

## VA-154

### *Lineage*

Established as Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VB-153) on 26 March 1945.

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

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR (VA-154) on 15 July 1948.

Disestablished on 1 December 1949. The first squadron to be designated VA-154.

### *Squadron Insignia and Nickname*

The first squadron insignia, a Walt Disney design, was approved by CNO on 10 August 1945. Colors for



*The squadron's first insignia was a Walt Disney design.*

the flying cannon were: a maroon background outlined in yellow; black cannon with blue and white highlights; silver wings and neck with white highlights and black markings; the bomb head was black with blue highlights and a yellow and orange eye and white teeth; the rocket legs were yellow, the body of the rockets were orange with white highlights and the nose of the rocket was yellow with white highlights, outlined in black; and the streaks were silver with black markings.

A modification to the insignia was approved by CNO on 10 April 1946. Colors for this insignia were: a shield with a white background outlined in black and red; the cannon and bomb were black with green highlights; the eye and teeth were yellow; the neck and wings were red with yellow highlights and black markings; the legs and rocket were red with yellow



*A modification to the squadron's first insignia was approved for use in 1946.*

highlights and black outlines and the nose of the rockets were yellow with green highlights and black outlines; the streaks were yellow with black markings.

### *Chronology of Significant Events*

Oct 1945: The squadron participated in a 1200 plane fly over of New York City in honor of Navy Day.

### *Home Port Assignments*

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Manteo	26 Mar 1945
NAS Wildwood	07 Apr 1945
NAAS Oceana	31 May 1945
NAS Norfolk	Jul 1946
NAS Alameda	07 Aug 1946

### *Commanding Officers*

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT J. W. Aulson	26 Mar 1945
LT Leonard Robinson	16 Apr 1945
LCDR Francis D. McGaffigan	26 Nov 1945
LCDR Robert J. Celustka	06 Sep 1946
LCDR Philip W. Cobb	15 Nov 1946
LCDR John B. Howland	10 Jan 1948
LCDR Charles N. Conatser	19 Nov 1948

### *Aircraft Assignments*

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SB2C-4E	Apr 1945
SB2C-5	Jun 1945
AD-2	08 Jul 1948

**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>
31 Mar 1947	08 Oct 1947	CVAG-15	CV 36	SB2C-5	WestPac

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-153/CVAG-15/CVG-15*	B/A†	26 Mar 1945

\* CVG-153 was redesignated CVAG-15 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-15 was redesignated CVG-15 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code B was assigned to CVAG-15 on 12 December 1946 and changed to A on 4 August 1948.



*Squadron personnel in November 1949 with an AD-2 in the background; CO was Lieutenant Commander Charles N. Conatser.*

## VA-155

### Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VT-153) on 26 March 1945.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTEEN A (VA-16A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE (VA-155) on 15 July 1948.

Disestablished on 30 November 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-155 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 11 February 1946. Colors for the gremlin riding a torpedo were:



*The gremlin was the squadron's first insignia.*

pupils, he had tan ears and a red tongue, pale blue wings and light orange arms; lavender jacket with yellow stripes and red buttons, black belt with a red and black buckle, green trousers with light purple stockings and brown shoes with purple pompons; yellow torpedo with brown highlights, a blue nose and red snout, a green eyeball and black pupil, the teeth and

lips were red, the tail was yellow and white with a black propeller; the reins were black and yellow and the lettering was black, outlined in yellow.

Following the squadron's redesignation, a new insignia



*This insignia was approved for the squadron following its redesignation to VA-16A.*



*The skull and cobra was the third insignia used by the squadron.*

hands of the TBFs were white; all other details were black, such as the prop hubs, music notes and ship silhouettes.

The squadron's next insignia was approved by CNO on 18 February 1949. Colors for the skull and cobra design were: a red background, white skull, and yellow cobra.

Nickname: unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Mar–Oct 1947:** During the squadron's deployment to the western Pacific, three of its aircraft were equipped as ASW planes, giving the squadron an ASW mission as well as attack.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAF Lewiston	26 Mar 1945
NAAS Oceana	01 Jun 1945
NAS Norfolk	02 Jul 1946
NAS Alameda	08 Aug 1946

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LT Harlan C. McFadden, Jr. (acting)	26 Mar 1945
LCDR Frederick G. Lewis	06 Apr 1945
LCDR Richard D. King (acting)	26 Jun 1946
LCDR Gaylord T. Forrest	03 Jul 1946
LCDR Gerald R. Stablein	10 Jan 1948
LCDR Don L. Ely	Jan 1949

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM-3E	30 Mar 1945
TBM-3Q	Apr 1946
TBM-3W	Apr 1947
AD-2	19 Jul 1948

was approved by CNO on 12 June 1947. Colors for the caricature of the two TBFs was: a yellow sky and light green ocean background; blue TBFs with yellow lettering; red was used for the rockets, lightning bolts, and the mouth and eyes of the TBFs, the radome was light green; the cloud and

hands of the TBFs were white; all other details were black, such as the prop hubs, music notes and ship silhouettes.

The squadron's next insignia was approved by CNO on 18 February 1949. Colors for the skull and cobra design were: a red background, white skull, and yellow cobra.

Nickname: unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Mar–Oct 1947:** During the squadron's deployment to the western Pacific, three of its aircraft were equipped as ASW planes, giving the squadron an ASW mission as well as attack.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAF Lewiston	26 Mar 1945
NAAS Oceana	01 Jun 1945
NAS Norfolk	02 Jul 1946
NAS Alameda	08 Aug 1946

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LT Harlan C. McFadden, Jr. (acting)	26 Mar 1945
LCDR Frederick G. Lewis	06 Apr 1945
LCDR Richard D. King (acting)	26 Jun 1946
LCDR Gaylord T. Forrest	03 Jul 1946
LCDR Gerald R. Stablein	10 Jan 1948
LCDR Don L. Ely	Jan 1949

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
TBM-3E	30 Mar 1945
TBM-3Q	Apr 1946
TBM-3W	Apr 1947
AD-2	19 Jul 1948

**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>
31 Mar 1947	08 Oct 1947	CVAG-15	CV 36	TBM-3E/3Q/3W	WestPac

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-153/CVAG-15/CVG-15*	B/A†	26 Mar 1945

\* CVG-153 was redesignated CVAG-15 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-15 was redesignated CVG-15 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code B was assigned to CVAG-15 on 12 December 1946 and changed to A on 4 August 1948.



*Squadron personnel with TBM-3E in the background, circa 1945. CO was Lieutenant Commander Frederick G. Lewis.*

## SECOND VA-155

### Lineage

Established as Reserve Attack Squadron SEVENTY ONE E (VA-71E) in 1946.

Redesignated Reserve Attack Squadron FIFTY EIGHT A (VA-58A) on 1 October 1948.

Redesignated Reserve Composite Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY TWO (VC-722) on 1 November 1949.

Redesignated Reserve Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT (VA-728) on 1 April 1950.

Called to active duty as Attack Squadron SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT (VA-728) on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE (VA-155) on 4 February 1953.

Disestablished on 30 September 1977. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-155 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 23 September 1952. A photograph of the approved



*An artist's rendition of the squadron's first insignia design.*

design was not available. Colors and description of the insignia were: a silver-gray disk with a red border; a yellow-winged white and red lightening flash in front of a black cloud.

A new insignia was adopted by the squadron in 1953 following its redesignation. There is no official approval date for this insignia. The insignia adopted was the skull and snake design used by the first VA-155. On 8 July 1959, CNO approved a modification to the skull and snake insignia that included the addition of two diagonal stripes. Colors for this insignia were: a red background outlined in green; a white banner, outlined in green with black lettering; the skull was white with black markings; the snake's upper body was a salmon color with black lines, its head was green with white eyes and black pupils, the coiled



*The squadron's second insignia adopted the skull and cobra design used by the first VA-155.*



*A modification was made to the skull and cobra design in 1959, adding diagonal stripes.*

part of the snake was greenish black; and the two diagonal lines were green.

Sometime in the 1960s the squadron used an unofficial insignia with the head of a fox as its design.

Nickname: Silver Fox, early 1960s–1977.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Oct 1951:** The squadron engaged in combat operations, flying its first sorties over Korea.

**Feb 1955:** Squadron aircraft flew sorties in support of the evacuation of Chinese Nationalists from the Tachen Islands.

**21 Aug–11 Sep 1958:** The squadron flew sorties in the Taiwan Straits after the Chinese Communists bombarded Quemoy Island.

**Jan 1961:** *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VA-155 embarked, operated in the South China Sea after Pathet Lao forces captured strategic positions in Laos.

**7 and 11 Feb 1965:** The squadron participated in Flaming Dart I and II, reprisal strikes against targets in North Vietnam following a Viet Cong attack on the American advisors compound at Pleiku and the American billet in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam.

**Mar 1965:** The squadron began participation in Rolling Thunder operations, the bombing of military targets in North Vietnam.

**May 1966:** VA-155 was the first A-4 squadron deploying to Vietnam using a new camouflage paint scheme nicknamed the "Flying Mulberrybushes." The new paint scheme and colors were expected to reduce battle damage by making the aircraft more difficult to detect visually.

**1 Jul 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. H. Peters, was killed in action while leading an attack on petroleum facilities at Duong Nham, North Vietnam.

**20 Oct 1967:** Squadron aircraft sighted six North Vietnamese PT boats near Thanh Hoa and engaged the boats. Four of the PT boats were sunk, one was damaged and the sixth escaped, seeking refuge in the mouth of the river near Thanh Hoa.

**25 Nov 1967:** Commander W. H. Searfus, the squadron's commanding officer, was lost at sea follow-

ing a flight deck accident in which his aircraft was lost over the side of the carrier.

**Mar 1968:** *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VA-155 embarked, operated on station off the coast of Korea following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) in January by North Korea.

**Apr 1969:** Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April, *Ranger* (CVA 61), with VA-155 embarked, left Yankee Station and proceeded to the Sea of Japan for operations off the coast of Korea.

**21 Nov 1970:** The squadron flew missions in support of an attempt to rescue American prisoners-of-war at the Son Tay prisoner compound, 20 miles west of Hanoi.

**Feb 1973:** Following the cease fire with North Vietnam, the squadron flew combat missions in Laos until a cease fire was signed with that country on 22 February 1973.

**Nov 1973:** *Oriskany* (CVA 34), with VA-155 embarked, departed from operations in the South China Sea to relieve *Hancock* (CVA 19) on station in the Arabian Sea due to the unsettled conditions following the Yom Kippur War in the Middle East.



*A squadron AD-4 launches from Antietam (CV 36) during their 1951-1952 combat cruise to Korea.*

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Glenview	1946
NAS Alameda	1951
NALF Santa Rosa	May 1952*
NAS Moffett Field	25 Aug 1952
NAS Lemoore	21 Aug 1961

\* Temporary assignment for training and reforming following its return from a combat tour in Korea.

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Soule T. Bitting	29 Aug 1946
LCDR B. K. Harrison (acting)	May 1952
LCDR Raymond S. Osterhoudt	08 Aug 1952
LCDR Frank R. West	Oct 1953
LCDR Jack B. Jones	21 Mar 1955
CDR Henry E. Clark	10 Dec 1956
CDR Deforest Q. Joralmon	29 Oct 1958
CDR Robert E. McElwee	Feb 1960
CDR Ira K. Kruger	04 Aug 1961
CDR Patrick F. Cunningham	31 Jul 1962
CDR T. B. Russell, Jr.	27 Jun 1963
CDR J. H. Harris	17 Jul 1964
CDR J. B. Morin	1965
CDR Charles H. Peters	1966
CDR E. W. Ingley	11 Jul 1966
CDR William H. Searfus	Jun 1967
CDR David J. Sperling	Dec 1967
CDR Robert F. Reynolds, Jr.	07 Dec 1968
CDR Edwin C. Adamson, Jr.	24 Oct 1969
CDR James H. Mauldin	28 Aug 1970
CDR Markley R. Seibert	1971
CDR Dean E. Cramer	02 Jun 1972
CDR Robert L. Leuschner, Jr.	07 Jun 1973
CDR Larry E. Kaufman	17 Jul 1974
CDR Robert D. Miller	24 Oct 1975
CDR Robert C. Kaup	05 Jan 1977

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
SB2C/TBM/AM	*
AD-1	1951
AD-2	1951
AD-4	1951
AD-4L	1951
AD-4Q	1951
AD-4NA	26 Jul 1952
AD-6	Nov 1953
AD-7	Nov 1956
A4D-2/A-4B†	08 Oct 1958
A-4E	Dec 1963
A-4F	10 Apr 1968
A-7B	29 Sep 1969

\* During the squadron's Reserve duty between 1946 and its activation in February 1951, it most likely flew SB2Cs, TBMs and/or AMs.

† The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B in 1962.



Two squadron A-4E Skyhawks return to Coral Sea (CVA 43) following a mission over Vietnam, 1965.

### 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>
08 Sep 1951	02 May 1952	CVG-15	CV 36	AD-4/L/Q & AD-2	Korea
24 Jan 1953	21 Sep 1953	CVG-15	CVA 37	AD-4NA	Korea/WestPac
01 Jul 1954	28 Feb 1955	CVG-15	CVA 10	AD-6	WestPac
23 Apr 1956	15 Oct 1956	CVG-15	CVA 18	AD-6	WestPac
15 Feb 1958	02 Oct 1958	CVG-15	CVA 19	AD-7	WestPac
01 Aug 1959	18 Jan 1960	CVG-15	CVA 19	A4D-2	WestPac
19 Sep 1960	27 May 1961	CVG-15	CVA 43	A4D-2	WestPac
12 Dec 1961	17 Jul 1962	CVG-15	CVA 43	A4D-2	WestPac
03 Apr 1963	25 Nov 1963	CVG-15	CVA 43	A-4B	WestPac
07 Dec 1964	01 Nov 1965	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1968	17 May 1969	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
14 May 1970	10 Dec 1970	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
14 May 1971	18 Dec 1971	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jun 1972	30 Mar 1973	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Oct 1973	05 Jun 1974	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-7B	WestPac/IO
16 Sep 1975	03 Mar 1976	CVW-19	CV 34	A-7B	WestPac
04 Oct 1976	21 Apr 1977	CVW-19	CV 42	A-7B	Med

*A formation of squadron A-4F Skyhawks, circa 1968.*



**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-15/CVW-15†	H/NL*	01 Apr 1951
CVW-16	AH	Apr 1968
CVW-2	NE	12 Sep 1968
CVW-12‡		24 Jun 1969
CVW-19	NM	22 Nov 1969

\* The tail code was changed from H to NL in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-15 was redesignated CVW-15 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

‡ When the squadron was assigned to CVW-12, it operated under the control of VA-122 while undergoing training for the transition to the A-7 Corsair II.

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>		
MUC	07 Feb 1965	18 Oct 1965	
	29 May 1966	24 Nov 1966	
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968	
	29 Nov 1968	10 May 1969	
	01 Jun 1970	09 Dec 1970	
	28 Jun 1972	06 Mar 1973	
	RVNGC	12 Oct 1965	
		21 Jun 1966	22 Jun 1966
		23 Nov 1967	
		02 Dec 1967	
04 Dec 1967			
20 Dec 1967		22 Dec 1967	
20 Jan 1968			
23 Jan 1968		27 Jan 1968	
29 Jan 1968		19 Feb 1968	
07 Jan 1969		30 Jan 1969	
VNSM	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969	
	04 Apr 1969	14 Apr 1969	
	04 Jul 1965	24 Jul 1965	
	11 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965	
	21 Sep 1965	15 Oct 1965	
	14 Jun 1966	13 Jul 1966	
	27 Jul 1966	31 Aug 1966	
	08 Sep 1966	01 Oct 1966	
	19 Oct 1966	09 Nov 1966	
	26 Aug 1967	01 Oct 1967	
	12 Oct 1967	28 Oct 1967	
	04 Nov 1967	05 Nov 1967	
	11 Nov 1967	08 Dec 1967	
	16 Dec 1967	07 Jan 1968	
	15 Jan 1968	21 Feb 1968	
07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969		
NUC	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969	
	04 Apr 1969	17 Apr 1969	
	13 Jun 1970	29 Jun 1970	
	12 Jul 1970	22 Jul 1970	

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>		
KSM	04 Oct 1951	15 Apr 1952	
	27 Feb 1953	16 May 1953	
	29 May 1953	07 Sep 1953	
	AFEM	26 Aug 1958	07 Sep 1958
		14 Sep 1959	17 Sep 1959
		25 Apr 1961	28 Apr 1961
		30 Apr 1961	01 May 1961
		04 May 1961	09 May 1961
		12 Jan 1962	19 Jan 1962
		24 Jan 1962	27 Jan 1962
02 Feb 1965	05 Mar 1965		
16 Mar 1965	17 Apr 1965		
02 May 1965	28 May 1965		
23 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965		
23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968		
20 Mar 1969	22 Mar 1969		
20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969		
NUC	13 Mar 1953	15 May 1953	
	11 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953	



**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	02 Aug 1970	26 Aug 1970
	17 Sep 1970	13 Oct 1970
	06 Nov 1970	23 Nov 1970
	15 Jun 1971	10 Jul 1971
	24 Jul 1971	07 Aug 1971
	03 Sep 1971	27 Sep 1971
	29 Oct 1971	21 Nov 1971

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	26 Jun 1972	23 Jul 1972
	16 Aug 1972	01 Sep 1972
	11 Sep 1972	28 Sep 1972
	08 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972
	24 Nov 1972	18 Dec 1972
	27 Dec 1972	31 Jan 1973
	10 Feb 1973	06 Mar 1973



*A formation of squadron A-7B Corsair IIs in late 1969.*

## THIRD VA-155

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE (VA-155) on 1 September 1987.

Disestablished on 30 April 1993. The third squadron to be assigned the VA-155 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 24 July 1987. Colors for the Silver Fox insignia are as



The fox insignia used by the squadron.

follows: the circular design is outlined in silver with the upper background black and lower background blue with light blue highlights; yellow star, lightning bolt, moon, and wolf's pupils; silver wolf with black markings and outlined in white; and a silver scroll, outlined in black with black lettering.

Nickname: Silver Foxes, 1987–1993.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**15 August–8 October 1988:** *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-155 embarked, conducted a change of home port transit from Norfolk to San Diego via Cape Horn. During the transit numerous air power demonstrations were conducted for dignitaries from various South American countries.

**17 Jan 1991:** The squadron conducted its first combat operations. VA-155's commanding officer, Commander Sweigart, led Air Wing Two's aircraft in its first strike against Iraq.

**18 Jan 1991:** The squadron suffered its first and only loss during the war with Iraq when one of its A-6E Intruders was shot down while on a mining sortie by the Um Qasr Naval Base in Iraq.

**28 Feb 1991:** *Ranger's* last combat strike of the Gulf War was launched and led by a VA-155 aircraft. During the 43 day Gulf War the squadron flew 1,388.4 hours, a total of 635 sorties, and delivered 2,289,940 pounds of ordnance on Iraqi military targets.

**Sep–Dec 1992:** Squadron aircraft flew sorties in support of Operation Southern Watch, flights over southern Iraq south of the 32nd parallel to ensure Iraq was adhering to United Nations sanctions.

**Dec 1992:** The squadron participated in Operation Restore Hope, flying sorties in support of the humanitarian relief effort in Somalia.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Whidbey Island	01 Sep 1987

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Jack J. Samar	01 Sep 1987
CDR Kenneth R. Zimmerman	12 Jan 1989
CDR Frank Sweigart	29 Jun 1990
CDR Larry J. Munns	12 Sep 1991

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
KA-6D	16 Nov 1987
A-6E	Dec 1987

### Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
08 Dec 1990	09 Jun 1991	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf
01 Aug 1992	31 Jan 1993	CVW-2	CV 61	A-6E	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-10	NM	01 Dec 1987
CVW-17	AA	01 May 1988
CVW-2	NE	01 Oct 1989

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	04 Sep 1987	03 Sep 1988
NUC	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
SASM	13 Jan 1991	19 Apr 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
NAVE	01 Jan 1992	31 Dec 1992



*A squadron A-6E Intruder loaded with weapons, 1990.*

## VA-163

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY THREE (VA-163) on 1 September 1960.

Placed on inactive status on 1 April 1969 but maintained on the Naval Aeronautical Organization's list of designated squadrons. While inactive, no aircraft and only 1 administrative person was assigned to the squadron. VA-163 was removed from the Naval Aeronautical Organization list on 1 July 1971. The squadron probably was placed in an inactive status due to manpower and aircraft availability while awaiting transition to the A-6 Intruder.

Disestablished on 1 July 1971. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-163 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 31 January 1961. Colors for the insignia were: a light



The squadron's one and only insignia.

blue background with a white border outlined in black; the shield had a yellow border outlined in black; the background in the upper left quarter of the shield was dark blue with a yellow crescent moon and white star; the upper right quarter had a light blue background with a yellow moon and white cloud, outlined in black; the lower left quarter had a light blue background and the waves were a medium blue with white caps, outlined in black; the lower right quarter had a light blue background with snow capped dark blue mountains; the center of the shield had a square yellow box with black electron rings; the scroll was light blue outlined in black and had white lettering.

Nickname: Saints, 1960–1971.

### Chronology of Significant Events

Nov 1963: *Oriskany* (CVA 34), with VA-163 embarked, operated in the South China Sea during a crisis in South Vietnam and the coup that overthrew President Diem.

Jun 1965: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Jenkins, led the first major POL (petroleum, oil, lubricants) strike of the war against the Dam Dinh, North Vietnam storage facility.

7 Nov 1965: Lieutenant Commander Charles G.

Wack was awarded the Silver Star for his action in leading a sortie against SAM sites south of Nam Dinh, North Vietnam. He pressed his attack even though his aircraft was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire and successfully completed his mission before being forced to eject from the aircraft when it caught fire.

13 Nov 1965: Commander H. T. Jenkins, the squadron's commanding officer, was shot down while conducting an armed reconnaissance mission a few miles north of the DMZ and was captured. He remained a POW until his release in February 1973.

23 Jul 1966: During a successful POL mission over Vinh, North Vietnam, Commander W. F. Foster's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and he suffered the loss of his right arm. Using only his left hand, he piloted his crippled aircraft out to sea and ejected over the Gulf of Tonkin, where he was rescued. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions.

26 Oct 1966: A major fire broke out in *Oriskany* on Yankee Station. The squadron lost four officers in the fire. Several squadron personnel received awards for their heroic actions during the fire.

21 Aug 1967: Commander B. W. Compton, Jr., the squadron's commanding officer, was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions as a strike leader of a major coordinated air attack against the Hanoi Thermal Power Plant.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 Sep 1960
NAS Lemoore	26 Sep 1961

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Jack M. Manherz	01 Sep 1960
CDR D. V. Marshall, Jr.	01 Sep 1961
CDR M. D. Short	14 Oct 1962
CDR Jarl J. Diffendorfer	05 Feb 1964
CDR Harry T. Jenkins, Jr.	30 Dec 1964
CDR Wynn F. Foster	13 Nov 1965
CDR Ronald H. Caldwell	30 Jul 1966
CDR Bryan W. Compton, Jr.	10 Jul 1967
CDR Elbert D. Lighter	10 Jul 1968

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A4D-2/A-4B*	03 Oct 1960
A-4E	Mar 1964

\* The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B 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>
07 Jun 1962	17 Dec 1962	CVG-16	CVA 34	A4D-2	WestPac
01 Aug 1963	10 Mar 1964	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4B	WestPac
05 Apr 1965	16 Dec 1965	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
26 May 1966	16 Nov 1966	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Jun 1967	31 Jan 1968	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Jul 1968	03 Mar 1969	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-16/CVW-16*	AH	01 Sep 1960
CVW-21	NP	01 Mar 1968

\* CVG-16 was redesignated CVW-16 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	05 Sep 1963	13 Sep 1963
	03 Nov 1963	08 Nov 1963
	07 May 1965	02 Jun 1965
	10 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	17 Sep 1965	18 Sep 1965
NUC	02 Dec 1968	04 Dec 1968
	10 May 1965	06 Dec 1965
	12 Jun 1966	01 Nov 1966
	14 Jul 1967	12 Jan 1968
RVNGC	01 Aug 1968	22 Feb 1969
	02 Oct 1965	
	30 Oct 1965	
	01 Nov 1965	
	03 Nov 1965	
	07 Nov 1965	
	11 Nov 1965	12 Nov 1965
	06 Jul 1966	07 Jul 1966
	26 Sep 1968	
	29 Sep 1968	
09 Oct 1968	11 Oct 1968	

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
VNSM	13 Oct 1968	
	02 Nov 1968	
	07 Nov 1968	08 Nov 1968
	10 Nov 1968	11 Nov 1968
	13 Nov 1968	19 Nov 1968
	21 Nov 1968	26 Nov 1968
	21 Dec 1968	24 Dec 1968
	26 Dec 1968	28 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968	
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969
	07 Jan 1969	14 Jan 1969
	31 Jan 1969	08 Feb 1969
	04 Jul 1965	18 Jul 1965
	09 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965
	30 Sep 1965	19 Oct 1965
28 Oct 1965	27 Nov 1965	
29 Jun 1966	29 Jul 1966	
06 Aug 1966	08 Sep 1966	
23 Sep 1966	26 Oct 1966	
13 Jul 1967	08 Aug 1967	
17 Aug 1967	30 Sep 1967	
04 Oct 1967	03 Nov 1967	
19 Nov 1967	17 Dec 1967	
30 Dec 1967	13 Jan 1968	
21 Aug 1968	04 Sep 1968	
13 Sep 1968	15 Oct 1968	
23 Oct 1968	28 Nov 1968	
20 Dec 1968	15 Jan 1969	
29 Jan 1969	10 Feb 1969	



*A formation of squadron A-4 Skyhawks.*

## VA-164

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR (VA-164) on 1 September 1960.

Disestablished on 12 December 1975. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-164 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 24 May 1961. Colors for the Ghost rider insignia were: a black background outlined in black and white; the ghost rider was gold with black markings; the winged horse, diamond and scrolls were silver with black markings or lettering; the smoke/cloud was white with black markings; the flames were red, yellow, orange, blue, and green; and the aerodynamic (triangular) design was orange.



The squadron's ghost rider insignia.

Nickname: Ghost-riders, 1961–1975.

### Chronology of Significant Events

Nov 1963: *Oriskany* (CVA 34), with VA-164 embarked, operated in the South China Sea during a crisis in South Vietnam and the coup that overthrew President Diem.

5 May 1965: The squadron flew its first combat sortie. From May through July 1965, it flew close air support missions in South Vietnam.

7 Nov 1965: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. D. Shaw, was awarded the Silver Star for successfully leading a strike against a SAM site in North Vietnam.

26 Oct 1966: A major fire broke out in *Oriskany* on Yankee Station. The squadron lost four officers in the fire. Several squadron personnel received awards for their heroic actions during the fire.

Oct 1967: Commander D. F. Mow, the squadron's commanding officer, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during a combat mission over North Vietnam.

Mar 1970: The squadron completed the last line period of its fifth combat deployment to Vietnam. This was the squadron's first combat deployment without losing a pilot.

Apr 1972: The squadron participated in Operation Freedom Train, tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in the southern part of North Vietnam.

It also provided close air support for forces in South Vietnam following a massive invasion by North Vietnam.

May 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in the early phase of operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

Aug 1972: TA-4s acquired by VA-164 from the Marine Corps at MCAS Iwakuni were used for the first time operationally in a combat role off a carrier.

Jun 1973: Missions were flown in support of Operation End Sweep, the clearing of mines in the territorial waters of North Vietnam.

Oct 1974: With the outbreak of war between Israel and Egypt and Syria the *Hancock* (CVA 19), with VA-164 embarked, was directed to leave Yankee Station and operate in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 Sep 1960
NAS Lemoore	26 Sep 1961

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Harlan D. Williams	01 Sep 1960
CDR Lloyd W. Moffit	05 Sep 1961
CDR C. A. Banks, Jr.	Oct 1962
CDR R. M. Netherland	21 Sep 1963
CDR J. W. Roberts	28 Aug 1964
CDR John D. Shaw	24 Jul 1965
CDR Paul H. Engel	26 Jun 1966
CDR Douglas F. Mow	31 May 1967
CDR William F. Span	04 Jul 1968
CDR Roy V. Hagberg	18 Jul 1969
CDR George L. Boaz	24 Jul 1970
CDR Ramsay (N) Lawson	08 Jul 1971
CDR Stanley R. Arthur	01 Jul 1972
CDR Fred J. Gosebrink	15 Jun 1973
CDR Frederick P. Meyers	30 May 1974

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A4D-2/A-4B*	07 Oct 1960
A-4E	13 Mar 1964
A-4F	06 Apr 1969
TA-4F	08 Aug 1972

\* The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B 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>
07 Jun 1962	17 Dec 1962	CVG-16	CVA 34	A4D-2	WestPac
01 Aug 1963	10 Mar 1964	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4B	WestPac
05 Apr 1965	16 Dec 1965	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
26 May 1966	16 Nov 1966	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Jun 1967	31 Jan 1968	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Jul 1968	03 Mar 1969	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Aug 1969	15 Apr 1970	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
22 Oct 1970	03 Jun 1971	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Jan 1972	03 Oct 1972	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4F & TA-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
08 May 1973	08 Jan 1974	CVW-21	CVA 19	A-4F & TA-4F	WestPac/IO
18 Mar 1975	20 Oct 1975	CVW-21	CV 19	A-4F & TA-4F	WestPac



*Two squadron A-4F Skyhawks in flight, 1973.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-16/CVW-16*	AH	01 Sep 1960
CVW-21	NP	01 Mar 1968

\* CVG-16 was redesignated CVW-16 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
VNSM	21 Nov 1968	26 Nov 1968
	21 Dec 1968	24 Dec 1968
	26 Dec 1968	28 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968	
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969
	07 Jan 1969	14 Jan 1969
	31 Jan 1969	08 Feb 1969
	01 Aug 1969	01 Sep 1969
	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972
	04 Jul 1965	18 Jul 1965
	09 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965
	30 Sep 1965	19 Oct 1965
	28 Oct 1965	27 Nov 1965
	29 Jun 1966	29 Jul 1966
	06 Aug 1966	08 Sep 1966
	23 Sep 1966	26 Oct 1966
	13 Jul 1967	08 Aug 1967
17 Aug 1967	30 Sep 1967	
04 Oct 1967	03 Nov 1967	
19 Nov 1967	17 Dec 1967	
30 Dec 1967	13 Jan 1968	
21 Aug 1968	04 Sep 1968	
13 Sep 1968	15 Oct 1968	
23 Oct 1968	28 Nov 1968	
20 Dec 1968	15 Jan 1969	
29 Jan 1969	10 Feb 1969	
31 Aug 1969	24 Sep 1969	
03 Oct 1969	27 Oct 1969	
24 Nov 1969	17 Dec 1969	
18 Jan 1970	11 Feb 1970	
09 Mar 1970	26 Mar 1970	
19 Nov 1970	08 Dec 1970	
29 Dec 1970	15 Jan 1971	
23 Jan 1971	20 Feb 1971	
09 Mar 1971	10 Apr 1971	
17 Apr 1971	04 May 1971	
07 Feb 1972	09 Mar 1972	
25 Mar 1972	02 May 1972	
11 May 1972	01 Jun 1972	
12 Jun 1972	14 Jul 1972	
24 Jul 1972	17 Aug 1972	
27 Aug 1972	14 Sep 1972	

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	10 May 1965	06 Dec 1965
	12 Jun 1966	01 Nov 1966
	14 Jul 1967	12 Jan 1968
	01 Aug 1968	22 Feb 1969
	08 Feb 1972	14 Sep 1972
	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	05 Sep 1963	13 Sep 1963
	03 Nov 1963	08 Nov 1963
	07 May 1965	02 Jun 1965
	10 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
NAVE	17 Sep 1965	18 Sep 1965
	02 Dec 1968	04 Dec 1968
	30 Oct 1969	
	03 Jan 1970	08 Jan 1970
	22 Feb 1970	25 Feb 1970
	21 Aug 1969	31 Mar 1970
	20 Nov 1970	07 May 1971
	02 Oct 1965	
	30 Oct 1965	
	01 Nov 1965	
AFEM	03 Nov 1965	
	07 Nov 1965	
	11 Nov 1965	12 Nov 1965
	06 Jul 1966	07 Jul 1966
	26 Sep 1968	
	29 Sep 1968	
	09 Oct 1968	11 Oct 1968
	13 Oct 1968	
	02 Nov 1968	
	07 Nov 1968	08 Nov 1968
MUC	10 Nov 1968	11 Nov 1968
	13 Nov 1968	19 Nov 1968
	02 Nov 1968	
	07 Nov 1968	
	10 Nov 1968	
RVNGC	13 Nov 1968	
	02 Nov 1968	
	07 Nov 1968	
	10 Nov 1968	
	13 Nov 1968	
	02 Nov 1968	
	07 Nov 1968	
	10 Nov 1968	
	13 Nov 1968	
	02 Nov 1968	
07 Nov 1968		



## VA-165

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE (VA-165) on 1 September 1960.

The first squadron to be assigned the VA-165 designation.



*The squadron's first insignia.*

Similar device at one end; red electron rings circled the tailhook and the boomerang or wedge shaped device was green, outlined in black.

Sometime in the early 1960s, following the squadrons transfer to the west coast, a new insignia was adopted. There is no record of an approval date for this insignia. Colors for the insignia are: a silver background with green scrolls and outlined in black; gold lettering and compass star with black markings on the star; green boomerang outlined in black; and a white knight chessman with black markings.



*The squadron's second insignia had a more stylized design adopted sometime in the early 1960s.*

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 24 May 1961. Colors for this insignia were: a silver background with a white scroll outlined in black, lettering on the scroll was green; brown map outlined in black; black and white tailhook with a red triangular

device at one end; red electron rings circled the tailhook and the boomerang or wedge shaped device was green, outlined in black.

Nickname: Boomers, mid 1960s to present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Nov 1963:** *Oriskany* (CVA 34), with VA-165 embarked, operated in the South China Sea during a crisis in South Vietnam and the coup that overthrew President Diem.

**Feb 1965:** The squadron began participation in combat operations over Laos.

**4 Apr 1966:** VA-165 deployed to Vietnam as a component of CVW-10 embarked in *Intrepid* (CVS 11). This was the first all attack air wing and the first to

deploy. Two squadrons flew the A-1 Skyraider and the other two squadrons flew the A-4 Skyhawk.

**26 Jan 1968:** The *Ranger* (CVA 62), with VA-165 embarked, while operating on Yankee Station, was ordered to the Sea of Japan following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) on 23 January by the North Koreans. *Ranger* and VA-165 operated in the area until relieved on 5 March 1968.

**Apr 1969:** Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April, *Ranger* (CVA 61), with VA-165 embarked, left Yankee Station and proceeded to the Sea of Japan for operations off the coast of Korea.

**26 May 1970:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander F. M. Backman, flew the newest update version of the A-6 Intruder, the A-6C, into combat for the first time.

**Apr 1972:** The squadron participated in Operation Freedom Train, tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in the southern part of North Vietnam. It also provided support for forces in South Vietnam following a massive invasion by North Vietnam on 1 April 1972.

**May 1972:** The squadron participated in the early phase of Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above 20 degrees north latitude.

**Nov 1974:** VA-165, part of the CVW-9 team embarked on *Constellation* (CV 64), operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time in 26 years that an American carrier had entered and operated in the Persian Gulf.

**Mar 1979:** *Constellation* (CV 64), with VA-165 embarked, was ordered to make a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean from the Philippines in response to the conflict between North and South Yemen.

**Oct 1981:** The squadron was the first operational A-6 unit to deploy with a Harpoon missile capability.

**Jul-Aug 1983:** *Ranger*, with VA-165 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Nicaragua in response to an unstable situation in Central America and the possible invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

**Oct 1983-Jan 1984:** *Ranger*, with VA-165 embarked, was extended on station in the Arabian Sea due to the Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

**Sep 1988:** *Nimitz* (CVN 68), with VA-165 embarked, operated in the Sea of Japan in support of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

**Nov 1988:** Squadron aircraft participated in Earnest Will Operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf.



*A squadron AD-5 Skyraider at NAS Glenview, Illinois (Courtesy Fred Dickey Collection).*

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Jacksonville	01 Sep 1960
NAS Moffett Field	07 Sep 1961
NAS Alameda	10 Mar 1964
NAS Whidbey Island	01 Jan 1967

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Carl H. Yeagle	01 Sep 1960
CDR John E. Ford	25 Aug 1961
CDR R. Houck	1962
CDR L. L. Andrews, Jr.	02 Sep 1963
CDR R. E. Chamblair, Jr.	10 Apr 1964
CDR A. K. Knoizen	1965
CDR Harry D. Parode	1966
CDR William S. Jett III	22 Dec 1966
CDR Leland S. Kollmorgen	11 Jun 1968
CDR Fred M. Backman	27 Jun 1969
CDR Richard A. Zick	09 Jun 1970
CDR Thomas W. Conboy	17 Jun 1971
CDR James M. Seely	13 Jul 1972
CDR George C. Crater	21 Jun 1973
CDR Gary C. Caron	14 Jun 1974
CDR Samuel A. Belcher III	29 Aug 1975

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Robert M. Proshek	05 Nov 1976
CDR H. G. Sprouse	Feb 1978
CDR Ian K. Graham	22 Apr 1979
CDR Michael C. Scully	25 Jul 1980
CDR Paul S. Bloch	02 Oct 1981
CDR Gary C. Wasson	14 Jan 1983
CDR Robert T. Knowles	15 Jun 1984
CDR John C. Scrapper	31 Jan 1986
CDR Donald C. Brown	01 Aug 1987
CDR William H. Shurtleff IV	10 Dec 1988
CDR John W. Indorf, Jr.	23 May 1990

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-6/A-1H*	04 Oct 1960
A-1J	Jun 1963
A-6A	May 1967
A-6B	Nov 1969
A-6C	27 Feb 1970
KA-6D	28 Mar 1971
A-6E	20 Jan 1975

\* 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>
07 Jun 1962	17 Dec 1962	CVG-16	CVA 34	AD-6	WestPac
01 Aug 1963	10 Mar 1964	CVW-16	CVA 34	A-1H/J	WestPac

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
07 Dec 1964	01 Nov 1965	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
04 Apr 1966	21 Nov 1966	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-1H	WestPac/Vietnam
04 Nov 1967	25 May 1968	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1968	17 May 1969	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1970	21 Dec 1970	CVW-9	CVA 66	A-6A/B/C	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Oct 1971	30 Jun 1972	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1973	11 Oct 1973	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
21 Jun 1974	22 Dec 1974	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
12 Apr 1977	21 Nov 1977	CVW-9	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
26 Sep 1978	17 May 1979	CVW-9	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
26 Feb 1980	15 Oct 1980	CVW-9	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
20 Oct 1981	23 May 1982	CVW-9	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
15 Jul 1983	29 Feb 1984	CVW-9	CV 61	A-6E & KA-6D	CentralAmerica/ WestPac/IO
24 Jul 1985	21 Dec 1985	CVW-9	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
03 Jan 1987	29 Jun 1987	CVW-9	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	World Cruise
02 Sep 1988	27 Feb 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1989	09 Jul 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
12 Feb 1990	07 Apr 1990	CVW-9*	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	*

\* VA-165 was part of a composite CVW-9 that was embarked in *Constellation* (CV 64) for her home port change and transit from the east coast to the west coast via Cape Horn.



A squadron KA-6D Intruder refuels an F-14 Tomcat from VF-211.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-16/CVW-16*	AH	01 Sep 1960
CVW-15	NL	22 Jun 1964
CVW-10	AK	14 Mar 1966
COMFAIRALAMEDA/ CVW-15†		Nov 1966
COMFAIRWHIDBEY		01 Jan 1967
CVW-2	NE	16 Jun 1967
CVW-9	NG	02 Jul 1969

\* CVG-16 was redesignated CVW-16 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† When VA-165 returned from its deployment to WestPac on 21 November 1966 it was assigned to CVW-15. However, CVW-15 was still on a WestPac cruise and did not return until 3 December 1966.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
	01 Jul 1974	31 Dec 1975
	01 Jan 1976	30 Jun 1977
	01 Jan 1985	30 Jun 1986
	01 Jul 1986	31 Dec 1987
MUC	03 Dec 1967	09 May 1968
	26 May 1970	08 Nov 1970
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	15 Jun 1984	27 Feb 1986
	Jan 1987	May 1987
AFEM	05 Sep 1963	13 Sep 1963

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	03 Nov 1963	08 Nov 1963
	02 Feb 1965	05 Mar 1965
	16 Mar 1965	11 Apr 1965
	02 May 1965	28 May 1965
	23 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	20 Mar 1969	22 Mar 1969
	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	24 Sep 1970	26 Sep 1970
	02 Nov 1988	05 Dec 1988
NEM	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	26 Apr 1980	04 Aug 1980
	12 Aug 1980	19 Aug 1980
NUC	07 Feb 1965	18 Oct 1965
	29 Nov 1968	10 May 1969
PUC	22 Oct 1971	13 Jun 1972
RVNGC	12 Oct 1965	
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jun 1972
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	24 Jul 1965
	11 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965
	21 Sep 1965	15 Oct 1965
	15 May 1966	15 Jun 1966
	08 Jul 1966	10 Aug 1966
	01 Sep 1966	23 Sep 1966

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	02 Oct 1966	18 Oct 1966
	03 Dec 1967	29 Dec 1967
	06 Jan 1968	28 Jan 1968
	18 Mar 1968	12 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	09 May 1968
	07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969
	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969
	04 Apr 1969	17 Apr 1969
	17 May 1970	
	19 May 1970	
	24 May 1970	16 Jun 1970
	28 Jun 1970	13 Jul 1970
	20 Jul 1970	04 Aug 1970
	24 Aug 1970	18 Sep 1970
	13 Oct 1970	08 Nov 1970
	02 Nov 1971	22 Nov 1971
	29 Nov 1971	31 Dec 1971
	09 Jan 1972	03 Feb 1972
	09 Feb 1972	02 Mar 1972
	13 Mar 1972	23 Mar 1972
	07 Apr 1972	18 May 1972
	24 May 1972	25 May 1972
	31 May 1972	13 Jun 1972



*A squadron A-6E Intruder in flight, 1978.*

## VA-172

### Lineage

Established as Bomber Fighter Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VBF-82) on 20 August 1945.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTEEN A (VF-18A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO (VF-172) on 11 August 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO (VA-172) on 1 November 1955.

Disestablished on 15 January 1971. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-172 designation.



*The design using the chess pieces was the squadron's first insignia.*

The chess piece insignia was used by the squadron until 19 October 1950 when CNO approved a new insignia. Colors for the new insignia were: a blue border outlined a red and white shield;



*The squadron adopted the blue bolts design as its second insignia.*

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 12 June 1946. Colors for insignia were: a gold background outlined in grey with blue triangles; the knight and queen chess pieces were red with white highlights and the pawn and king were grey with white highlights.

Colors for the new insignia were: a blue border outlined a red and white shield; gold naval aviator wings with black markings; blue lightning bolt; and the lettering Blue Bolts was black.

Nickname: Check-mates, 1946–1950.

Blue Blots, 1950–1971.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**28 Jan 1949:** Squadron aircraft, while secured to the flight deck and engines running, were used to assist in berthing *Midway* (CVB 41) in Augusta, Sicily. This procedure is known as operation Pinwheel.

**23 Aug 1951:** The squadron participated in its first combat sortie. This also marked the first use of the F2H-2 in combat.

**25 Aug 1951:** The squadron's F2H-2 aircraft, along

with F9Fs from VF-51, provided escort for 30 U.S. Air Force B-29 bombers raiding the marshalling yards at Rashin, North Korea.

**Nov-Dec 1956:** *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), with VA-172 embarked, was ordered to deploy and operate off the coast of Spain as a result of the Suez Canal crisis.

**Sep-Oct 1957:** A detachment of squadron's F2H-2 aircraft were embarked in *Tarawa* (CVS 40) to provide fighter support for the ASW carrier during a NATO exercise in the North Atlantic.

**Nov 1961:** VA-172, embarked in *Roosevelt*, operated off the coast of the Dominican Republic to support the newly established democratic government.

**May 1963:** *Roosevelt*, with VA-172 embarked, deployed to the Caribbean and operated off the coast of Haiti in response to a rebel attempt to overthrow the Haitian government.

**Jul-Sep 1963:** A detachment from the squadron was deployed aboard *Randolph* (CVS 15) to provide fighter coverage for the ASW Task Group during operations in the Caribbean Sea.

**8-29 Aug 1964:** *Roosevelt*, with VA-172 embarked, was ordered to operate in the vicinity of Cyprus after fighting escalated between Turkish and Greek forces on the island.

**Aug 1966:** The squadron commenced combat operations in Vietnam. These were its first combat sorties since the Korean War in 1952.

**2 Dec 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander Bruce A. Nystrom, was lost in a night reconnaissance mission over the Red River delta area in North Vietnam.



*A squadron F4U-4 Corsair traps aboard Coral Sea (CVB 43), 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Alameda	20 Aug 1945
NAS Quonset Point	15 Jan 1946
NAAS Cecil Field	04 Mar 1949
NAS Jacksonville	24 Mar 1950
NAS Cecil Field	22 Feb 1958

**Commanding Officers**

<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	<i>Officer</i>
19 Dec 1961	CDR William S. Stewart
19 Dec 1962	CDR M. Blaylock
09 Dec 1963	CDR E. D. Herbert
08 Dec 1964	CDR K. A. Burrows
23 Dec 1965	CDR Bruce A. Nystrom
03 Dec 1966	CDR Robert D. Harris, Jr.
24 Nov 1967	CDR Thomas A. Francis
27 Nov 1968	CDR John D. Yamnicky
31 Oct 1969	CDR Conrad B. Olson

**Commanding Officers**

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Benjamin T. Pugh (acting)	20 Aug 1945
LCDR Jacob W. Onstott	10 Sep 1945
LCDR Pierre N. Charbonnet, Jr.	28 May 1946
LCDR V. P. de Poix	12 Feb 1948
LCDR C. A. Blouin	19 Apr 1950
LCDR Marvin E. Barnett	15 Mar 1951
LCDR James B. Cain	17 Jun 1952
LT R. P. McCloskey (acting)	04 Aug 1954
CDR Glenn G. Estes, Jr.	26 Aug 1954
CDR Robert M. McConnell, Jr.	31 Oct 1955
LCDR F. A. Fox (acting)	25 Apr 1957
CDR Robert J. Robison	10 Jun 1957
LCDR H. O. Cutler	25 Jul 1958
CDR Arthur Barker, Jr.	21 Sep 1959
CDR John D. Kidd	19 Dec 1960

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F	Aug 1945
F4U	06 Sep 1945
F8F	1946
FH-1	Mar 1949
F2H-1	May 1949
F2H-2	21 Jun 1950
F2H-4	13 Jan 1956
F2H-2B	Sep 1956
A4D-1	16 Dec 1957
A4D-2	May 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	06 Sep 1961

\* 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>
22 Oct 1946	21 Dec 1946	CVG-82*	CV 15	F4U-4	Med
02 Feb 1947	19 Mar 1947	CVAG-17	CV 15	F4U-4	EasternLant/Carib
07 Jun 1948	06 Aug 1948	CVG-17	CVB 43	F4U-4	Med/Carib
04 Jan 1949	05 Mar 1949	CVG-17	CVB 41	F4U-4	Med
09 Sep 1950	01 Feb 1951	CVG-17	CVB 43	F2H-2	Med
21 Jul 1951	25 Mar 1952	CVG-5	CV 9†	F2H-2	WestPac/Korea
26 Aug 1952	19 Dec 1952	CVG-17	CVA 42	F2H-2	NorLant/Med
16 Sep 1953	01 May 1954	CVG-17	CVA 18	F2H-2	World Cruise
05 Apr 1955	29 Sep 1955	CVG-17	CVA 43	F2H-2	Med
13 Feb 1959	01 Sep 1959	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med
28 Jan 1960	24 Aug 1960	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med
15 Feb 1961	28 Aug 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med
19 Nov 1961	30 Nov 1961	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2N	Carib
14 Sep 1962	22 Apr 1963	CVG-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
28 Apr 1964	22 Dec 1964	CVW-1	CVA 42‡	A-4C	Med
28 Jun 1965	17 Dec 1965	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	Med
21 Jun 1966	21 Feb 1967	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	SoLant/IO/West Pac/Vietnam
24 Aug 1967	19 May 1968	CVW-1	CVA 42	A-4C	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>
07 Jan 1969	29 Jul 1969	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Mar 1970	17 Dec 1970	CVW-8	CVS 38	A-4C	SoLant/IO/West Pac/Vietnam

\* CVG-82 was redesignated CVAG-17 during the deployment.

† The squadron departed NAS San Diego on 16 July 1951 embarked in *Antietam* (CV 36) and arrived in Hawaii on 20 July. On 21 July it embarked in *Essex* (CV 9) and departed for a combat cruise to Korea on 9 August.

‡ In October 1964 *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42) returned to the States for an emergency dry docking to repair a propeller. The squadron was based ashore at NAS Cecil Field during that time frame. Following the repair, the carrier and squadron returned to the Mediterranean.



*A squadron F2H-2 Banshee in flight during its combat deployment to Korea aboard Essex (CV 9), 1951.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-82/CVAG-17/ CVG-17*	R†	20 Aug 1945
CVG-5	S	21 Jul 1951
CVG-17	R	25 Mar 1952
COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE		1957‡
CVG-1/CVW-1§	AB	15 Mar 1958
CVW-8	AJ	25 Aug 1968

\* CVG-82 was redesignated CVAG-17 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-17 was redesignated CVG-17 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code R was assigned to CVAG-17 on 12 December 1946.

‡ The squadron was transferred from CVG-17 and operational control was assigned to COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE some time in early 1957.

§ CVG-1 was redesignated CVW-1 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	21 Aug 1951	05 Mar 1952
KSM	13 Aug 1951	05 Mar 1952
NEM	20 Nov 1961	29 Nov 1961
MUC	11 Apr 1970	06 Nov 1970
RVNGC	21 Oct 1966	
VNSM	30 Jul 1966	
	09 Aug 1966	12 Sep 1966
	01 Oct 1966	03 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	14 Nov 1966

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	24 Nov 1966	28 Dec 1966
	20 Jan 1967	21 Jan 1967
	10 Apr 1970	02 May 1970
	12 May 1970	29 May 1970
	13 Jun 1970	04 Jul 1970
	28 Jul 1970	19 Aug 1970
	30 Aug 1970	30 Sep 1970
	20 Oct 1970	07 Nov 1970



*A flight of squadron A-4C Skyhawks with tail hooks down preparing for a landing on Shangri-La (CVS 38) during her deployment in 1970.*



## VA-174

### Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VB-82) on 1 April 1944.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SEVENTEEN A (VA-17A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR (VA-174) on 11 August 1948.

Disestablished on 25 January 1950. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-174 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The squadron's battering ram insignia.

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 21 January 1946. Colors for the insignia were: a dark blue background with a yellow border; the star had alternating shades of yellow and light mustard; the goat and bomb were shaded light gray to dark gray.

Nickname: Battering Rams, 1946–1950.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**15 Dec 1944:** The squadron embarked in *Bennington* (CV 20), along with other units of CVG-82, and departed for Pearl Harbor, arriving there on 7 January 1945, following a stop over at NAS San Diego.

**16 Feb 1945:** VB-82 participated in the first carrier-based air strikes on Tokyo, flying sorties against installations at Mitsune and Mikatagahara Airfields on Hachijo Jima, Nanpo Shoto.

**20–22 Feb 1945:** Squadron aircraft provided air support for the landings on Iwo Jima.

**19 Mar 1945:** Japanese naval vessels in the Inland Sea were attacked by VB-82 aircraft and other aircraft assigned to Task Group 58.1.

**7 Apr 1945:** Squadron aircraft participated in Task Force 58's attacks on the Japanese super battleship *Yamato* and her escorts in the East China Sea. The

attacks resulted in the sinking of the *Yamato*, one cruiser and four destroyers.

**Mar–May 1945:** The squadron participated in preinvasion strikes on Okinawa and provided air support during the invasion of the island.

**17 Jun–9 Jul 1945:** The squadron was embarked in *White Plains* (CVE 66) for transit back to the States.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Wildwood	01 Apr 1944*
NAAS Oceana	15 Jun 1944*
NAS Norfolk, East Field	17 Sep 1944*
NAS Quonset Point	13 Nov 1944*
NAS Kahului	08 Jan 1945*
NAS Alameda	09 Jul 1945
NAS Quonset Point	01 Feb 1946
NAAS Cecil Field	01 Feb 1949

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

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Samuel R. Brown, Jr.	01 Apr 1944
LCDR Hugh Wood, Jr. (acting)	31 Dec 1944
LCDR Hugh Wood, Jr.	11 Jan 1945
LT J. A. Derby (acting)	11 Jul 1945
LT Harry R. McRae, Jr. (acting)	04 Sep 1945
LCDR Hugh Wood, Jr.	13 Oct 1945
LCDR Robert E. Farkas	02 Apr 1948
LCDR William R. Pittman	10 Jun 1949
LCDR Harold E. Vita	14 Dec 1949

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
SB2C-1C	01 Apr 1944
SB2C-3	22 May 1944
SB2C-4E	17 Nov 1944
SBW-4E	Feb 1946
SB2C-5	01 Jul 1946
SBW-5	Jul 1946
AM-1	01 Mar 1948
AD-3	Apr 1949

### Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
29 Jan 1945	17 Jun 1945	CVG-82	CV 20	SB2C-4E	Pacific
22 Oct 1946	21 Dec 1946	CVG-82*	CV 15	SB2C-5	Med

\* CVG-82 was redesignated CVAG-17 during the deployment.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-82/CVAG-17/ CVG-17*	R†	01 Apr 1944

\* CVG-82 was redesignated CVAG-17 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-17 was redesignated CVG-17 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code R was assigned to CVAG-17 on 12 December 1946.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1947	30 Jun 1948
Campaign Medal (Asiatic Pacific)	15 Feb 1945	04 Mar 1945
	17 Mar 1945	11 Jun 1945



*A squadron SB2C-4E Helldiver launches from Bennington (CV 20), 1945 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

## SECOND VA-174

### Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VB-81) on 1 March 1944.

Redesignated Attack Squadron THIRTEEN A (VA-13A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR (VA-134) on 2 August 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR (VF-174) on 15 February 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR (VA-174) on 1 July 1966.

Disestablished on 30 June 1988. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-174 designation.



*This Walt Disney design was the squadron's first insignia.*

The squadron's Walt Disney designed insignia was approved by CNO on 23 May 1944. Colors for the bat insignia were: a lemon yellow background; the underside of the bat's wings were reddish brown and the upper side orange; the bat's face, neck, feet and lower part of the razor were orange; the upper part of the razor was light blue with white markings; the bat's eye was white, pupil black and horns white outlined in black; white machine gun with black markings and red flame from the gun; black bombs with white markings and the lettering "Hell Razors" was red. The red color was not authorized for use during World War II. The insignia re-mained in use throughout out the squadron's numerous redesignations.

Nickname: Hell Razors, 1944–1988.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's Walt Disney designed insignia was approved by CNO on 23 May 1944. Colors for the bat insignia were: a lemon yellow background; the underside of the bat's wings were reddish brown and the upper



*The squadron added the scroll at the bottom of the original insignia following its redesignation to VA-174.*

### Chronology of Significant Events

**23–31 Aug 1944:** The squadron, along with other units of CVG-81, embarked in *Hancock* (CV 19) for transportation to Hawaii.

**28 Oct–7 Nov 1944:** Embarked in *Copabee* (CVE 12)

for transportation to Guam.

**14 Nov 1944:** CVG-81 aircraft engaged in their first combat sorties, flying missions against Luzon from *Wasp* (CV 18).

**27 Dec 1944:** The squadron was detached from CVG-81, embarked in *Wasp* (CV 18), and flew to Guam. This was done to accommodate an increase in the fighter strength aboard the carrier.

**Mar 1945:** VB-81 rejoined CVG-81 aboard *Copabee* for the transit back to the States.

**Aug 1948–Apr 1949:** Even though the squadron's designation was attack (VA) its mission during this period, with the assigned F4U-4 Corsairs, was high altitude intercept.

**Oct 1948–Feb 1949:** VA-134, assigned to CVG-1, embarked in *Tarawa* (CV 40), was part of an all-fighter aircraft air group deployed on a world cruise.

**Jan 1949:** The squadron operated in the Persian Gulf while embarked in *Tarawa*.

**Feb 1955:** While deployed aboard *Midway* (CVA 43), the squadron supported the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist civilians and military personnel from the Tachen Islands which were being bombarded by the People's Republic of China.

**28 Apr 1958:** The squadron's mission was changed to the training of pilots and enlisted men for F8U Crusader fleet squadrons on the east coast.

**10–17 May 1958:** Four squadron Crusaders participated in Operation Pipeline, the transAtlantic flight of carrier jet aircraft for the resupply of deployed squadrons in the Sixth Fleet.

**14 Oct 1966:** VA-174 was the first Navy squadron to receive the A-7A Corsair II aircraft.

**Jan 1967:** VA-86 was the first squadron to undergo training with VA-174 in the A-7A.

**9 Dec 1976:** Lieutenant Junior Grade Rosemary Conatser, while undergoing pilot training with VA-174, became the first woman to fly the A-7 Corsair II.



*A squadron SB2C-3 Helldiver coming in for a landing, 1945 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Wildwood	01 Mar 1944*
NAAF Otis Field	08 May 1944*
NAS San Diego	10 Aug 1944*
NAS Puunene	01 Sep 1944*
NAS Guam	27 Dec 1944
NAS San Diego	31 Mar 1945
NAS Pasco	13 May 1945
NAS Wildwood	05 Aug 1945
NAS Quonset Point	19 Sep 1945
NAS San Diego	Jul 1946
NAS Sand Point	28 Jun 1947
NAS San Diego	02 Sep 1947
NAS Jacksonville	11 Apr 1949
NAS Cecil Field	Apr 1954

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

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Jerry L. Terrell	16 May 1975
CDR John S. McCain III	01 Jul 1976
CDR John F. Calhoun	28 Jul 1977
CDR John D. Rasmussen	26 Oct 1978
CDR Robert J. Naughton	17 Jan 1980
CDR Robert S. Smith	12 Mar 1981
CAPT D. B. Hunt	Jul 1982
CAPT Robert L. Kiem	31 Aug 1983
CDR Michael B. Nordeen	06 Sep 1984
CDR Charles A. Cook	06 Sep 1985
CDR E. Evan Shipe III	29 Apr 1986
CDR Dean M. Hendrickson	16 Apr 1987

\* Commander H. P. Lanham was detached as Commanding Officer of VB-81 and assigned as Commanding Officer of VF-81. There is no record of who assumed the position as acting commanding officer of VB-81 while it was shore based at Guam.

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Harvey P. Lanham	01 Mar 1944
	Feb 1945*
LT Hugh Burns (acting)	13 May 1945
LT Hugh Burns	04 Jun 1945
LTJG W. D. Page (acting)	09 Sep 1945
LCDR William E. Rouse	21 Sep 1945
LT Loren E. Nelson (acting)	07 Nov 1946
LCDR Gene C. Anderson	13 Jan 1947
LT Martin G. O'Neill (acting)	06 Jun 1948
LCDR S. C. Walls	06 Jul 1948
CDR John C. Kelly	20 Jun 1949
LCDR Ralph E. Elliott, Jr.	25 May 1950
LCDR Paul B. Garrison	14 Aug 1951
LCDR John H. Iarrobino	20 Jun 1952
CDR George H. Sult	Mar 1953
CDR J. C. Schroeder	Sep 1955
LCDR John F. Davis	Aug 1957
CDR W. S. Miller	09 Jan 1959
CDR R. T. Hoppe	01 Jul 1960
CDR Carl C. Dace	09 Jun 1961
CDR Edward Iglesias	Feb 1962
CDR Homer A. Winter	Jul 1963
CDR Wiley A. Scott	28 Aug 1964
CDR G. L. Gray, Jr.	11 Aug 1965
CDR Donald S. Ross	12 Aug 1966
CDR William F. Sallada	16 Jun 1967
CDR Edwin M. Crow	09 Aug 1968
CDR J. E. Russ	03 Jul 1969
CDR Roger C. Bos	04 Sep 1970
CDR John J. Lahr	06 Aug 1971
CDR Rolland K. Shea	07 Jul 1972
CDR Michael G. Basford	01 Jun 1973
CDR Donald B. Gilbert	27 Jun 1974



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair launching from the deck of Tarawa (CV 40) during her world cruise in 1948-1949.

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SB2C-3	Mar 1944
SB2C-1C	Mar 1944
SB2C-4E	May 1945
SB2C-5	Dec 1945
SBW-5	Jan 1946
F4U-4	04 Mar 1948
F4U-5	Jun 1950
F9F-6	Jan 1953
FJ-3	Sep 1955
F9F-8	Mar 1956
F8U-1/F-8A*	30 Oct 1957
TV-2	17 Sep 1958
F9F-8T	08 Jul 1959
F8U-1P/RF-8A*	Oct 1959
F8U-2/F-8C*	Oct 1959
F8U-1E/F-8B*	Jul 1959

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F8U-2N/F-8D*	Nov 1960
F8U-2NE/F-8E*	Apr 1962
A-7A	14 Oct 1966
A-7B	09 Jul 1968
A-7E	18 Dec 1969
T-39D	1975
TA-7C	09 Jun 1978

\* The F8U Crusader designations were changed in 1962 to F-8.



A flight of squadron F9F-8 Cougars during their deployment aboard *Bennington* (CVA 20) in 1956–1957.

### Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
10 Nov 1944	27 Dec 1944	CVG-81	CV 18	SB2C-3	Pacific
03 Jul 1946	15 Apr 1947	CVG-81*	CV 37	SB2C-5/SBW-5	WestPac
01 Oct 1948	21 Feb 1949	CVG-1	CV 40	F4U-4	World Cruise
09 Sep 1950	01 Feb 1951	CVG-17	CVB 43	F4U-5	Med
03 Sep 1952	18 Dec 1952	CVG-17	CVA 42	F4U-4	NorLant/Med
27 Dec 1954	14 Jul 1955	CVG-1	CVA 41	F9F-6	World Cruise
15 Oct 1956	22 May 1957	ATG-181	CVA 20	F9F-8	WestPac

\* During the deployment CVG-81 was redesignated CVAG-13.

### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
CVG-81/CVAG-13/ CVG-13*	P†	01 Mar 1944
CVG-1	T	22 Sep 1948
CVG-13	P	25 Feb 1949
COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE		30 Nov 1949
CVG-17	R	14 Feb 1950
CVG-1	T	Apr 1954
ATG-181	I	Oct 1956
COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE		May 1957‡
CVG-1	AB	01 Nov 1957
RCVG-4/RCVW-4§	AD	16 Mar 1958
COMLATWING-1	AD**	01 Jun 1970

\* CVG-81 was redesignated CVAG-13 on 15 November 1946 and then redesignated CVG-13 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code P was assigned to CVAG-13 on 12 December 1946.

‡ The squadron left ATG-181 upon its return from the WestPac deployment in May 1957. VF-174 probably remained under Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville until its assignment to CVG-1. However, no records are available to confirm this supposition.

§ RCVG-4 was redesignated RCVW-4 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG/RCVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW/RCVW) on 20 December 1963.

\*\* RCVW-4 was disestablished on 1 June 1970. However, the squadrons that had been assigned to RCVW-4, such as VA-174, continued to use RCVW-4's AD tail code.

A squadron F-8E Crusader at MCAAS Yuma, 1963 (Courtesy William Swisher Collection).



**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
Campaign Medal (Asiatic Pacific)	12 Dec 1944	27 Dec 1944
NUC	14 Nov 1944	19 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	01 Jul 1950	30 Jun 1951

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Jul 1953	30 Jun 1954
MUC	10 Jun 1976	26 Apr 1977
	05 Feb 1979	03 Sep 1980
	01 Jan 1984	01 Apr 1985
	01 Apr 1985	31 Dec 1986



*A squadron A-7 Corsair II loaded with weapons.*