

VA-175

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VT-82) on 1 April 1944.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTEEN A (VA-18A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE (VA-175) on 11 August 1948.

Disestablished on 15 March 1958. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-175 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The first squadron insignia was the devil design.

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 4 December 1945. Colors for the devil insignia were: a hyacinth blue background; a white hypodermic needle with a black tip; the devil was red with yellow eyes and black pupils; yellow horns and teeth; and black wings with white ribs.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 18 October 1951. Colors for the winged figure were: a black background with a yellow border; red winged figure with black markings, white skull with black markings and the wings were black with red markings; white cloud with black markings; yellow bomb with black markings and a green nose; green rocket with black markings, a red nose and yellow and red flames coming from the tail.

Nickname: Devil's Diplomats, time frame unknown.



During Korea the winged skull man was approved for use by the squadron.

Chronology of Significant Events

15 Dec 1944–7 Jan 1945: The squadron, embarked in *Bennington* (CV 20), was in transit from Norfolk to Hawaii, with a two day stop over at San Diego.

7 Jan 1945: The squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander W. F. Eadie, was killed in an automobile accident.

16 Feb 1945: The squadron participated in its first combat operations, flying sorties against the air strip at Hachijo Jima and against airfields in the Tokyo area. The squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander E. D. DeGarmo, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the missions against the Japanese airfields.

20–22 Feb 1945: The squadron provided close air support for operations on Iwo Jima.

19 Mar 1945: Squadron aircraft participated in strikes against the Japanese Fleet, which included the battleship *Yamato*, located near Kure and Hiroshima in the Inland Sea.

7 Apr 1945: Squadron aircraft were the first to attack a powerful Japanese Task Force that had sortied from the Inland Sea and were operating west of Kyushu. This force included the battleship *Yamato* and her escorts. The squadron achieved hits on two destroyers and one light cruiser, sinking one of the destroyers. Attacks from other task force aircraft resulted in the sinking of the *Yamato*, a cruiser and three other destroyers. Seven squadron pilots were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions during this engagement. They were: Lieutenant Commander Edward E. DeGarmo; Lieutenants Jesse W. Naul, Jr. and Norman A. Wiese; and Lieutenant (jg)s John F. Gilbreath, Jr., Wilfred O. McDowell, Donald B. Barber and Charles R. Walton.

Mar–May 1945: The squadron was involved in preinvasion strikes on Okinawa and provided support following the invasion of the island.

17 Jun 1945: VT-82 completed its tour of combat duty and embarked in *White Plains* (CVE 66) for its transit back to the States, arriving at NAS Alameda on 9 July.

Nov–Dec 1956: *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), with VA-175 embarked, was ordered to deploy and operate off the coast of Spain as a result of the Suez Canal crisis.



A squadron flak-damaged TBM-3 Avenger returning from a combat mission in February 1945.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Quonset Point	01 Apr 1944
NAAF New Bedford	13 Apr 1944*
NAAS Oceana	16 Jun 1944*
NAS Quonset Point	13 Nov 1944*
NAS Kahului	08 Jan 1945*
NAS Alameda	Jul 1945
NAF Newport	Mar 1946
NAS Quonset Point	Apr 1946
NAAS Cecil Field	11 Jan 1949
NAS Jacksonville	09 Jan 1950

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

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR William F. Eadie	01 Apr 1944
LCDR Edward E. DeGarmo	09 Jan 1945
LT Norman A. Wiese (acting)	03 Jun 1945
LCDR William I. McGowan	Aug 1945
LCDR Guiseppi Macri	11 Feb 1948
LCDR John E. Kennedy	15 Jul 1949

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Malcolm E. Wolfe	19 Mar 1951
LCDR Ross A. Knight	29 May 1952
LCDR P. P. Hambsch (acting)	01 Aug 1953
CDR M. J. Hanley	Aug 1953
LCDR J. M. Nifong	10 Oct 1953
CDR W. L. Nyburg	Oct 1954
CDR E. F. Gallagher	28 Oct 1955
CDR E. H. Potter, Jr.	Dec 1955

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TMF-1/TBM-1	Apr 1944
TBM-1C	Apr 1944
TBM-3	06 Aug 1944
TBM-3E	Sep 1945
TBM-3Q	May 1946
TBM-3J	Mar 1947
AD-3	16 Feb 1949
AD-4	04 Apr 1950
AD-4L	Feb 1951
AD-4B	Feb 1953
AD-6	Aug 1954

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
29 Jan 1945	17 Jun 1945	CVG-82	CV 20	TBM-3	Pacific
22 Oct 1946	21 Dec 1946	CVAG-17	CV 15	TBM-3E/Q	Med
20 May 1947	11 Aug 1947	CVAG-17	CV 15	TBM-3E/Q/J	NorLant/Carib
07 Jun 1948	06 Aug 1948	CVG-17	CVB 43	TBM-3E/Q/J	Med/Carib
09 Sep 1950	01 Feb 1951	CVG-17	CVB 43	AD-4	Med
03 Sep 1951	04 Feb 1952	CVG-17	CVB 42	AD-4/4L	Med
26 Aug 1952	19 Dec 1952	CVG-17	CVB 42	AD-4/4L	NorLant/Med
16 Sep 1953	01 May 1954	CVG-17	CVA 18	AD-4/B/L	World Cruise
05 Apr 1955	29 Sep 1955	CVG-17	CVA 43	AD-6	Med
12 Jul 1957	05 Mar 1958	CVG-17	CVA 42	AD-6	Med



A flight of squadron TBM-3E Avengers in July 1948 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

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

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

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

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

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1948	30 Jun 1949
Campaign Medal (Asiatic Pacific)	15 Feb 1945	04 Mar 1945
	17 Mar 1945	11 Jun 1945



A squadron AD-3 or 4 Skyraider, circa 1948 or 1949. Notice the Battle E on the fuselage (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

VA-176

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX (VA-176) on 1 June 1955.

Disestablished 30 October 1992. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-176 designation.



The torch design was the squadron's first insignia.

the inner one was light blue; white mailed fist with black markings; yellow torch with black markings and a bright red flame; white atomic clouds with blue borders and markings. The scroll had a white background outlined in dark blue with dark blue lettering.



The squadron's second insignia adopted the mailed fist.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 16 July 1956. Colors for torch insignia were: a light blue background outlined in dark blue; the shield was outlined in white with white stars on a dark blue field; the outer thunderbolt was international orange and

The squadron's second insignia was approved by CNO on 3 January 1974. Colors for this insignia were: a dark blue background and scroll outlined in black and white; white stars and lettering; blue mailed fist is outlined in white; and an orange lightning bolt.

Nickname: Thunderbolts, 1955–1992.

Chronology of Significant Events

Oct–Dec 1956: *Randolph* (CVA 15), with VA-176 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Egypt in response to the Suez War.

14 Nov–8 Dec 1960: Following a request from Guatemala and Nicaragua, a Navy patrol was established off the coast of these Central American countries to prevent infiltration by communists from Cuba. The squadron operated from *Shangri-La* (CVA 38) until 25 November when it conducted a complete transfer of aircraft and personnel from *Shangri-La* to *Wasp* (CVA 18) while underway. It remained on station aboard *Wasp* until 8 December.

2–19 Jun 1961: Following the assassination of the Dominican Republic's dictator, General Rafael Trujillo, the squadron operated from *Shangri-La* off the coast of that country until the domestic situation began to stabilize.

May 1963: The squadron operated from *Shangri-La* in the Caribbean during the period of unrest in Haiti and the civil strife with the Dominican Republic.

Aug 1965: Squadron aircraft were used in Operation Pinwheel on several occasions while *Shangri-La* was moored at Naples, Italy. The aircraft were secured to the deck of the carrier and the thrust from their propellers were used to help prevent the ship, which was undergoing repairs, from breaking out of her mooring during bad weather and high winds.

4 Apr 1966: VA-176 deployed to Vietnam as a component of CVW-10 embarked in *Intrepid* (CVS 11). This was the first all attack air wing formed and the first to deploy. Two squadron were flying the A-1 Skyraider and two the A-4 Skyhawk.

15 May 1966: Flying from Dixie Station, the squadron conducted its first combat sorties, flying strikes against insurgent forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

9 Oct 1966: While flying a rescue combat air patrol mission, four squadron aircraft engaged four North Vietnamese MiGs. Lieutenant (jg) William T. Patton shot down one of the MiG-17s during the engagement. This was the first and only shoot down of an enemy jet aircraft by a propeller driven plane during the Vietnam Conflict. For this action, Lieutenant (jg) Patton was awarded the Silver Star.

8 Jun 1967: When Israeli forces attacked *Liberty* (AGTR 5), four squadron aircraft were launched from *Saratoga* (CVA 60) and ordered to proceed to the ship and defend it. Shortly after their launch the aircraft were recalled when Israel apologized for the attack.

Aug 1969: Squadron A-6A Intruders were used in operation Storm Fury 1969. The aircraft were used to seed Hurricane Debbie by flying sorties that penetrated the wall of the hurricane, flew through the eye and exited the wall again, at which time seeding chemicals were dispensed.

25 Sep 1970: VA-176 became the first fleet squadron to operate the KA-6D tanker aircraft.

Oct–Nov 1973: The squadron, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), operated in the vicinity of Crete in response to the Arab-Israeli war.

Jun 1976: The American Ambassador to Lebanon was assassinated on 13 June and *America* (CV 66), with VA-176 embarked, operated in the vicinity of Lebanon. Squadron aircraft flew support missions during the evacuation of noncombatants from that country.

May 1981: *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-176 embarked, following its transit of the Suez Canal, remained on station in the eastern Mediterranean due to the crisis between Israel and Syria following Israeli

raids against Syrian surface-to-air missile sites in Lebanon.

25 Oct–1 Nov 1983: In response to continued political strife and the need to protect and evacuate Americans from the island country of Granada, VA-176 aircraft flew combat close air support and reconnaissance sorties in support of operation Urgent Fury, the landing of U.S. Marines and Army rangers on the island.

4 Dec 1983: In response to hostile fire against U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Syrian positions in Lebanon, VA-176 aircraft participated in a coordinated

strike against Syrian radar, communications and artillery positions overlooking the Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces. All five of the squadron aircraft completed their mission and returned safely to the carrier.

Jun–Jul 1988: The squadron flew support for Earnest Will Missions, escort operations for reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers during the Iraq-Iranian War in the Persian Gulf.

Jun–Sep 1991: The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Provide Comfort, supporting the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's mission to aid the Kurdish refugees in Iraq following the Gulf War.



A squadron A-1H Skyraider launching from the deck of Intrepid (CVS 11) during their combat deployment to Vietnam in 1966. Note the sortie mission marks and the aircraft symbol for a MiG shoot down on the fuselage just below the canopy.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Jun 1955
NAS Jacksonville	Feb 1955
NAS Oceana	May 1968

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James M. O'Brien	01 Jun 1955
CDR L. W. S. Cummins	10 Apr 1957
CDR D. C. Standley	17 Mar 1958
CDR U. W. Patrick	27 Feb 1959
CDR Robert J. Stegg	30 Mar 1960

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR B. B. Forbes, Jr.	11 Sep 1961
CDR H. P. Maulden	1962
CDR R. Brooke	27 Sep 1963
CDR George D. Edwards, Jr.	09 Oct 1964
CDR Robert J. Martin	08 Oct 1965
CDR A. R. Ashworth	27 Sep 1966
CDR J. T. French	01 Aug 1967
CDR Charles L. Cook	25 Apr 1968
CDR John B. Davis	30 Aug 1969
CDR Howard W. Alexander	11 Aug 1970
CDR Samson Mikitarian	24 Aug 1971
CDR Richard M. Dunleavy	31 Jul 1972

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John H. McKenzie	18 Jun 1973
CDR Raymond P. Ilg	27 Jun 1974
CDR Robert H. Ferguson	10 Oct 1975
CDR Marshall A. Howard	06 Feb 1977
CDR Manuel Oretaga	23 Mar 1978
CDR Frank L. Stauts	15 Jun 1979
CDR Douglas K. Griffith	02 Sep 1980
CDR Timothy R. Beard	19 Nov 1981
CDR Michael P. Currie	11 Feb 1983
CDR James E. Hurston	26 Jul 1984
CDR Gary W. Stubbs	23 Jan 1986
CDR Ross A. Word	04 Jun 1987
CDR Frank W. Montesano	08 Dec 1988
CDR William G. Ballard	01 Jun 1990
CDR Lee A. Hawks	31 Jul 1991

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-6/A-1H*	Jun 1955
A-6A	05 Feb 1969
KA-6D	25 Sep 1970
A-6C	1971
A-6E	Jul 1975

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



Lieutenant (jg) William T. Patton standing alongside the A-1H Skyraider that he was flying when he shot down a North Vietnamese MiG-17 on 9 October 1966.

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	AD-6	Med
07 Aug 1959	26 Feb 1960	CVG-10	CVA 9	AD-6	Med
06 Sep 1960	20 Oct 1960	CVG-10	CVA 38	AD-6	NorLant
02 Feb 1961	15 May 1961	CVG-10	CVA 38	AD-6	Med
07 Feb 1962	28 Aug 1962	CVG-10	CVA 38	AD-6	Med
01 Oct 1963	23 May 1964	CVW-10	CVA 38	A-1H	Med
15 Feb 1965	20 Sep 1965	CVW-10	CVA 38	A-1H	Med
04 Apr 1966	21 Nov 1966	CVW-10	CVS 11	A-1H	Med/IO/West Pac/Vietnam
02 May 1967	06 Dec 1967	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-1H	Med
02 Jan 1970	27 Jul 1970	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-6A	Med
29 Jan 1971	23 Jul 1971	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-6A & KA-6D	Med
15 Feb 1972	08 Dec 1972	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-6A/C & KA-6D	Med
14 Sep 1973	17 Mar 1974	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-6A/C & KA-6D	Med
03 Jan 1975	16 Jul 1975	CVW-6	CV 42	A-6A/C & KA-6D	Med
15 Apr 1976	25 Oct 1976	CVW-6	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
10 Jun 1977	19 Jul 1977	CVW-6	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	SoLant
29 Sep 1977	25 Apr 1978	CVW-6	CV 66	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
28 Jun 1979	14 Dec 1979	CVW-6	CV 62	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
19 Nov 1980	10 Jun 1981	CVW-6	CV 62	A-6E & KA-6D	SoLant/IO/Med
07 Jun 1982	22 Dec 1982	CVW-6	CV 62	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
18 Oct 1983	11 Apr 1984	CVW-6	CV 62	A-6E & KA-6D	Carib/Med/ NorLant

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>
16 Oct 1984	19 Feb 1985	CVW-6	CV 62	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO
02 Jun 1986	10 Nov 1986	CVW-6	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
28 Aug 1987	08 Oct 1987	CVW-6	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	NorLant
25 Apr 1988	07 Oct 1988	CVW-6	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med/IO/NorLant
03 Nov 1989	12 Apr 1990	CVW-6	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med
30 May 1991	21 Dec 1991	CVW-6	CV 59	A-6E & KA-6D	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
ATG-202	X*/AQ†	01 Jun 1955
CVG-17	AL	15 Mar 1958
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		13 Sep 1958
CVG-10/CVW-10‡	AK	16 Apr 1959
CVW-3	AC	01 Mar 1967
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		06 Dec 1967§
COMFAIRNORFOLK		May 1968
CVW-6	AE	01 Apr 1969

* The tail code X was not assigned to ATG-202 until 1956.

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

‡ CVG-10 was redesignated CVW-10 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

§ VA-176 was transferred from CVW-3 when it returned from its Med deployment on 6 December 1967. It is believed the squadron came under the control of Commander Fleet Air Jacksonville until its transfer to Commander Fleet Air Norfolk, when it began transition training for the A-6 Intruder.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>		
NAVE	01 Jul 1962	30 Jun 1963	
	01 Jul 1964	30 Jun 1965	
	01 Jul 1974	30 Jun 1975	
	01 Jan 1988	31 Dec 1988	
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989	
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990	
	NEM	07 Dec 1980	11 May 1981
		20 Aug 1982	05 Sep 1982
		01 Oct 1982	06 Dec 1982
		16 Nov 1983	30 Nov 1983
24 Oct 1983		02 Nov 1983	
16 Nov 1983		22 Dec 1983	
28 Dec 1983		03 Jan 1984	
15 Jan 1984		03 Feb 1984	
09 Feb 1984		02 Mar 1984	
20 Jun 1976		27 Jul 1976	
HSM	09 Mar 1972	01 Dec 1972	
	01 May 1987	08 Oct 1988	
	MUC	20 Oct 1983	03 Mar 1984
		Jun 1991	Sep 1991
		05 May 1966	06 May 1966
		14 May 1966	17 Jun 1966
		08 Jul 1966	10 Aug 1966
		01 Sep 1966	23 Sep 1966
		02 Oct 1966	18 Oct 1966
		VNSM	01 May 1966
01 May 1966			01 Oct 1966
RVNGC			



A squadron A-6E Intruder in flight, 1976.

VA-185

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE (VA-185) on 1 December 1986

Disestablished on 30 August 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-185 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 8 September 1986. Colors for the hawk insignia were: a black background; a blue sea and white sky with black markings; white hawk with black markings, red eyes and claws; gold star; blue upper scroll outlined in black with gold lettering; gold lower scroll outlined in black with blue lettering.



The squadron's Nighthawks insignia.

Nickname: Nighthawks, 1986–1991.

Chronology of Significant Events

Sep 1987: The squadron was forward deployed to NAS Atsugi, Japan, and assigned to *Midway* (CV 41), home ported at Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan.

Nov 1987-Jan 1988: The squadron flew support for Earnest Will Missions, escort operations for reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers during the Iraq-Iranian War in the Persian Gulf.

Sep 1988: VA-185, embarked in *Midway*, operated in the Sea of Japan during the summer Olympics being held in Seoul, Korea, to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VA-185 embarked, maintained station off the coast of Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990-Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and were part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Jan-Feb 1991: The squadron participated in Operation Desert Storm. VA-185 led the first air strikes from naval elements operating in the Persian Gulf. During the Gulf War, squadron aircraft struck Iraqi naval targets and bases, airfields and bridges, and provided close air support for Allied ground forces. The squadron flew a total of 457 combat missions, comprising 940 combat flight hours and delivered 720,000 pounds of ordnance on enemy targets.

6 Aug 1991: The squadron held a disestablishment ceremony at NAS Atsugi, Japan. It was officially disestablished on 30 August 1991.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Whidbey Island	01 Dec 1986
NAF Atsugi, Japan*	13 Sep 1987

* VA-185 was forward deployed and based aboard *Midway* (CV 41).

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR William J. Magnan	01 Dec 1986
CDR Michael J. McCamish	18 Nov 1988
CDR Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr.	01 Jun 1990

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-6E	18 Feb 1987
KA-6D	19 Sep 1987

Major Overseas Deployments

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Air Wing	Carrier	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operation
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
25 Jan 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

Note: Deployments will cover only those operations which take the carrier outside the home waters of Japan. It does not include squadron shore-based operations in Korea or the Philippines.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMMATVAQ- WINGPAC		01 Dec 1986
CVW-5	NF	13 Sep 1987

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	01 Dec 1986	15 Oct 1987
	15 Oct 1989	29 Oct 1989
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991
NAVE	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
NUC	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991



A flight of squadron A-6E Intruders, July 1987 (Courtesy Robert Lawson).

VA-194

Lineage

Established as Bombing Squadron NINETEEN (VB-19) on 15 August 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETEEN A (VA-19A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR (VA-194) on 24 August 1948.

Disestablished on 1 December 1949. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-194 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 26 May 1944. Colors for the winged lion rampant and bomb were: yellow shield outlined in black; black bomb; and a green winged lion rampant with black markings on the wings and a red eye and tongue.



The rampant winged lion was the squadron's first insignia.

black markings, its wings were chartreuse with a white star on a circular blue background; yellow rockets and chartreuse machine guns with black markings; white bulldogs with orange collars; the bulldog in front had a black face with yellow eyes, black pupils, and an orange snout, tongue and lips and white teeth.

A new squadron insignia was approved by

CNO on 9 July 1945. Colors for this insignia were: a medium blue background; a yellow flying bomb with



The dogs riding a winged bomb was the second insignia used by the squadron.



This insignia was tentatively approved for the squadron. However, the squadron was disestablished three months afterwards and it most likely was not implemented for use by the squadron.

CNO on 11 March 1948 pending the removal of the squadron designation. Colors for the winged lightning bolt were: a blue background with a white inner border ringed by a yellow rope; maroon lightning bolt; and the wings were yellow with black markings.

Nickname: unknown.

Chronology of Significant Events

18–21 Jul 1944: The squadron's first combat sorties involved preinvasion strikes on Guam. It also provided support for the initial landings on the island.

Jul–Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft flew sorties against targets on Palau, Bonin Islands, the Philippines, including Mindanao and Luzon, Okinawa, Formosa and the Pescadores.

24 Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in several major engagements during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. VB-19 aircraft flew search missions from north of Lingayen Gulf to the northern tip of Mindoro to locate the Japanese Task Force. It struck the Japanese Central Force in the Sibuyan Sea, which included the super battleship *Musashi*. However, only limited damage was caused by the squadron's attack since its aircraft were armed only with general purpose bombs instead of armor piercing bombs. For his actions during this engagement Lieutenant Leonard R. Swanson was awarded the Navy Cross and Lieutenant (jg)s Stuart E. Crapser and Herbert N. Walters were awarded Silver Stars.

24 Oct 1944: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander R. S. McGowan, failed to return from a combat mission and was declared missing in action.

25 Oct 1944: The squadron participated in coordinated attacks against the Japanese Carrier Task Force in the Battle Off Cape Engano. VB-19 aircraft claimed they either sunk or assisted in the sinking of three Japanese carriers. Four Japanese carriers were sunk during the battle. Thirty-two squadron pilots were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions in this battle. They were: Lieutenants Price R. Stradley, Robert D. Niemeyer, John B. Gunter, William E. McBride, Emil B. Stella, Jack Meeker, John L. Butts, Jr., Donald F. Helm, Norman E. Thurmon, Donald F. Banker, Robert B. Parker, Joe W. Williams, Jr., William A. Wright and Raymond G. Wicklander; Lieutenant (jg)s George H. Bowen, Melvin L. Chapman, Robert E. Lee Duncan, Jr., Donald D. Engen, Arnost Jancar, Jerry B. Wilton, Webster P. Wodell, Daniel Sadler, Jr., Louis A. Heilmann, George W. Peck, Jack Scott, Stuart E. Crapser, John H. Crocker, William T. Good and Robert G. Smith; and Ensigns Leon F. Kinard, Robert W. Doyle and William H. Wagner, Jr. Two squadron personnel were awarded the Silver Star for their actions; they were: Lieutenants Donald F. Banker and Leonard R. Swanson.

5–6 Nov 1944: The squadron's final sorties involved attacks on Manila Bay and the successful sinking of a

Japanese Heavy Cruiser on 5 November. For their actions in the sinking of the cruiser, Lieutenants Donald F. Banker and Price R. Stradley were awarded Gold Stars in lieu of their second Navy Cross.

26 Nov-14 Dec 1944: The squadron and air group were relieved by CVG-20 and were enroute from Ulithi Atoll, via Hawaii, to the States.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Los Alamitos	15 Aug 1943
NAS Kahului	29 Feb 1944*
NAS Alameda	20 Jan 1945*
NAAS Santa Rosa	06 Feb 1945*
NAS Kahului	09 Aug 1945
NAS Barbers Point	04 Nov 1945
NAB Marpi Pt. and NAB Kobler, Saipan	01 Apr 1946†
NAS Alameda	19 Aug 1946

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

† Temporary shore assignment while the squadron was deployed to WestPac.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Richard S. McGowan	15 Aug 1943
LT Donald F. Banker (acting)	24 Oct 1944
LT Price R. Stradley (acting)	05 Nov 1944
LT Robert D. Niemeyer	20 Jan 1945
LCDR William H. Craven, Jr.	Aug 1945
LCDR M. D. Norton, Jr.	06 Jun 1947
LCDR W. Denton, Jr.	13 Sep 1947
CDR Edwin J. Kroeger	24 Aug 1948

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
SBD-5	Sep 1943
SB2C-1	01 Apr 1944
SB2C-1C	May 1944
SB2C-3	Jun 1944
SB2C-4	Feb 1945
SB2C-4E	Feb 1945
SB2C-5	Aug 1945
AD-1	06 Dec 1946
AD-2	Sep 1948
AD-3	10 Jan 1949



A squadron SB2C-5 Helldiver in flight, circa mid 1946 (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>
10 Jul 1944	23 Nov 1944	CVG-19	CV 16	SB2C-3	Pacific
20 Apr 1946	09 Aug 1946	CVG-19	CV 36*	SB2C-5	WestPac

* During the squadron deployment to WestPac aboard *Antietam* (CV 36) it was temporarily shore based at Saipan on several occasions.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-19/CVAG-19*	A/B†	15 Aug 1943

* CVG-19 was redesignated CVAG-19 on 15 November 1946.

† The tail code A was assigned to CVAG-19 on 12 December 1946. On 4 August 1948 CVG-19's tail code was changed to B.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	18 Jul 1944	05 Aug 1944
	06 Sep 1944	06 Nov 1944
Campaign Medal (Asiatic Pacific)	18 Jul 1944	27 Aug 1944
	31 Aug 1944	14 Oct 1944
	10 Oct 1944	23 Nov 1944



A squadron AD-1 Skyraider launches from Princeton (CV 37), 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VA-196

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VF-153) on 15 July 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR (VF-194) on 15 February 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX (VA-196) on 4 May 1955. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-196 designation.



The winged tiger, the squadron's first insignia, is not recorded as officially approved.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record of approval by CNO for the squadron's first insignia. The colors for the winged tiger probably were: a white background outlined in red; gold wings with black markings; blue waves with black markings; the clouds shaded gray with

black outlines; yellow claws and tiger head, with black markings; and red lightning bolts with black markings.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 5 October 1950. Colors for the devil and ace of spades insignia were: a white background with a black border; the devil was yellow with black markings; the machine gun, rocket and ammo belt were red with black markings; the ace of spades was black; and the lightning bolt was orange outlined in black.

Following the squadron's redesignation to VA-196, it continued to use the devil and ace of spades insignia until 14 September 1967 when CNO approved a new insignia. Colors for the ace of spades with the devil face is: an orange background with a black border; the



The devil and ace of spades insignia was the squadron's second insignia and was used for 17 years.



The squadron modified its devil insignia in 1967 and adopted the devil face superimposed on the ace of spades.

ace of spades is black; the devil's face is superimposed on the ace of spades and outlined in yellow, the teeth, eyes and horns are white with black pupils and black markings on the horns; the scroll has a white background outlined in black, with black lettering.

Nicknames: Thundercats, 1948–1950s.

The Main Battery, 1950s–present. Beginning in 1979 the squadron used Milestones interchangeably with its nickname Main Battery.

Chronology of Significant Events

11 Dec 1951: The squadron flew its first combat sorties, flying interdiction missions in Korea against enemy lines of communications, transportation, industrial and supply facilities.

22 Mar 1952: During a bombing run on a rail line north of Kowon, Korea, Ensign K. A. Schechter was wounded when an enemy shell struck the canopy of his AD Skyraider and exploded. He was blinded by the blood from the wound causing him to maneuver erratically. Lieutenant (jg) J. H. Thayer, heard Ensign Schechter's call for assistance and observing his erratic maneuvering, flew alongside and began giving radio instructions to the blinded pilot. Using Lieutenant Thayer's radio guidance, Ensign Schechter flew his plane to an emergency air strip and successfully landed the aircraft.

Feb 1955: In January 1955, the People's Republic of China began bombardment of the Tachen Islands held by Nationalist China. In February squadron aircraft provided air cover during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist military and civilian personnel from the islands.

Aug–Oct 1964: The squadron was involved in operations off the coast of Vietnam following the Tonkin Gulf Incident.

21 Aug 1967: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander L. T. Profilet and his NFO Lieutenant Commander W. M. Hardman, were shot down and taken prisoner during a mission over North Vietnam. They were released by North Vietnam and returned to the U.S. on 29 March 1973.

Dec 1971: Following the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan (Bangladesh), *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) was ordered to leave Yankee Station for operations in the Indian Ocean. The carrier, with VA-196 embarked, operated in the Bay of Bengal until the early part of January 1972 and cessation of hostilities.

Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies into South Vietnam.

Dec 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in Linebacker II operations, an intensified version of Linebacker I.

Feb–May 1973: Squadron aircraft flew air support for Operation End Sweep, the clearing of mines from North Vietnamese waters.

Apr 1975: The squadron, along with other CVW-14 units, provided air cover support during the evacuation of personnel from Saigon as it fell to the communists.

Feb 1977: During the crisis in Uganda and threats against Americans in that country, *Enterprise*, with VA-196 embarked, operated off the coast of Kenya ready to evacuate Americans from Uganda.

Dec 1979: *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VA-196 embarked, operated off the coast of South Korea following the assassination of South Korea's President Park Chung-Hee in late October.

Apr 1980: *Coral Sea*, with the squadron embarked, was part of the task force involved in supporting the Iranian hostage rescue attempt.

May 1980: Following civil unrest in South Korea, the squadron, embarked in *Coral Sea*, operated off the coast of that country.

Aug 1983: Due to the unsettled conditions in Central America, *Coral Sea*, with VA-196 embarked, operated

off the coast of Nicaragua and also participated in surveillance for illegal drug traffic.

Jul 1987: Due to the increased attacks on merchant and tanker shipping in the Persian Gulf during the Iran/Iraqi War, the United States began to escort reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers. During operation Earnest Will, VA-196 provided air support for the first convoy of reflagged tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Aug 1990: Due to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-196 embarked, was ordered to the North Arabian Sea.

Aug–2 Oct 1990: VA-196 flew sorties from *Independence* in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq.

2 Oct–2 Nov 1990: On 2 October, *Independence* entered the Persian Gulf and operated in those waters for two days before returning to the Northern Arabian Sea. VA-196 continued flying sorties for operation Desert Shield until *Independence* was relieved on 2 November and departed for its return trip to the States.



A squadron F8F-2 Bearcat on the elevator being brought up to the flight deck, 1950 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Alameda	15 Jul 1948
NAS Moffett Field	23 Feb 1959
NAS Lemoore	Feb 1963
NAS Oceana	01 May 1966
NAS Whidbey Island	15 Nov 1966

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Eugene W. Krebsbach (acting)	15 Jul 1948
CDR Thomas D. Harris	26 Jul 1948
LCDR Theodore C. Schaible	05 Dec 1949
LCDR Robert S. Schreiber	06 Dec 1950
LCDR Arthur N. Melhuse	19 Aug 1952
LCDR B. R. Trexler	Dec 1953
CDR R. B. Gibling	Jun 1955
LCDR Robert T. Lynn	Jan 1957
LCDR Dicky Wieland	18 Apr 1958
CDR R. R. Newman	01 Jul 1959
CDR G. P. Powers	01 Jun 1960
CDR J. L. Delaware	17 Mar 1961
CDR W. E. Edwards	09 Feb 1962
CDR W. P. Robinson	Dec 1962
CDR J. R. Driscoll	Jan 1964
CDR Joseph Gallagher	04 Jan 1965
CDR James A. Donovan	25 Jan 1966
CDR Leo T. Profilet	22 Dec 1966
CDR Edward C. Bauer	28 Aug 1967
CDR L. C. Dittmar	07 Feb 1969
CDR John R. Wunsch	12 Jun 1970
CDR Lloyd W. Richards	04 Jun 1971
CDR Howard I. Young	30 May 1972
CDR Jackson E. Cartwright	26 Jul 1973

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Gordon R. Nakagawa	12 Jul 1974
CDR Lyle F. Bull	23 Jun 1975
CDR John K. Peiguss	10 Sep 1976
CDR Gerald L. Smith	23 Nov 1977
CDR Thomas K. Woodka	18 Jan 1979
CDR David L. Russell	18 Jan 1980
CDR Robert E. Wilks	07 Aug 1981
CDR Kenneth L. Pyle	17 Dec 1982
CDR Harry A. Juplin	08 Jun 1984
CDR Thomas F. Cleverdon	06 Dec 1985
CDR Tom S. Fellin	16 May 1987
CDR Bruce T. Stuckert	12 Aug 1988
CDR David C. Nichols	09 Feb 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F8F-1	Jul 1948
F8F-2	11 May 1949
F4U-4	Aug 1950
AD-3	Dec 1950
AD-1	Jan 1951
AD-2	Sep 1951
AD-4NA	Aug 1952
AD-4Q	Aug 1952
AD-6/A-1H*	Dec 1953
AD-7/A-1J*	Mar 1962
A-6A	01 Oct 1966
A-6B	Jun 1968
KA-6D	Mar 1971
A-6E	02 Jul 1975

* The AD-6 and AD-7 designations were changed to A-1H and A-1J 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>
11 Jan 1950	13 Jun 1950	CVG-19	CV 21	F8F-2	WestPac
15 Oct 1951	03 Jul 1952	ATG-1	CV 45	AD-2/3	Korea
30 Mar 1953	28 Nov 1953	ATG-1	CVA 21	AD-4NA/Q	Korea/WestPac
01 Sep 1954	09 Apr 1955	ATG-1	CVA 18	AD-6	WestPac
28 May 1956	20 Dec 1956	ATG-1	CVA 16	AD-6	WestPac
04 Oct 1958	17 Feb 1959	ATG-1	CVA 14	AD-6	WestPac
21 Nov 1959	14 May 1960	CVG-19	CVA 31	AD-6	WestPac
26 Apr 1961	13 Dec 1961	CVG-19	CVA 31	AD-6	WestPac
12 Jul 1962	11 Feb 1963	CVG-19	CVA 31	A-1H/J	WestPac
28 Jan 1964	21 Nov 1964	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-1H/J	WestPac/IO/Vietnam
21 Apr 1965	13 Jan 1966	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Apr 1967	04 Dec 1967	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
29 May 1968	31 Jan 1969	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-6A/B	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-6A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Jun 1971	12 Feb 1972	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam/IO

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>
12 Sep 1972	12 Jun 1973	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-6A/B & KA-6D	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Sep 1974	20 May 1975	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-6A & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
30 Jul 1976	28 Mar 1977	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
04 Apr 1978	30 Oct 1978	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
13 Nov 1979	11 Jun 1980	CVW-14	CV 43	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1981	23 Mar 1982	CVW-14	CV 43	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
21 Mar 1983	12 Sep 1983	CVW-14	CV 43	A-6E & KA-6D	World Cruise
21 Feb 1985	24 Aug 1985	CVW-14	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
04 Sep 1986	20 Oct 1986	CVW-14	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
11 Apr 1987	13 Oct 1987	CVW-14	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
01 Dec 1988	01 Jun 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	WestPac/IO
16 Sep 1989	19 Oct 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	A-6E & KA-6D	NorPac
23 Jun 1990	20 Dec 1990	CVW-14	CV 62	A-6E	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf



A squadron AD-6 Skyraider on the deck of Lexington (CVA 16) during deployment to WestPac in 1956.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-15	A	15 Jul 1948
CVG-19	B	01 Dec 1949
ATG-1	U/NA*	01 Jul 1951
COMFAIRALAMEDA		23 Feb 1959
CVG-19/CVW-19†	NM	22 Jun 1959
CVW-14	NK	15 Oct 1966
CVW-2	NE	02 Aug 1969
CVW-14	NK	01 Jun 1970

* ATG-1 was not assigned a tail code designation until 1956 when it received the letter "U." Before then the squadron was using the tail code assigned to CVG-19. The tail code was changed from U to NA in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-19 was redesignated CVW-19 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KSM	04 Dec 1951	19 Jun 1952
	30 Apr 1953	10 Nov 1953
KPUC	07 Dec 1951	20 Jun 1952
	12 May 1953	27 Jul 1953
NAVE	01 Jan 1982	30 Jun 1983
	12 Nov 1958	15 Nov 1958
AFEM	20 Nov 1958	22 Nov 1958
	05 Dec 1958	08 Dec 1958
	29 Dec 1958	01 Jan 1959
	03 Apr 1960	04 Apr 1960
	26 Apr 1960	27 Apr 1960
	22 May 1961	27 May 1961
	05 Mar 1964	13 Mar 1964
	12 May 1964	14 May 1964
	05 Jun 1964	10 Jun 1964
	13 Jun 1964	17 Jun 1964

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	31 Aug 1964	06 Nov 1964
	26 May 1965	03 Jul 1965
	10 Jan 1970	13 Jan 1970
	12 Apr 1970	13 Apr 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
RVNGC	19 Oct 1965	20 Oct 1965
	23 Oct 1965	28 Oct 1965
	22 Nov 1965	
	24 Nov 1965	
	06 Dec 1965	
VNSM	18 Jul 1965	13 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	01 Oct 1965
	08 Oct 1965	29 Oct 1965
	13 Nov 1965	17 Dec 1965
	08 Jun 1967	11 Jun 1967
	18 Jul 1967	25 Jul 1967
	01 Aug 1967	03 Sep 1967
	25 Sep 1967	15 Oct 1967
	24 Oct 1967	12 Nov 1967
	27 Jun 1968	22 Jul 1968
	02 Aug 1968	28 Aug 1968
	11 Sep 1968	09 Oct 1968
	26 Oct 1968	29 Nov 1968
	09 Dec 1968	21 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969	07 Jan 1969
	16 Nov 1969	07 Dec 1969
	17 Dec 1969	06 Jan 1970

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	29 Jan 1970	18 Feb 1970
	27 Feb 1970	20 Mar 1970
	16 Apr 1970	13 May 1970
	14 Jul 1971	31 Jul 1971
	15 Aug 1971	04 Sep 1971
	12 Sep 1971	
	25 Sep 1971	26 Sep 1971
	19 Jan 1972	24 Jan 1972
	02 Oct 1972	23 Oct 1972
	01 Nov 1972	11 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	13 Jan 1973
	24 Jan 1973	23 Feb 1973
	01 Mar 1973	02 Mar 1973
	11 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973
MUC	14 Jun 1968	23 Jan 1969
	27 Oct 1969	12 May 1970
	02 Jul 1971	03 Feb 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	07 Mar 1978	01 May 1980
	01 Jan 1984	24 Aug 1985
NUC	18 May 1967	26 Nov 1967
	03 Oct 1972	22 Feb 1973
	01 Jan 1982	30 Aug 1983
	02 Aug 1990	01 Nov 1990
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NEM	01 Feb 1980	05 May 1980
	11 Oct 1981	20 Oct 1981
SASM	05 Aug 1990	04 Nov 1990



A squadron A-6E Intruder on an exercise mission dropping snake eye bombs in 1988; Constellation (CV 64) is in the background.

VA-205

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIVE (VA-205) on 1 July 1970.

Disestablished on 31 December 1994. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-205 designation.



The squadron's one and only insignia.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 15 October 1971. Colors for the insignia are white and green: a white background and scroll outlined in green; green lettering; and green bomb and falcon with white markings.

Nickname: Green Falcons, 1971–1994.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-205, a reserve squadron, was established as part of a reorganization intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

Aug 1971: The squadron conducted its two weeks of active duty training embarked on *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67) as part of CVWR-20. This was the first complete Reserve Carrier Air Wing deployment aboard a carrier.

May 1972: The squadron participated in exercise Exotic Dancer V, designed to test multi-service operations under a unified command organization.

4 Sep 1975: Squadron pilots began transition training with VA-125 in preparation for receiving the A-7 Corsair II.

6–16 Jul 1982: The squadron, along with other units of CVWR-20, participated in operations on *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), with the emphasis on coordinated air wing operations.

10–23 May 1986: During an annual active duty deployment to NAS Fallon, the squadron participated in close air support training, air wing strike evolutions, and an excellent simulated two day war exercise conducted by Strike University.

1 Oct 1993: The squadron assumed the additional mission (Fleet Support Readiness Group, FTRG) of providing electronic support to simulate missile attacks on surface ships for training purposes. This mission had previously been performed by VAQ-33 (Carrier Tactical Electronics Warfare Squadron-33).



A squadron A-4L Skyhawk at NAS Atlanta, Georgia, 1973.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Atlanta	01 Jul 1970

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR John B. Barnes	01 Jul 1970
CDR Virgil R. Tedder	12 Feb 1972
CDR Jack S. Smith	21 Jul 1973
LCDR David K. Maskell	19 Jul 1975
CDR Robert D. Sibold	16 Jan 1977
CDR James G. Bailey	20 Aug 1978
CDR Gadsden S. Gause	24 Feb 1980
CDR Gary C. Ayers	25 Oct 1981
CDR John D. Kish	24 Apr 1983
CDR Robert T. Golden	21 Oct 1984
CDR Michael C. Crabtree	27 Apr 1986
CDR Dana F. Miller	25 Oct 1987
CDR Daniel E. Caldwell	23 Oct 1988
CDR Randall C. Schultz	28 Apr 1990
CDR M. Kent Horne	19 Oct 1991
CDR Thomas R. McInvale	15 Aug 1992
CDR Kent D. White	06 Nov 1993



A squadron A-7B Corsair II in flight, circa late 1970s or early 1980s.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4L	01 Oct 1970
A-7B	26 Sep 1975
A-7E	20 Jun 1984
KA-6D	22 Aug 1990
A-6E	17 Nov 1990

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-20	AF	01 Jul 1970

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	01 Jul 1977	31 Dec 1978
NAVE	01 Oct 1981	31 Dec 1982



A squadron A-6E Intruder at NAS Fallon, Nevada, 1992 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VA-209

Lineage

Established as Reserve Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED NINE (VA-209) on 1 July 1970.

Disestablished on 15 August 1971. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-209 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record of an officially approved insignia for the squadron.

Nickname: unknown.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-209 was a reserve squadron established as part of a reorganization intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

15 Aug 1971: The squadron was disestablished due to its replacement by the addition of two fighter squadrons to Reserve Air Wing 20.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Glenview	01 Jul 1970

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR William J. Miller	01 Jul 1970

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4L	01 Jul 1970

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-20	AF	01 Jul 1970



Squadron A-4L Skyhawks in flight over Chicago, Illinois, circa 1971.