

Aircraft Designations and Popular Names

Background on the Evolution of Aircraft Designations

Aircraft model designation history is very complex. In order to fully understand the designations, it is important to know the factors that played a role in developing the different missions that aircraft have been called upon to perform. Technological changes affecting aircraft capabilities have resulted in corresponding changes in the operational capabilities and techniques employed by the aircraft. Prior to World War I, the Navy tried various schemes for designating aircraft.

In the early period of naval aviation a system was developed to designate an aircraft's mission. Different aircraft class designations evolved for the various types of missions performed by naval aircraft. This became known as the Aircraft Class Designation System. Numerous changes have been made to this system since the inception of naval aviation in 1911.

While reading this section various references will be made to the Aircraft Class Designation System, Designation of Aircraft, Model Designation of Naval Aircraft, Aircraft Designation System, and Model Designation of Military Aircraft. All of these references refer to the same system involved in designating aircraft classes. This system is then used to develop the specific designations assigned to each type of aircraft operated by the Navy. The F3F-4, TBF-1, AD-3, PB5A, A-4, A-6E, and F/A-18C are all examples of specific types of naval aircraft designations which were developed from the Aircraft Class Designation System.

Aircraft Class Designation System

Early Period of Naval Aviation up to 1920

The uncertainties during the early period of naval aviation were reflected by the problems encountered in settling on a functional system for designating naval aircraft. Prior to 1920 two different Aircraft Class Designation Systems were used. From 1911 up to 1914, naval aircraft were identified by a single letter indicating the general type and manufacturer, followed

by a number to indicate the individual plane of that type-manufacturer. Under this system:

- "A" was used for Curtiss hydroaeroplanes
- "B" for Wright hydroaeroplanes
- "C" for Curtiss flying boats
- "D" for Burgess flying boats
- "E" for Curtiss amphibian flying boats

This system had been established in 1911 by Captain Washington I. Chambers, Director of Naval Aviation. The following is a list of the types of aircraft and their designations in existence from 1911–1914:

Aircraft Designation System 1911–1914

- A-1 Curtiss hydroaeroplane (originally an amphibian, and the Navy's first airplane)
- A-2 Curtiss landplane (rebuilt as a hydroaeroplane)
- A-3 Curtiss hydroaeroplane
- A-4 Curtiss hydroaeroplane
- B-1 Wright landplane (converted to hydroaeroplane)
- B-2 Wright type hydroaeroplane
- B-3 Wright type hydroaeroplane
- C-1 Curtiss flying boat
- C-2 Curtiss flying boat
- C-3 Curtiss flying boat
- C-4 Curtiss flying boat
- C-5 Curtiss flying boat
- D-1 Burgess Co. and Curtiss flying boat
- D-2 Burgess Co. and Curtiss flying boat
- E-1 OWL (over water and land) (a Curtiss hydroaeroplane rebuilt as a short-hulled flying boat for flying over water or land and fitted with wheels for use as an amphibian)

A new Aircraft Class Designation System was established by Captain Mark L. Bristol, the second Director of Naval Aviation. He assumed the Director's position from Captain Chambers in December 1913. The new system was issued on 27 March 1914 as General Order 88, "Designation of Air Craft." This system changed the original designation of the aircraft to two letters and a

number, of which the first letter denoted class; the second, type within a class; and the number the order in which aircraft within the class were acquired. The four classes set up on 27 March 1914 are as follows:

Aircraft Designation System, 1914–1920

Aircraft Classes

“A” for heavier-than-air craft. Within the “A” class:

L stood for land machines

H stood for hydroaeroplanes

B stood for flying boats

X stood for combination land and water machines (amphibians)

C stood for convertibles (could be equipped as either land or water machines)

“D” for airships or dirigibles

“B” for balloons

“K” for kites

Under this new system the A-1 aircraft (the Navy’s first airplane) was redesignated AH-1, with the “A” identifying the plane as a heavier-than-air craft and the “H” standing for hydroaeroplane. General Order No. 88 also provided a corresponding link between the old aircraft designations and the new system: “The aeroplanes now in the service are hereby designated as follows:

A-1 became the AH-1

A-2 became the AH-2

A-3 became the AH-3

B-1 became the AH-4

B-2 became the AH-5

B-3 became the AH-6

C-1 became the AB-1

C-2 became the AB-2

C-3 became the AB-3

C-4 became the AB-4

C-5 became the AB-5

D-1 became the AB-6

D-2 became the AB-7

E-1 became the AX-1”

Despite the phrase, “now in the service,” the A-1, B-1 and B-2 and probably the D-1 had ceased to exist before the order was issued.

The Early 1920s

In General Order 541, issued in 1920, two overall types of aircraft were identified and assigned permanent letters which have remained in effect since 1920. Lighter-than-air types were identified by the letter Z and heavier-than-air types were assigned the letter V. Within these two categories, various class letters were assigned to further differentiate the aircraft’s operation

or construction. Class letters assigned to the Z types were R for rigid, N for nonrigid, and K for kite. By combining the type and class designation, the different airships in the Navy’s inventory could be categorized. As an example:

ZR referred to rigid dirigibles (airships)

ZN stood for nonrigid airships

ZK for kite balloons

The class letters assigned to the heavier-than-air vehicles covered a wider range and generally reflected the mission responsibilities of the aircraft classes. Class letters assigned to the V types were:

F for fighting

O for observation

S for scouting

P for patrol

T for torpedo

G for fleet (utility)

By combining the V designation for heavier-than-air vehicles with the class letters, the following aircraft class definitions were assigned in 1920:

VF for fighting plane

VO for observation plane

VS for scouting plane

VP for patrol plane

VT for torpedo and bombing plane

VG for fleet plane (most likely a general utility aircraft)

This class designation system for aircraft has continued to remain a functional system and is still used today. There have been many additions, deletions, and major changes to the system over the years but the concept has remained intact. The current naval aircraft inventory still lists VF, VS, VP, VG, VO, and VT aircraft classes. Three of these, VF, VP, and VO, still have the same definitions they were assigned in 1920. The VS, VG, and VT aircraft class designations now refer to antisubmarine (VS), in-flight refueling (VG), and training aircraft (VT).

The aircraft designation system established in July 1920 by General Order 541 was modified on 29 March 1922 by Bureau of Aeronautics Technical Note 213. It added the identity of the manufacturer to the aircraft model designation. The aircraft class designations remained the same as those issued by General Order 541 (G.O. 541); however, besides the six aircraft classes listed in G.O. 541 (VF, VO, VS, VP, VT, and VG), an additional two classes were added to the aircraft class list. The two new aircraft classes were VA for Training Aircraft and VM for Marine Expeditionary Plane.

The mid to late 1920s

Between 1922 and 1933, there were only a few modifications to the Aircraft Class Designation System. The Bureau of Aeronautics was established in July 1921 and, thereafter, made changes to the Aircraft Class Designation System. In response to a Secretary of Navy letter dated 13 February 1923, the Bureau of Aeronautics issued a Technical Note on 10 March 1923 that changed the VA designation for training aircraft to VN, dropped the VG designation, and added the VJ designation for Transport Plane. This was followed by the addition, in 1925, of the VX designation for experimental aircraft. The VX designation was dropped from the Aircraft Class Designation list in January 1927. In July 1928, the VM designation was dropped and the VJ designation was changed from Transportation Plane to General Utility. Two new designations were also instituted, VB for bombing and VH for ambulance. A new aircraft class was added in July 1930 and assigned the designation VR for transport aircraft. This VR designation has remained in effect for transport aircraft since 1930.

The 1930s

Similar changes took place in the Aircraft Class Designation System during the early 1930s. By July 1933, there were ten aircraft class designations. This list of aircraft classes did not vary much from those identified in the previous ten years. The aircraft class designations identified in July 1933 were as follows:

- VB for bombing
- VF for fighting
- VH for ambulance
- VJ for general utility
- VN for training
- VO for observation
- VP for patrol
- VR for transport
- VS for scouting
- VT for torpedo.

A major change was instituted to the Aircraft Designation System on 2 January 1934. Prior to 1934, aircraft classes had been established according to the primary mission the aircraft was to perform. The fact that many aircraft were capable of performing more than one mission was recognized in the revised system by assigning an additional letter to the previous two-letter aircraft class designation. In the new three-letter aircraft class designation, the first letter identified the type of vehicle, such as, V for heavier-than-air (fixed wing) and Z for lighter-than-air. For heavier-

than-air, the second letter identified the primary mission of the aircraft, using the same 10 letter designations listed in the above paragraph. The **third letter indicated the secondary mission** of the aircraft class, such as:

- F for fighting
- O for observation
- B for bombing
- T for torpedo
- S for scouting

By assigning these five secondary mission letters to the primary aircraft letter designations, **seven new aircraft class designations were established:**

- VBF for bombing-fighting
- VOS for observation-scouting
- VPB for patrol-bombing
- VPT for patrol-torpedo
- VSB for scouting-bombing
- VSO for scout-observation
- VTB for torpedo-bombing

On the eve of World War II, the Model Designation of Airplanes for 1 July 1939 was very similar to what had been identified in 1934. There were eleven primary aircraft class designations and six designations that included a secondary mission letter in its class designation. The 1 July 1939 Model Designation of Airplanes included the following Aircraft Class Designations:

- Bombing (VB)
- Fighting (VF)
- Miscellaneous (VM)
- Observation (VO)
- Patrol (VP)
- Scouting (VS)
- Torpedo (VT)
- Training (VN)
- Transport (multi-engine) (VR)
- Transport (single engine) (VG)
- Utility (VJ)
- Observation-Scouting (VOS)
- Patrol-Bombing (VPB)
- Scouting-Bombing (VSB)
- Scouting-Observation (VSO)
- Torpedo-Bombing (VTB)
- Utility-Transport (VJR)

World War II

The designation changes for the aircraft classes and squadron system during World War II and the immediate post war period are identified in the Model Designation of Naval Aircraft, the Aviation Circular Letters, and in the Navy Department Bulletins.

By mid-1943, many new aircraft class designations had been added to the Model Designation of Naval Aircraft. The additions included:

- VA for ambulance
- VBT for bombing-torpedo
- VSN for scout-training
- VL for gliders
- VLN for training-gliders
- VLR for transport-gliders
- VH for helicopters
- VHO for observation-helicopters
- VD for drones
- VTD for torpedo-drones and/or target-drones
- ZN for nonrigid airships
- ZNN for nonrigid-training and/or utility airships
- ZNP for nonrigid patrol and/or scouting airships

As the war progressed, more changes were made to the Model Designation of Naval Aircraft. In July 1944, a major change was instituted for the Aircraft Class Designation System. Naval aircraft were divided into **three main types identified by a letter**:

- V for fixed wing vehicles (airplanes, gliders and drones)
- H for rotary wing vehicles (helicopters)
- Z for lighter-than-air vehicles (airships)

The three main types were then each subdivided into classes. The classes under the heavier-than-air fixed-wing type (V) included:

- VF fighters
- VF(M) fighters (medium or 2 engine)
- VSB scout bombers
- VTB torpedo bombers
- VO/VS observation scout
- VPB(HL) patrol bombers (heavy or 4 engine land-plane)
- VPB(ML) patrol bombers (medium or 2 engine land-plane)
- VPB(HS) patrol bombers (heavy or 4 engine sea-plane)
- VPB(MS) patrol bombers (medium or 2 engine sea-plane)
- VR(HL) transport (heavy or 4 engine landplane)
- VR(ML) transport (medium or 2 engine landplane)
- VR(HS) transport (heavy or 4 engine seaplane)
- VR(MS) transport (medium or 2 engine seaplane)
- VJ(M) utility (medium or 2 engine)
- VJ utility
- VSN(M) training
- VSN training
- VN training
- VK drones
- VKN drones (target training)

- VL gliders
- VLN gliders (training)
- VLR gliders (transport)

The helicopter type (H) had the following classes:

- HO helicopters (observation)
- HN helicopters (training)
- HR helicopters (transport)

The lighter-than-air type (Z) had the following classes:

- ZN nonrigid airships
- ZNN nonrigid airships (training)
- ZNP nonrigid airships (patrol and escort)

This July 1944 change to the Model Designation of Naval Aircraft was still in effect at the close of World War II and only a couple of additions had been made, they included:

- VKC for assault drones
- HJ for utility helicopters

Post World War II and the late 1940s

On 11 March 1946, a major revision was issued to the Class Designation of Naval Aircraft. Aviation Circular Letter Number 43–46 divided naval aircraft into four types and assigned a letter designation. The four types were:

- V for heavier-than-air (fixed wing)
- K for pilotless aircraft
- H for heavier-than-air (rotary wing)
- Z for lighter-than-air

Within the class designation for **V type aircraft**, the primary mission and class designation were as follows:

| Primary Mission | Class Designation |
|---|-------------------|
| Fighter (destroy enemy aircraft in the air) | VF |
| Attack (destroy enemy surface or ground targets) | VA |
| Patrol (search for enemy) | VP |
| Observation (observe and direct ship and shore gunfire) | VO |
| Transport purposes | VR |
| Utility purposes | VU |
| Training purposes | VT |
| Gliders | VG |

Within the class designation for **H type (rotary wing)**, the primary mission and class designation were as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Air-sea rescue | HH |
| Observation | HO |

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Training | HT |
| Transport | HR |
| Utility | HU |

Within the class designation for **K type (pilotless aircraft)**, the primary mission and class designation were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| For attack on aircraft targets | KA |
| For attack on ship targets | KS |
| For attack on ground targets | KG |
| For use as target aircraft | KD |
| For utility purposes | KU |

Within the class designation for **Z type (lighter-than-air)**, the primary mission and class designation were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Patrol and escort | ZP |
| Air-sea rescue | ZH |
| Training | ZT |
| Utility | ZU |

This order provided that “no changes...be made in the model designation of aircraft already produced or in production, except that the mission letter of all BT class aircraft shall be changed to A.” Thus, the SB2C and TBF/TBM aircraft remained in use until they were removed from the inventory, while the BT2D and BTM aircraft were redesignated as AD and AM. These aircraft were assigned to the new attack squadrons established in the latter part of 1946.

In 1947 a modification was made to CNO’s Aviation Circular Letter No. 43-46 of 11 March 1946 whereby a fifth class designation was added to the naval aircraft types. The new class designation was the **M type for Guided Missiles** and the primary mission and class designation were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Air-to-air | AAM |
| Air-to-surface | ASM |
| Air-to-underwater | AUM |
| Surface-to-air | SAM |
| Surface-to-surface | SSM |
| Surface-to-underwater | SUM |
| Underwater-to-air | UAM |
| Underwater-to-surface | USM |
| Test Vehicle | TV |

In 1949 the class designations were:

V type (heavier-than-air, fixed wing) Classes

| | | |
|----|---------|-------------------------------|
| VF | Fighter | Air defense and escort |
| VA | Attack | Surface and ground attack |
| VP | Patrol | ASW reconnaissance and attack |

| | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------------------|
| VO | Observation | Gunfire and artillery spotting |
| VR | Transport | Air logistic support |
| VU | Utility | Fleet utility support |
| VT | Training | Basic and fleet training |
| VG | Glider | |

H type (heavier-than-air, rotary wing) Classes

| | |
|----|----------------|
| HH | Air-sea rescue |
| HO | Observation |
| HT | Training |
| HR | Transport |
| HU | Utility |

K type (pilotless aircraft) Classes

| | |
|----|---------------|
| KD | Aerial target |
|----|---------------|

M type (Guided Missiles) Classes

| | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| AAM | Air-to-air |
| ASM | Air-to-surface |
| AUM | Air-to-underwater |
| SAM | Surface-to-air |
| SSM | Surface-to-surface |
| SUM | Surface-to-underwater |
| UAM | Underwater-to-air |
| USM | Underwater-to-surface |
| TV | Test vehicle |

Z type (Lighter-than-air)

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| ZP | Patrol and escort |
| ZH | Search and rescue |
| ZT | Training |
| ZU | Utility |

The 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s

During the early 1950s several changes were made to the V (heavier-than-air fixed wing) type. The VG glider class was dropped and the following classes were added:

| | | |
|----|---------|---------------------------------------|
| VS | Search | Submarine search and attack (carrier) |
| VW | Warning | Airborne early warning |

In 1953 the nine classes of the V type were further divided into sub-classes. The **V type classes and sub-classes** were as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------------------------|
| VA | Attack | Surface and ground attack |
| VA (Int'd) | | Interdiction |
| VA (GS) | | Ground Support |
| VA (AW) | | All Weather and ASW |
| VA (W) | | Air Early Warning and ASW |
| VA (H) | | Heavy |
| VA (P) | | Photographic |
| VF | Fighter | Air defense and escort |
| VF (Int) | | Interceptor |

| | | |
|----|-----------------|--|
| | VF (Day) | Day, jet |
| | VF (Day) (Prop) | Day, reciprocating |
| | VF (AW) | All weather, jet |
| | VF (AW) (Prop) | All weather, reciprocating |
| | VF (P) | Photographic, jet |
| | VF (P) (Prop) | Photographic, reciprocating |
| | VF (D) | Drone control |
| | VF (FT) | Flight Test |
| VO | Observation | Gunfire and artillery spotting |
| VP | Patrol | ASW reconnaissance, mining and weather |
| | VP (L) | Landplane |
| | VP (S) | Seaplane |
| | VP (MIN) | Mining |
| | VP (WEA) | Weather |
| | VP (Q) | Countermeasure |
| VR | Transport | Air logistic support |
| | VR (H) | Heavy landplane |
| | VR (M) | Medium landplane |
| | VR (S) | Heavy seaplane |
| | VR (C) | Carrier |
| VS | Antisubmarine | Submarine search and attack |
| | VS | Search and attack |
| | VS (S) | Attack |
| | VS (W) | Search |
| VT | Training | Basic, fleet and primary training |
| | VT (Jet) | Jet |
| | VT (ME) | Two-engine, reciprocating |
| | VT (SE) | One-engine, reciprocating |
| | VT (E) | Electronic |
| | VT (Nav) | Navigation |
| VU | Utility | Fleet utility support |
| | VU (Gen) | General |
| | VU (SAR) | Search and rescue |
| | VU (Tow) | Tow |
| VW | Warning | Airborne Early Warning |
| | VW | Air early warning |

Between 1953 and 1960 there was only one change in the V class and a few modifications in the sub-classes. The VG class, for in-flight refueling, tanker, was added in 1958. In 1960 the type letter for the heavier-than-air fixed wing class was still identified as “V”, however, it was omitted from the acronym for the class designation. The class designations for the heavier-than-air fixed wing type and their basic mission were as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| A | Attack |
| F | Fighter |
| G | In-flight refueling tanker |
| O | Observation |
| P | Patrol |
| R | Transport |
| S | Antisubmarine (for carrier based aircraft) |
| T | Training |
| U | Utility |
| W | Airborne Early Warning |

The **H type classes** for 1953 were as follows:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| HO | Observation |
| HR | Transport |
| HS | Anti-submarine |
| HT | Trainer |
| HU | Utility |
| HC | Cargo |

In 1955 a new H type class was added and designated HW for Aircraft Early Warning. This class remained in effect for only a short time and was removed by 1961. The only other change for the H type during the 1950s was the removal of the HC Cargo Class by 1961.

The **Z type classes** for 1953 were as follows:

| | |
|----|---------|
| ZP | Patrol |
| ZT | Trainer |

There were several changes to the Z type classes in the 1950s. In 1954 two new classes were added, ZS Search and Anti-submarine and ZW Air Early Warning. The other changes in 1954 included the dropping of the ZT Trainer designation and modifying the ZP designation to patrol and anti-submarine. In 1955 the ZS designation was dropped after being in effect for only a year.

The **K type classes** for 1953 were as follows:

| | |
|----|---------|
| KD | Targets |
|----|---------|

This designation was modified in 1955 to K (suffix) Target Drones. Sometime in the latter part of the 1950s the K type designation was dropped and a new **D type** was listed as Remotely Controlled Tactical Airborne Vehicle. Within this type the class was identified as DS Anti-submarine.

The **M type** for 1953 was modified as follows:

| | |
|----|------------------|
| M | Tactical Weapon |
| RV | Research Vehicle |

A Bureau of Aeronautics Aviation Circular Letter Number 25–51 of 14 July 1951 removed the guided missile type from the naval aircraft types and listed only four types of naval aircraft. The four types were:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| V | Heavier-than-air (fixed wing) |
| H | Heavier-than-air (rotary wing) |
| Z | Lighter-than-air |
| K | Target drones |

The Bureau of Naval Weapons Instruction 13100.1A “Model Designation of Naval Aircraft”, dated 17 May 1961, lists the type letter designations as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| V | Heavier-than-air (fixed wing) (the V is omitted from the aircraft designation) |
|---|--|

- H Heavier-than-air (rotary wing)
- Z Lighter-than-air
- D Remotely controlled tactical airborne vehicle
- R Rotorcycle

The classes within each of these five aircraft type designations were:

V type Heavier-than-air (fixed wing) Classes

- VA Attack
- VF Fighter
- VG In-flight refueling tanker
- VO Observation
- VP Patrol
- VR Transport
- VS Anti-submarine
- VT Training
- VU Utility
- VW Airborne Early Warning

H type Heavier-than-air (rotary wing) Classes

- HO Observation
- HR Transport
- HS Anti-submarine
- HT Training
- HU Utility

Z type Lighter-than-air Classes

- ZP Patrol
- ZW Airborne Early Warning

D type Remotely Controlled Tactical Airborne Vehicle Classes

- DS Anti-submarine

R type Rotorcycles Classes

- RO Observation (equipment)

In 1962 a major change occurred in the model designation for naval aircraft. The Department of Defense consolidated the aircraft designation systems of the Navy, Army, and Air Force. A new DOD (Department of Defense) Directive was established that designated, redesignated, and named military aircraft. Under the new system the V for heavier-than-air fixed wing types was dropped completely and a single letter was used to identify the basic mission of the vehicle. The basic mission and associated type symbols were as follows:

- A Attack Aircraft designed to search out, attack and destroy enemy land or sea targets using conventional or special weapons. Also used for interdiction and close air support missions.

- B Bomber Aircraft designed for bombing enemy targets.
- C Cargo/transport Aircraft designed for carrying cargo and/or passengers.
- E Special Electronic Aircraft possessing ECM capability or installation having electronic devices to permit employment as an early warning radar station.
- F Fighter Aircraft designed to intercept and destroy other aircraft and/or missiles.
- H Helicopter A rotary-wing aircraft designed with the capability of flight in any plane; e.g., horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.
- K Tanker Aircraft designed for in-flight refueling of other aircraft.
- O Observation Aircraft designed to observe (through visual/other means) and report tactical information and disposition of enemy forces, troops, and supplies in an active combat area.
- P Patrol Long range, all weather, multi-engine aircraft operating from land and/or water bases, designed for independent accomplishment of the following functions; antisubmarine warfare, maritime reconnaissance, and mining.
- S Antisubmarine Aircraft designed to search out, detect, identify, attack and destroy enemy submarines.
- T Trainer Aircraft designed for training personnel in the operation of aircraft and/or related equipment, and having provisions for instructor personnel.
- U Utility Aircraft used for miscellaneous missions such as carrying cargo and/or passengers, towing targets, etc. These aircraft will include those having a small payload.

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| V | VTOL and STOL | Aircraft designed for vertical take-off or landing with no take-off or landing roll, or aircraft capable of take-off and landing in a minimum prescribed distance. |
| X | Research | Aircraft designed for testing configurations of a radical nature. These aircraft are not normally intended for use as tactical aircraft. |
| Z | Airship | A self-propelled lighter-than-air aircraft. |

The only type symbol not in use by the Navy from the above listing was the B for bomber aircraft. The O for observation aircraft was in the naval inventory but was used primarily by the Marine Corps.

Between 1962 and 1990 there were only two modifications to the listing of basic mission and aircraft type symbols in DOD's Model Designation of Military Aircraft, Rockets and Guided Missiles. These changes involved the addition of the letter "R" for Reconnaissance and the deletion of the Z type for Airships. The basic mission for the R type was an aircraft designed to perform reconnaissance missions.

Even though a consolidated DOD directive was issued on aircraft designations for the Navy, Air Force, and Army in 1962, the Navy continued to publish a listing of naval aircraft classes and sub-classes that differed slightly from the DOD directive. However, the Navy did follow the new procedures for designating its aircraft, as an example, the AD-5 Skyraider aircraft designation was changed to A-1E. The December 1962 issue of the Allowances and Location of Naval Aircraft lists the following classes and sub-classes for fixed wing aircraft (note the continued use of "V" as part of the class designation and the failure to change the VG class designation for air refueler to K, as listed by the DOD instruction):

| | | |
|----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| VF | Fighter | |
| | VF FB | Fighter-bomber |
| | VF P | Photo reconnaissance |
| VA | Attack | |
| | VA L | Light Attack |
| | VA LP | Light Attack (Prop) |
| | VA M | Medium Attack |
| | VA H | Heavy Attack |
| | VA P | Photo Reconnaissance (long range) |
| | VA Q | ECM Reconnaissance (long range) |
| | VA QM | Tactical ECM |
| | VA QMP | Tactical ECM (Prop) |

| | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|
| VS | ASW | (Carrier based) |
| VP | ASW | Patrol |
| | VP L | ASW Patrol (shore based) |
| | VP S | ASW Patrol (sea based) |
| VW | Airborne early warning | |
| | VW M | AEW Medium (carrier based) |
| | VW H | AEW Heavy (shore based) |
| VR | Transport | |
| | VR H | Heavy transport |
| | VR M | Medium transport |
| | VR C | Carrier transport |
| VG | Air refueler, heavy | |
| VT | Trainer | |
| | VT AJ | Advanced jet trainer |
| | VT BJ | Basic jet trainer |
| | VT SJ | Special jet trainer |
| | VT AP | Advanced prop trainer |
| | VT BP | Basic Prop trainer |
| | VT PP | Primary prop trainer |
| | VT SP | Special Prop trainer |
| VK | Drone | |
| | VK D | Drone control |

The only change to this listing occurred in 1965 with the addition of the VO class for observation. Between 1965 and 1988 there was no change to the aircraft class listing in the Allowances and Location of Naval Aircraft. However, there were numerous changes in the listing for the sub-classes. The final publication of the Allowances and Location of Naval Aircraft was March 1988.

On 2 May 1975, the Navy selected a derivative of the YF-17 as the winner of the Navy's VFAX competition for a new multimission fighter attack aircraft. The VFAX aircraft was designed to replace two aircraft in the Navy's inventory, the F-4 Phantom II and the A-7 Corsair II. This program was reinstituting an old Navy policy, whereby, multimission requirements for attack and fighter, be incorporated into a single aircraft. Fighter and light attack missions had previously been assigned to various types of aircraft, particularly in the period prior to World War II and also in the 1950s. The Navy was now reverting to an old policy and designing a plane with a dual capacity as a fighter and an attack aircraft to meet new multimission requirements.

The VFAX aircraft was initially assigned the F-18A designation. A new model designation F/A (strike fighter) was established and assigned to the aircraft in the late 1970s. The Navy accepted its first F/A-18 Hornet on 16 January 1979. The F/A designation was

identified as a sub-class and listed under the VF class in the Navy's Allowances and Location of Naval Aircraft. Under the DOD model designation listing the F/A-18 designation is listed under both the A and F symbol designations as A-18 and F-18.

The 1990s

The following is a list of the Naval Aircraft Class and Sub-classes used in the 1990s:

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| VF | Fighter | |
| VF FA | Striker Fighter | |
| VF FB | Fighter | |
| VF P | Fighter | |
| VA | Attack | |
| VA L | Attack | |
| VA M | Attack | |
| VA H | Attack | |
| VA P | Attack | |
| VA Q | Attack | |
| VA QM | Attack | |
| VS | Sea Control (was Antisubmarine until 1993) | |
| VP | Patrol | |
| VP L | Patrol | |
| VW | Warning | |
| VP M | Warning | |
| VP H | Warning | |
| VR | Transport | |
| VR H | Transport | |

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| VR M | Transport |
| VR C | Transport |
| VR LJ | Transport |
| VG | In-flight Refueling |
| VO | Observation |
| VO L | Observation |
| VU | Utility |
| VU L | Utility |
| VU S | Utility |
| VT | Training |
| VT AJ | Training Jet |
| VT SJ | Training Jet |
| VT PP | Training Prop |
| VT SP | Training Prop |
| VT SG | Training Jet |
| H | Rotary Wing |
| H F | Rotary Wing |
| H A | Rotary Wing |
| H G | Rotary Wing |
| H S | Rotary Wing |
| H H | Rotary Wing |
| H M | Rotary Wing |
| H L | Rotary Wing |
| H T | Rotary Wing |
| H R | Rotary Wing |
| VK | Drones |
| VK D | Drones |
| VK K | Drones Jet |

The R4C-1 Condor was used as a transport by the Navy, AN-32600.



Aircraft Designation List

The Aircraft Designation Listings have been divided into four separate listings to help clarify the different designation systems used by the Navy. The four listings are: **1911–1922 Designation Systems** (there were three separate systems during this period), **1922–1923 Designations**, **1923–1962 Navy System** and the **DoD Designation System, 1962 to Present**. Column headings within each of these four listings vary. However, if the popular name (official name assigned by the Navy) or common name (name usually assigned by the manufacturer) was known it is included in each of the listings. The popular or common name may not always apply to all the specific aircraft model designations. The primary emphasis for the Aircraft Designation Listings is to provide a composite list of all the aircraft designations the Navy has had in its inventory. It should also be noted, some aircraft in these listings were not assigned bureau

numbers, especially in the case of experimental aircraft. Others were one of a kind models, and some were acquired through a means other than the usual ordering via aircraft production contracts, these include foreign aircraft acquired for evaluation. A separate listing, **Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962**, has been added to help clarify the redesignations that occurred in 1962.

1911–1922 Designation Systems

Within this time frame there were three separate designation systems. The three separate columns identify those systems. Column three (Other Designation Systems or Popular Name) covers the period 1917–1922. During this period there was no standard designation system. During World War I the Navy generally adopted whatever designations were assigned by the developer or manufacturer.

| 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source | 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| A-1 | AH-1 | Triad | Curtiss | | AH-17 | | Curtiss |
| A-2/E-1 | AX-1 | OWL(Over-Water-Land, also called Bat Boat) | Curtiss | | AH-18 | | Curtiss |
| A-3 | AH-3 | | Curtiss | | AH-19 | Martin S | Martin |
| A-4 | AH-2 | | Curtiss | | AH-20 | Thomas HS | Thomas Brothers |
| B-1 | AH-4 | | Wright | | AH-21 | Thomas HS | Thomas Brothers |
| B-2 | AH-5 | | Wright | | AH-22 | | Martin |
| B-3 | AH-6 | | Wright | | AH-23 | | Wright |
| C-1 | AB-1 | | Curtiss | | AH-24 | Sturtevant S | Sturtevant |
| C-2 | AB-2 | | Curtiss | | AH-25 | | Burgess |
| C-3 | AB-3 | | Curtiss | | AH-26 | | Burgess |
| C-4 | AB-4 | | Curtiss | | AH-27 | | Burgess |
| C-5 | AB-5 | | Curtiss | | AH-28 | | Burgess |
| D-1 | AB-6 | | Burgess & Curtis | | AH-29 | | Burgess |
| D-2 | AB-7 | | Burgess & Curtis | | AH-30 | | Curtiss |
| E-1 | AX-1 | OWL(Over-Water-Land, also called Bat Boat) | Curtiss (1913) | | AH-31 | | Burgess |
| | DN-1 | (Navy's first LTA vehicle, D stood for dirigible and N for non-rigid) | Connecticut Aircraft Company | | AH-32 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-7 | | Burgess-Dunne | | AH-33 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-8 | | Curtiss | | AH-34 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-9 | | Curtiss | | AH-35 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-10 | | Burgess-Dunne | | AH-36 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-11 | | Curtiss | | AH-37 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-12 | | Curtiss | | AH-38 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-13 | | Curtiss | | AH-39 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-14 | | Curtiss | | AH-40 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-15 | | Curtiss | | AH-41 | | Curtiss |
| | AH-16 | | Curtiss | | AH-42 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | AH-43 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | AH-44 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | AH-45 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | AH-46 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | AH-47 | | Curtiss |

| 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source | 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | AH-48 | | Curtiss | | | H-12,-12L | Curtiss |
| | AH-49 | | Curtiss | | | H-16 | Curtiss, NAF |
| | AH-50 | | Curtiss | | | H-4-H | Standard |
| | AH-51 | | Curtiss | | | HA-1,-2 | Curtiss |
| | AH-52 | | Curtiss | | | HB-2 | Levy-Lepen |
| | AH-53 | | Curtiss | | | HD-1,-2 | Hanriot |
| | AH-54 | | Curtiss | | | Heinkel Seaplane | Casper Werke, Germany |
| | AH-55 | | Curtiss | | | HPS-1 | Handley Page |
| | AH-56 | | Curtiss | | | HS-1,-1L | Curtiss, Boeing, |
| | AH-57 | | Curtiss | | | | Loughead, LWF, |
| | AH-58 | | Curtiss | | | | Gallaudet, Standard |
| | AH-59 | | Curtiss | | | HS-2L | Curtiss, Boeing, NAF, |
| | AH-60 | | Curtiss | | | | Gallaudet, Standard, |
| | AH-61 | D-1 | Gallaudet | | | | Loughead, LWF |
| | AH-62 | R-3 | Curtiss | | | HS-3 | Curtiss, NAF |
| | AH-63 | | Paul Schmitt, Paris | | | HT-2 | Burgess |
| | AH-64 | | Curtiss | | | JL-6 | Junkers-Larsen |
| | AH-65 | R-3 | Curtiss | | | JN-4 | Curtiss |
| | | 18-T Kirkham Fighter | Curtiss | | | JN-4B | Curtiss |
| | | AR-1 | Morane-Saulnier | | | JN-4H | From Army |
| | | Avorio Prassone | Italian Government | | | JN-4HG | From Army |
| | | C-1 | Fokker, Netherlands | | | JN-6H | From Army |
| | | C-1F | Boeing | | | JN-6HG-I | From Army |
| | | Camel (F-I) | Sopwith, from Army | | | K Boat | Austrian Government |
| | | Caproni Ca-44 | Caproni, Italy | | | K-4 (variant of NO-1) | J.V. Martin |
| | | CR-1,-3 | Curtiss | | | KF-1 (also known as KIV) | J.V. Martin |
| | | CS-1 | Curtiss | | | L-2 | Curtiss |
| | | CS-II | Dornier | | | L-3 | Longren |
| | | CT | Curtiss | | | Le Pen Seaplane | From Abroad |
| | | D-1 | Gallaudet Aircraft Corp. | | | LePere | From Army |
| | | D-1 | Dornier, Swiss Agent | | | LS-1 | Loening Aeronautical Engineering Co. |
| | | D-4 | Gallaudet Aircraft Corp. | | | M-3 Kitten | Loening Aeronautical Engineering Co. |
| | | D-7 or D.VII | Fokker | | | M-8 | Loening Aeronautical Engineering Co. |
| | | DH-4 | Dayton-Wright, from Army | | | M-8-0 (M-80) | Loening Aeronautical Engineering Co. |
| | | DH-4B/4B-1 | NAF and Army | | | M-8-1 (M-81) | NAF (Loening design) |
| | | DH-9A | British Govt. | | | M-8-1S (M-8-1S) | Loening |
| | | DN-1 | Connecticut Aircraft Co. | | | M20-1 | Martin |
| | | Donne Denhaut | French Govt. | | | M.5 | Macchi |
| | | DT-1,-2 | Douglas, NAF,LWF | | | M.8 | Macchi |
| | | E-1 (M Defense) | Standard, from Army | | | M.16 | Macchi |
| | | EM-1,-2 | G. Elias & Brothers | | | MB-3 | Thomas Morse |
| | | EO-1 | G. Elias & Brothers | | | MB-7 | Thomas Morse |
| | | F Boat | Curtiss, Alexandria (Briggs) | | | MBT/MT | Martin |
| | | F-5/F-5L | Curtiss, Canadian Aeroplanes Ltd., and NAF | | | MF Boat | Curtiss and NAF |
| | | F-6 | NAF | | | MO-1 | Martin |
| | | FT-1 | Fokker, Netherlands | | | MS-1 | Martin |
| | | Gastite Kite | Goodrich | | | | |
| | | GS-1,-2 Gnome Speed Scout | Curtiss | | | | |

| 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source | 1911 Designation System | 1914 Designation System | Other Designation Systems, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | | MT/MBT | Martin | | | Swift | Blackburn Aeroplane Co. |
| | | Model 10 | Alexandria Aircraft | | | Tellier Flying Boat | French Government |
| | | Model 39-A & -B | Aeromarine Plane & Motor Co. | | | TF Boat | NAF |
| | | Model 40F | Aeromarine Plane & Motor Co. | | | TG-1,-2,-3,-4,-5 | NAF |
| | | Model 700 | Aeromarine Plane & Motor Co. | | | TS-1 | NAF and Curtiss |
| | | N-1 | NAF | | | TS-2,-3 | NAF |
| | | N-9, -9H | Curtiss, Burgess | | | TR-2(TS-3 A6449 re-designated, one of a kind) | NAF |
| | | N-10 (2 reworked N-9) | Curtiss | | | TR-3,-3A | NAF (Rebuilt TS-2) |
| | | NC-1, 2, 3, 4 | Curtiss | | | TW-3 | Wright |
| | | NC-5 to -10 | NAF | | | U-1 | Caspar, Germany |
| | | Nieuport 28 | From Army | | | U-2 | Burgess |
| | | Night Bomber | Sperry | | | USXB-1 | Dayton Wright, from Army |
| | | NO-1 | NAF | | | VE-7,-7F | Lewis & Vought and NAF |
| | | NW-1, -2 | Wright | | | VE-7G,-7GF | NAF |
| | | O-SS | British | | | VE-7H | NAF |
| | | Panther | Parnall | | | VE-7S,-7SF,-7SH | NAF |
| | | Paul Schmitt Seaplane | Paul Schmitt, Paris | | | VE-9,-9H | Chance Vought |
| | | PT-1,-2 | NAF | | | Zodiac-Vedette | French Government |
| | | R-3 | Curtiss | | | Viking IV | Vickers |
| | | R-6,-6L | Curtiss | | | VNB-1 | Boeing |
| | | R-9 | Curtiss | | | WA | Dayton-Wright |
| | | S-4B | Thomas Morse | | | WP-1 | Wright |
| | | S-4C | Thomas Morse Scout | | | WS Seaplane | Dayton-Wright |
| | | S-5 | Curtiss | | | XDH-60 Moth | DeHavilland |
| | | S-5 (not the same aircraft as Curtiss S-5) | Thomas Morse | | | XS-1 | Cox-Klemin |
| | | SA1 | NAF | | | Exp. Seaplane | NAS Pensacola |
| | | SA2 | NAF | | | Glider | Am. Motorless |
| | | SC-1,-2 | Martin | | | Hydroaeroplane | Pensacola and Curtiss |
| | | SE-5 | From Army | | | Richardson seaplane | Washington Navy Yard |
| | | SH-4 | Thomas-Morse | | | Seaplane | Aeromarine |
| | | Sopwith Baby | Sopwith | | | Seaplane | DWF, Germany |
| | | Sopwith Camel | Sopwith | | | Seaplane | Farman |
| | | Sopwith Pup | Sopwith | | | Seaplane | Loening |
| | | Sopwith 1 1/2 Strutter | Sopwith | | | Seaplane | Standard |
| | | SS-Z-23 | British Admiralty | | | Seaplane | Wright |
| | | ST-1 | Stout Metal Airplane Co. | | | Seaplane | Wright-Martin |

1922–1923 Designations

| Original Navy Designation | Other Designation, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source | Original Navy Designation | Other Designation, Popular or Common Name | Manufacturer or other Source |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| BR | | Bee Line | HO-1 | | Huff-Daland |
| HN-1,-2 | | Huff-Daland | NM | | NAF |

1923–1962 Navy System

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> | <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| A-1 | AE-1 | (L-4)(HE-1) | Piper | | thru -3 | | |
| | AD-1 thru -7 | Skyraider (XBT2D-1) | Douglas | | F3A-1 | Corsair (F4U) | Brewster |
| | A2D-1 | Skyshark | Douglas | | FB-1 | | Boeing |
| A-3 | A3D-1, -2 | Skywarrior | Douglas | | thru -5 | | |
| A-4 | A4D-1, -2, -5 | Skyhawk | Douglas | | F2B-1 | | Boeing |
| | AF-2, -3 | Guardian (XTB3F-1) | Grumman | | F3B-1 | | Boeing |
| A-6 | A2F-1 | Intruder | Grumman | | F4B-1 | | Boeing |
| F-4 | AH | Phantom II | McDonnell | | thru -4 | | |
| A-2 | AJ-1, -2 | Savage | North American | | XF5B-1 | | Boeing |
| A-5 | A3J-1 | Vigilante | North American | | XF6B-1 | | Boeing |
| | thru -3 | | | | XF7B-1 | | Boeing |
| | AM-1 | Mauler (XBTM-1) | Martin | | XF8B-1 | | Boeing |
| | AU-1 | Corsair (XF4U-6) | Vought | | F2C-1 | (F2C-1 a paper designation for R2C-1, never used as F2C-1) | Curtiss |
| | | B-314 | Boeing | | | | |
| | | Bulldog IIA | Bristol | | F4C-1 | | Curtiss |
| | BD-1, -2 | Havoc (A-20) | Douglas | | F6C-1 | Hawk | Curtiss |
| | BG-1 | | Great Lakes | | thru -4 | | |
| | XB2G-1 | | Great Lakes | | F6C-6 | Hawk | Curtiss |
| | BM-1, -2 | (XT5M-1) | Martin | | XF6C-5 | | Curtiss |
| | BT-1 | | Northrop | | thru -7 | | |
| | XBT-2 | (SBD-1) | Northrop/Douglas | | F7C-1 | Seahawk | Curtiss |
| | XBTC-2 | | Curtiss | | XF8C-1 | Falcon | Curtiss |
| | XBY-1 | | Consolidated | | F8C-1, -3 | Falcon (OC) | Curtiss |
| | XB2Y-1 | | Consolidated | | F8C-4, -5 | Helldiver (O2C) | Curtiss |
| | XBFC-1 | (XF11C-1) | Curtiss | | XF8C-2, -4 | Helldiver | Curtiss |
| | BFC-2 | Goshawk (F11C-2) | Curtiss | | XF8C-7, -8 | Helldiver (O2C) | Curtiss |
| | BF2C-1 | (F11C-3) | Curtiss | | XF9C-1, -2 | | Curtiss |
| | XBTC-1 | Cancelled | Curtiss | | F9C-2 | Sparrowhawk | Curtiss |
| | XBTC-2 | | Curtiss | | XF11C-1 | (XBFC-1) | Curtiss |
| | XBT2C-1 | | Curtiss | | XF11C-2 | Goshawk (XBFC-2) | Curtiss |
| | BTD | Destroyer | Douglas | | XF11C-3 | (XBF2C-1) | Curtiss |
| A-1 | XBT2D-1 | Skyraider (AD-1) | Douglas | | F11C-2 | Goshawk (BFC-2) | Curtiss |
| | XBTK-1 | (BK-1 original designation—changed before first aircraft completed) | Kaiser-Fleetwings | | XF13C-1 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | thru -3 | | |
| | | | | | XF14C-2 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | XF15C-1 | | Curtiss |
| | | | | | XFD-1 | | Douglas |
| | XBTM-1 | Mauler (AM-1) | Martin | | FD-1 | Phantom (FH-1) | McDonnell |
| | CS-1, -2 | | Curtiss | | XF2D-1 | Banshee (F2H) | McDonnell |
| | SC-1, -2 | (CS-1) | Martin | F-10 | F3D-1, -2 | Sky Knight | Douglas |
| | D-558-1 | Skystreak | Douglas | F-6 | F4D-1 | Skyray | Douglas |
| | D-558-2 | Skyrocket | Douglas | | F5D-1 | Skylancer | Douglas |
| | XDH-80 | Puss Moth | Dehavilland | | FF-1, -2 | | Grumman |
| QH-50D, -50C | DSN | DASH | Gyrodyne | | F2F-1 | | Grumman |
| | F-5L | | NAF | | F3F-1 | | Grumman |
| | XFA-1 | | General Aviation | | thru -3 | | |
| | F2A-1 | Buffalo | Brewster | | XF4F-3 | Wildcat | Grumman |
| | | | | | thru -6, -8 | | |

1923-1962 Navy System—Continued

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designa- tion</i> | <i>Original Navy Designa- tion</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> | <i>Post-1962 DOD Designa- tion</i> | <i>Original Navy Designa- tion</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | F4F-3,-3A, -4, -7 | Wildcat (FM) | Grumman | F-8 | F8U-1, -2 | Crusader | Vought |
| | XF5F-1 | Skyrocket | Grumman | | F8U-3 | Crusader III | Vought |
| | XF6F-3, -4, -6 | Hellcat | Grumman | | F2W-1 | | Wright |
| | F6F-3, -5 | Hellcat | Grumman | | F3W-1 | Apache | Wright |
| | F7F-1 | Tigercat | Grumman | | XFY-1 | Pogo | Consolidated |
| | thru -4 | | | F-7 | F2Y | Sea Dart (Never used in F-7 designation) | Convair |
| | F8F-1, -2 | Bearcat | Grumman | | GB-1, -2 | Traveler (JB) | Beech |
| | F9F-2 | Panther | Grumman | | GH-1 | Nightingale (NH) | Howard |
| | thru -5 | | | | thru -3 | | |
| F-9 | F9F-6 | Cougar | Grumman | | GK-1 | Forwarder (JK) | Fairchild |
| | thru -8 | | | | GQ-1 | Reliant | Stinson |
| | XF10F-1 | Jaguar | Grumman | C-130 | GV-1 | Hercules (R8V) | Lockheed |
| F-11 | F11F-1 | Tiger (F9F-9) | Grumman | | HE | (L-4)(AE) | Piper |
| | XFG-1/ XF2G-1 | | Eberhart | | XHL-1 | | Loeing |
| | FG-1 | Corsair (F4U) | Goodyear | | XHJH-1 | | McDonnell |
| | F2G-1, -2 | (FG/F4U) | Goodyear | | XHJP-1 | | Piasecki |
| | XFH-1 | | Hall | | XHJS-1 | | Sikorsky |
| | FH-1 | Phantom | McDonnell | | HNS-1 | Hoverfly | Sikorsky |
| F-2 | F2H-1 | Banshee (F2D) | McDonnell | H-43 | XHOE-1 | | Hiller |
| | thru -4 | | | | HOK-1 | | Kaman |
| F-3 | F3H-1, -2 | Demon | McDonnell | | HOS-1 | | Sikorsky |
| F-4 | F4H-1 | Phantom II | McDonnell | | HO2S-1 | | Sikorsky |
| | FJ-1, -2 | Fury | North American | | HO3S-1 | | Sikorsky |
| F-1 | FJ-3, -4 | Fury | North American | H-19 | XHO3S-3 | | Sikorsky |
| | XFJ-1, -2 | | Berliner-Joyce | | HO4S-3 | (HRS) | Sikorsky |
| | XF2J-1 | | Berliner-Joyce | H-19 | HO5S-1 | | Sikorsky |
| | XF3J-1 | | Berliner Joyce | H-46 | HRB-1 | | Vertol |
| | XFL-1 | Airabonita | Bell | | XHRH-1 | Order cancelled | McDonnell |
| | F2L-1 | Airacobra (XTDL-1) | Bell | | HRP-1, -2 | Rescuer (Flying Banana) | Piasecki |
| | FM-1, -2 | Wildcat | General Motors | H-19 | HRS-1 | (HO4S) | Sikorsky |
| | FO-1 | (P-38) | Lockheed | | thru -3 | | |
| | XFR-1 | Fireball | Ryan | H-37 | HR2S-1 | Mojave | Sikorsky |
| | FR-1 | Fireball | Ryan | | HSL-1 | Model 61 | Bell |
| | XF2R-1 | | Ryan | H-34 | HSS-1 | Sea Bat | Sikorsky |
| | XFT-2 | | Northrop | H-3 | HSS-2 | Sea King | Sikorsky |
| | F2T-1 | Black Widow (P-61) | Northrop | | HTE-1, -2 | UH-12A | Hiller |
| | FU-1 | | Vought | | HTK-1 | | Kaman |
| | XF2U-1 | | Vought | H-13 | HTL-1 | Did not use Sioux | Bell |
| | XF3U-1 | (SBU) | Vought | | thru -7 | | |
| | XF4U-1, -3 | Corsair | Vought | H-43 | HUK-1 | Did not use Huskie | Kaman |
| | thru -5 | | | H-2 | HU2K-1 | Seasprite | Kaman |
| | F4U-1 thru -5, -7 | Corsair (AU/FG/ F3A/F2G) | Vought | H-13 | HUL-1 | Did not use Sioux | Bell |
| | XF5U-1 | | Vought | | HUM-1 | MC-4A | McCulloch |
| | F6U-1 | Pirate | Vought | H-25 | HUP-1 | Retriever | Piasecki (Vertol) |
| | F7U-1 | Cutlass | Vought | | thru -3 | | |
| | thru -3 | | | H-34 | HUS-1 | Seahorse | Sikorsky |
| | | | | H-52 | HU2S-1 | | Sikorsky |
| | | | | | XJA-1 | Super Universal | Fokker |

1923-1962 Navy System—Continued

| Post-1962 DOD Designation | Original Navy Designation | Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data | Manufacturer or Source | Post-1962 DOD Designation | Original Navy Designation | Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data | Manufacturer or Source |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | JR-1 thru -3 | (RR) | Ford | | | Me-262S | Messerschmitt |
| | JA-1 | Norseman | Noorduyn | | NB-1 thru -4 | Model 21 | Boeing |
| | JB-1 | Traveler (GB) | Beech | | XN2B-1 | Model 81 | Boeing |
| | JD-1 | Invader | Douglas | | N2C-1, -2 | Fledgling | Curtiss |
| | JE-1 | | Bellanca | L-4 | NE-1, -2 | Grasshopper | Piper |
| | JF-1 thru -3 | Duck | Grumman | | NH-1 | Nightingale (GH) | Howard |
| | J2F-1 thru -5 | Duck | Grumman | | NJ-1 | | North American |
| | J2F-6 | Duck | Columbia | | XNK-1 | | Keystone |
| | XJ3F-1 | G-21 | Grumman | | XNL-1 | | Langley |
| | J4F-1, -2 | Widgeon | Grumman | | N2M-1 | | Martin |
| | JH-1 | | Grumman-Hammond | | N2N-1 | | NAF |
| | JK-1 | | Fairchild | | N3N-1 | Yellow Peril | NAF |
| | J2K-1 | Coast Guard only | Fairchild | | thru -3 | | |
| | XJL-1 | | Colombia | | NP-1 | | Spartan |
| | JM-1, -2 | Marauder | Martin | | XNQ-1 | | Fairchild |
| | JO-1, -2 | Model 12A | Lockheed | | XNR-1 | | Maxon |
| | XJO-3 | | Lockheed | | NR-1 | Recruit | Ryan |
| | XJQ-1, -2 | (XRQ/R2Q) | Fairchild | | NS-1 | | Stearman |
| | J2Q-1 | Coast Guard (R2Q) | Fairchild | | N2S-1 | Kaydet/Caydet | Stearman/Boeing |
| | XJW-1 | UBF | Waco | | thru -5 | | |
| | JRB-1 thru -4 | Voyager/Expediter | Beech | | NT-1 | | New Standard |
| | JRC-1 | Bobcat | Cessna | | N2T-1 | Tutor | Timm |
| | JRF-1 thru -6 | Goose, G-21 | Grumman | | NY-1 (PT-1) | (PT-1) | Consolidated |
| | XJR2F-1 | Albatross (UF/UH-16) | Grumman | | thru -3 | | |
| | JRM-1 thru -3 | Mars (XPB2M) | Martin | | N2Y-1 | | Consolidated (Fleet Aircraft Inc.) |
| | JRS-1 | | Sikorsky | | XN3Y-1 | | Consolidated |
| | JR2S-1 | VS-44A | Vought Sikorsky | | XN4Y-1 | (PT-11) | Consolidated |
| | XLBE-1 | Glomb | Pratt-Read (Gould) | | O2B-1 | DH-4B metal fuselage | Boeing |
| | LBP-1 | Glomb | Piper | | OC-1, -2 | Falcon (F8C-1, -3) | Curtiss |
| | LBT-1 | None acquired (XLBE-1) | Taylorcraft | | XOC-3 | | Curtiss |
| | LNE-1 | | Pratt-Read (Gould) | | O2C-1, -2 | Helldiver (F8C-5) | Curtiss |
| | XLNP-1 | | Piper | | XO3C-1 | (SOC) | Curtiss |
| | XLNR-1 | | Aeronca | | OD-1 | | Douglas |
| | LNS-1 | Cancelled | Schweizer | | XO2D-1 | | Douglas |
| | XLNT-1 | | Taylorcraft | | OE-1, -2 | Bird Dog | Cessna |
| | XLRA-1 | | Allied | 0-1 | XOJ-1 | | Berliner-Joyce |
| | XLR2A-1 | | Allied | | OJ-2 | | Berliner-Joyce |
| | XLRN-1 | | NAF | | XOK-1 | | Keystone |
| | XLRQ-1 | | Bristol | | OL-1 | | Loening |
| | LRW-1 | | Waco | | thru -9 | | Aeronautical Engineering Company |
| | XLR2W-1 | | Waco | | XO2L-1 | | Loening |
| | | M-130, PanAm owned | Martin | | O2N-1 | None accepted (XOSN-1) | NAF |
| | | Me-108B | Messerschmitt | | OO | Schreck FBA | Viking |
| | | | | | XOP-1, -2 | | Pitcairn |
| | | | | | O2U-1 | | Vought |
| | | | | | thru -4 | | |

1923-1962 Navy System—Continued

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> | <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| | O3U-1, -2 -3, -4, -6 | (O3U-2 redes. SU-1) (O3U-4 redes. SU-2/3) | Vought | P-2 | P2V-1 thru -7 | Neptune | Lockheed |
| | XO3U-5, -6 | | Vought | P-3 | P3V-1 | Orion | Lockheed |
| | XO4U-1, -2 | | Vought | | XPY-1 | Admiral (P3M-1, -2) | Consolidated |
| | XO5U-1 | | Vought | | P2Y-1 | | Consolidated |
| | OY-1 | Sentinel (L-5) Stinson V-76 | Convair (Stinson, Vultee, Consolidated) | | thru -3 XP3Y-1 XP4Y-1 | (PBY) Model 31 | Consolidated Consolidated |
| | XOZ-1 | | PennAcfT Syndicate | QP-4B | P4Y-2 | Privateer (PB4Y-2) | Consolidated |
| | XOSE-1, -2 | | Edo | | XP5Y-1 | (R3Y) | Convair |
| | XOSN-1 | | NAF | | XPBB-1 | | Boeing |
| | OS2N-1 | Kingfisher (OS2U) | NAF | | PB2B-1, -2 | Catalina | Boeing |
| | XOSS-1 | | Stearman | | PBJ-1 | Mitchell (B-25) | North American |
| | OS2U-1 thru -3 | Kingfisher | Vought | | PBM-1 | Mariner | Martin |
| | | (P-59) | Bell | | thru -3, -5 XPB2M | Mars (JRM) | Martin |
| | | (P-63)(L-39) | Bell | | PBN-1 | Nomad | NAF |
| | PB-1 | Flying Fortress (B-17) | Boeing | | PBO-1 | Hudson | Lockheed |
| | P2B-1, -2 | Super Fortress (B-29) | Boeing | | XPBS-1 | | Sikorsky |
| | PD-1 | (PN-12) | Douglas | | PBY-1 | Catalina | Consolidated |
| | P2D-1 | | Douglas | | thru -6A | | |
| | XP3D-1 | | Douglas | | XPB2Y-1 | Coronado | Consolidated |
| | UF-1 | Albatross(XJR2F/UH-16) | Grumman | | PB2Y-2 | Coronado | Consolidated |
| | PH-1 thru -3 | | Hall | | thru -5 | | |
| | XP2H-1 | | Hall | | PB4Y-1 | Liberator (B-24) | Consolidated |
| | PJ-1, -2 | FLB, Coast Guard | North American | | PB4Y-2 | Privateer | Consolidated |
| | PK-1 | (PN-12) | Keystone | | XPTBH-2 | | Hall |
| | PM-1, -2 | (PN-12) | Martin | | R2C-1, -2 | (F2C-1 paper designation for R2C-1, never used) | Curtiss |
| | XP2M-1 | | Martin | | | | |
| | P3M-1, -2 | (XPY-1) | Martin | | R3C-1 | | Curtiss |
| | P4M-1 | Mercator | Martin | | thru -4 | | |
| P-5 | P5M-1, -2 | Marlin | Martin | | RA-1 | (TA) | Altantic |
| P-6 | XP6M-1 | Seamaster (never used in P-6 designation) | Martin | | thru -4 | | |
| P-6 | P6M-2 | Seamaster (never used in P-6 designation) | Martin | | RB-1 | Connestoga | Budd |
| | PN-7 thru -12 | | NAF | | RC-1 | Kingbird | Curtiss |
| | P2N | Never used in this designation (NC boats) | NAF | C-46 | R4C-1 | Condor | Curtiss |
| | P3N | | NAF | | R5C-1 | Commando (may not have been used under C-46 designation) | Curtiss |
| | XP4N-1,-2 | | NAF | | RD-1 | Dolphin | Douglas |
| | PO-1 | Constellation | Lockheed | | thru -4 R2D-1 | DC-2 | Douglas |
| | PO-2 | Warning Star (WV) | Lockheed | | R3D-1 | DC-5 | Douglas |
| | XPS-1, -2 | (XRS-2) | | | thru -3 | | |
| | PS-3 | (RS-3) | Sikorsky | C-47 | R4D-1 | Skytrain | Douglas |
| | XP2S | | Sikorsky | | thru -7 | | |
| | PV-1, -3 | Ventura | Lockheed | C-117 | R4D-8 | Skytrain | Douglas |
| | PV-2 | Harpoon | Lockheed | C-54 | R5D-1 | Skymaster | Douglas |
| | | | | | thru -5 | | |

1923-1962 Navy System—Continued

| Post-1962 DOD Designation | Original Navy Designation | Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data | Manufacturer or Source | Post-1962 DOD Designation | Original Navy Designation | Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data | Manufacturer or Source |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| C-118 | R6D-1 | Liftmaster, DC-6A | Douglas | | XSBC-1 | (XF12C-1) | Curtiss |
| | XRE-1 | Skyrocket | Bellanca | | XSBC-2 | | Curtiss |
| | thru -3 RG-1 | | Romeo Fokker, Italy | | thru -4 SBC-3,-4 | Helldiver | Curtiss |
| C-3 | XRK-1 | Envoy | Kinner | | SB2C-1 | Helldiver (SBF/SBW) | Curtiss |
| | RM-1 | Model 4-0-4 (VC-3A) | Martin | | thru -5 XSB2C-6 | | Curtiss |
| | XRO-1 | Altair | Detroit/Lockheed | | SBD-1 | Dauntless | Douglas |
| | XR20-1 | Electra | Lockheed | | thru -6 XSB2D-1 | Destroyer | Douglas |
| | XR30-1 | Electra | Lockheed | | SBF-1, | Helldiver (SB2C/SBW) | Canadian Fairchild |
| | R40-1 | Model 14 | Lockheed | | -3 and -4 SBN-1 | (XSBA) | NAF |
| | R50-1 | Lodestar | Lockheed | | SBU-1, -2 | | Chance Vought |
| C-121 | XR60-1 | Constitution | Lockheed | | SB2U-1 | Vindicator | Vought-Sikorsky, |
| | R70-1 | Constellation | Lockheed | | thru -3 | | Chance Vought |
| | R2Q-1 | (J2Q) Coast Guard | Fairchild | | XSB3U-1 | | Vought-Sikorsky |
| C-119 | XR3Q-1 | Reliant | Stinson | | SBW-1, -3 | Helldiver (SB2C/SBF) | Canadian Car & |
| | R4Q-1, -2 | Packet | Fairchild | | thru -5 | | Foundry |
| | RR-4, -5 | (JR) | Ford | | SNJ-1 | Texan | North American |
| | RS-1 thru -3 & -5 | (PS) | Sikorsky | | thru -7 XSN2J-1 | | North American |
| C-121 | RT | Delta | Northrop | | SNB-1, -2 | Kansan | Beech |
| | R6V-1 | Constitution | Lockheed | | SNB-5 | Navigator | Beech |
| | R7V-1 | Constellation | Lockheed | C-45 | SNC-1 | Falcon | Curtiss |
| | R8V-1G | Hercules | Lockheed | | SNV-1, -2 | Valiant | Vultee |
| | RY-1 | | Consolidated | | SOC-1 | Seagull | Curtiss |
| C-131 | thru -3 XR2Y-1 | | Convair | | thru -4 XS02C-1 | | Curtiss |
| | R3Y-1, -2 | Tradewind | Convair | | S03C-1 | Seamew | Curtiss |
| | R4Y-1, -2 | Convair Liner | Convair | | thru -3 XSOE-1 | | Bellanca |
| | ROE-1 | | Hiller | | SON-1 | (SOC-3) | NAF |
| | RON-1 | (HOG-1) | Gyrodyne | | XSO2U-1 | | Vought |
| | SC-1, -2 | Seahawk | Curtiss | | TB-1 | | Boeing |
| | XS2C-1 | Shrike | Curtiss | | T2D-1 | | Douglas |
| | XS3C-1 | | Curtiss | | XT3D-1 | | Douglas |
| | SDW-1 | (DT) | Dayton-Wright | | TG-1, -2 | | Great Lakes |
| | XSE-2 | | Bellanca | | T3M-1, -2 | | Martin |
| | SF-1 | (FF-1) | Grumman | | T4M-1 | | Martin |
| | XSG-1 | | Great Lakes | | XT5M-1 | (BM) | Martin |
| | XSL-1 | | Loening | | XT6M-1 | | Martin |
| | XS2L-1 | | Loening | | XTN-1 | | NAF |
| XSS-2 | | Sikorsky | | XT2N-1 | | NAF | |
| SU-1 | Corsair (O3U) | Vought | | TA-1 | (RA) | Atlantic | |
| S-2 | thru -4 S2F-1 | Tracker | Grumman | | thru -3 XTE-1 | | Edo |
| | thru -3 XS2U-1W | Cancelled (XWU-1) | Vought | | TE-2 | | Edo |
| | XSBA-1 | (SBN) | Brewster | | TF-1 | Trader | Grumman |
| | SB2A-1 | Buccaneer | Brewster | C-1 | | | |

1923–1962 Navy System—Continued

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> | <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation</i> | <i>Popular or Common Name, other Designation and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| | XTF-1W | Tracer (WF-2) | Grumman | | XTDL-1 | (P-39Q) drone | Bell |
| T-2 | XT2J-1, -2 | Buckeye | North American | | TDN-1 | Drone | NAF |
| T-2 | T2J-1 | Buckeye | North American | | TD2N | Gorgon | NAF |
| T-39 | T3J-1 | | North American | | TD3N | Gorgon | NAF |
| T-33 | TO-1, -2 | Shooting Star (TV) | Lockheed | | TDR-1 | Drone | Interstate |
| | TT-1 | Pinto | Temco | | XTD2R-1 | Drone | Interstate |
| T-33 | TV-1, -2 | Shooting Star (TO) | Lockheed | | XTD3R-1 | Drone | Interstate |
| T-1 | T2V-1 | Sea Star | Lockheed | | TS-1 | | Curtiss |
| | TBD-1 | Devastator | Douglas | | XUC | (XTD4C) | Culver |
| | XTB2D-1 | | Douglas | U-1 | UC-1 | Otter | DeHavilland |
| | TBF-1 | Avenger (TBM) | Grumman | U-16 | UF-1, -2 | Albatross (XJR2F) | Grumman |
| | XTBF-2, -3 | Avenger (TBM) | Grumman | U-11 | UO-1 | Aztec | Piper |
| | XTB3F-1 | Guardian (AF) | Grumman | | UO-1 | (not the same as Piper UO-1) | Vought |
| | XTBG-1 | | Great Lakes | | | | |
| | TBM-1 | Avenger (TBF) | General Motors | E-1 | WF-2 | Tracer | Grumman |
| | thru -4 | | | E-2 | W2F-1 | Hawkeye | Grumman |
| | XTBU-1 | Seawolf (TBY) | Vought | | XWU-1 | Cancelled (XS2U-1W) | Vought |
| | TBY-2 | Seawolf (XTBU) | Consolidated | | WV-1 | Constellation | Lockheed |
| | TDC-1, -2 | (PQ-8) drone | Culver | EC-121 | WV-2, -3 | Warning Star | Lockheed |
| | TD2C-1 | (PQ-14) drone | Culver | | | | |
| | XTD3C | (PQ-15) drone | Culver | | | | |
| | XTD4C-1 | (XUC) drone | Culver | | | | |
| | TDD | (OQ-2A) drone | Radioplane | | | | |
| | TD2D | Katydid, drone | McDonnell | | | | |
| | TD3D | (OQ-16) drone | Frankfort | | | | |
| | TD4D | (OQ-17) drone | Radioplane | | | | |

Note:

1. The list does not include all X model designations.
2. Aircraft designations in parentheses are a cross reference to a similar model or a redesignation of that aircraft. Parentheses are also used to identify Army Air Corps/Air Force designations. Civilian model designations are not placed in parentheses.
3. The designations T-28B/C, T-34B and C-130BL were used by the Navy prior to the change to the DoD Designation System in 1962.

How to Read the 1923 to 1962 Aircraft Model Designations for U.S. Naval Aircraft

There have been several systems to designate U.S. naval aircraft. However, the most common system covered the period 1923 to 1962 and consisted of four major elements:

- Aircraft Type/Class
- Manufacturer Type Sequence
- Manufacturer
- Modification

In the beginning there were just two classes: heavier-than-air (fixed wing) identified by the letter V and lighter-than-air identified by the letter Z. The letter H for heavier-than-air (rotary wing) was added with the introduction of the helicopter in the 1940s. Late in 1945 the letter K was added for pilotless aircraft, making four distinct types. In March 1946 the Type/Class designation was separated into two distinct headings of Type and Class. The letter V was omitted in the model designation, but H, K, and Z were used where applicable. The letter X was added as a prefix designating an experimental model.

In designating the first model of a class produced by a given manufacturer, the first number (1) is omitted in the Manufacturer Type Sequence position, but is shown in the Modification Sequence position. Thus, in the VJ class, the first utility aircraft produced by Grumman Aircraft Corporation was the JF-1. When a major modification was instituted for the JF-1 without changing the character of the model, that modification changed the designation to JF-2. The second modification changed the designation to JF-3. The second utility aircraft built by Grumman was designated the J2F-1 and successive modifications to this aircraft became J2F-2, J2F-3, etc. It must be remembered that the aircraft Modification Sequence Number is always one digit higher than the actual modification number. The basic designation could be expanded to show additional characteristics, as demonstrated below:

Suffix letters came into a more general use during the period of rapid expansion immediately prior to U.S. entry into World War II. Unfortunately, the use of suffix letters was not strictly defined and the same letter was frequently used to denote several different characteristics causing considerable confusion. By the time the system was abandoned, it was necessary to know the aircraft in question rather than relying on the suffix letter to tell the specific characteristics being identified.

The following lists provides all of the letter designations necessary to understand the system:

Table I
Type/Class Designation

| Type/Class | Meaning | Period |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| A | Attack | 1946–1962 |
| A | Ambulance | 1943–1946 |
| B | Bomber | 1931–1946 |
| BT | Bomber Torpedo | 1942–1946 |
| D | Target Drone | 1946–1947 |
| F | Fighter | 1922–1962 |
| G | Glider | 1946–1962 |
| G | Transport, Single Engine | 1939–1946 |
| G | In-Flight Refueling Tanker | 1960–1962 |
| H | Hospital | 1929–1942 |
| H | Air-Sea-Rescue | 1946–1962 |
| J | Utility | 1931–1946 |
| J | Transport | 1928–1931 |
| JR | Utility Transport | 1935–1946 |
| K | Drone | 1945–1962 |
| L | Glider | 1941–1945 |
| M | Marine Expeditionary | 1922–1925 |
| N | Trainer | 1922–1946 |

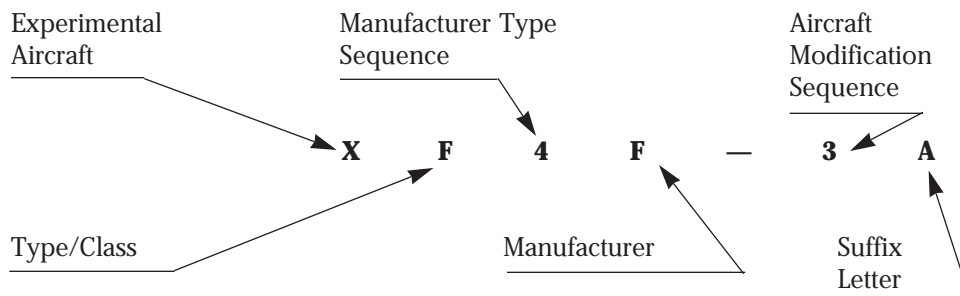


Table I—Continued
Type/Class Designation

| Type/Class | Meaning | Period |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| O | Observation | 1922–1962 |
| OS | Observation Scout | 1935–1945 |
| P | Patrol | 1922–1962 |
| P | Pursuit | 1923 |
| PB | Patrol Bomber | 1935–1946 |
| PT | Patrol Torpedo | 1922 |
| PT | Patrol Torpedo Bomber | 1937–1938 |
| R | Transport | 1931–1962 |
| R | Racer | 1923–1928 |
| S | Scout | 1922–1946 |
| SB | Scout Bomber | 1934–1946 |
| SN | Scout Trainer | 1939–1946 |
| SO | Scout Observation | 1934–1946 |
| T | Torpedo | 1922–1935 |
| T | Transport | 1927–1930 |
| T | Training | 1946–1962 |
| TB | Torpedo Bomber | 1936–1946 |
| TD | Target Drone | 1942–1946 |
| U | Utility | 1946–1962 |

Table II
Special Purpose Suffix

| Suffix Letter | Meaning | Example |
|---------------|--|---------|
| A | Target towing and photography | JRF-1A |
| A | Nonfolding wings and no carrier provisions | SB2C-1A |
| A | Armament on normally unarmed aircraft | J2F-2A |
| A | Arresting gear normally on noncarrier planes | SOC-3A |
| A | Amphibious version | PBY-5A |
| A | Land-based version of carrier aircraft | F4F-3A |
| A | Built for the Army Air Force | SBD-3A |
| B | Special armament version | PB4Y-2B |
| B | British lend lease version | JRF-6B |
| C | Carrier operating version of a noncarrier aircraft | SNJ-2C |
| C | British-American standardized version | PBM-3C |
| C | Equipped with two .50 cal. machine guns | TBF-1C |
| C | Cannon armament | F4U-1C |
| D | Drop tank configuration | F4U-1D |
| D | Special search radar | TBM-3D |
| E | Special electronic version | SB2C-4E |
| F | Converted for use as a flagship | PB2Y-3F |
| G | Air-sea-rescue version | TBM-5G |
| H | Hospital version | SNB-2H |
| H | Air-sea rescue version | PB2Y-5H |
| J | Target towing version | TBM-3J |
| K | Target drone version | F6F-5K |
| L | Search light version | P2V-5L |
| M | Weather reconnaissance version | PB4Y-2M |
| N | Night operating version (all weather) | F6F-5N |
| P | Photographic version | SBD-2P |

Table II—Continued
Special Purpose Suffix

| Suffix Letter | Meaning | Example |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|
| Q | Countermeasure version | TBM-3Q |
| R | Transport version | PBM-3R |
| S | Antisubmarine version | P5M-2S |
| T | Training version | R4D-5T |
| U | Utility version | PBM-3U |
| W | Special search version | PB-1W |
| Z | Administrative version | R4D-5Z |

Table III
Manufacturer's Designation

| Letter | Manufacturer | Period |
|--------|--|--------------|
| A | Aeromarine Plane and Motor Co. | 1922 |
| A | Atlantic Aircraft Corp (American Fokker) | 1927–1930 |
| A | Brewster Aeronautical | 1935–1943 |
| A | General Aviation Corp (ex Atlantic) | 1930–1932 |
| A | Noorduyn Aviation, Ltd. (Canada) | 1946 |
| B | Beech Aircraft Co. | 1937–1962 |
| B | Boeing Aircraft Co. | 1923–1962 |
| B | Budd Manufacturing Co. | 1942–1944 |
| C | Cessna Aircraft Corp. | 1943–1951 |
| C | Culver Aircraft Corp. | unknown–1946 |
| C | Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. | 1922–1946 |
| C | Curtiss Wright Corp | 1948–1962 |
| C | DeHaviland Aircraft of Canada | 1955–1962 |
| D | Douglas Aircraft Co. | 1922–1967 |
| D | McDonnell Aircraft Corp. | 1942–1946 |
| D | Radioplane Co. | 1943–1948 |
| D | Frankfort Sailplane Co. | 1945–1946 |
| DH | DeHavilland Aircraft Co. Ltd. (England) | 1927–1931 |
| DW | Dayton-Wright Airplane Co. | 1923 |
| E | Bellanca Aircraft Corp. | 1931–1937 |
| E | Cessna Aircraft Co. | 1951–1962 |
| E | Edo Aircraft Corp. | 1943–1962 |
| E | G. Elias & Brothers | 1922–1924 |
| E | Gould Aeronautical Corp. | 1942–1945 |
| E | Hiller Aircraft Corp. | 1948–1962 |
| E | Piper Aircraft Corp. | 1941–1945 |
| E | Pratt-Read | 1942–1945 |
| F | Fairchild Aircraft, Ltd. (Canada) | 1942–1945 |
| F | Columbia | 1943–1944 |
| F | Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. | 1931–1962 |
| G | Gallaudet Aircraft Corp. | 1929–1935 |
| G | Globe Aircraft Corp | 1946–1948 |
| G | Goodyear Aircraft Corp. | 1942–1962 |
| G | Great Lakes Aircraft Corp. | 1929–1935 |
| H | Hall Aluminum | 1928–1945 |
| H | Howard Aircraft Co. | 1941–1944 |
| H | Huff, Daland & Co | 1922–1927 |
| H | McDonnell Aircraft Corp | 1946–1962 |

Table III—Continued
Manufacturer's Designation

| <i>Letter</i> | <i>Manufacturer</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| H | Stearman-Hammond Aircraft Corp. | 1937–1939 |
| J | Berliner/Joyce Aircraft Co. | 1929–1935 |
| J | North American Aviation | 1937–1962 |
| K | Fairchild Aircraft Corp. | 1937–1942 |
| K | Kaman Aircraft Corp | 1950–1962 |
| K | Kaiser Cargo Inc. Fleetwings Div. | 1948–1962 |
| K | Keystone | 1927–1930 |
| K | Kinner Airplane & Motor Corp. | 1935–1936 |
| L | Bell Aircraft Corp. | 1939–1962 |
| L | Columbia | 1944–1946 |
| L | Grover Loening, Inc. | 1923–1933 |
| L | Loening Aeronautical Engineering Corp. | 1922–1932 |
| M | General Motors Corp. (Eastern Aircraft Div.) | 1942–1945 |
| M | Glenn L. Martin Co. | 1922–1962 |
| N | Gyrodyne Company of America | 1955–1962 |
| N | Naval Aircraft Factory | 1922–1948 |
| N | Naval Air Development Station | 1948–1962 |
| O | Lockheed Aircraft Corp. | 1931–1962 |
| P | Pitcairn Autogyro Co. | 1931–1932 |
| P | Piasecki Helicopter Corp. | 1946–1955 |
| P | Vertol Aircraft Corp. | 1955–1962 |
| P | Spartin Aircraft Co. | 1940–1941 |
| Q | Bristol Aeronautical Corp. | 1941–1943 |
| Q | Fairchild Engine and Airplane Co. | 1928–1962 |
| Q | Stinson Aircraft Corp. | 1934–1936 |
| R | Aeronca Aircraft Corp. | 1942–1946 |
| R | Ford Motor Co. | 1927–1932 |

Table III—Continued
Manufacturer's Designation

| <i>Letter</i> | <i>Manufacturer</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|---------------|---|---------------|
| R | Interstate Aircraft and Engineering Corp. | 1942–1962 |
| R | Radioplanes Co. | 1948–1962 |
| R | Ryan Aeronautical Co. | 1948–1962 |
| S | Schweizer Aircraft Corp. | 1941 |
| S | Sikorsky Aviation Corp. | 1928–1962 |
| S | Sperry Gyroscope Co. | 1948–1962 |
| S | Stearman Aircraft Co. | 1934–1945 |
| T | Taylorcraft Aviation Corp. | 1942–1946 |
| T | Tempco Aircraft Corp. | 1955–1962 |
| T | New Standard Aircraft Corp. | 1930–1934 |
| T | The Northrop Corp. | 1933–1937 |
| T | Northrop Aircraft Inc. | 1944–1962 |
| T | Timm Aircraft Corp. | 1941–1943 |
| U | Lewis & Vought, Chance Vought, Vought Sikorsky | 1922–1962 |
| V | Vultee Aircraft Inc. | 1943–1945 |
| V | Lockheed Aircraft Corp. | 1942–1962 |
| W | Canadian Car and Foundry Co., Ltd. | 1942–1945 |
| W | Waco Aircraft Corp. | 1934–1945 |
| W | Willys-Overland Co. | 1948–1962 |
| W | Wright Aeronautical Corp. | 1922–1926 |
| X | Cox-Klemin Aircraft Corp. | 1922–1924 |
| Y | Consolidated Aircraft Corp. | 1926–1954 |
| Y | Convair Division (General Dynamics Corp) | 1954–1962 |
| Z | Pennsylvania Aircraft Syndicate | 1933–1934 |

A basic company name has been used in some of the above entries even though the company may have undergone restructuring.

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962

In 1962 a standardized system for designation of U.S. aircraft went into effect. The following is a list of naval aircraft that were redesignated in 1962:

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Attack | | |
| A-1 | | |
| AD-5 | A-1E | Skyraider |
| AD-5W | EA-1E | Skyraider |
| AD-5Q | EA-1F | Skyraider |
| AD-5N | A-1G | Skyraider |
| AD-6 | A-1H | Skyraider |
| AD-7 | A-1J | Skyraider |
| A-2 | | |
| AJ-1 | A-2A | Savage |
| A-3 | | |
| A3D-1 | A-3A | Skywarrior |
| A3D-1Q | EA-3A | Skywarrior |
| A3D-2 | A-3B | Skywarrior |
| A3D-2Q | EA-3B | Skywarrior |
| A3D-2P | RA-3B | Skywarrior |
| A3D-2T | TA-3B | Skywarrior |
| A-4 | | |
| A4D-1 | A-4A | Skyhawk |
| A4D-2 | A-4B | Skyhawk |
| A4D-2N | A-4C | Skyhawk |
| A4D-5 | A-4E | Skyhawk |
| A-5 | | |
| A3J-1 | A-5A | Vigilante |
| A3J-2 | A-5B | Vigilante |
| A3J-3 | A-5C | Vigilante |
| A-6 | | |
| A2F-1 | A-6A | Intruder |
| A2F-1H | EA-6A | Intruder |
| Fighters | | |
| F-1 | | |
| FJ-3 | F-1C | Fury |
| FJ-3D | DF-1C | Fury |
| FJ-3M | MF-1C | Fury |
| FJ-3D2 | DF-1D | Fury |
| FJ-4 | F-1E | Fury |
| FJ-4B | AF-1E | Fury |
| F-2 | | |
| F2H-3 | F-2C | Banshee |
| F2H-4 | F-2D | Banshee |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| F-3 | | |
| F3H-2 | F-3B | Demon |
| F3H-2M | MF-3B | Demon |
| F3H-2N | F-3C | Demon |
| F-4 | | |
| F4H-1F | F-4A | Phantom II |
| F4H-1 | F-4B | Phantom II |
| F4H-1P | RF-4B | Phantom II |
| F-6 | | |
| F4D-1 | F-6A | Skyray |
| F-7 | | |
| YF2Y-1 | YF-7A | Sea Dart |
| F-8 | | |
| F8U-1 | F-8A | Crusader |
| F8U-1D | DF-8A | Crusader |
| F8U-1KD | QF-8A | Crusader |
| F8U-1P | RF-8A | Crusader |
| F8U-1T | TF-8A | Crusader |
| F8U-1E | F-8B | Crusader |
| F8U-2 | F-8C | Crusader |
| F8U-2N | F-8D | Crusader |
| F8U-2NE | F-8E | Crusader |
| F-9 | | |
| F9F-5KD | DF-9E | Cougar |
| F9F-6 | F-9F | Cougar |
| F9F-6D | DF-9F | Cougar |
| F9F-6K | QF-9F | Cougar |
| F9F-6K2 | QF-9G | Cougar |
| F9F-7 | F-9H | Cougar |
| F9F-8 | F-9J | Cougar |
| F9F-8B | AF-9J | Cougar |
| F9F-8P | RF-9J | Cougar |
| F9F-8T | TF-9J | Cougar |
| F-10 | | |
| F3D-1 | F-10A | Sky Knight |
| F3D-2 | F-10B | Sky Knight |
| F3D-2M | MF-10B | Sky Knight |
| F3D-2Q | EF-10B | Sky Knight |
| F3D-2T2 | TF-10B | Sky Knight |
| F-11 | | |
| F11F-1 | F-11A | Tiger |
| F-111 | | |
| TFX | F-111B | |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Patrol | | |
| P-2 | | |
| P2V-4 | P-2D | Neptune |
| P2V-5F | P-2E | Neptune |
| P2V-5FD | DP-2E | Neptune |
| P2V-5FE | EP-2E | Neptune |
| P2V-5FS | SP-2E | Neptune |
| P2V-6 | P-2F | Neptune |
| P2V-6M | MP-2F | Neptune |
| P2V-6T | TP-2F | Neptune |
| P2V-6F | P-2G | Neptune |
| P2V-7 | P-2H | Neptune |
| P2V-7S | SP-2H | Neptune |
| P2V-7LP | LP-2J | Neptune |
| P-3 | | |
| YP3V-1 | YP-3A | Orion |
| P3V-1 | P-3A | Orion |
| P-4 | | |
| P4Y-2K | QP-4B | Privateer |
| P-5 | | |
| P5M-1 | P-5A | Marlin |
| P5M-1S | SP-5A | Marlin |
| P5M-1T | TP-5A | Marlin |
| P5M-2 | P-5B | Marlin |
| P5M-2S | SP-5B | Marlin |
| Antisubmarine | | |
| S-2 | | |
| S2F-1 | S-2A | Tracker |
| S2F-1T | TS-2A | Tracker |
| S2F-1S | S-2B | Tracker |
| S2F-2 | S-2C | Tracker |
| S2F-2P | RS-2C | Tracker |
| S2F-3 | S-2D | Tracker |
| S2F-3S | S-2E | Tracker |
| Airborne Early Warning | | |
| E-1 | | |
| WF-2 | E-1B | Tracer |
| E-2 | | |
| W2F-1 | E-2A | Hawkeye |
| Observation | | |
| O-1 | | |
| OE-1 | O-1B | Bird Dog |
| OE-2 | O-1C | Bird Dog |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Helicopters | | |
| H-1 | | |
| HU-1E | UH-1E | Iroquois |
| H-2 | | |
| HU2K-1 | UH-2A | Seasprite |
| HU2K-1U | UH-2B | Seasprite |
| H-3 | | |
| HSS-2 | SH-3A | Sea King |
| HSS-2Z | VH-3A | Sea King |
| H-13 | | |
| HTL-4 | TH-13L | Sioux |
| HTL-6 | TH-13M | Sioux |
| HTL-7 | TH-13N | Sioux |
| HUL-1 | UH-13P | Sioux |
| HUL-1M | UH-13R | Sioux |
| H-19 | | |
| HRS-3 | CH-19E | |
| HO4S-3 | UH-19F | |
| H-25 | | |
| HUP-2 | UH-25B | Retriever |
| HUP-3 | UH-25C | Retriever |
| H-34 | | |
| HSS-1L | LH-34D | Seahorse |
| HSS-1 | SH-34G | Seahorse |
| HUS-1 | UH-34D | Seahorse |
| HUS-1Z | VH-34D | Seahorse |
| HUS-1A | UH-34E | Seahorse |
| HSS-1F | SH-34H | Seahorse |
| HSS-1N | SH-34J | Seahorse |
| H-37 | | |
| HR2S-1 | CH-37C | Mojave |
| H-43 | | |
| HUK-1 | UH-43C | |
| HOK-1 | OH-43D | |
| H-46 | | |
| HRB-1 | CH-46A | Sea Knight |
| H-50 | | |
| DSN-1 | QH-50A | DASH |
| DSN-2 | QH-50B | DASH |
| DSN-3 | QH-50C | DASH |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombers | | |
| JD-1 | UB-26J | Invader |
| JD-1D | DB-26J | Invader |
| Utility | | |
| U-1 | | |
| UC-1 | U-1B | Otter |
| U-6 | | |
| L-20A | U-6A | Beaver |
| U-11 | | |
| UO-1 | U-11A | Aztec |
| U-16 | | |
| UF-1 | HU-16C | Albatross |
| UF-1L | LU-16C | Albatross |
| UF-1T | TU-16C | Albatross |
| UF-2 | HU-16D | Albatross |
| Cargo/Transport | | |
| C-1 | | |
| TF-1 | C-1A | Trader |
| TF-1Q | EC-1A | |
| C-45 | | |
| SNB-5P | RC-45J | |
| SNB-5 | TC-45J | |
| C-47 | | |
| R4D-5 | C-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-5Q | EC-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-5L | LC-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-5S | SC-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-5R | TC-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-5Z | VC-47H | Skytrain |
| R4D-6 | C-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-6Q | EC-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-6L | LC-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-6S | SC-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-6R | TC-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-6Z | VC-47J | Skytrain |
| R4D-7 | TC-47K | Skytrain |
| C-54 | | |
| R5D-1Z | VC-54N | Skymaster |
| R5D-2 | C-54P | Skymaster |
| R5D-2Z | VC-54P | Skymaster |
| R5D-3 | C-54Q | Skymaster |
| R5D-3Z | VC-54Q | Skymaster |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| R5D-4R | C-54R | Skymaster |
| R5D-5 | C-54S | Skymaster |
| R5D-5Z | VC-54S | Skymaster |
| R5D-5R | C-54T | Skymaster |
| C-117 | | |
| R4D-8 | C-117D | Skytrain |
| R4D-8L | LC-117D | Skytrain |
| R4D-8Z | VC-117D | Skytrain |
| R4D-8T | TC-117D | Skytrain |
| C-118 | | |
| R6D-1 | C-118B | Liftmaster |
| R6D-1Z | VC-118B | Liftmaster |
| C-119 | | |
| R4Q-2 | C-119F | Packet |
| C-121 | | |
| R7V-1 | C-121J | Constellation |
| WV-2 | EC-121K | Warning Star |
| WV-3 | WC-121N | |
| WV-2E | EC-121L | Warning Star |
| WV-2Q | EC-121M | Warning Star |
| C-130 | | |
| GV-1U | C-130F | Hercules |
| GV-1 | KC-130F | Hercules |
| C-130BL | LC-130F | Hercules |
| C-131 | | |
| R4Y-1 | C-131F | Convair Liner |
| R4Y-2 | C-131G | Convair Liner |
| C-140 | | |
| UV-1 | C-140C | Jet Star |
| Training | | |
| T-1 | | |
| T2V-1 | T-1A | Sea Star |
| T-2 | | |
| T2J-1 | T-2A | Buckeye |
| T2J-2 | T-2B | Buckeye |
| T-28 | | |
| T-28A | T-28A | Trojan |
| T-28B | T-28B | Trojan |
| T-28BD | DT-28B | Trojan |
| T-28C | T-28C | Trojan |

Naval Aircraft Redesignated in 1962—Continued

| <i>Old Designation</i> | <i>New Designation</i> | <i>Popular Name</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| T-33 | | |
| TV-2 | T-33B | Shooting Star |
| TV-2D | DT-33B | Shooting Star |
| TV-2KD | DT-33C | Shooting Star |
| T-34 | | |
| T-34B | T-34B | Mentor |
| T-39 | | |
| T3J-1 | T-39D | Sabreliner |
| Airship | | |
| ZPG-2W | EZ-1B | Reliance |
| ZPG-2 | SZ-1B | |
| ZPG-3W | EZ-1C | |

DoD Designation System, 1962 to Present

In the following list the primary emphasis is on new aircraft model designations accepted after the Navy adopted the Department of Defense aircraft designation system in 1962. Aircraft that were in service and redesignated under the DoD Designation System will only have the primary designation (basic mission) listed. As an example, the AD-6 and AD-7 were redesignated A-1H and A-1J respectively. However, only A-1, the primary designation, will be listed instead of all the model variations. The modified mission designations will normally not be listed. Hence, designations such as RC-45J or TC-45J will not always be listed. However, the basic mission designation C-45 will be listed. Only officially designated popular names are placed in this list. A more comprehensive list of pre-1962 aircraft designations will be found in the **1923–1962 Navy System** list.

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation Before 1962</i> | <i>Popular Name Only, other Designations and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| A-1 | AD | Skyraider | Douglas |
| A-2 | AJ | Savage | North American |
| A-3 | A3D | Skywarrior | Douglas |
| A-4 | A4D | Skyhawk | Douglas |
| TA-4E/F/J | | Skyhawk | Douglas |
| A-5 | A3J | Vigilante | North American |
| RA-5C | | Vigilante | North American |
| A-6A/B/C/E | A2F | Intruder | Grumman |
| EA-6A | A2F-1Q | Intruder | Grumman |
| KA-6D | | Intruder | Grumman |
| EA-6B | | Prowler | Grumman |
| A-7A/B/C/E | | Corsair II | Vought |
| AV-8A/TAV-8A | | Harrier | Hawker-Siddeley |
| AV-8B/TAV-8B | | Harrier II | McDonnell Douglas |
| F/A-18A/B/C/D/E/F | | Hornet | McDonnell Douglas |
| EB-47E | | Stratojet | Boeing |
| C-1 | TF-1 | Trader | Grumman |
| C-2A | | Greyhound | Grumman |
| VC-3A | RM | Model 404 | Martin |
| TC-4C | | Academe | Grumman |
| UC-8A | | Buffalo, DHC-5 | DeHavilland |
| C-9B | | Skytrain II, DC-9 | McDonnell Douglas |
| UC-12B/F/M | | Huron | Beech |
| C-20D/G | | Gulfstream | Gulfstream Aerospace |
| EC-24A | | DC-8 | McDonnell Douglas |
| UC-27A | | F-27F | Fokker (Fairchild-built) |
| C-28A | | Model 404 | Cessna |
| C-45H/J | SNB-5 | Navigator | Beech |
| C-47 | R4D | Skytrain | Douglas |
| C-54 | R5D | Skymaster | Douglas |
| C-117 | R4D-8 | Skytrain | Douglas |
| C-118B | R6D | Liftmaster | Douglas |
| C-119 | R4Q | Packet | Fairchild |
| C-121 | R7V | Constellation | Lockheed |
| EC-121 | WV | Warning Star | Lockheed |
| C-130 | GV/R8V | Hercules | Lockheed |
| C-131H | R4Y | Samaritan | Convair |
| NKC-135A | | Stratotanker | Boeing |
| UC-880 | | Convair 880 | Convair |
| E-1 | WF | Tracer | Grumman |

DoD Designation System, 1962 to Present—Continued

| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation Before 1962</i> | <i>Popular Name Only, other Designations and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| E-2A/B/C | W2F | Hawkeye | Grumman |
| E-6 | | Hermes (redesignated Mercury) | Boeing |
| E-6A | | Mercury | Boeing |
| F-1 | FJ | Fury | North American |
| F-2 | F2H | Banshee | McDonnell |
| F-3 | F3H | Demon | McDonnell |
| F-4A/B/C/J/N/S | F4H | Phantom II | McDonnell |
| F-5E/F | | Tiger II | Northrop |
| F-6 | F4D | Skyray | Douglas |
| F-8 | F8U | Crusader | Vought |
| F-9 | F9F | Cougar | Grumman |
| F-10 | F3D | Sky Knight | Douglas |
| F-11 | F11F | Tiger | Grumman |
| F-14A/A+/B/D | | Tomcat | Grumman |
| F-16N | | Fighting Falcon | General Dynamics |
| TF-16 | | Fighting Falcon | General Dynamics |
| YF-17 | | | Northrop |
| F/A-18A/B/C/D/E/F | | Hornet | McDonnell Douglas |
| F-21A | | Kfir | Israel Aircraft |
| F-86H | | Sabre | North American |
| QF-86F | | Sabre | North American |
| F-111B | | | Grumman/General Dynamics |
| AH-1G/S | | Cobra | Bell |
| AH-1J/T/W | | Sea Cobra | Bell |
| UH-1C/D/E/H/M/N | HU-1 | Iroquois | Bell |
| TH-1E/F/L | | Iroquois | Bell |
| H-2 | HU2K | Seasprite | Kaman |
| H-3 | HSS-2 | Sea King | Sikorsky |
| OH-6A/B | | Cayuse | Hughes |
| H-13 | HTL/HUL | Sioux | Bell |
| H-19 | HRS-3 | Chickasaw | Sikorsky |
| H-19 | H04S-3 | Chickasaw | Sikorsky |
| H-25 | HUP | Retriever | Piasecki (Vertol) |
| H-34 | HSS-1 | Sea Bat | Sikorsky |
| H-34 | HUS | Seahorse | Sikorsky |
| H-37 | HR2S | Mojave | Sikorsky |
| H-43 | HOK | Huskie | Kaman |
| H-46 | HRB | Sea Knight | Boeing Vertol |
| QH-50D,-50C | DSN | DASH | Gyrodyne |
| H-51 | | L-186, tri-service evaluation | Lockheed |
| H-52 | HU2S | Coast Guard helo | Sikorsky |
| CH-53A/D | | Sea Stallion | Sikorsky |
| CH-53E | | Super Stallion | Sikorsky |
| MH-53E | | Sea Dragon | Sikorsky |
| TH-57A/B/C | | Sea Ranger | Bell |
| OH-58A | | Kiowa | Bell |
| H-60 | | Sea Hawk | Sikorsky |
| VH-60N | | White Hawk | Sikorsky |

DoD Designation System, 1962 to Present—Continued

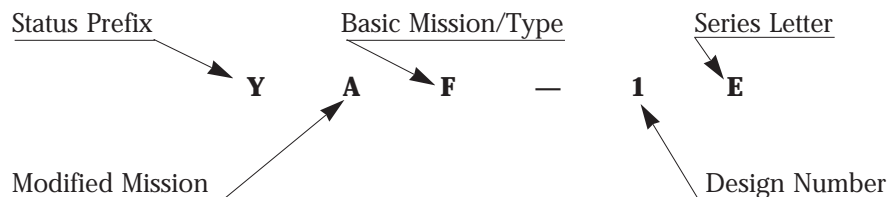
| <i>Post-1962 DOD Designation</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation Before 1962</i> | <i>Popular Name Only, other Designations and Miscellaneous Data</i> | <i>Manufacturer or Source</i> |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| H-65 | | Dolphin, Coast Guard | Aerospatiale |
| O-1A/B/C/G | OE | L-19A | Cessna |
| O-2A | | | Cessna |
| P-2 | P2V | Neptune | Lockheed |
| P-3A/B/C | P3V | Orion | Lockheed |
| EP-3A/B | | Orion | Lockheed |
| RP-3D | | Orion | Lockheed |
| QP-4B | PB4Y-2K | Privateer | Consolidated |
| P-5 | P5M | Marlin | Martin |
| S-2 | S2F | Tracker | Grumman |
| S-3A/B | | Viking | Lockheed |
| ES-3A | | Shadow | Lockheed |
| T-1 | T2V | Sea Star | Lockheed |
| T-2A/B/C | T2J | Buckeye | North American |
| T-28A/B/C | T-28 | Trojan | North American |
| T-29B/C | | Flying Classroom | Convair |
| T-33 | TO/TV | Shooting Star | Lockheed |
| T-34B/C | T-34 | Mentor | Beech |
| T-38A/B | | Talon | Northrop |
| T-39 | T3J | Sabreliner | North American |
| T-41B | | Mescalero | Cessna |
| T-42A | | Cochise | Beech |
| T-44A | | King Air 90 | Beech |
| T-45A/B | | Goshawk | McDonnell Douglas |
| T-47A | | Cessna Citation II | Cessna |
| U-1 | UC | Otter | DeHavilland |
| U-3A/B | | Model 310 | Cessna |
| U-6A | | Beaver, L-20A | DeHavilland |
| U-8D/F/G | | Seminole | Beech |
| U-9D | | Aero Commander | Aero Design |
| U-11 | UO | Aztec | Piper |
| U-16 | JR2F/UF | Albatross | Grumman |
| U-21A | | Ute | Beech |
| OV-1A/B/C | | Mohawk | Grumman |
| XV-6A | | Kestrels | Hawker-Siddeley |
| OV-10A/D | | Bronco | North American |
| XFV-12A | | Prototype of a high performance V/STOL fighter, never operational. | Rockwell International |
| AV-16A | | Joint proposal in 1973 for an advanced version of the AV-8. Osprey | McDonnell Douglas/ Hawker-Siddeley |
| V-22 | | | Bell/Boeing |
| X-22A | | | Bell |
| X-25A | | | Bensen |
| X-26A | | | Schweizer |
| X-26B | | QT-2PC | Lockheed/Schweizer |
| X-28A | | | Pereira |
| X-31A | | | Rockwell/DASA |
| YEZ-2A | | Operational development - model airship. | Westinghouse Airships Inc. |

How to Read the DoD Aircraft Model Designations

The Navy system had worked well for forty years, however, Congress decreed in 1962 that there should only be one system to designate military aircraft in the United States. The new system was based on the Air Force system and the aircraft manufacturer was no longer identified. While there were relatively few changes to Air Force aircraft designations, the Navy made a complete change. Aircraft models all started with the numeral 1, except for those aircraft on hand which were used by both services, in which case the existing Air Force designation applied. Thus, the FJ-3 became the F-1C, while the SNB-5P became the RC-45J. It must be emphasized that the placement of the dash is critical to distinguish aircraft under the new system from those under the previous Navy system. For example, the F4B-4 was a Boeing biplane fighter of the mid 30's, while the F-4B is an early version of the Phantom II.

The new system consisted of a Status Prefix Symbol (letter), a Basic Mission Symbol (letter), a Design Number (numeral), a Modified Mission Symbol (letter), a Series letter, and a Type Symbol (letter). A Design Number was assigned for each basic mission or type. New design numbers were assigned when an existing aircraft was redesigned to an extent that it no longer reflected the original configuration or capability. A Series Letter was assigned to each series change of a specific basic design. To avoid confusion, the letters "I" and "O" were not used as series letters. The Series letter was always in consecutive order, starting with "A".

A typical designation was as follows:



This was the Y/FJ-4B under the Navy system and the YAF-1E under the new DoD system.

Table IV
Status Prefix Symbols

| Letter | Title |
|--------|-------------------------|
| G | Permanently Grounded |
| J | Special Test, Temporary |
| N | Special Test, Permanent |
| X | Experimental |
| Y | Prototype |
| Z | Planning |

Table V
Modified Mission Symbols

| Letter | Title |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| A | Attack |
| C | Cargo/Transport |
| D | Director |
| E | Special Electronic Installation |
| H | Search/Rescue |
| K | Tanker |
| L | Cold Weather |
| M | Missile Carrier |
| Q | Drone |
| R | Reconnaissance |
| S | Antisubmarine |
| T | Trainer |
| U | Utility |
| V | Staff |
| W | Weather |

Table VI
Basic Mission and Type Symbols

| Letter | Title |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| A | Attack |
| B | Bomber |
| C | Cargo/Transport |
| E | Special Electronic Installation |
| F | Fighter |
| H | Helicopter |
| K | Tanker |
| O | Observation |
| P | Patrol |
| S | Antisubmarine |
| T | Trainer |
| U | Utility |
| V | VTOL and STOL |
| X | Research |
| Z | Airship |

Alphabetical Listing of Popular Names

Aircraft Popular Names

The official assignment of names to naval aircraft began 1 October 1941 when a Navy Department press release reported that the Secretary issued orders assigning names “for popular use” to a number of in-service and developmental aircraft. This decision was first acknowledged in the April 1942 edition of the Model Designation of Naval Aircraft (SH-3AF) published by the Bureau of Aeronautics. A War Department Press Release of 4 January 1943 distributed a consolidated list of names for Navy and Army aircraft, thus beginning interservice coordination on aircraft names. This latter press release pointed out that the practice of naming aircraft had long been in effect in England, “In order that the general public may get a better idea of the character of military aircraft and more easily identify the combat planes mentioned in press dispatches from the battlefields of the world. . . .”

Prior to October 1941, manufacturers on occasion chose to use names for an aircraft model or a series of models; thus, the Curtiss Company used the name *Helldiver* for aircraft which they built as naval dive bombers from the late 1920's. The October 1941 action officially assigned the name *Helldiver* to the latest member of the family, the SB2C. Vought chose to use the name *Corsair* for a series of carrier-based aircraft which included the O2U and the O3U/SU; in October 1941 the Navy officially assigned the name *Corsair* to Vought's new fighter, the F4U.

Although assignment of aircraft names was coordinated by the Army and Navy from 1943, each service had developed its own model designation system independently. The result was that the U.S. military forces used two separate model designation systems. Moreover, when the Navy used an Army Air Forces aircraft, it assigned a designation based upon its own system; thus, the Army Air Force's B-24 became the PB4Y-1 in Navy service while such trainers as the Army Air Force's AT-6 and PT-13/-17 were the Navy SNJ and N2S.

On 19 August 1952, the Joint Aircraft Committee of the Munitions Board took an initial step to eliminate multiple designations by establishing the policy that original model designations would generally be retained by the second service in the event of cross-

service procurement of aircraft, thus the North American Trojan which was used as a trainer by the Air Force retained the Air Force designation T-28 when procured for naval service. Designations of aircraft already in service were not changed at that time.

On 18 September 1962, the Department of Defense issued a uniform model designation system and directed its immediate adoption. The new system, adapted from the Air Force model designation system, assigned a basic mission letter followed by a number which indicated the sequential relationship of aircraft designed for the mission. Thus, the Navy AD was redesignated A-1. To avoid compounding the confusion, the new system, insofar as was possible, correlated the new designation of naval aircraft with the older designation; thus, the F9F became the F-9 and the F8U became the F-8. By the same token, the three in-service patrol planes, the P2V, the P3V and P5M were redesignated P-2, P-3 and P-5 even though the designation P-1 was not assigned.

To summarize the foregoing, the Navy developed an aircraft model designation system in the early 1920's and used it until 1962 when it was replaced by a Department of Defense unified system. The official assignment of names to naval aircraft did not begin until 1941; interservice coordination began in 1943, thus, the system for naming aircraft has changed little since the practice became official over 50 years ago.

In compiling the listing for popular names, one of the thorniest difficulties was the problem of distinguishing between what the official records said and what has long been accepted as fact. For example, few aviation historians believe that the SB2C-5 was ever assigned the name *Hellcat*, yet it does appear in the Bureau of Aeronautics' Model Designation of Naval Aircraft. Because this particular case is so extraordinary, there seemed ample reason to consider it an error; therefore, the SB2C-5 does not appear in this listing as a *Hellcat*. Others were equally questionable and were accordingly omitted. However, when sufficient doubt was present, the designation and its name were included here. As a result, some of the information in this listing will raise the eyebrows of those readers who are familiar with the popular names of naval aircraft.

Within the Alphabetical Listing of Popular Names the column headings are as follows:

Popular Names.—The popular names the Navy assigned to its aircraft are listed alphabetically. Cross-references are given when different names were assigned to different models of the same basic aircraft. In a few cases two different names were assigned to identical aircraft models. These are cross-referenced here. Also in rare instances entirely different aircraft have the same name, if so, the name is listed twice.

Original Navy Designation, pre-1962.—The original designation was the first designation under which the Navy accepted the aircraft. Basic designations are listed unless specific models were assigned different names. The Navy never officially assigned a name to

the designation in parentheses. They are listed because they were the original designations of the aircraft to which the Navy later assigned a name under a new designation.

Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation.—In 1962 the Department of Defense standardized its system of aircraft designations. Most naval aircraft, however, retained the same popular name. Basic designations are listed unless specific models were assigned different names. They are included because they are the redesignations of aircraft to which the Navy had previously assigned a name under its original designation. New aircraft acquired after 1962 and the new post 1962 aircraft designation are listed in this column.

| <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> | <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Academe | | TC-4C | Caydet (also Kaydet) | N2S | |
| Aero Commander | | U-9 | Cayuse | | OH-6A/B |
| Albatross | JR2F/UF | U-16 | Chickasaw | (H04S-3) (HRS-3) | H-19 H-19 |
| Avenger | TBF TBM | | Cobra | | AH-1 |
| Avenger II | | A-12 (never acquired) | Cochise | | T-42A |
| Aztec | UO | U-11 | Commando | R5C | |
| Banshee | F2H | F-2 | Connestoga | RB | |
| Bearcat | F8F | | Constellation (see Warning Star) | PO WV-1 R70/R7V | C-121 |
| Beaver | | U-6 | Constitution | R60/R6V | |
| Bird Dog | (OE) | O-1 | Convair Liner | R4Y | C-131 |
| Black Widow | F2T | | Coronado | PB2Y | |
| Bobcat | JRC | | Corsair | F4U FG F3A AU F2G | |
| Bronco | | OV-10 | Corsair II | | A-7 |
| Buccaneer | SB2A | | Cougar | F9F-6,-7,-8 | F-9 |
| Buckeye | T2J | T-2 | Crusader | F8U | F-8 |
| Buffalo | F2A | | | | |
| Buffalo | | UC-8A | | | |
| Catalina | PBY PB2B PBN | | | | |

| <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> | <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| Crusader III | F8U-3 | | Havoc | BD | |
| Cutlass | F7U | | Hawkeye | W2F | E-2 |
| DASH | (DSN) | QH-50 | Hellcat | F6F | |
| Dauntless | SBD | | Helldiver | SB2C SBC-3,-4 SBW SBF | |
| Demon | F3H | F-3 | Hercules | GV | C-130 |
| Destroyer | (SB2D) BTD | | Hermes (see Mercury) | | E-6 (changed to Mercury) |
| Devastator | (XTB2D-1) TBD | | Hornet | | F/A-18 |
| Dolphin | | H-65 | Hoverfly | HNS-1 | |
| Duck | (JF) J2F | | Hudson | PBO | |
| Excalibur | JR2S | | Huron | | UC-12B |
| Expediter | JRB-1 thru -4 | C-45 | Huskie | (HOK) (HUK) | H-43 |
| Falcon | SNC | | Intruder | A2F | A-6 |
| Fighting Falcon | | F-16 | Invader | JD | B-26 |
| Fireball | FR | | Iroquois | | UH-1/TH-1 |
| Flying Classroom | | T-29 | Jaguar | F10F | |
| Flying Fortress | PB-1G, -1W | | Kansan | SNB-1 | |
| Forwarder | GK | | Kaydet (see Caydet) | N2S | |
| Fury | FJ | F-1 | Kfir | | F-21A |
| Goose | JRF | | Kingfisher | OS2U OS2N | |
| Goshawk | | T-45 | Kiowa | | OH-58A |
| Grasshopper | NE | | Liberator | PB4Y-1/P4Y-1 | |
| Greyhound | | C-2 | Liberator Express | RY-1 | |
| Guardian | AF | | Liftmaster | R6D | C-118 |
| Gulfstream | | C-20D | Lodestar | R50 | |
| Harpoon | PV-2 | | Marauder | JM | |
| Harrier | | AV-8A | | | |
| Harrier II | | AV-8B | | | |

| <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> | <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> |
|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| Mariner | PBM | | Recruit | NR | |
| Marlin | P5M | P-5 | Reliance | ZPG-2W | EZ-1 |
| Mars | PB2M JRM | | Rescuer | HRP | |
| Mauler | (BTM-1), AM | | Retriever | HUP | H-25 |
| Mentor | T-34 | T-34 | Sabre | (F-86) | QF-86 |
| Mercator | P4M | | Sabreliner | (T3J) | T-39 |
| Mercury (see Hermes) | | E-6A | Samaritan | | C-131 |
| Mescalero | | T-41B | Savage | AJ | A-2 |
| Mitchell | PBJ | | Sea Bat | (HSS-1) | H-34 |
| Mohawk | | OV-1A/B/C | Sea Cobra | | AH-1J/T/W |
| Mojave | (HR2S) | H-37 | Sea Dart | F2Y | F-7 |
| Navigator | SNB-2C, -5 | C-45 | Sea Dragon | | MH-53 |
| Neptune | P2V | P-2 | Seafarer | ZPG-2 | SZ-1 |
| Nightingale | GH, NH | | Seagull (not official) | SOC, SO3C | |
| Norseman | JA | | Seahawk | SC | |
| Orion | P3V | P-3 | Sea Hawk | | SH-60B |
| Osprey | | V-22A | Seahorse | (HUS) | H-34 |
| Otter | UC | U-1 | Sea King | (HSS-2) | H-3 |
| Packet | R4Q | C-119 | Sea Knight | (HRB) | H-46 |
| Panther | F9F-2, -4, -5 | DF-9 | Seamaster | P6M | |
| Phantom | FD, FH | | Seamew | SO3C | |
| Phantom II | F4H | F-4 | Sea Ranger | XPBB-1 | |
| Pinto | TT-1 | | Sea Ranger | | H-57 |
| Pirate | F6U | | Seasprite | HU2K | H-2 |
| Privateer | PB4Y-2, P4Y-2 | QP-4B | Sea Stallion | | H-53 thru H-53D |
| Prowler | | EA-6B | Sea Star | T2V | T-1 |
| Puss Moth | XDH-80 | | Sea Wolf (also Seawolf) | TBY | |
| | | | Seminole | | U-8 |

| <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> | <i>Popular Names</i> | <i>Original Navy Designation, pre-1962</i> | <i>Redesignation to the Post 1962 DOD Designation System or New Post 1962 Designation</i> |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sentinel | OY | | Texan | SNJ | |
| Shadow | | ES-3A | Tiger | F11F | F-11 |
| Shooting Star | TV, TO | T-33 | Tiger II | | F-5 |
| Sioux | (HTL), HUL | H-13 | Tigercat | F7F | |
| Skyhawk | A4D | A-4 | Tomcat | | F-14 |
| Sky Knight | F3D | F-10 | Tracer | WF | E-1 |
| Skylander | F5D | | Tracker | S2F | S-2 |
| Skymaster | R5D | C-54 | Trader | TF-1 | C-1 |
| Skyraider | (BT2D), AD | A-1 | Tradewind | R3Y | |
| Skyray | F4D | F-6 | Traveler | GB | |
| Skyrocket | D-558-2 | | Trojan | T-28 | T-28 |
| Skyshark | A2D | | Tutor | N2T | |
| Skytrain | R4D-1, -5, -6, -7 R4D-8 | C-47 C-117 | Ute | | U-21A |
| Skytrain II | | C-9 | Valiant | SNV | |
| Skystreak | D-558-1 | | Ventura | PV-1, -3 | |
| Skytrooper | R4D-2, -3, -4 | | Vigilante | A3J | A-5 |
| Skywarrior | A3D | A-3 | Viking | | S-3 |
| Stratojet | | EB-47E | Vindicator | SB2U | |
| Stratotanker | | NKC-135A | Volunteer | ZSG-1 | |
| Super Fortress | P2B-1 | | Warning Star (See Constellation) | WV | EC-121 |
| Super Stallion | | CH-53E/RH-53/MH-53E | White Hawk | | VH-60N |
| Talon | | T-38 | Widgeon | J4F | |
| | | | Wildcat | F4F FM | |



The Navy and Marine Corps early helicopter, the HNS-1, demonstrates its air-sea rescue capabilities by retrieving a pilot from his ditched SBD, CG-3649.