraft position. VA-75 also provided two KA-6D tanker aircraft for the operation.

6 Feb 1984: VA-75 launched its alert aircraft from *Kennedy* in response to a request from U.S. Marines (part of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force) at the Beirut International Airport to suppress attacks against their positions. The squadron's A-6E dropped its laser guided bombs on the enemy positions and effectively ended the attack.

Feb 1987: With the increased tensions in Lebanon surrounding the American hostages, *Kennedy* was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon. VA-75 flew operations from the carrier in preparation for possible evacuation.

Jan 1989: During routine training exercises off the northeastern tip of Libya, two F-14 Tomcats were approached by two Libyan MiG-23 jets, and after repeated attempts for a peaceful intercept, the F-14s shot down the Libyan aircraft. VA-75's KA-6D tankers provided refueling support for the two F-14s involved in the shoot down.

Aug 1989: During a training exercise, a squadron A-6E SWIP aircraft was the first to fire a Sidewinder (AIM-9H) air-to-air missile, scoring a direct hit with the missile.

Sep–Oct 1990 and Dec 1990–Jan 1991: The squadron participated in 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.



A squadron SB2C-5 Helldiver on a flight over Valparaíso Harbor during its goodwill cruise to South America aboard *Leyte* (CV 32) in 1946.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Alameda	20 Jul 1943
NAAS Watsonville	26 Sep 1943*
NAAS Crows Landing	10 Dec 1943*
NAS Hilo	29 Feb 1944*
NAS Kaneohe	05 Jun 1944*
NAS Alameda	20 Dec 1944
NAS Astoria	25 Jan 1945
NAS San Diego	22 Apr 1945
NAS Quonset Point	27 Nov 1945
NAS Oceana	Oct 1957

* Temporary shore assignments while the squadron conducted training in preparation for combat deployment.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Charles C. Gold	20 Jul 1943
LCDR Harlan R. Dickson	27 Nov 1943
LCDR George D. Ghesquiere	05 Feb 1944
LCDR Mark Eslick, Jr.	12 Feb 1944
LCDR George D. Ghesquiere	12 Oct 1944
LT Max H. Matzick (acting)	25 Jan 1945
LT Donald L. Wilson (acting)	01 Feb 1945
LT Donald L. Wilson	25 Apr 1945
LCDR William D. Carter	19 Aug 1946
LCDR L. Weidlein (acting)	15 Jun 1948
LCDR William B. Morton	21 Jun 1948
LCDR Nils R. Larson	16 Dec 1949
LCDR H. K. Evans	10 Mar 1951
LCDR W. M. Harnish (acting)	05 Dec 1952

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Benjamin G. Preston	Jan 1953
CDR Griffith P. Stokes	Sep 1954
CDR Samuel M. Tharp, Jr.	Jan 1956
CDR Clifford L. Brown	02 May 1957
CDR C. R. Anderson	02 Jul 1958
CDR C. S. Curtis	10 Jul 1959
CDR Stanley Montunnas	May 1960
CDR Alphonse G. Goodberlet	Apr 1961
CDR K. H. Lyons	13 Apr 1962
CDR J. A. Denton, Jr.	05 Apr 1963
CDR William L. Harris, Jr.	02 Aug 1963
CDR Leonard A. Snead	08 May 1964
CDR Leonard F. Vogt, Jr.	1965
CDR William B. Warwick	18 Sep 1965
CDR Robert J. Sample	08 Jul 1966
CDR Jerrold M. Zacharias	30 Jun 1967
CDR Alastair S. Falconer	31 Jul 1968
CDR Richard P. Bordone	25 Jul 1969
CDR Charles J. Cellar, Jr.	03 Jul 1970
CDR Everett W. Foote	03 Jun 1971
CDR Charles M. Earnest	07 Jun 1972
CDR William H. Greene, Jr.	28 Nov 1972
CDR Morgan M. France	22 Feb 1974
CDR Melvin L. Seidel	07 Apr 1975
CDR David L. Osburn	02 Jul 1976
CDR Kenneth R. Werhan	18 Oct 1977
CDR Anthony J. Lynch	12 Jan 1979
CDR Rodney A. Bankson	08 Jan 1980
CDR Joseph S. Mobley	30 Jan 1981
CDR Earl D. Wolfgang	19 Mar 1982
CDR James R. Glover	13 Oct 1983
CDR Gregory C. Brown	03 Apr 1985
CDR Alfred G. Harms, Jr.	26 Oct 1986
CDR John T. Meister	14 Apr 1988
CDR Robert E. Besal	29 Sep 1989



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair launches from *Bon Homme Richard* (CV 31), circa 1952 (Courtesy Robert Lauson Collection).

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SBD-5	20 Jul 1943
SB2C-1	25 Mar 1944
SB2C-1C	25 Apr 1944
SB2C-3	10 Jul 1944
SB2C-4	Feb 1945
SB2C-4E	Mar 1945
SBW-5	Jul 1946
SB2C-5	Jul 1946
F4U-4B	15 Apr 1948
F4U-4	Dec 1948

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-3	Jun 1949
AD-4	Jun 1950
AD-6/A-1H*	Aug 1954
AD-5	Apr 1956
A-6A	14 Nov 1963
A-6B	21 Dec 1967
KA-6D	18 Dec 1970
A-6E	06 Aug 1973

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

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>
16 Aug 1944	20 Dec 1944	CVG-18	CV 11	SB2C-3	Pacific
16 Sep 1946	12 Dec 1946	CVG-18	CV 32	SB2C-5/ SBW-5	Carib/East Coast of South America
03 Apr 1947	09 Jun 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	SB2C-5/SBW-5	Med
30 Jul 1947	19 Nov 1947	CVAG-7	CV 32	SB2C-5	Med
04 Jan 1949	23 May 1949	CVG-7	CV 32	F4U-4	Med
10 Jul 1950	10 Nov 1950	CVG-7	CVB 41	AD-4	Med
20 May 1952	08 Jan 1953	CVG-7	CV 31	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
16 Sep 1953	21 Feb 1954	CVG-7	CVA 20	AD-4	NorLant/Med
04 May 1955	10 Dec 1955	CVG-7	CVA 12	AD-6	WestPac
03 Sep 1957	22 Oct 1957	CVG-7	CVA 60	AD-6	NorLant
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-7	CVA 15	AD-6	Med
04 Aug 1960	03 Mar 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	AD-6	Med
04 Aug 1961	19 Dec 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	AD-6	Med
19 Apr 1962	27 Aug 1962	CVG-7	CVA 62	AD-6	Med
10 May 1965	13 Dec 1965	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
13 Jun 1966	01 Feb 1967	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-6A	Med
18 Nov 1967	28 Jun 1968	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Jul 1969	22 Jan 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-6A	Med
17 Jun 1970	09 Nov 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-6A/B	Med
07 Jun 1971	28 Oct 1971	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-6A/B & KA-6D	NorLant/Med
11 Apr 1972	13 Feb 1973	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Sep 1974	19 Mar 1975	CVW-3	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
06 Jan 1976	28 Jul 1976	CVW-3	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
11 Jul 1977	23 Dec 1977	CVW-3	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
03 Oct 1978	08 Apr 1979	CVW-3	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
10 Mar 1980	27 Aug 1980	CVW-3	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
04 Jan 1982	14 Jul 1982	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
25 May 1983	01 Jul 1983	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
27 Sep 1983	02 May 1984	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	SoLant/Med
18 Aug 1986	03 Mar 1987	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
02 Aug 1988	01 Feb 1989	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
15 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/Red Sea



A formation of squadron AD-6 Skyraiders.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-18/CVAG-7/ CVG-7/CVW-7*	L/AG**	20 Jul 1943
COMFAIRNORFOLK		01 Jul 1967
CVW-11	NH	10 Oct 1967
COMFAIRNORFOLK		28 Jun 1968
CVW-3	AC	15 Oct 1968

* CVG-18 was redesignated CVAG-7 on 15 November 1946. On 1 September 1948, CVAG-7 was redesignated CVG-7. CVG-7 was redesignated CVW-7 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

** The tail code was changed from L to AG in 1957. The effective date for this change 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>	
NUC	22 Jun 1952	18 Dec 1952
	05 Jun 1965	21 Nov 1965
	18 May 1972	08 Jan 1973
	14 Aug 1988	22 Jan 1989
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
WW-II Campaign Medal (Asiatic/ Pacific)	Oct 1944	Nov 1944
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
AFEM	24 Oct 1962	20 Nov 1962
	17 Jun 1965	
	29 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	06 Nov 1983	27 Nov 1983
	02 Dec 1983	21 Jan 1984
	31 Jan 1984	22 Feb 1984

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	25 Feb 1984	29 Feb 1984
	17 Sep 1970	18 Oct 1970
	01 Jan 1973	31 Dec 1973
	01 Oct 1979	15 Nov 1980
NEM	15 Jul 1982	22 Apr 1984
	18 Oct 1962	23 Oct 1962
PUC	23 Dec 1967	01 Jun 1968
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	09 Aug 1965
	25 Aug 1965	21 Sep 1965
	14 Oct 1965	12 Nov 1965
	22 Dec 1967	22 Feb 1968
	04 Mar 1968	27 Mar 1968
	12 Apr 1968	01 May 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KSM	13 May 1968	01 Jun 1968
	06 May 1972	07 May 1972
	17 May 1972	22 Jun 1972
	30 Jun 1972	16 Jul 1972
	27 Jul 1972	23 Aug 1972
	02 Sep 1972	19 Sep 1972
	29 Sep 1972	21 Oct 1972
	25 Oct 1972	26 Oct 1972
	03 Nov 1972	08 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	31 Dec 1972
	18 Jun 1952	24 Dec 1952
	SASM	14 Sep 1990
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



A squadron A-6E Intruder refuels from a French Super Etendard off Lebanon in 1984.