

## VA-76

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SEVENTY SIX (VA-76) on 1 June 1955.

Disestablished on 30 September 1969. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-76 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The squadron's insignia, reflecting their motto "Fighting Spirits of 76."

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 28 March 1956. The following colors were used for the insignia: blue background with a dark blue border; purple hat with black crown, red piping on brim and a white cockade; black musket; and the scroll was gold with red lettering and outlined in dark blue.

Nickname: Spirits (from motto Fighting Spirits of 76), 1955–1969.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Nov–Dec 1956:** The squadron operated from *Forrestal* (CVA 59) off the coast of the Azores during the Suez Crisis, awaiting a call to enter the Mediterranean if necessary.

**Jun 1961:** The squadron deployed aboard *Intrepid* (CVA 11) and operated in the Caribbean during the Dominican Republic crisis.

**19 Oct–08 Dec 1962:** The squadron deployed aboard *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) and operated in the Caribbean during the Cuban missile crisis and naval blockade.

**Mar 1964:** Conducted operations in the vicinity of Cyprus during a conflict in that country between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

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

**8–25 Feb 1965:** A detachment of the squadron's A-4C Skyhawks, configured with Sidewinder missiles, were embarked in *Essex* (CVS 9) for an Atlantic Fleet

exercise. The aircraft were used for limited daylight fighter protection for embarked ASW aircraft.

**29 May–15 Jun 1965:** While temporarily based ashore at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, the squadron flew armed reconnaissance sorties over the Dominican Republic during a crisis in that country.

**11 May 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. B. Linder, was awarded the Silver Star for leading the squadron on a strike against a mobile SAM site at Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam.

**6 Dec 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander A. D. McFall, was killed when his aircraft crashed following a night launch from *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA 31).

**1 May 1967:** During a sortie against North Vietnam's MiG airfield at Kep, Lieutenant Commander Theodore R. Swartz shot down a MiG-17 with air-to-ground rockets. This was the first, and only, MiG aircraft to be downed by an A-4 Skyhawk during the Vietnam conflict. Lieutenant Commander Swartz received the Silver Star for his action.

**14 Jul 1967:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander R. B. Fuller, was shot down during a sortie over North Vietnam. He was released from captivity on 4 March 1973 following the 27 January 1973 cease-fire agreement with North Vietnam.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Oceana	01 Jun 1955
NAS Lemoore	24 Aug 1966

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR F. J. Gibson	01 Jun 1955
CDR W. R. McQuilkin	30 Jul 1957
LCDR H. R. Cheuvront	03 Oct 1958
CDR H. Ricks	04 Dec 1959
CDR L. M. Nearman	14 Dec 1960
CDR W. R. Bascom	18 Dec 1961
CDR J. R. Sanderson	15 Nov 1962
CDR George A. Reaves III	11 Dec 1963
CDR Richard C. Boyd	30 Nov 1964
CDR James B. Linder	21 Oct 1965
CDR Albert D. McFall	01 Oct 1966
CDR Robert B. Fuller (acting)	06 Dec 1966
CDR Robert B. Fuller	19 Dec 1966
LCDR R. A. Mauldin	14 Jul 1967
CDR J. J. Barth	1968
CDR R. A. Mauldin	1969



*A squadron F2H-2 Banshee in 1956.*

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F2H-2	Jul 1955
F9F-8	06 Jan 1956
F9F-8B	Apr 1956

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A4D-2	27 May 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C*	02 Mar 1962

\* 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>
15 Jan 1957	22 Jul 1957	CVG-1	CVA 59	F9F-8B	Med
09 Jun 1958	08 Aug 1958	ATG-181	CVA 11	F9F-8B	NorLant
04 Aug 1960	17 Feb 1961	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2	Med
03 Aug 1961	01 Mar 1962	CVG-6	CVA 11	A4D-2	Med
03 Aug 1962	11 Oct 1962	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A4D-2N	Med
06 Feb 1963	04 Sep 1963	CVG-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med
08 Feb 1964	03 Oct 1964	CVW-6	CVAN 65	A-4C	Med/World Cruise
26 Oct 1965	21 Jun 1966	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jan 1967	25 Aug 1967	CVW-21	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
30 Apr 1968	27 Jan 1969	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4C	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
ATG-182	O*	01 Jun 1955
CVG-1	T	Nov 1956
ATG-182	AN	23 Jul 1957
ATG-181	AM	15 Mar 1958
CVG-6	AF	08 Aug 1958
CVG-8	AJ	01 Apr 1959
CVG-6/CVW-6†	AF/AE	29 Aug 1959
CVW-9	NG	22 Sep 1965

**Air Wing Assignments—Continued**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-21	NP	01 Sep 1966
CVW-7	AG	Dec 1967
COMFAIRALAMEDA		27 Jan 1969

\*The tail code O was not assigned until 24 July 1956.

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



*Squadron F9F-8Bs prepares for launch from Forrestal (CVA 59) during her first deployment to the Med in 1957.*

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	03 Jun 1965	06 Jun 1965
	24 Oct 1962	03 Dec 1962
NEM	19 Oct 1962	23 Oct 1962
	04 Jun 1961	18 Jun 1961
PUC	26 Feb 1967	30 Jul 1967
VNSM	02 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	23 Feb 1966
	16 Mar 1966	12 Apr 1966
	22 Apr 1966	14 May 1966

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	23 May 1966	06 Jun 1966
	25 Feb 1967	21 Mar 1967
	17 Apr 1967	07 May 1967
	27 Jun 1967	29 Jul 1967
RVNGC	02 Dec 1965	
	11 Dec 1965	
	21 Dec 1965	
	24 Dec 1965	
	26 Dec 1965	30 Dec 1965

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Jan 1966	02 Jan 1966
	04 Jan 1966	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	
	19 Feb 1966	
	23 Feb 1966	
	27 Mar 1966	28 Mar 1966
	30 Mar 1966	31 Mar 1966
	02 Apr 1966	
	11 Apr 1966	

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	29 Apr 1966	
	28 Feb 1967	
	07 Mar 1967	
	11 Mar 1967	
	13 Mar 1967	
	16 Mar 1967	
	20 Mar 1967	21 Mar 1967
	29 Apr 1967	01 May 1967
	16 May 1967	18 May 1967



*A squadron A-4C Skyhawk on the elevator of Enterprise (CVAN 65) in 1965.*

## VA-84

### *Lineage*

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY FOUR (VA-84) on 15 September 1948.

Disestablished on 29 November 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-84 designation.

### *Squadron Insignia and Nickname*

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 9 May 1949. The following colors were used in the



*The squadron's short-lived insignia.*

insignia: the four cards had a white background and were outlined in black; the card on the left had a red letter "A" with a torpedo, outlined in black, with a red tip and aft section and a yellow tailfin and mid-section; the next card had a black letter "A" with two bombs, outlined and shaded in black, with a yellow tip and aft section, red tailfin and mid-section; the third card had a red letter "A" with three missiles outlined in black, red tip and tailfins and a white mid-section; the fourth card had a black "A" with black and white crossed machine guns and red bullets with black base and tips; the airplane was blue with black and white markings, a green strip on the tail, the nose was green and white, the gloves were green with white and yellow markings and a red star outlined in black with a white center, the lips and eye of the plane were yellow with a black pupil, the teeth were white and the tongue was red; the cloud was white, outlined in black with light blue shading at the bottom.

Nickname: unknown.

### *Home Port Assignments*

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Oceana	15 Sep 1948
NAS Jacksonville	05 Nov 1948



*Squadron pilots in front of a squadron AM-1 Mauler, circa 1948.*

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR R. P. Kline	15 Sep 1948

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
	AM-1	20 Nov 1948

**Aircraft Assignment**

	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-3E	Nov 1948

**Air Wing Assignments**

	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
	CVG-8	E	15 Sep 1948



*A squadron AM-1 Mauler in flight, circa 1949 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

## VA-85

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY FIVE (VA-85) on 15 September 1948.

Disestablished on 29 November 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-85 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There are no records of an approved insignia or nickname for VA-85.

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Oceana	15 Sep 1948
NAS Jacksonville	05 Nov 1948

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Frank B. Stone	15 Sep 1948

### Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-3E	Oct 1948
AM-1	30 Nov 1948

### Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	15 Sep 1948



*A squadron AM-1 Mauler aboard Midway (CVB 41) in May 1949 (Courtesy Wallace Russel Collection).*

## SECOND VA-85

### Lineage

Attack Squadron EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY NINE (VA-859) was a reserve squadron called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY FIVE (VA-85) on 4 February 1953.

Disestablished on 30 September 1994. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-85 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 22 May 1951. Colors for the woodpecker astride a



*The squadron's first insignia.*

blue with a red flame and the rocket was shaded light green on top and dark green on the bottom, outlined in black.

Following the squadron's redesignation a new insignia was approved by CNO on 24 May 1954. Colors for the winged bomb insignia were: blue background outlined in red; the clouds and wings were silver with black markings; the lightning bolt was yellow, edged with red; and the bomb was black with silver shading.



*The squadron's second insignia was a more stylized designed reflecting its attack mission.*

rocket were: a blue gray background outlined in black; brown woodpecker shaded with white and different tones of brown; the shoes, gloves and face of the bird were white; the beak and Mae West lifejacket were yellow; its eyes were green with black pupils and a red head; the bomb was dark

The CNO approved a change in the squadron's insignia on 7 May 1958. Colors for the black falcon insignia are as follows: a white background outlined in black; the falcon is black with a white eye; the scroll has a white background outlined in black, with black lettering.

Nickname: Black Falcons, 1958–1994.



*The stylized black falcon was used by the squadron for over 35 years before its disestablishment.*

### Chronology of Significant Events

**May 1958:** As part of an Atlantic Fleet training exercise (LANTRAEX 1-58), two of the squadron's AD-6 Skyraiders, flown by Lieutenant (jg)s Strang and Woods, flew nonstop from *Forrestal* (CVA 59), operating off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, to NAS North Island. The flight was conducted below 1000 feet to demonstrate the low level and long range capability of the squadron. Two days later the aircraft returned, nonstop, to *Forrestal*.

**5 Feb 1963:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. H. Mundt, was killed in an air crash.

**22 Dec 1965:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander B. J. Cartwright, and his bombardier/navigator, Lieutenant Ed Gold, failed to return from a strike into North Vietnam and are listed as missing in action, presumed dead.

**21 Apr 1966:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. E. Keller, and his bombardier/navigator, Lieutenant Commander E. E. Austin, were killed in action during a mission over North Vietnam.

**27 Apr 1966:** While serving with VA-85 as a bombardier/navigator in an A-6A, Lieutenant (jg) Brian E. Westin was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during a combat mission over North Vietnam when he risked his own life to save that of his wounded pilot, Lieutenant W. R. Westerman.

**6 Sep 1968:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander K. L. Coskey, was shot down over North Vietnam. His bombardier/navigator, Lieutenant Commander R. G. McKee, was rescued but Commander Coskey became a POW. He survived the internment at Hanoi and was released on 14 March 1973.

**Jul 1974:** Following a coup that overthrew the government of Cyprus, VA-85 operated from *Forrestal* in the vicinity of Cyprus and provided air cover for the evacuation of Americans and foreign nationals from the island.

**May–Jun 1981:** Following increased military action and Israeli reprisal raids against Syrian missile positions in southern Lebanon, *Forrestal* was ordered to the eastern Mediterranean. VA-85 operated from the carrier while on station off the coast of Lebanon.

**Jul 1982:** Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June and the siege of west Beirut, *Forrestal* operated off



the coast of Lebanon with VA-85 prepared to provide air support for a possible evacuation of Americans.

**Aug–Sep 1982:** *Forrestal* and its embarked squadrons provided air cover for the landing of 800 U.S. Marines in Beirut, Lebanon. The Marines became part of the multi-national peacekeeping force in that country.

**4 Dec 1983:** During *Kennedy's* operations off the coast of Lebanon in support of the Multi-national Peacekeeping Force, several of the carrier's F-14 reconnaissance aircraft received hostile fire from Syrian surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft positions on 3 December. A retaliatory strike was flown by elements of CVW-3 and aircraft from *Independence* (CV 62) against the Syrian anti-aircraft positions near Hammana, Lebanon. One of the squadron's A-6Es was lost in the attack, its pilot, Lieutenant Mark Lange, was killed and the NFO, Lieutenant Robert Goodman, was captured by the Syrians. He was released 4 January 1985.

**Jul 1984:** The squadron operated in the Caribbean and off the coast of Central America to assist the Coast Guard with drug interdiction operations.

**10 Oct 1985:** The squadron's KA-6D tanker aircraft refueled F-14s from *Saratoga* (CV 60) enroute to their intercept of an Egyptian 737 airliner that was carrying Arab terrorists who had hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro on 7 October and murdered an American citizen. The F-14s forced the airliner to land at NAS Sigonella, Sicily, leading to the capture of the terrorists.

**24 Mar 1986:** Libyan missiles were fired at U.S. Naval forces operating in the Gulf of Sidra. This action precipitated a retaliation against Libya by squadrons

from *Saratoga* (CV 60), *America* (CV 66) and *Coral Sea* (CV 43). VA-85's A-6Es conducted a follow-up attack with Rockeye bombs on a Libyan Combattante II G-class fast attack missile craft that had been hit by a Harpoon missile fired by a VA-34 aircraft. The attack resulted in the sinking of the Combattante II. VA-85 aircraft also attacked a Nanuchka II class missile corvette with Rockeyes, damaging the corvette.

**25 Mar 1986:** VA-55 attacked a Nanuchka with Rockeyes, damaging but not stopping the corvette. A VA-85 aircraft then launched a Harpoon against the corvette which resulted in its sinking.

**6 Sep 1989:** Squadron aircraft flew missions in support of the evacuation of personnel from the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, due to the unstable situation in that country.

**17 Jan–28 Feb 1991:** The squadron participated in Operation Desert Storm, combat strikes against targets in Iraq and the Kuwaiti theater of operations. During this period of combat the squadron flew 585 combat sorties, consisting of 1,700 flight hours and expended over 850 tons of ordnance.

**Aug 1993:** Squadron aircraft flew missions over Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of U. N. Operation Deny Flight.

**Nov 1993:** Squadron aircraft flew sorties over Mogadishu, Somalia, in support of U. N. Operation Continue Hope.

**Dec 1993:** Squadron aircraft provided support for reconnaissance missions over southern Iraq, part of Operation Southern Watch.



*A squadron AD-6 Skyraider during its deployment to the Med aboard Lake Champlain (CVA 39) in 1954–1955.*

**Home Port Assignments**

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Niagara Falls	01 Feb 1951
NAS Jacksonville	05 Apr 1951
NAS Quonset Point	26 Sep 1951
NAS Oceana	11 Jun 1952

**Commanding Officers**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Richard E. Moot	01 Feb 1951
LCDR Joe W. Williams, Jr.	26 Sep 1952
CDR Adolph Mencin	Mar 1954
CDR Charles H. Jaep III	06 May 1955
CDR Jack C. Heishman	Sep 1956
CDR M. G. Bramilla, Jr.	Sep 1957
CDR E. M. Coppola	05 Sep 1958
CDR Howard C. Lee	25 Mar 1959
CDR William Carrier, Jr.	29 Nov 1960
CDR N. O. Scott, Jr.	Dec 1961
CDR Clinton H. Mundt	21 Dec 1962
CDR John C. McKee	05 Feb 1963
CDR A. H. Barie	Feb 1964
CDR Billie J. Cartwright	15 Apr 1964
CDR J. E. Keller	22 Dec 1965
CDR Ronald J. Hays	21 Apr 1966
CDR J. C. Patterson	20 Jun 1967
CDR Ken L. Coskey	28 Jun 1968
CDR Charles B. Hunter	06 Sep 1968
CDR Herbert A. Hope, Jr.	06 Jun 1969
CDR Donald H. Westbrook	05 Jun 1970
CDR David W. Timberlake	08 May 1971
CDR Michael R. Hall	30 May 1972
CDR Arthur M. Page	01 May 1973
CDR Donald V. Boecker	01 Jul 1974

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard C. Allen	07 Nov 1975
CDR Charles R. Bubeck	25 Feb 1977
CDR Bruce B. Bremner	May 1978
CDR Ronald J. Zlatoper	26 Jun 1979
CDR Daniel P. Wright	07 Aug 1980
CDR John I. Dow	10 Dec 1981
CDR Kirby E. Hughes II	18 Feb 1983
CDR Paul L. Bernard	17 Aug 1984
CDR Robert W. Day	01 Jul 1985
CDR Robert A. Tolhurst	16 Sep 1986
CDR James B. Stone, Jr.	11 Mar 1988
CDR Dean W. Ellerman, Jr.	05 Jun 1989
CDR Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr.	16 Aug 1990
CDR Ralph C. Miko	01 Sep 1991
CDR Bruce A. Weber	22 Sep 1992
CDR John W. Scheffler	29 Sep 1993

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-3E	*
AD-2	05 Mar 1951
AD-4	Jul 1952
AD-6/A-1H‡	Jan 1954†
A-6A	06 Mar 1964
KA-6D	18 Nov 1970
A-6E§	09 Dec 1971

\* During its reserve duty prior to 1 February 1951, the squadron flew the TBM-3E.

† The full complement of AD-6s was not received until May 1954.

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

§ VA-85 was the first fleet squadron to receive the A-6E.



*A squadron Skyraider, circa 1963 or 1964.*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Nov 1951	11 Jun 1952	CVG-8	CV 40	AD-2	Med
26 Apr 1953	21 Oct 1953	CVG-8	CVA 43	AD-4	Med
27 Sep 1954	15 Apr 1955	CVG-8	CVA 39	AD-6	Med
12 Mar 1956	05 Sep 1956	CVG-8	CVA 11	AD-6	Med
28 Jan 1960	31 Aug 1960	CVG-8	CVA 59	AD-6	Med
09 Feb 1961	25 Aug 1961	CVG-8	CVA 59	AD-6	Med
03 Aug 1962	02 Mar 1963	CVG-8	CVA 59	AD-6/A-1H	Med
19 Oct 1965	13 Jun 1966	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Nov 1966	19 Jun 1967	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1968	16 Dec 1968	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Aug 1969	08 May 1970	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1971	02 Jul 1971	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-6A & KA-6D	Med
22 Sep 1972	06 Jul 1973	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
11 Mar 1974	11 Sep 1974	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
05 Mar 1975	22 Sep 1975	CVW-17	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
04 Apr 1978	26 Oct 1978	CVW-17	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/NorLant
27 Nov 1979	07 May 1980	CVW-17	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
02 Mar 1981	15 Sep 1981	CVW-17	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/NorLant
08 Jun 1982	16 Nov 1982	CVW-17	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
25 May 1983	01 Jul 1983	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E	NorLant
27 Sep 1983	02 May 1984	CVW-3	CV 67	A-6E	SoLant/Med
25 Aug 1985	16 Apr 1986	CVW-17	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
05 Jun 1987	17 Nov 1987	CVW-17	CV 60	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
08 Feb 1989	03 Apr 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/NorLant
11 May 1989	10 Nov 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
28 Dec 1990	18 Apr 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf
21 Aug 1991	11 Oct 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
02 Dec 1991	06 Jun 1992	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf
11 Aug 1993	05 Feb 1994	CVW-1	CV 66	A-6E	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E/AJ*	05 Apr 1951
CVG-1	AB	19 May 1963
CVG-8/CVW-8†	AJ	25 May 1963
COMFAIRNORFOLK		06 Apr 1964
CVW-11	NH	23 Jul 1965
COMFAIRNORFOLK		12 Aug 1965
CVW-11	NH	23 Sep 1965
COMFAIRNORFOLK		10 Jun 1966
CVW-11	NH	25 Sep 1966
COMFAIRNORFOLK		Jun 1967
CVW-6	AE	01 Oct 1967
CVW-14	NK	01 Apr 1969
COMFAIRNORFOLK		May 1970
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1970
CVW-3	AC	01 Jan 1983
CVW-17	AA	31 Dec 1984
CVW-1	AB	01 Jan 1988

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

† CVG-8 was redesignated CVW-8 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1963	30 Jun 1964
	01 Jan 1973	30 Jun 1974
	01 Jul 1975	30 Sep 1976
AFEM	16 Oct 1969	24 Oct 1969
	16 Mar 1970	23 Mar 1970
	06 Nov 1983	27 Nov 1983
	02 Dec 1983	21 Jan 1984
	31 Jan 1984	22 Feb 1984
	25 Feb 1984	29 Feb 1984
MUC	07 Sep 1969	30 Apr 1970

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	15 Jul 1982	22 Apr 1984
NEM	20 Jan 1986	29 Mar 1986
NUC	04 Dec 1966	28 Apr 1967
	12 May 1968	20 Nov 1968
	10 Oct 1985	11 Oct 1985
	23 Mar 1986	29 Mar 1986
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
RVNGC	15 Jan 1966	19 Jan 1966
	23 Jan 1966	27 Jan 1966
	30 Jan 1966	
	03 Feb 1966	
	07 Mar 1966	
	10 Mar 1966	
	13 Mar 1966	
	22 Apr 1966	
VNSM	25 Nov 1965	23 Dec 1965
	15 Jan 1966	04 Feb 1966
	01 Apr 1966	29 Apr 1966

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	08 May 1966	26 May 1966
	08 Dec 1966	03 Jan 1967
	02 Mar 1967	28 Mar 1967
	12 Apr 1967	28 Apr 1967
	08 May 1967	23 May 1967
	29 May 1968	28 Jun 1968
	06 Jul 1968	03 Aug 1968
	17 Aug 1968	12 Sep 1968
	27 Sep 1968	30 Oct 1968
	11 Sep 1969	03 Oct 1969
	01 Nov 1969	23 Nov 1969
	07 Dec 1969	22 Dec 1969
	05 Jan 1970	30 Jan 1970
	12 Feb 1970	01 Mar 1970
	26 Mar 1970	17 Apr 1970
SASM	15 Jan 1991	03 Apr 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



*A squadron A-6E Intruder, with CAG markings, landing aboard America (CV 66) in 1993.*

## VA-93

### Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron NINETY THREE (VF-93) on 26 March 1952.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETY THREE (VA-93) on 15 September 1956.

Disestablished on 31 August 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-93 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 14 April 1954. Colors for the flying tiger shark



The flying tiger shark was the squadron's first insignia.

Following the squadron's redesignation a new insignia was approved by CNO on 8 May 1957. The skull and stylized aircraft insignia colors were: a dark blue background; white clouds outlined in black; black skull with white highlights and red eyes; yellow lightning bolts outlined in black; silver gray aircraft outlined in

insignia were: a background of light blue with a buzz saw outline in red; the upper part of the shark was dark blue, the lower part white and the shark was outlined in black; gold wings with a white eye and red pupil; the carrier was gray outlined in black with white streaks running from the carrier to the tail of the shark.



The skull and stylized aircraft insignia was adopted by the squadron in 1957.

black and red contrails outlined in black; a white scroll outlined in black with black letters.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 19 November 1965. Insignia colors for the stylized aircraft with a series of circles were: a dark blue outer circle followed by a medium blue circle, then a light



The stylized aircraft design was the last insignia used by the squadron.

blue circle and a white center; the stylized aircraft were dark blue with red contrails; the scroll had a white background outlined in black, with black lettering.

Nickname: Blue Blazers, 1954–1976.

Ravens, 1976–1986.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**May 1963:** Following the military losses of the Lao neutralist to the Pathet Lao in the Plaine de Jarres, Laos, *Ranger* (CVA 61) transited to the South China Sea to support possible operations in Laos.

**15 Oct 1963:** The squadron established a Detachment Q for deployment aboard the anti-submarine carrier *Bennington* (CVS 20) to provide daylight fighter protection for the ASW aircraft. The detachment flew A-4B Skyhawks.

**7 Feb 1965:** Following a Viet Cong attack against the American advisors compound at Pleiku, South Vietnam, a reprisal strike, named Flaming Dart I, was ordered by the President. VA-93 participated in this strike, but upon reaching the target, the military barracks at Vit Thu Lu, the mission was aborted due to the weather.

**11 Feb 1965:** Participated in Flaming Dart II, retaliatory strikes against the military barracks at Chanh Hoa, North Vietnam.

**15 Mar 1965:** Participated in Rolling Thunder strikes against ammunition storage area in Phu Qui, North Vietnam.

**May–Oct 1972:** Participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to reduce that country's ability to continue the war effort in South Vietnam.

**Apr 1975:** Participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon, South Vietnam as the country fell to the communists.

**Aug–Sep 1976:** Operated near the Korea Peninsula following the murder of U.S. military personnel in the Korean DMZ by North Koreans.

**Nov–Dec 1979:** In response to the seizure of the American Embassy and its staff, by an Iranian mob, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, *Midway* (CV 41) operated in the Arabian Sea.

**May–Jun 1980:** Following the massacre of several hundred people in the city of Kwangju, South Korea, *Midway* operated off the coast of South Korea until the crisis had subsided.

**Dec 1981:** Following unrest in Korea, *Midway* operated off the coast of South Korea for several days.

**Home Port Assignment**

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	26 Mar 1952
NAS Lemoore	08 Mar 1962
NS Yokosuka (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)*	05 Oct 1973*
NAS Lemoore	16 Apr 1986

\* VA-93, along with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CVA 41), were part of a program to permanently assign a carrier and air wing to an overseas home port. *Midway's* new home port was NS Yokosuka, Japan, and the squadron would normally operate out of NAF Atsugi or Misawa when the carrier was at NS Yokosuka. The assignment was effective 30 June 1973. However, the squadron did not arrive until 5 October 1973.

**Commanding Officers**

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR E. W. Smith (acting)	26 Mar 1952
LCDR W. E. Carver	23 Apr 1952
LCDR J. T. Barker	May 1953
CDR G. E. Hartley	Jul 1955
CDR Paul E. Padget	24 Sep 1956
CDR Robert F. Kanze	30 Apr 1958
CDR E. W. Gendron	27 May 1959
CDR William H. Hile, Jr.	21 Jul 1960
CDR J. W. Porter, Jr.	09 Jun 1961
CDR Robert F. Schoultz	27 Mar 1962

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	Date Assumed Command
CDR William M. Gortney	02 Mar 1963
CDR E. W. O'Callaghan	05 Feb 1964
CDR A. J. Monger	11 Jan 1965
CDR W. G. Sizemore	04 Jan 1966
CDR R. S. Salin	Jan 1967
CDR R. R. Wilson	17 Jan 1968
CDR Thomas W. Schaaf	10 Jul 1968
CDR David L. Glunt, Jr.	19 Jan 1970
CDR Edwin R. Kohn, Jr.	19 Nov 1970
CDR Carl E. Erie	22 Jul 1971
CDR Jerry L. Terrell	13 Jul 1972
CDR Douglas L. Clarke	29 Jan 1973
CDR Walter V. Roeser	10 May 1974
CDR William A. Dougherty, Jr.	06 Jun 1975
CDR Rodger W. Wright	18 Sep 1976
CDR John W. Patterson	3 Jan 1977
CDR Clarence S. Vaught	30 Mar 1978
CDR Eugene F. Mitchell	22 Jun 1979
CDR Marion R. Rackowitz	22 Oct 1980
CDR James H. Finney	21 Dec 1981
CDR Dennis W. Ireland	11 May 1982
CDR Harry W. Hartsell	04 Oct 1984
CDR David V. Park*	15 Jun 1986

\* Commander Park assumed the duties of VA-93 as Officer in Charge, not Commanding Officer.



A squadron F9F-8 Cougar flies along side a VC-61 Det M F9F-8 during deployment to WestPac in 1956 aboard *Oriskany* (CVA 34).

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FG-1D	May 1952
F9F-2	May 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1953
F9F-8	Jan 1955
A4D-1	26 Nov 1956
A4D-2	25 May 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	01 Sep 1960

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4B	15 Oct 1963
A-4E	Sep 1966
A-4F	Sep 1967
A-7B	20 Apr 1969
A-7A	Mar 1973
A-7E	Apr 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>
15 Dec 1952	14 Aug 1953	CVG-9	CVA 47	F9F-2	Korea
11 May 1954	12 Dec 1954	CVG-9	CVA 12	F9F-5	World Cruise
11 Feb 1956	13 Jun 1956	CVG-9	CVA 34	F9F-8	WestPac
16 Sep 1957	25 Apr 1958	CVG-9	CVA 14	A4D-1	WestPac
06 Feb 1960	30 Aug 1960	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2	WestPac
11 Aug 1961	08 Mar 1962	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2N	WestPac
09 Nov 1962	14 Jun 1963	CVG-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac
05 Aug 1964	06 May 1965	CVW-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1965	21 Jun 1966	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1967	22 Jul 1967	CVW-5	CVA 19	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Jan 1968	10 Oct 1968	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Apr 1971	06 Nov 1971	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1972	03 Mar 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Sep 1973	05 Oct 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac*
26 Nov 1973	22 Dec 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac
29 Jan 1974	06 Mar 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac
18 Oct 1974	20 Dec 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac
13 Jan 1975	18 Feb 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac
31 Mar 1975	29 May 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	A-7A	WestPac
04 Oct 1975	19 Dec 1975	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac/IO
13 Mar 1976	26 Apr 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac
19 May 1976	22 Jun 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac
09 Jul 1976	04 Aug 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac
01 Nov 1976	17 Dec 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac
11 Jan 1977	01 Mar 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac
19 Apr 1977	25 Apr 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7A	WestPac†
18 Aug 1977	02 Sep 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
27 Sep 1977	21 Dec 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac/IO
11 Apr 1978	23 May 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
09 Nov 1978	23 Dec 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
11 Jan 1979	20 Feb 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
07 Apr 1979	18 Jun 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	IO
20 Aug 1979	14 Sep 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
30 Sep 1979	20 Feb 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	IO
14 Jul 1980	26 Nov 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac/IO
23 Feb 1981	05 Jun 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac/IO
26 Jun 1981	16 Jul 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
03 Sep 1981	06 Oct 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
26 Apr 1982	18 Jun 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
14 Sep 1982	11 Dec 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac
02 Jun 1983	14 Aug 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac

**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>
25 Oct 1983	11 Dec 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
28 Dec 1983	23 May 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	IO
15 Oct 1984	12 Dec 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
01 Feb 1985	28 Mar 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
10 Jun 1985	14 Oct 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	IO/WestPac
15 Nov 1985	12 Dec 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac
17 Jan 1986	30 Mar 1986	CVW-5	CV 41	A-7E	WestPac

\* *Midway* (CVA 41) with CVW-5 and its assigned squadrons, including VA-93, were forward deployed and home ported overseas at NS Yokosuka, Japan. Only operations outside the home waters of Japan are listed as deployments.

† During the period 25 April to 17 August 1977, VA-93 was shore based at NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, transitioning from the A-7A to the A-7E.



A squadron A-4E Skyhawk aboard Hancock (CVA 19) during their 1967 combat cruise to Vietnam. Notice the stylized aircraft on the fuselage aft of the jet intake.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-9/CVW-9†	N/NG*	Mar 1952
CVW-5	NF	01 Aug 1966
COMFAIRALAMEDA		01 Nov 1968
CVW-2	NE	19 May 1969
COMFAIRLEMOORE		01 Jun 1970
CVW-16	AH	01 Sep 1970
CVW-5	NF	16 Feb 1971

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

† CVG-9 was redesignated CVW-9 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	25 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
NUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	01 Jan 1978	30 Jun 1979
MUC	27 Oct 1969	12 May 1970
	07 May 1971	28 Oct 1971
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	27 Jul 1982	01 May 1984
NAVE	01 Jul 1962	30 Jun 1963
	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
	01 Jan 1982	30 Jun 1983
AFEM	24 Jun 1960	25 Jun 1960
	01 May 1963	05 May 1963



**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	19 Sep 1964	20 Sep 1964
	01 Oct 1964	09 Oct 1964
	28 Nov 1964	30 Dec 1964
	17 Jan 1965	17 Mar 1965
	04 Apr 1965	13 Apr 1965
	04 May 1968	07 May 1968
	10 Jan 1970	13 Jan 1970
	12 Apr 1970	13 Apr 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NEM	15 Apr 1979	06 Jun 1979
	21 Nov 1979	07 Feb 1980
	19 Aug 1980	13 Nov 1980
	12 Mar 1981	19 May 1981
PUC	30 Apr 1972	09 Feb 1973
RVNGC	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972
VNSM	02 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	23 Feb 1966
	16 Mar 1966	12 Apr 1966
	22 Apr 1966	14 May 1966
	23 May 1966	06 Jun 1966
	05 Feb 1967	25 Feb 1967
	15 Mar 1967	12 Apr 1967
	28 Apr 1967	04 Jun 1967

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	12 Jun 1967	27 Jun 1967
	20 Feb 1968	24 Mar 1968
	13 Jun 1968	07 Jul 1968
	21 Jul 1968	18 Aug 1968
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	16 Nov 1969	07 Dec 1969
	17 Dec 1969	06 Jan 1970
	29 Jan 1970	18 Feb 1970
	27 Feb 1970	30 Mar 1970
	16 Apr 1970	13 May 1970
	17 May 1971	09 Jun 1971
	29 Jun 1971	20 Jul 1971
	31 Jul 1971	17 Aug 1971
	26 Sep 1971	11 Oct 1971
	01 May 1972	01 Jun 1972
	11 Jun 1972	07 Jul 1972
	16 Jul 1972	13 Aug 1972
	23 Aug 1972	10 Sep 1972
	19 Sep 1972	12 Oct 1972
	23 Oct 1972	23 Nov 1972
	03 Dec 1972	22 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1972	
	04 Jan 1973	24 Jan 1973
	03 Feb 1973	09 Feb 1973



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

## VA-94

### Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron NINETY NINE (VB-99) on 1 July 1943.

Redesignated Bombing Squadron TWENTY (VB-20) on 15 October 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINE A (VA-9A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETY FOUR (VA-94) on 12 August 1948.

Disestablished on 30 November 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-94 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 9 December 1943. Colors for the cat and skull insignia



*The squadron insignia was approved for use in December 1943.*

were: light blue background with white border and dark blue outline; the cat was black and white with green eyes; the skull was shaded white and green with black outlines and shadows; helmet was mustard yellow, goggles were brown with white shading, the glasses were green and black; and a yellow bomb with brown and white shading.

Nickname: Bombing Twenty's Tough Kitty, 1943–1946.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Jul-Oct 1943:** VB-99 was established as an experimental squadron for the new SB2C aircraft until its redesignation as VB-20 and assignment to CVG-20.

**31 Aug 1944:** The squadron's first combat action involved an attack on the Bonin Islands.

**Sep 1944:** The squadron participated in pre-invasion strikes on Palau Islands and provided air support for landings on Peleliu Island.

**Oct 1944:** Squadron aircraft participated in air strikes against Okinawa, Formosa and Luzon.

**24 Oct 1944:** The squadron participated in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. VB-20's SB2Cs flew sorties against a powerful Japanese surface force in the Sibuyan Sea. These attacks contributed to the sinking of the *Musashi*, one of the two largest battleships in the world. The following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross for this action: Ensigns M. E. Adams, R. J. Barnes, H. A. Koster, R. D. Olson, M. T.

Ross, and D. D. J. Spanagel; Lieutenant (jg)s P. P. Cook, J. M. Glynn, R. D. Reed, J. P. Trytten, and J. E. Tsarnas; Lieutenants W. N. Christensen, J. S. Cooper, H. C. Hogan, R. E. Moore, R. D. Warner and R. S. Wilcox; and Commander R. E. Riera.

**25 Oct 1944:** Squadron aircraft were part of the Fast Carrier Task Force that attacked the Japanese carrier force in the Battle of Cape Engano. Four Japanese carriers were sunk during this engagement. The following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions during the Battle of Cape Engano: Ensigns H. C. Bearden, D. F. Hughes, C. Z. Stevens III, and W. P. Wright; Lieutenant (jg) W. C. Phtilla; Lieutenants W. W. Anderson, C. Burkhart and L. C. Flynt; and Commander R. E. Riera.

**Nov 1944:** Squadron aircraft flew strikes against a Japanese troop convoy in Ormoc Bay, Leyte and enemy positions on Luzon.

**Dec 1944:** The squadron participated in strikes flown against Luzon.

**Jan 1945:** Squadron aircraft flew strikes against Luzon, Formosa, Hong Kong, and Japanese convoys in South China Sea and Okinawa.

**12 Jan 1945:** The following squadron personnel were awarded the Silver Star medal for action against a Japanese cruiser protecting a convoy of cargo ships: Lieutenants W. N. Christensen and W. W. Anderson and Lieutenant (jg) H. Rubner.

### Home Port Assignment

Location	Assignment Date
NAS San Diego	01 Jul 1943
NAS Kaneohe	21 Apr 1944*
NAS Barbers Point	30 Apr 1944*
NAS Puunene	17 Jun 1944*
NAS San Diego	23 Feb 1945
NAS Wildwood	16 Apr 1945
NAS Edenton	22 Jun 1945
NAAS Elizabeth City	01 Nov 1945
NAAS Charlestown	01 Mar 1946

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

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR Louis J. Kirn	Jul 1943
LCDR Robert E. Riera	10 Nov 1943
LCDR Raymond E. Moore	10 Nov 1944
LT James S. Cooper (acting)	16 Apr 1945
LT James S. Cooper	19 Apr 1945
LCDR Lawrence G. Traynor	05 Jun 1947
LCDR Harlin M. Keister	06 Jul 1948

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SBD-5	Jul 1943
SB2C-1C	15 Nov 1943
SB2C-3	Jul 1944
SB2C-4E	18 Apr 1945

**Aircraft Assignment—Continued**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SBW-5	04 Aug 1945
SB2C-5	Mar 1946
AD-2	04 Oct 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>
16 Aug 1944	23 Nov 1944	CVG-20	CV 6*	SB2C-3	Pacific
23 Nov 1944	02 Feb 1945	CVG-20	CV 16**	SB2C-3	Pacific
09 Feb 1948	26 Jun 1948	CVAG-9	CV 47	SB2C-5	Carib/Med

\* The squadron transferred from *Enterprise* (CV 6) to *Lexington* (CV 16) and remained deployed in the Pacific.

\*\* The squadron completed its combat tour in the Pacific and transferred from *Lexington* (CV 16) to *Kwajalein* (CVE 98) for transportation back to the United States.

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-20/CVAG-9/CVG-9*	PS/D**	15 Oct 1943

\* Established as CVG-20 on 15 October 1943. Redesignated CVAG-9 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-9 redesignated CVG-9 on 1 September 1948. CVG-9 was disestablished on 1 December 1949.

\*\* The tail code PS was assigned to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) and CVG-9 in 1946. In 1948 the tail code for CVG-9 was changed to D.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	31 Aug 1944	18 Sep 1944
	10 Oct 1944	22 Nov 1944
PUC	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
Campaign Medal (Asiatic-Pacific)	31 Aug 1944	18 Sep 1944
	10 Oct 1944	22 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945



*A flight of squadron SB2C-5 Helldivers during deployment to the Med in 1948 aboard Philippine Sea (CV 47).*

## VA-95

### Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron TWENTY (VT-20) on 15 October 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TEN A (VA-10A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETY FIVE (VA-95) on 12 August 1948.

Disestablished on 30 November 1949. The first squadron to be designated VA-95.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 21 March 1944. Colors for the vulture insignia were:

background of light blue with an inner circle of white and a black outer circle; the bird was pearl gray with white highlights and outlined in black; the leg and ruff of feathers around the neck were white with blue markings; the head, neck and feet a drab yellow, and the beak was black; the torpedo had shades of gray with a white, black



*The squadron insignia was approved in March 1944.*

and yellow streak, the nose was black and the torpedo was outlined in black; streaks emanating from the nose of the torpedo were blue and white.

Nickname: unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**1 Sep 1944:** The squadron's first combat action involved strikes against shore installations on Chichi Jima in the Bonin Islands.

**Sep 1944:** Squadron aircraft participated in strikes against Palau Islands in preparation for and support of the landings on Peleliu Island.

**Oct 1944:** The squadron participated in strikes against Okinawa, Formosa and Luzon in preparation for and support of the landings on Leyte.

**15 Oct 1944:** Lieutenant Edward B. Holley, flying a squadron TBM, shot down a Zero, Mitsubishi A6M fighter, over Luzon.

**24 Oct 1944:** The squadron participated in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. VT-20's TBM-1Cs flew sorties against a powerful Japanese surface force in the Sibuyan Sea. These attacks contributed to the sinking of the mighty *Musashi*, one of the two largest battleships in the world. The following squadron personnel were award-

ed the Navy Cross for their action against the Japanese task force: Ensigns W. T. Ross, W. J. Schaller, and G. Swint III; Lieutenant (jg) M. Throwbridge; Lieutenants C. H. H. Dickey, E. B. Holley, and R. E. McHenry, and Lieutenant Commander S. L. Prickett.

**25 Oct 1944:** Squadron aircraft were part of the Fast Carrier Task Force that attacked the Japanese carrier force in the Battle of Cape Engano. Four Japanese carriers were sunk during this engagement. The following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross for their action during the Battle of Cape Engano: Ensigns T. E. Armour, J. L. Baxter, M. H. Krouse, and C. D. Leeper; Lieutenant (jg)s P. H. Bradley and C. F. Schlegel; and Lieutenants J. H. Howell, Jr., M. L. Leedom, E. E. Rodenburg, and R. J. Savage.

**Nov 1944:** The squadron participated in strikes against a Japanese troop convoy in Ormoc Bay, Leyte and enemy positions on Luzon.

**Dec 1944:** Strikes were flown against Luzon in preparation for the landings at Lingayan Gulf, Luzon.

**Jan 1945:** Squadron aircraft flew strikes against Luzon, Formosa, Hong Kong, Japanese convoys in South China Sea and along coast of French Indochina, and Okinawa.

**12 Jan 1945:** Lieutenant J. N. Howell, Jr and Lieutenant (jg) M. Throwbridge were awarded the Silver Star Medal for their action against a Japanese cruiser that was protecting a convoy off the coast of French Indochina. Their attacks contributed to the sinking of the cruiser.

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS San Diego	15 Oct 1943
NAS Barbers Point	21 Apr 1944*
NAS Puunene	17 Jun 1944*
NAS San Diego	23 Feb 1945
NAAF Lewiston	16 Apr 1945
NAS Edenton	Jun 1945
NAAS Elizabeth City	02 Nov 1945
NAAS Charlestown	21 Mar 1946

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

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR David E. Dressendorfer	15 Oct 1943
LCDR Samuel L. Prickett	27 Dec 1943
LCDR James N. Howell, Jr.	16 Apr 1945
LCDR J. J. Maechtlen	Jul 1947
LCDR Charles C. Ainsworth	07 Feb 1949

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBF-1/TBM-1	Nov 1943
TBM-1C	Feb 1944

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-3E	Jul 1945
AD-1	01 Aug 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>
16 Aug 1944	23 Nov 1944	CVG-20	CV 6*	TBM-1C	Pacific
23 Nov 1944	02 Feb 1945	CVG-20	CV 16†	TBM-1C	Pacific
09 Feb 1948	26 Jun 1948	CVAG-9	CV 47	TBM-3E	Carib/Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-20/CVAG-9/ CVG-9*	PS/D†	15 Oct 1943

\* Established as CVG-20 on 15 October 1943. Redesignated CVAG-9 on 15 November 1946. CVAG-9 redesignated CVG-9 on 1 September 1948. CVG-9 was disestablished on 1 December 1949.

† The tail code PS was assigned to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) and CVG-9 in 1946. In 1948 the tail code for CVG-9 was changed to D.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	31 Aug 1944	18 Sep 1944
	10 Oct 1944	22 Nov 1944
PUC	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945
Campaign Medal (Asiatic-Pacific)	31 Aug 1944	18 Sep 1944
	10 Oct 1944	22 Nov 1944
	14 Dec 1944	16 Dec 1944
	03 Jan 1945	22 Jan 1945



A squadron TBM-1C aboard *Enterprise* (CV 6) in October 1944. Note the damage on the wing of the aircraft (Courtesy David Laucabaugh Collection).

## SECOND VA-95

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron NINETY FIVE (VA-95) on 26 March 1952.

Disestablished on 1 April 1970. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-95 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 16 January 1957. Colors for the knight plumed helmet were: black background on left hand side and silver on the right half of the circular design, with a silver outline on the left and a black outline on the right; silver mace and black sword; the left side of the helmet was silver with green and black markings; the right side of the helmet was green with silver markings;



The squadron's plumed helmet insignia was approved in 1957.

the plume was red; and the scroll was silver, outlined in black with green lettering.

Nickname: Skyknights, 1957–1963.

Green Lizards, 1963–1970.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Jan 1963:** The squadron participated in cross deck operations with the British carrier HMS *Hermes* while operating in the western Pacific.

**May 1963:** Following the military losses of Lao neutralists to the Pathet Lao in the Plaine de Jarres, Laos, *Ranger* (CVA 61) transited to the South China Sea to support possible operations in Laos.

**Nov 1964–Apr 1965:** The squadron participated in support for photo reconnaissance missions and conducted strikes against targets in Laos.

**7 Feb 1965:** Following a Viet Cong attack against the American advisors compound at Pleiku, South Vietnam, the President ordered a reprisal strike against North Vietnam, named Flaming Dart I. The squadron's target was the Vit Thu Lu Barracks. However, the strike turned back due to poor weather conditions.

**11 Feb 1965:** Squadron aircraft participated in Flaming Dart II, retaliatory strikes against the Chanh Hoa military barracks near Dong Hoi, North Vietnam.

**Mar 1965:** The squadron participated in Rolling Thunder strikes against the Phu Qui ammunition depot in North Vietnam.

**Apr 1966:** The squadron departed Norfolk, Virginia,

enroute to Vietnam as part of an air wing composed only of attack squadrons.

**Sep 1969:** Following a coup that overthrew the Libyan monarchy *Kennedy* (CVA 67) cut short its visit to Cannes, France, and departed for operations in the Ionian Sea. The United States later extended diplomatic recognition to the new Libyan government.

### Home Port Assignments

	<i>Location Assignment Date</i>
NAS Alameda	26 Mar 1952
NAS Moffett Field	08 Mar 1962
NAS Lemoore	01 Apr 1963
NAS Alameda	04 Aug 1968

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Samuel B. Berrey	26 Mar 1952
LT L. Wilson (acting)	1953
CDR David L. Berrey	Aug 1953
CDR John C. Allman	Oct 1954
CDR Donald L. Irgens	Jan 1955
CDR Martin J. Stack	Sep 1956
CDR F. L. Brady	21 Mar 1958
CDR Rollin E. Gray, Jr.	20 Apr 1958
CDR Carl Weisse	04 Mar 1959
CDR R. R. Renaldi	02 Sep 1960
CDR Stanley F. Abele	13 Jun 1961
CDR H. G. Silliman	17 Jul 1962
CDR Harold J. Zenner	19 Jul 1963
CDR Dwight E. DeCamp	05 Jun 1964
CDR G. E. Jacobssen, Jr.	15 Jun 1965
CDR F. E. O'Connor, Jr.	10 Jun 1966
CDR W. E. Ohlrich, Jr.	26 Jun 1967
CDR M. A. Benero, Jr.	1968
CDR J. K. Hassett	02 Jul 1969

### Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F-5	21 Apr 1952
AD-1	19 May 1952
AD-4NA	03 Jul 1952
AD-4	Sep 1952
AD-4L	Oct 1952
AD-6/A-1H*	Oct 1953
AD-7/A-1J*	Sep 1956
A-4C	15 Jul 1965
A-4B	05 Dec 1965
A-4C	Sep 1968

\* The AD-6 and AD-7 designations were changed to A-1H and A-1J in 1962.



A squadron AD-6 Skyraider positioned on the forward part of the flight deck along with other air wing Skyraiders. The photo was taken during Hornet's (CVA 12) transit through the Suez Canal in June 1954 during her world cruise.

### 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>
15 Dec 1952	14 Aug 1953	CVG-9	CVA 47	AD-4/L/NA	Korea
11 May 1954	12 Dec 1954	CVG-9	CVA 12	AD-6	World Cruise
11 Feb 1956	13 Jun 1956	CVG-9	CVA 34	AD-6	WestPac
16 Sep 1957	25 Apr 1958	CVG-9	CVA 14	AD-7	WestPac
06 Feb 1960	30 Aug 1960	CVG-9	CVA 61	AD-7	WestPac
11 Aug 1961	08 Mar 1962	CVG-9	CVA 61	AD-7	WestPac
09 Nov 1962	14 Jun 1963	CVG-9	CVA 61	AD-6/7	WestPac
05 Aug 1964	06 May 1965	CVW-9	CVA 61	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
04 Apr 1966	21 Nov 1966	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Nov 1967	04 Aug 1968	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4B	Med
05 Apr 1969	21 Dec 1969	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-4C	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-9/CVW-9†	N/NG*	26 Mar 1952
COMFAIRALAMEDA		02 Oct 1965
CVW-10	AK	01 Feb 1966
CVW-8	AJ	Oct 1967
COMFAIRALAMEDA		26 Aug 1968
CVW-1	AB	Feb 1969
COMFAIRALAMEDA		02 Mar 1970

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

† CVG-9 was redesignated CVW-9 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	25 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
NUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
AFEM	19 Sep 1964	20 Sep 1964
	01 Oct 1964	09 Oct 1964
	28 Nov 1964	30 Dec 1964
	17 Jan 1965	17 Mar 1965
	04 Apr 1965	13 Apr 1965
VNSM	15 May 1966	15 Jun 1966
	08 Jul 1966	10 Aug 1966
	01 Sep 1966	23 Sep 1966
	02 Oct 1966	18 Oct 1966



*All 14 of the squadron's A-4B Skyhawks are parked in numerical order on the flight line in 1967.*



## THIRD VA-95

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron NINETY FIVE (VA-95) on 1 April 1972. The third squadron to be assigned the VA-95 designation.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 25 July 1972. Colors for the green lizard insignia are as follows: a white scroll with black letters and a black outline of the insignia and scroll; background of the lower half is dark blue with black and yellow markings; background for the upper half is light blue with white rays outlined in black; the sun is orange with a yellow background; the lizard is green with black and yellow markings, the eye and teeth are white; and the trident is black.



The squadron's "Green Lizard" insignia.

Nickname: Green Lizards, 1972-present.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Apr 1973:** The squadron provided support for Operation End Sweep, the clearing of mine fields along the coast of North Vietnam.

**Apr 1975:** Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon. The squadron provided armed escort flights over the Saigon area for protection of the helos conducting the evacuation.

**15 May 1975:** The squadron participated in the recovery of the American merchant ship SS *Mayaguez* following its capture by Cambodian gunboats. The squadron flew sorties in support of the Marine landings on Koh Tang Island and retaliatory strikes against Cambodian targets. Squadron aircraft struck the airfield and naval facility at Ream, Cambodia. The squadron's KA-6D aircraft were used to provide tanker support for the combat sorties.

**18-19 Apr 1988:** The squadron participated in Operation Praying Mantis, retaliatory strikes against Iran after *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine in international waters. Squadron aircraft attacked Iranian Boghammar speedboats, using Rockeye cluster bombs. They sunk one and damaged another. Later in the day, the Iranian frigate *Saband* fired missiles at two

of the squadron's aircraft while they were flying a surface combat air patrol for *Joseph Strauss* (DDG 16). The aircraft evaded the missiles and returned fire with two Harpoons and four laser-guided Skipper bombs. This attack was followed by a Harpoon firing from *Joseph Strauss*. The attack against the *Saband* left her blazing. Eventually the fires reached her magazines, and the final explosions lead to her sinking. Following this action the sister ship of the *Saband*, the *Sabalan*, left port and engaged several of the squadron's aircraft, firing a missile at them. One of the squadron's Intruders responded with a laser-guided bomb that hit *Sabalan*, and she went dead in the water. The *Sabalan* was taken in tow by an Iranian tug, her fantail partially submerged. VA-95's aircraft were ordered not to continue the attack. The squadron continued to fly combat sorties during 19 April but no other action resulted.

**Oct-Nov 1990:** During the *Abraham Lincoln's* (CVN 72) cruise from the East to West Coast via Cape Horn, the squadron participated in joint exercises with the Argentinean, Chilean, and Ecuadorian Armed Forces.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Whidbey Island	01 Apr 1972

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR G. E. Wales	01 Apr 1972
CDR W. D. Zirbel	1973
CDR Van F. Westfall	05 Apr 1974
CDR Jerry W. Rogers	1974
CDR Robert M. McEwen	29 Oct 1976
CDR Ken G. Craig	27 Jan 1978
CDR Richard J. Toft	1979
CDR Patrick C. Hauert	21 Aug 1980
CDR Richard C. Wolter	10 Dec 1981
CDR Raymond T. Wojcik	02 Feb 1983
CDR John S. McMahan, Jr.	01 Aug 1984
CDR Jeremy C. Rosenberg	01 Feb 1986
CDR William H. Miller	19 Jun 1987
CDR John F. Schork	01 Dec 1988
CDR John R. Worthington	25 May 1990

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-6A	1972*
A-6B	1972†
KA-6D	1972†
A-6E	04 Feb 1976

\* The squadron received their first A-6A Intruders sometime between April and June 1972.

† The squadron received their first A-6B and KA-6Ds sometime between October and December 1972.

**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>
09 Mar 1973	08 Nov 1973	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac
05 Dec 1974	02 Jul 1975	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac
15 Feb 1977	05 Oct 1977	CVW-15	CV 43	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
13 Mar 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-11	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
14 Apr 1981	12 Nov 1981	CVW-11	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
01 Sep 1982	28 Apr 1983	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac/WestPac/IO
30 May 1984	20 Dec 1984	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
15 Jan 1986	12 Aug 1986	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	World Cruise
25 Oct 1987	24 Nov 1987	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
05 Jan 1988	03 Jul 1988	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
17 Sep 1989	16 Mar 1990	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	World Cruise
25 Sep 1990	20 Nov 1990	CVW-11	CVN 72	A-6E & KA-6D	East Coast to West Coast cruise via Cape Horn

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-15	NL	1972
CVW-11	NH	01 Jul 1978

**Unit Awards Received**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	29 Apr 1975 15 May 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 Feb 1988 25 Mar 1988	09 Mar 1988 19 Apr 1988

**Unit Awards Received—Continued**

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	23 Oct 1982	
JMUA	18 Apr 1988	19 Apr 1988
NAVE	01 Jul 1980	31 Dec 1981
	01 Jan 1988	31 Dec 1988
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
MUC	22 Apr 1975 15 May 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 Feb 1988	21 May 1988
NEM	09 May 1981	18 Oct 1981
	30 Apr 1986	27 Jun 1986



*A squadron A-6E Intruder in flight, 1987.*

## VA-96

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron NINETY SIX (VA-96) on 30 June 1956.

Disestablished on 10 April 1958. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-96 designation.



VA-96's approved insignia.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 20 February 1957. Colors for the eagle crest and sword insignia were: light blue background outlined in orange, with an orange scroll and black lettering; the shield was orange with a black stylized eagle; the eagle's wing feathers, tongue and feet were white; the sword and maces were yellow.

Nickname: unknown.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**4 Jun 1957:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander M. K. Dennis, was lost in a night midair collision while operating from *Kearsarge* (CVA 33) off the coast of California.

**Sep 1957:** *Kearsarge* operated in the vicinity of Taiwan following the build up of Chinese communist forces opposite the offshore islands belonging to Taiwan.

### Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
09 Aug 1957	02 Apr 1958	ATG-3	CVA 33	AD-6/7	WestPac

### Air Wing Assignments

Air Wing	Tail Code	Assignment Date
ATG-3	Y/NC*	30 Jun 1956

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



A squadron AD Skyraider launches from *Kearsarge* (CVA 33) during its 1957-1958 western Pacific cruise.

### Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Miramar	30 Jun 1956
NAS Moffett Field	Aug 1956

### Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Milton K. Dennis	30 Jun 1956
CDR Stanley E. Sloan	04 Jun 1957

### Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
AD-6	Jul 1956
AD-7	Mar 1957

## VA-104

### Lineage

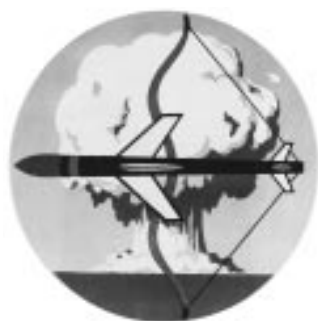
Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR (VF-104) on 1 May 1952.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR (VA-104) in December 1953.

Disestablished on 31 March 1959. The first squadron to be assigned the designation VA-104.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record of official approval for the squadron insignia. The insignia on file for the squadron was a missile being shot by a long bow with an atomic explosion in the background. Colors for this insignia were: a light blue background outlined in yellow; the water was medium blue and the atomic explosion was white with shades of light and medium blue; the long bow was red with a black bow string; the missile had a black body, yellow fins outlined in black, and a red tipped nose.



*There is no record of an official approval for this insignia.*

Nickname: Hell's Archers.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**Nov 1956:** During the Suez War the squadron operated from *Coral Sea* (CVA 43) off the coast of Egypt. It provided air support for the evacuation of Americans and foreign nationals from that country.

**Jul 1958:** The squadron operated from *Forrestal* (CVA 59) in the eastern Atlantic, ready to enter the Mediterranean if needed for the U.S. Marines' landing in Beirut, Lebanon.

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Cecil Field*	01 May 1952
NAS Jacksonville	Apr 1953
NAS Cecil Field	Dec 1953
NAS Jacksonville	Feb 1957

\* NAAS Cecil Field was redesignated NAS Cecil Field on 30 June 1952.

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT J. R. Mills (acting)	01 May 1952
LCDR R. E. Sequin	13 May 1952
LCDR Harold H. Brock	Nov 1952
CDR D. H. Johnson	Feb 1954
CDR George E. Ford	10 Mar 1955
CDR Jack N. Durio	Apr 1957

### Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FG-1D	May 1952
F4U-5	Dec 1952
AD-6	Jan 1954



*A squadron F4U-5 aboard Randolph (CVA 15), circa 1953 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).*

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
07 Jul 1954	20 Dec 1954	CVG-10	CVA 43	AD-6	Med
13 Aug 1956	11 Feb 1957	CVG-10	CVA 43	AD-6	Med
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-10	CVA 59	AD-6	Med

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-10	P/AK*	01 May 1952

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



*A squadron AD Skyraider, piloted by Commander G. E. Ford, prepares to launch from Leyte (CVA 33) during carrier qualifications in 1955.*