

VA-42

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron FORTY TWO (VF-42) on 1 September 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FORTY TWO (VA-42) on 1 November 1953.

Disestablished on 30 September 1994. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-42 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The insignia for VA-42, the green pawn, was originally approved by CNO for Bombing and Fighting Squadron 75 (VBF-75) on 28 October 1946. When VBF-75 was redesignated VF-4B on 15 November 1946, the insignia was carried over for use by Fighting Squadron 4B (VF-4B). On 1 September 1948 VF-4B was redesignated Fighting Squadron 42 (VF-42). This squadron continued to use the green pawn insignia until it was disestablished on 8 June 1950.

When a new Fighting Squadron 42 (VF-42) was established on 1 September 1950 they adopted the green pawn insignia that had been used by the former VF-42. In 1953 the insignia was carried over to VA-42 following its redesignation from VF-42.

The green pawn insignia is a simple, uncluttered and highly recognizable design. The symbol of the pawn was chosen because it has the most potential power of any piece on the chess board. The pawn is canted at a 45 degree angle inside a shield design. Colors are as follows: green pawn; background of the shield is white outlined in green; and the scroll is white outlined in green with green lettering.

A new insignia was approved for the squadron by CNO on 19 October 1992. The new insignia design had been used by VA-176 until it was disestablished. Colors for the mailed fist and lightning

bolt were: a blue background and scroll outlined in white; the mailed fist was outlined in white with a blue background; white stars; yellow lightning bolt; and the lettering was white.

Nickname: Green Pawns, 1950–1992.

Thunderbolts, 1992–1994.

Chronology of Significant Events

20 Oct–15 Nov 1951: During training operations in the Caribbean, the squadron operated aboard three different carriers. They departed from Norfolk aboard *Midway* (CVB 41) and then transferred to *Wright* (CVL 49) while the ships were off the coast of Puerto Rico. A couple of days later the squadron was transferred to *Cabot* (CVL 28) while operating at sea.

Jan–Apr 1956: The squadron operated aboard the Navy's first super carrier, *Forrestal* (CVA 59), during her shakedown cruise.

24 Oct 1958: The primary mission of VA-42 was changed to the training of fleet replacement pilots in the AD (A-1) Skyraider. The training involved all-weather flight training, low-level navigation flights, simulated special weapons training flights, conventional weapons training flights, and day and night carrier qualifications.

19 Feb 1959: VA-42 graduated its first AD Skyraider replacement pilot.

9 Mar 1959: With the acquisition of the T-28B aircraft, VA-42's instrument instructors used this plane to conduct all-weather flight training for the light attack community.

10 Nov 1962: VA-42 pilots flew three A-1H Skyraiders from Argentia, Newfoundland, to Rota, Spain, via Lajes, Azores. The squadron claims this was the first trans-Atlantic flight conducted by A-1H Skyraiders.

1 Feb 1963: VA-42 became the first fleet squadron to receive the A-6A Intruder. The squadron also initiated the Fleet Introduction Program for the all-weather A-6A. VA-42's new mission was the training of A-6A Bombardier/Navigators, as well as its pilots. It was also responsible for conducting the A-6A Fleet Replacement Aviation Maintenance Program which trained maintenance personnel.

12 Jun 1963: The Green Pawns received the first A-6A (bureau number 149939) with a complete weapon system, thereby permitting the initiation of weapon system indoctrination flight training program for VA-42's instructor pilots and bombardier/navigators.

3 Sep 1963: Formal flight training in the A-6A fleet replacement program began with the convening of Class 1-63. This training was for VA-75 pilots and bombardier/navigators.

8 Sep 1963: The squadron's last A-1H Skyraider (bureau number 135324) was transferred. This brought to a close the training of A-1 replacement pilots by VA-



The Green Pawn insignia was used by the squadron for almost 40 years.



In 1992, the squadron's insignia was officially changed from the Green Pawn to the mailed fist and lightning bolt previously used by Attack Squadron 176.

42. VA-42 still maintained one A-1E and two T-28Bs for use in propeller instrument training.

14 Oct 1963: The Green Pawns conducted the first fleet night arrested landings and catapult launchings with the A-6A aboard the *Forrestal* (CVA 59).

12 Mar 1964: The squadron's last T-28B was transferred, and the instrument training program for fleet A-1 pilots came to an end. Two days later, their last Skyraider, an A-1E, was transferred.

13 Mar 1964: VA-75 became the first fully trained fleet A-6A squadron ready for deployment following successful completion of VA-42's fleet introduction program on the A-6A.

15 Dec 1964: VMA-242 became the first Marine Corps squadron to complete transition training in the A-6A and qualify for fleet deployment with the Intruder.

28 Jan 1968: With the acquisition of the TC-4C aircraft, VA-42 was able to provide more training on airborne radar operation for A-6A bombardier/navigators. The new aircraft was equipped with a complete A-6A cockpit console and weapon system, multiple bombardier/navigator stations, plus ECM equipment, and other radar operational capabilities.

Nov 1968: VA-42's A-6A pilot training syllabus was modified to include lessons learned from the Intruder's employment in combat. The new tactics phase included air combat maneuvering and Sidewinder missile shoots, while conventional weapons training was made more realistic.

12 Nov 1969: With the acquisition of the updated Intruder, the A-6B, in June 1969, the squadron developed a new training syllabus for the A-6B Standard ARM aircraft and a detachment from VA-165 became the first to complete this course of instruction on 12 November 1969.

21 Nov 1969: The squadron assumed the duties of providing A-6 orientation training for Air Intelligence Officers reporting to fleet A-6 squadrons. Lieutenant (jg) Erickson became the first Air Intelligence Officer to complete the training on 21 November 1969.

1 Oct 1971: When COMMATWING ONE was established on 1 October, VA-42 was reassigned from COMFAIRNORFOLK to this command, and VA-42's Commanding Officer, CDR Andrassy, was also assigned as Commander of Medium Attack Wing One, making him dual-hatted.

5 Jan 1973: VA-42's Commanding Officer, CDR Zick, was relieved of his duties as COMMATWING ONE by CAPT Turk ending the dual-hatted role of the squadron's commanding officer.

1980: Lieutenant (jg) Beth Hubert was trained as an A-6 Intruder pilot by the Green Pawns and became the first woman naval aviator to qualify as an A-6 pilot.

Jan 1982: VA-42 implemented a training program for the Harpoon weapons system.

Jun 1982: A VA-42 pilot became the first female naval aviator to make an arrested landing in an A-6 during carrier qualifications on *Lexington* (AVT 16).



Squadron F4U-4 Corsairs prepare to launch from Midway (CVA 41) during her cruise to the Med in 1953.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Oceana	01 Sep 1950
NAS Jacksonville	19 Sep 1950
NAAS Cecil Field	09 Jun 1951
NAAS Oceana (later NAS*)	27 Aug 1951

* NAAS Oceana redesignated NAS Oceana on 1 April 1952.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Ross B. Spencer	01 Sep 1950
LCDR Millard C. Thrash	22 Aug 1951
LCDR Shelley B. Pittman	01 Jul 1953
LCDR Leroy P. Smith	08 Oct 1953
CDR L. W. Squires	09 Aug 1955
CDR Clifton R. Largess, Jr.	10 Jul 1957
CDR Robert (nmn) Linwick, Jr.	15 Aug 1958
CDR M. J. Stack	05 Aug 1959
CDR F. M. McLinn	10 Aug 1960
CDR Ted L. Farrell	22 Nov 1961
CDR J. S. Herman	28 Dec 1962
CDR W. S. Nelson	22 Nov 1963
CDR L. A. Snead	20 Aug 1965
LCDR J. C. Ellison	17 Jun 1966
CDR W. N. Small	18 Jul 1966
CDR A. H. Barie	Jun 1967
CDR Frank Cramblet	20 Jun 1968
CDR Robert J. Sample	18 Jul 1969
CDR Jerrold M. Zacharias	02 Jul 1970
CDR Michael F. Andrassy	09 Jul 1971
CDR Richard A. Zick	31 Aug 1972
CDR Thomas E. Shanahan	17 Aug 1973
CDR Samuel L. Sayers	10 Jan 1975
CDR William H. Greene, Jr.	12 Mar 1976
CDR Jackson E. Cartwright	24 Jun 1977



A squadron Skyraider refuels an F9F-8P Cougar from VFP-62 in 1958.

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John K. Peiguss	29 Sep 1978
CAPT William R. Galbraith	18 Jan 1980
CDR John A. Pieno	24 Apr 1981
CDR Herbert A. Browne, Jr.	02 Jul 1982
CDR John M. Luecke, Jr.	30 Sep 1983
CDR Allen H. White	10 Jan 1985
CDR Robin Y. Weber	30 Jul 1986
CDR Garth A. Van Sickle	17 Jul 1987
CDR Stephen H. Baker	26 Oct 1988
CDR John T. Meister	13 Dec 1989
CDR Daniel J. Franken	03 Jul 1991
CDR Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr.	15 Dec 1992

Aircraft Assignments

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Sep 1950
AD-4	Sep 1953
AD-4L	Oct 1953
AD-6	Nov 1953
AD-4N	Dec 1953
T-28B	09 Mar 1959
A-6A	01 Feb 1963
TC-4C	28 Jan 1968
A-6B	Jun 1969
A-6C	1971
A-6E	02 Dec 1971
KA-6D	1976



A flight of squadron AD (A-1) Skyraiders.

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>
06 Mar 1951	08 Jun 1951	AirDet	CVL 48	F4U-4	Med
01 Dec 1952	19 May 1953	CVG-6	CVA 41	F4U-4	Med
30 Nov 1954	18 Jun 1955	ATG-181	CVA 15	AD-6	Med
12 Oct 1956	22 May 1957	ATG-181	CVA 20	AD-6	WestPac
09 Jun 1958	08 Aug 1958	ATG-181	CVA 11	AD-6	NorLant



A T-28B Trojan used by the squadron for instrument all-weather flight training.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-6	C	01 Sep 1950
ATG-181*	I	24 July 1956
CVG-8	AJ	14 Aug 1958
RCVG-4†	AD	24 Oct 1958
COMFAIRNORFOLK‡	AD	01 May 1970
COMMATWING ONE	AD	01 Oct 1971

* VA-42 had operated as part of ATG-181 prior to July 1956. However, ATG-181 was not assigned a tail code letter until 24 July 1956. Prior to July 1956 VA-42 still carried the tail code for CVG-6 even though it deployed as part of ATG-181.

† RCVG-4 redesignated RCVW-4 on 20 December 1963.

‡ On 1 June 1970, RCVW-4 was disestablished. The AD tail code that had been allocated to RCVW-4 and its assigned squadrons continued to be used by the squadrons that had been in RCVW-4. VA-42 continued to use the AD tail code for its aircraft.



A squadron TC-4C Academe used to train Naval Flight Officers as bombardier navigators.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	Jan 1979	Dec 1981
	01 Oct 1986	30 Sep 1988



A flight of the squadron's A-6E Intruders on a training mission in 1974.

VA-44

Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron SEVENTY FIVE (VB-75) on 1 June 1945.

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

Redesignated Attack Squadron FORTY FOUR (VA-44) on 1 September 1948.

Disestablished on 8 June 1950. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-44 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 23 August 1945. VB-75's insignia colors were as follows:



This insignia was approved for use by the squadron when it was designated VB-75.

the bee's gloves were white; its lower body had bands of green and yellow with a deep scarlet tip; dark gray telescope with white highlights and a white lens, forest green bomb with yellow fins and the rocket had yellow fins and nose while the body was forest green; the banner was royal blue with yellow lettering.

When redesignated as an attack squadron, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 8 August 1947. The indian head and bomb insignia represented the bombing and scouting mission of the carrier based squadron. Its colors were: red background with a blue border outlined in black; black bomb with the center portion white; the indian head silhouette was black with the center portion white; the for-



A new insignia was approved for the squadron following its redesignation to VA-3B. Note the use of the squadron designation in the insignia design. During World War II, squadron numbers or designations were not permitted in the design.

ward part of the carrier was black while the fantail was white; blue feather tipped with red; and the scroll was white, outlined in black with black letters.

When the squadron was redesignated VA-44 it submitted a request to change its insignia to a scarlet chess knight centered on a white shield. There is no record of official approval by CNO for this insignia.

Nickname: unknown

Chronology of Significant Events

4 Jun 1945: The squadron began its first flight operations.

Jan-Feb 1946: VB-75 deployed aboard *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB 42) for her shakedown cruise to the Caribbean and Brazil. While visiting Rio de Janeiro the squadron, air group, and carrier represented the U.S. at the inauguration of Brazilian president, Eurico G. Dutra.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Chincoteague	1 Jun 1945
NAS Norfolk	Mar 1946
NAS Jacksonville	12 Feb 1949

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Ben K. Harrison (acting)	01 Jun 1945
LCDR John W. McManus	10 Jun 1945
LCDR Elmer Maul	20 Dec 1946
LCDR Oscar I. Chenoweth, Jr.	03 Dec 1947
LT K. F. Rowell (acting)	30 Jan 1949
LCDR Robert N. Miller	28 Feb 1949



A formation of squadron AD-1 Skyraiders in flight, circa 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SBF-4E	Jun 1945
SB2C-4E	Aug 1945
SB2C-5	Mar 1946
AD-1	20 Mar 1947

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-1Q	May 1948
AM-1	25 Feb 1949
AD-1	12 Oct 1949

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 Jan 1946	19 Mar 1946	CVBG-75	CVB 42	SB2C-4E	Carib/SoLant
08 Aug 1946	04 Oct 1946	CVBG-75	CVB 42	SB2C-5	Med
13 Sep 1948	23 Jan 1949	CVG-4	CVB 42	AD-1	Med
06 Jan 1950	23 May 1950	CVG-4	CVB 41	AD-1	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVBG-75/CVBG-3/CVG-4*	F	01 Jun 1945

* CVBG-75 was established on 1 June 1945, redesignated CVBG-3 on 15 November 1946; redesignated CVG-4 on 1 September 1948 and disestablished on 8 June 1950.



A squadron AM-1 Mauler launches from Midway (CVB 41), circa 1949 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

SECOND VA-44

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron FORTY FOUR (VF-44) on 1 September 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FORTY FOUR (VA-44) on 1 January 1956.

Disestablished on 1 May 1970. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-44 designation.



The squadron insignia used by VF-44 and VA-44. Note the unique use of the 4 of clubs and 4 of hearts to identify the squadron's designation number.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 11 December 1952. The insignia consisted of a blue shield; a yellow banner across the shield with the word "Hornets" in red; two white playing cards, one had four black clubs and the other four red hearts; the caricature of the hornet was yellow and black

with a red eye and white details. When the squadron was redesignated VA-44, it retained the same insignia.

Nickname: Hornets, 1950–1970.

Chronology of Significant Events

13 Jun 1953: The squadron conducted its first combat operations, striking targets in Korea.

Sep–Oct 1957: During the squadron's deployment aboard *Wasp* (CVS 18), its mission was temporarily changed from attack to a fighter role in order to provide air protection for the VS squadrons operating from the carrier.

1 Jun 1958: The squadron's mission changed from a light attack squadron to a fleet replacement training squadron. The new mission involved flight training for pilots and maintenance training for enlisted personnel. Under this concept, pilots and enlisted personnel ordered to East Coast fleet A4D squadrons completed the course of instruction provided by VA-44 before reporting to their assigned fleet squadrons.

6 Jun 1958: Fleet All Weather Training Unit Detachment ALFA, an instrument training detachment, was disestablished and its personnel and aircraft were transferred to VA-44.

8 Aug 1958: The squadron graduated its first replacement pilot under the new training program for attack pilots.

Jan 1959: The squadron's first AD Skyraiders arrived

and preparations began for the additional mission of replacement training for this aircraft, plus the A4D Skyhawk.

15 Nov 1961: The squadron graduated the 1,000th enlisted maintenance trainee on the A4D Skyhawk.

15 Feb 1963: The propeller training section of the squadron was removed from VA-44 and established as a separate squadron and designated VA-45. VA-44 continued in its training mission concentrating on A-4 Skyhawk training. It became a strictly jet squadron flying A-4Bs, A-4Cs and TF-9Js.



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair on the deck of Boxer (CVA-21) during a combat tour to Korea, circa 1953 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Jacksonville	01 Sep 1950
NAAS Cecil Field	19 Sep 1950
NAS Jacksonville	13 Oct 1952
NAS Cecil Field	18 Feb 1963

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR J. B. Bain (acting)	01 Sep 1950
LCDR P. E. Greenlee, Jr.	11 Sep 1950
LCDR Reid W. Stone	09 Dec 1951
LCDR W. D. Houser	10 Nov 1952
CDR V. P. O'Neil	Nov 1953
CDR C. A. Crow, Jr.	Oct 1954
LCDR Theron J. Taylor	27 Jan 1956
CDR T. R. Sedell	Jun 1957
CDR Clifford A. McDougal	30 Jun 1958
CDR Damon W. Cooper	14 Jul 1959
CDR A. L. Detweiler	22 Jul 1960
CDR W. B. Barrow, Jr.	21 Jul 1961
CDR M. C. Griffin	17 Apr 1962
CDR S. W. Callaway, Jr.	06 Mar 1963
CDR Harold K. Matthes	May 1964
CDR Max E. Malan	Jul 1965

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James W. Roberts	22 Sep 1966
CDR Joe D. Adkins	Oct 1967
CDR J. H. Wynn III	Feb 1969
CDR Robert E. Holt	Jan 1970



A squadron F2H-2 Bansbee is prepared for launch from *Intrepid* (CVA 11) during her Med deployment in 1955.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-5	Sep 1950
F4U-4	01 Dec 1951
F2H-2	Dec 1953
F9F-8	Apr 1956
F9F-8T/TF-9J*	23 Jan 1958
A4D-1	04 Feb 1958
TV-2	Jun 1958
T-28B	Jun 1958
A4D-2/A-4B*	Sep 1958
AD-5 and 6/A-1E and H*	Jan 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C*	09 Feb 1960
A-4E	Oct 1964
TA-4F	03 Aug 1966
A-4F	Nov 1969
A-4L	Dec 1969

* The F9F-8T, A4D-2, AD-5 and 6, and A4D-2N designations were changed in 1962 to TF-9J, A-4B, A-1E and H, and A-4C, respectively.

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>
20 Mar 1951	06 Oct 1951	CVG-1	CVB 43	F4U-5	Med
19 Apr 1952	12 Oct 1952	CVG-4	CVB 43	F4U-4	Med
26 Apr 1953	04 Dec 1953	CVG-4/ATG-1*	CVA 39/CVA 21*	F4U-4	Med/IO/ WestPac/Korea
28 May 1955	22 Nov 1955	CVG-4	CVA 11	F2H-2	Med
30 Aug 1957	22 Oct 1957	†	CVS 18	F9F-8	NorLant

* VF-44 deployed to Korea as part of CVG-4 embarked in *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39) and conducted its first line period from *Lake Champlain*. On 30 June 1953, the squadron was transferred to ATG-1 aboard *Boxer* (CVA 21). The squadron remained aboard *Boxer* until 9 October 1953 when it transferred back to CVG-4 and *Lake Champlain*.

† Unable to locate records indicating a carrier air group aboard during this deployment on *Wasp* (CVS 18). Antisubmarine carrier air groups were not established until 1960.



A squadron F9F-8T (TF-9J) Cougar in flight, circa 1964 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-4	F	01 Sep 1950
CVG-1	T	19 Mar 1951
CVG-4	F	08 Oct 1951
ATG-1		30 Jun 1953
CVG-4	F	09 Oct 1953
COMFAIRJACKSONVILLE		1957
ATG-202	AQ	15 Feb 1958
CVG-4/RCVG-4/RCVW-4*	AD	15 Mar 1958

* CVG-4 was redesignated RCVG-4 in April 1958. On 20 December 1963, RCVG-4 was redesignated RCVW-4.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953
KSM	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953
UNSM	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953



Squadron A-4 Skyhawks in flight with the day-glow paint scheme.

VA-45

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron SEVENTY FIVE (VT-75) on 1 June 1945.

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

Redesignated Attack Squadron FORTY FIVE (VA-45) on 1 September 1948.

Disestablished on 8 June 1950. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-45 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VT-75's insignia was approved by CNO on 10 August 1945. Colors for the Fish-Hawk insignia were:



The insignia approved for use by VT-75.

light blue background outlined in black by two concentric circles; white clouds with black outlines; turquoise waves; riding astride a torpedo was an animated hawk clothed in a green flying suit with white parachute straps and sitting on a gray parachute pack; brown shoes; yellow hands and beak; red eye; black hair and tongue; gray face; pink earphones with a black center and a white band outlined in black; gray rocket and gun with red tips; brown torpedo with a yellow nose,

white teeth, red eye and outlined in black; and the words "The Fish-Hawks" were black.



The squadron's second insignia was part of its carrier air group's approach for insignia used by its assigned squadrons. In the air group, the king chess piece was for the air group, the knight chess piece was for the attack squadron and the pawn was for the fighter squadron.

There is no record of the insignia used by the squadron after it was redesignated VA-4B. When the squadron was redesignated VA-45, it adopted a new insignia which was approved by CNO on 15 April 1949.

This insignia was a black chess knight on a white shield outlined in black.

Nickname: Fish-Hawks, 1945-unknown.

Chronology of Significant Events

Jan-Feb 1946: VT-75 deployed aboard *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB 42) for her shakedown cruise to the Caribbean and Brazil. While visiting Rio de Janeiro the squadron, air group, and carrier represented the U.S. at the inauguration of Brazilian president, Eurico G. Dutra.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAAS Chincoteague	01 Jun 1945
NAS Norfolk	20 Mar 1946
NAS Jacksonville	14 Feb 1949

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LT Richard W. Bond (acting)	01 Jun 1945
LT Paul J. Davis, Jr.	11 Jun 1945
LCDR James E. Mahan	28 Jun 1945
LCDR Garald R. Stablein	31 Oct 1946
LCDR Chester L. Dillard (acting)	19 Feb 1947
LCDR Lucien G. Powell, Jr.	26 May 1947
LCDR Leroy V. Swanson	15 Jun 1948
LCDR Frederick C. Kidd	27 May 1950



A squadron SB2C-4E prepares to launch from *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB-42), January 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
SBF-4E	Jun 1945
SBW-4E	Jun 1945
SB2C-4E	Sep 1945
SB2C-5	Mar 1946
AD-1	27 Mar 1947
AM-1	Feb 1949
AD-1	20 Oct 1949

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Type of Carrier</i>	<i>Area of Aircraft</i>	<i>Operation</i>
08 Jan 1946	19 Mar 1946	CVBG-75	CVB 42	SB2C-4E	Carib/SoLant
08 Aug 1946	04 Oct 1946	CVBG-75	CVB 42	SB2C-5	Med
13 Sep 1948	23 Jan 1949	CVG-4	CVB 42	AD-1	Med
06 Jan 1950	23 May 1950	CVG-4	CVB 41	AD-1	Med



A squadron AM-1 Mauler in flight; note the squadron's insignia on the cowling, circa 1949 (Courtesy Wallace Russel Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVBG-75/CVBG-3/CVG-4*	F	01 Jun 1945

* CVBG-75 was established on 1 June 1945; redesignated CVBG-3 on 15 November 1946; redesignated CVG-4 on 1 September 1948 and disestablished on 8 June 1950.



A squadron AD Skyraider taxis on flight deck of Intrepid (CVA-11), circa 1955 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

SECOND VA-45

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron FORTY FIVE (VA-45) on 1 September 1950.

Disestablished on 1 March 1958. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-45 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 10 April 1951. A blackbird in a cocky stance became the focal point of the insignia's design. Colors for the insignia were: an oval design with a light blue background; black crow and cigar; the bird's legs, feet and gloves were yellow; red tongue; the cigar ash and shaded area of the gloves were red; white star and spats; green derby; and the lower portion of the insignia had a dark green background with the numbers 4 and 20 in yellow. The numbers 4 and 20 were taken from the



The well-known 4 and 20 black birds insignia was first used by this squadron.

nursery rhyme, "Four and Twenty Blackbirds" and represent the original 24 pilots assigned to the squadron.
 Nickname: Blackbirds, 1950–1958.

Chronology of Significant Events

13 Jun 1953: The squadron flew its first combat operation while deployed to Korea aboard *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39).

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Jacksonville	01 Sep 1950
NAAS Cecil Field	18 Sep 1950
NAS Jacksonville	12 Oct 1952

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR G. O. Wood	01 Sep 1950
LCDR Richard H. Mills	11 Apr 1952
LCDR William F. Krantz	Oct 1953
CDR Daniel W. Wildfong	Nov 1954
CDR Glendon Goodwin	Dec 1955

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
AD-2	Sep 1950
AD-4	14 Feb 1952
AD-6	Jun 1954



Squadron personnel load 5-inch high-velocity aircraft rockets on one of its AD-6 Skyraiders prior to launch.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Type of Carrier</i>	<i>Area of Aircraft</i>	<i>Operation</i>
15 May 1951	04 Oct 1951	CVG-4	CV 34	AD-2	Med
19 Apr 1952	12 Oct 1952	CVG-4	CVB 43	AD-4	Med
26 Apr 1953	04 Dec 1953	CVG-4	CVA 39	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
28 May 1955	22 Nov 1955	CVG-4	CVA 11	AD-6	Med
01 Jul 1957	24 Feb 1958	CVG-4	CVA 15	AD-6	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-4	F	01 Sep 1950

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953
KSM	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953
UNSM	09 Jun 1953	27 Jul 1953



A squadron AD-6 Skyraider launches from the deck of Intrepid (CVA 11) in 1955.

VA-46

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron FORTY SIX (VA-46) on 24 May 1955.

Disestablished on 30 June 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-46 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VA-46's insignia was approved by CNO on 25 November 1960. The circular insignia had a blue field outlined by two concentric black lines; the McDougal clan tartan, drawn from the heritage of the squadron's first commanding officer, had dark blue and white lines on a red background, interspaced with green squares; the crest was white, outlined in black with the Latin words *Vincere Vel Mori*, meaning to conquer or to die; a white stylized aircraft outlined in black; and the banner was white with the designation VA 46 in black.



VA-46's insignia with the distinctive McDougal clan tartan.

Nickname: Clansmen, 1960–1991.

Chronology of Significant Events

14 Jul 1956: VA-46 departed the U.S. aboard *Randolph* (CVA 15) for deployment to the Mediterranean, equipped with Sidewinder missiles. This was the first overseas deployment of the Sidewinder.

Oct–Nov 1956: VA-46, along with other units of ATG-202, provided air support for the evacuation of foreign nationals from Alexandria, Egypt, during the Suez War.

Aug 1965: VA-46 and other units of the air wing aboard *Shangri-La* (CVA 38) operated off the coast of Cyprus in response to a crisis in that country between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

25 Jul 1967: The squadron engaged in its first combat operations.

29 Jul 1967: While aircraft were being prepared for the second launch of the day against targets in Vietnam, a fire broke out on the flight deck of

Forrestal (CVA 59). Flames engulfed the fantail and spread below decks touching off bombs and ammunition. Heroic efforts by VA-46 personnel, along with other members of CVW-17 and ship's company, brought the fires under control. Damage to the carrier and aircraft was severe and the casualty count included 132 dead, two missing and presumed dead and 62 injured.

4 May–15 Nov 1968: VA-46 transitioned to the A-7 Corsair II.

17 Sep 1970: While enroute to the Caribbean for training exercises, *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67) with VA-46 and other units of CVW-1 embarked, received emergency orders to deploy immediately to the Mediterranean due to the Jordanian Crisis and the hijacking of four airliners by Arab terrorists. They remained on station off the coast of Israel until November.

Oct 1973: Due to the outbreak of war between Israel and Egypt and Syria, *Kennedy* and her air wing, while operating in the North Atlantic after just completing a Mediterranean deployment, were ordered back to the Mediterranean. During the latter part of October through mid November, VA-46 conducted flight operations while the carrier was on station south of Crete.

22 Nov 1975: During night operations *Kennedy* collided with *Belknap* (CG 26) causing major damage to the cruiser. Eight VA-46 personnel received awards for their heroism and devotion to duty as a result of their actions following the collision.

17–19 Sep 1985: VA-46, 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.

14 Apr 1986: Because of terrorist activities linked to Lybia, American forces struck targets in that country. During that action, VA-46 provided air-to-surface Shrike and Harm missile strikes against Libyan radar missile 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.



A squadron F9F-8 Cougar preparing for a launch from Randolph (CVA 15).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	24 May 1955

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Charles L. Marshall (acting)	24 May 1955
CDR Clifford A. McDougal	22 Jun 1955
CDR A. R. Hawkins	10 May 1957
CDR Kent L. Lee	15 Aug 1958

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Alfred J. Hall, Jr.	21 Sep 1959
CDR Hugh J. Tate	07 Sep 1960
CDR S. W. Callaway, Jr.	13 Dec 1961
CDR W. H. Sells	10 Dec 1962
CDR R. P. McKenzie	04 Dec 1963
CDR M. P. Mead	28 Oct 1964
CDR R. L. Lawler, Jr.	12 Nov 1965
CDR Fred S. Dunning, Jr.	17 Nov 1966
CDR Jack F. O'Hara	Nov 1967
CDR Alan G. Murdoch	04 Sep 1968
CDR Fred J. Withers	30 Jan 1970
CDR Marvin D. Reynolds	10 Mar 1971
CDR Dale Lewey	03 Mar 1972
CDR Jeremy D. Taylor	23 Mar 1973
CDR Ronald R. Boyle	13 Jun 1974
CDR Edward F. Bronson	Aug 1975
CDR David A. Page	23 Nov 1976
CDR James T. Matheny	16 Feb 1978
CDR Phillip J. Rooney	24 May 1979
CDR Morris M. Demple, Jr.	08 Jul 1980
CDR Thomas R. Mitchell III	01 Oct 1981
CDR John W. Peterson	23 Dec 1982
CDR Dean M. Hendrickson, Jr.	13 Jun 1984
CDR Robert C. Kolsterman	21 Jan 1986
CDR Tommy H. Van Brunt	May 1987
CDR Edward J. Fahy, Jr.	04 Nov 1988
CDR Mark Fitzgerald	22 May 1990



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk flies over Shangri-La (CVA 38) during their deployment to the Med in 1962.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-5	Jun 1955
F9F-8	Aug 1955
A4D-2	Mar 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	29 Aug 1960
A-4E	Jan 1967

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4B	Sep 1967
A-7B	15 Nov 1968
A-7E	Aug 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>
14 Jul 1956	19 Feb 1957	ATG-202	CVA 15	F9F-8	Med
13 Feb 1959	30 Aug 1959	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2	Med
28 Jan 1960	24 Aug 1960	CVG-1	CVA 42	A4D-2	Med
02 Feb 1961	15 May 1961	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2N	Med
07 Feb 1962	28 Aug 1962	CVG-10	CVA 38	A4D-2N	Med
01 Oct 1963	23 May 1964	CVG-10	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
10 Feb 1965	20 Sep 1965	CVG-10	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
11 Mar 1966	26 Oct 1966	CVG-3	CVA 60	A-4C	Med
06 Jun 1967	15 Sep 1967	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Jul 1969	22 Jan 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7B	Med
14 Sep 1970	01 Mar 1971	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-7B	Med/NorLant
01 Dec 1971	06 Oct 1972	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-7B	Med/NorLant
16 Apr 1973	01 Dec 1973	CVW-1	CV 67	A-7B	Med/NorLant
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

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-4	F	24 May 1955
ATG-202	X/AQ*	Jul 1955
CVG-1	AB	15 Feb 1958
CVG-6	AF	13 Jan 1959
CVG-1	AB	30 Aug 1959
CVG-10/CVW-10†	AK	05 Dec 1960
CVW-3	AC	01 Jan 1966
CVW-17	AA	01 Jan 1967
CVW-3	AC	01 Jan 1968
CVW-1	AB	12 Feb 1970

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-7	AG	01 Oct 1986
COMLATWING 1‡		Sep 1988
CVW-3	AC	01 Mar 1989

* ATG-202's tail code was changed from X to AQ in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-10 became CVW-10.

‡ The squadron was 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</i>	<i>Covering Unit Award</i>
NAVE	01 Oct 1978	30 Sep 1979
	01 Oct 1980	31 Dec 1981
	01 Jan 1986	31 Dec 1986
	01 Jan 1988	31 Dec 1988
MUC	29 Sep 1970	31 Oct 1970
	01 Dec 1977	01 Mar 1979
	03 Jun 1983	20 Dec 1984
	29 Aug 1985	20 Sep 1985
NEM	01 Jan 1983	20 Jan 1983
	06 May 1983	08 May 1983

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>	<i>Covering Unit Award</i>
	21 Mar 1986	27 Jun 1986
NUC	17 Mar 1986	23 Mar 1986
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
SLOC	04 Aug 1980	28 Mar 1981
	23 Aug 1982	02 Jun 1983
VNSM	15 Jul 1967	17 Jul 1967
	23 Jul 1967	31 Jul 1967
	12 Aug 1967	13 Aug 1967
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
	SASM	14 Sep 1990



A flight of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in 1979.

VA-52

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR (VF-884), a reserve squadron, on 1 November 1949.

Called to active duty on 20 July 1950.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY FOUR (VF-144) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FIFTY TWO (VA-52) on 23 February 1959. The first to be assigned the VA-52 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

VF-884 was assigned to NAS Olathe, Kansas, prior to being called to active duty. The insignia, approved by CNO on 29 January 1951, portrayed its association with the state of Kansas.



The design of the squadron's first insignia identifies their reserve home and reflects their feelings about being activated for the Korean Conflict.

The circular designed insignia centered around a determined looking Jayhawk with a club in its hand. Inside the insignia were the words "Bitter Birds," reflecting the squadron's feelings about the Korean Conflict and its call to active duty. Colors for the insignia were: blue Jayhawk with red head and yellow beak,

gloves and shoes; black club; and a white background outlined in red.

When VF-884 was redesignated VF-144 on 4 February 1953 the old insignia apparently fell out of use and a new insignia was not approved until 23 May 1956. The new design depicted a stylized bird diving in the sky surrounded by a cone-shaped barrier.



This stylized insignia was approved for squadron use following its redesignation as VF-144.



The knight and turtle insignia has been in use by the squadron for over three decades.

Colors were: a blue background outlined in black; six white stylized stars, three above and three below the bird; a white outer cone with a yellow inner part; and a black bird.

In 1959 VF-144 was redesignated VA-52 and a squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 5 January 1960. This design depicts a stylized knight riding a sea turtle and armed with a mace. The knight and turtle are superimposed on a target. With the assignment of an attack mission the squadron's new insignia was designed to portray the pilot in the role of the knight, the legendary protector of honor. His means of transportation was a sea turtle, a capable and speedy performer in his element, the sea. Using his mace, a feared weapon from an earlier time, he exemplified the squadron's powerful striking capability. Colors for the insignia were: the outer part of the circular insignia was outlined in black; the next concentric circle was a light blue, followed by alternating colors of red and white to form the target; a white and black knight and turtle, with the boots and gloves of the knight a solid black; the spikes of the mace were solid black; the turtle was shaded black; the eye of the turtle was red; and a white scroll with black lettering.

Nickname: Bitter Birds, 1951-circa 1953.

Knightriders, circa 1960-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

20 Jul 1950: VF-884 called to active duty as a result of the Korean conflict.

28 Jul 1950: Squadron reported for active duty at NAS San Diego.

Mar 1951: In the later part of March, VF-884 aircraft conducted their first combat operations, flying close air support missions on Korea's eastern coast.

24 May 1951: VF-884's first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander G. F. Carmichael died after parachuting from his F4U which had been hit by enemy ground fire.

4 Oct 1952: Lieutenant E. F. Johnson was attacked and shot down by enemy MIG aircraft. This was the first VF-884 and CVG-101 aircraft shot down by enemy aircraft.

8 Nov 1952: Lieutenant Commander Bowen, VF-884's third Commanding Officer, was listed as missing in action when his aircraft crashed near Pyongyang, North Korea.

4 Feb 1953: VF-884 was redesignated VF-144 during its second combat tour in Korea. In this change, the reserve squadron number was replaced by an active squadron number.

21 Feb 1953: VF-144 completed the last line period of its second combat tour in Korea. Its primary missions had been close air support of ground troops, interdiction of enemy main supply routes, and the destruction of military supplies, vehicles and troops.

18 Aug 1958: The squadron returned to NAS

Miramar following *Ranger's* (CVA 61) first major deployment. The cruise took the squadron from Virginia to California, via Cape Horn, transferring *Ranger* from the Atlantic to the Pacific Fleet.

23 Feb 1959: The squadron's mission was changed to attack and it was redesignated VA-52.

13 Jul-1 Aug 1964: VA-52 aircraft participated in Yankee Team operations in South Vietnam and Laos, involving aerial reconnaissance to detect Communist military presence and operations. Other missions included weather reconnaissance and SAR.

2-4 Aug 1964: During a Desoto Patrol mission (intelligence collection missions begun in 1962), *Maddox* (DD 731) was attacked by three motor torpedo boats on 2 August off the coast of North Vietnam. Following this incident the squadron flew 44 sorties in support of the destroyers on the Desoto Patrol.

4 Aug 1964: During the night, two destroyers on Desoto Patrol, *Turner Joy* (DD 951) and *Maddox* (DD 731), believing themselves under attack by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats, called for air support. Several A-1H Skyraiders from the squadron, along with several F-8s, were launched from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14). Commander George H. Edmondson and Lieutenant Jere A. Barton reported gun flashes and bursts of light at their altitude which they felt came from enemy anti-aircraft fire.

5 Aug 1964: Four Skyraiders from VA-52, piloted by Commander L. T. McAdams, Lieutenant Commander L. E. Brumbach and Lieutenant (jg)s R. E. Moore and P. A. Carter, participated in "Pierce Arrow," retaliatory strikes against the North Vietnamese. Along with other aircraft from CVG-5, they struck the Vinh oil storage facilities and destroyed about ninety percent of the complex. The four aircraft returned with no battle damage.

6-29 Oct 1964: The squadron conducted rescue combat air patrols missions in support of "Yankee Team" operations.

7 Feb 1966: Lieutenant (jg) Harvey M. Browne was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during rescue missions in the Republic of Vietnam.

13 Apr 1966: Commander John C. Mape was killed in action, becoming the third VA-52 commanding officer to be lost in combat action.

21 Apr 1966: The squadron completed its second combat tour of duty in Vietnam, having participated in Rolling Thunder operations designed to interdict the enemy's lines of communication into Laos and South Vietnam.

9 Mar 1967: Commander John F. Wanamaker received the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during operations against North Vietnam.

27 Apr 1967: This was the last day of line operations for VA-52 and the completion of her third combat tour to Vietnam. During this deployment squadron operations included rescue combat air patrol missions, coastal reconnaissance, Steel Tiger missions and Sea Dragon operations. Steel Tiger involved concentrated strikes in southern Laos. Sea Dragon operations involved spotting for naval gunfire against waterborne cargo and coastal radar and gun battery sites.

7 Sep 1968: VA-52 deployed aboard *Coral Sea* (CVA 43). This was the first A-6 Intruder deployment aboard a *Midway* Class carrier.

8 Dec 1970-23 Jun 1971: During this period VA-52's main emphasis was on operations in Laos against the enemy's lines of communication and their transportation networks.

23 Nov 1971: Commander Lennart R. Salo became the first Naval Flight Officer to command an A-6 Intruder squadron.

3 Apr 1972: VA-52 commenced line operations from Yankee Station a few days earlier than scheduled as a result of the North Vietnamese invasion across the DMZ in South Vietnam on 30 March. During this line period heavy air raids were conducted against North Vietnam. These were the first major heavy air raids into North Vietnam since October 1968 and became known as operation Freedom Train.

16 Apr 1972: VA-52 conducted strikes in the Haiphong, Vinh, and Thanh Hoa as part of operation "Freedom Porch."

9 May 1972: Operation Pocket Money, the mining of Haiphong harbor, was launched. VA-52's Intruders took part in a diversionary attack at Phu Qui railroad yard while aircraft from *Coral Sea* conducted the actual mining.

10 May 1972: Linebacker I operations began and involved concentrated air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel. During these operations VA-52's aircraft flew armed reconnaissance, Alpha strikes (large coordinated attacks), mine seeding operations, tanker operations, and standard arm sorties (use of antiradiation missiles to destroy missile radar sites).

1-27 Jun 1972: VA-52 flew special single aircraft night missions designated Sneaky Pete as part of Linebacker I operations.

23 Nov 1973: VA-52 deployed with CVW-11 aboard *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as part of the first CV concept air wing on the west coast. VA-52's Intruders were equipped with new ASW electronic equipment, the Multi-Channel Jezebel Relay pods.

24-28 Jul 1979: VA-52 and other elements of CVW-15, participated in search and assistance operations to aid Vietnamese boat people. A total of 114 people

were rescued through the efforts of the air wing and *Kitty Hawk*. These operations continued during August.

27 Oct 1979: South Korea's President Park Chung Hee was assassinated and *Kitty Hawk* immediately departed the Philippine Sea for the southwest coast of Korea, where they remained until 4 November.

29 Dec 1979: During operations off *Kitty Hawk*, the squadron's commanding officer, Commander Walter D. Williams, was lost at sea in a KA-6D.

3 Dec 1979–23 Jan 1980: After the assault on the American Embassy in Tehran and the taking of hostages on 4 November 1979, *Kitty Hawk* entered the Indian Ocean and operated in the Arabian Sea throughout this period.

19 May 1981: While transiting the South China Sea VA-52 aircraft spotted a small boat with 47 Vietnamese refugees on board and reported their location for rescue operations.

10–12 Oct 1983: *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), with CVW-15 and VA-52, were kept on station in the Sea of Japan after the attempted assassination of South Korea's president.

14–31 Aug 1986: VA-52 participated in the first carrier operations in the Bering Sea since World War II. Most of the squadron's 400 hours and 200 sorties were made under adverse weather conditions.

20–31 Jan 1987: VA-52 conducted its second period of operations in the Northern Pacific and Bering Sea. At one point the most effective means of clearing snow and ice from *Carl Vinson's* flight deck was the jet exhaust from the squadron's aircraft.

23 Sep 1987: During night operations off *Carl Vinson* the squadron's Commanding Officer, Commander Lloyd D. Sledge, was lost at sea.

Aug 1988: The squadron flew sorties in support of Earnest Will operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwait tankers in the Persian Gulf.



Squadron F4U-4 Corsairs launch from Boxer (CV 21) during a combat deployment to Korea in 1951.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date of Assignment</i>
NAS Olathe	01 Nov 1949
NAS San Diego	28 Jul 1950
NAS Miramar	Mar 1953
NAS Moffett Field	15 Jan 1962
NAS Alameda	29 Aug 1963
NAS Whidbey Island	01 Jul 1967

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Glenn F. Carmichael	01 Nov 1949
LCDR Gordon E. Hartley	May 1951
LCDR Frederick W. Bowen	07 Mar 1952
LCDR Robert E. McElwee	08 Nov 1952
LCDR John C. Coulthard	Jan 1953
LCDR Dallas E. Runion	Jul 1954
CDR Gerald A. Robinson	Mar 1956
CDR Donald Michie	09 Aug 1957
CDR A. S. Taddeo	24 Feb 1959
CDR A. R. English	28 Oct 1960
CDR M. E. Beaulieu	30 Jan 1962
CDR Raymond W. West	17 Jan 1963
CDR George H. Edmondson	09 Jan 1964
CDR Lee T. McAdams	29 Dec 1964
CDR John C. Mape	10 Dec 1965
CDR Robert R. Worchesek	19 Apr 1966
CDR Lester W. Berglund, Jr.	30 Jun 1967
CDR James A. McKenzie	20 Jan 1969
CDR Robert H. Kobler	29 Jan 1970
CDR Douglas R. McCrimmon	20 Nov 1970
CDR Lennart R. Salo	23 Nov 1971
CDR Charles H. Kinney	03 Oct 1972
CDR Robert S. Owen	02 Oct 1973
CDR Clifton E. Banta	17 Jan 1975
CDR Daryl L. Kerr	23 Apr 1976
CDR William R. Galbraith	20 May 1977

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James R. McGuire	25 Aug 1978
CDR Walter D. Williams	08 Nov 1979
CDR Peter A. Rice	29 Dec 1979
CDR David T. Waggoner	09 May 1981
CDR Bruce V. Wood	27 Aug 1982
CDR Donald L. Sullivan	10 Feb 1984
CDR James M. Burin	26 Jul 1985
CDR Lloyd D. Sledge	08 Dec 1986
CDR Richard P. Dodd	23 Sep 1987
CDR Timothy Thomson	31 Mar 1989
CDR James M. Zortman	05 Oct 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F8F-1	*
F4U-4	01 Aug 1950
F9F-5	Apr 1953
F9F-4 and F9F-6	†
F9F-8B	Apr 1956
F9F-8	Aug 1956
AD-5	Dec 1958
AD-6‡	Dec 1958
AD-7§	Mar 1959
A-6A	10 Nov 1967
A-6B	Oct 1970
KA-6D	**
A-6E	Jul 1974

* The squadron was not assigned aircraft before its call to active duty. Pilots trained in and flew F8F-1s that were assigned to the air station where the squadron was home ported.

† The squadron operated a few of these models in the mid 1950s.

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

§ AD-7 designation was changed to A-1J in 1962.

** The KA-6Ds were received some time between September and December 1971.



VF-144's F9F-8 Cougar on the flight line at NAS Miramar, California, in 1957.

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>
02 Mar 1951	24 Oct 1951	CVG-101	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
11 Aug 1952	17 Mar 1953	CVG-101	CVA 33	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
03 Feb 1954	06 Aug 1954	CVG-14	CVA 15	F9F-5	Med
Jun 1955	03 Feb 1956	CVG-14	CVA 21	F9F-5	WestPac
21 Jan 1957	25 Jul 1957	CVG-14	CVA 12	F9F-8	WestPac
20 Jun 1958	20 Aug 1958	CVG-14	CVA 61	F9F-8	SoLant/SoPac
05 Mar 1960	10 Oct 1960	CVG-5	CVA 14	AD-6	WestPac
10 May 1961	15 Jan 1962	CVG-5	CVA 14	AD-6	WestPac
21 Jul 1962	11 Sep 1962	CVG-5*	CVA 16	AD-6/7	SoPac/SoLant
03 Jan 1963	16 Jul 1963	CVG-5	CVA 14	A-1H/J	WestPac/NorPac
13 Apr 1964	06 Dec 1964	CVW-5	CVA 14	A-1H/J	WestPac
28 Sep 1965	13 May 1966	CVW-5	CVA 14	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Oct 1966	29 May 1967	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Sep 1968	18 Apr 1969	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Nov 1970	17 Jul 1971	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Feb 1972	28 Nov 1972	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Nov 1973	09 Jul 1974	CVW-11	CV 63	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
21 May 1975	15 Dec 1975	CVW-11	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
25 Oct 1977	5 May 1978	CVW-11	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
30 May 1979	25 Feb 1980	CVW-15	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
01 Apr 1981	23 Nov 1981	CVW-15	CV 63	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
01 Mar 1983	29 Oct 1983	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	World Cruise
18 Oct 1984	24 May 1985	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
12 Aug 1986	05 Feb 1987	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac/WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1988	14 Dec 1988	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac/WestPac/IO
05 Sep 1989	09 Nov 1989	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
01 Feb 1990	31 Jul 1990	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO

* Only two squadrons from CVG-5 were aboard *Lexington* for her transfer cruise from the Pacific Fleet to the Atlantic Fleet.



A squadron A-1H Skyraider in 1966. The squadron began its active duty in prop planes, then transitioned to F9F jets in 1953 and returned to props when it received its first Skyraiders in 1958 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-101	A	28 Jul 1950
CVG-14*	A	04 Feb 1953
CVG-14	NK†	1957
CVG-5/CVW-5‡	NF	26 Sep 1958
CVW-19§	NM	25 Aug 1966
COMFAIRWHIDBEY		01 Jul 1967
CVW-15	NL	Jun 1968
CVW-11	NH	**
CVW-15	NL	01 Jul 1978

* CVG-101, a reserve carrier air group, was redesignated CVG-14 on 4 February 1953.

† CVG-14's tail code was changed from A to NK in the latter part of 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

‡ Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings on 20 December 1963, hence, CVG-5 became CVW-5.

§ On 1 July 1967, VA-52 detached from CVW-19 and moved to their new home port at NAS Whidbey Island to transition from the A-1 to the A-6.

** The squadron was assigned to CVW-11 sometime in late 1969 or early 1970.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	26 Mar 1951	08 Oct 1951
	17 Sep 1952	23 Feb 1953
	11 Aug 1964	22 Sep 1964
	07 Oct 1964	29 Oct 1964
	02 Nov 1964	06 Nov 1964
AFEM	21 Nov 1964	28 Nov 1964
	05 May 1990	01 Jun 1990
	17 May 1981	
HSM	02 Oct 1981	
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
MUC	10 Nov 1984	07 May 1985

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Oct 1987	15 Dec 1988
	01 Jul 1983	31 Dec 1984
NEM	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	25 Nov 1979	28 Jan 1980
NUC	25 May 1981	30 Sep 1981
	02 Aug 1964	05 Aug 1964
RVNGC	10 Oct 1968	31 Mar 1969
	07 Dec 1970	24 Jun 1971
VNSM	09 Mar 1972	04 Nov 1972
	01 Sep 1968	01 Apr 1969
VNSM	05 Nov 1965	01 Dec 1965
	22 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
VNSM	22 Jan 1966	16 Feb 1966
	06 Mar 1966	31 Mar 1966
VNSM	10 Apr 1966	21 Apr 1966
	12 Nov 1966	18 Dec 1966
VNSM	03 Jan 1967	07 Feb 1967
	13 Feb 1967	16 Mar 1967
VNSM	28 Mar 1967	28 Apr 1967
	29 Dec 1968	30 Jan 1969
VNSM	08 Feb 1969	02 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	30 Mar 1969
VNSM	07 Dec 1970	30 Dec 1970
	12 Jan 1971	04 Feb 1971
VNSM	19 Feb 1971	01 Mar 1971
	09 Apr 1971	26 Apr 1971
VNSM	03 May 1971	17 May 1971
	29 May 1971	23 Jun 1971
VNSM	08 Mar 1972	25 Mar 1972
	03 Apr 1972	22 May 1972
VNSM	01 Jun 1972	27 Jun 1972
	07 Jul 1972	04 Aug 1972
VNSM	14 Aug 1972	05 Sep 1972
	15 Sep 1972	02 Oct 1972
VNSM	12 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972



A squadron A-6E Intruder in 1984. Notice the lance and knight helmet markings taken from the squadron's insignia.