

United States Naval Aviation

1910–2010

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Volume I Chronology

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Information on Photographs

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Preface

United States naval aviation celebrated more than 100 years of service in 2010. Its story as told in this volume and its companion had its origins in the 1950s. The book was first published as *United States Naval Aviation 1910–1960* and celebrated the first 50 years of naval aviation. Two subsequent editions added the decades of the 60s and 70s. A fourth edition brought the chronology up to 1995. This is the fifth update and, because naval aviation continually transforms and because of the extensive role it has played in its country’s history, the book is published in two volumes.

This volume documents the people and events that proved crucial to naval aviation’s history. The work expands upon the previous chronological format by providing additional information of campaigns and technical aspects, and it provides the researcher and the Navy a more detailed account of specific subjects pertinent to better understanding its history. This edition, while attempting to maintain the professional standards established by the previous editions, also corrects errors and omissions in the preceding volumes. It does not seek to be the comprehensive source on naval aviation but offers a basic guide to educate readers on the topic.

Compiling statistical information requires the historian to search a very wide range of sources, but over the past 15 years many of those reliable sources have ceased to exist. This loss was the result of the Navy discontinuing publication of specialized documents, as well as the trend toward computerized data that is not being maintained or transferred to the Naval History and Heritage Command archives. I made an exhaustive effort to research all possible sources and, when the records provided conflicting data, selected the most accurate information after reviewing all of the possible sources.

Special recognition is made to the naval aviation historians preceding me who researched and published the previous editions of this book: Roy A. Grossnick, Adrian O. Van Wyen, Lee M. Pearson, Dr. William J. Armstrong, and Clarke Van Vleet. As primary compiler for these chapters, I am fully responsible for any errors of fact or mistakes that may have occurred in this volume.

MARK L. EVANS
Naval Aviation Historian

Acknowledgments

This centennial update of United States Naval Aviation would not be possible without the previous editions covering the periods 1910–1960, 1910–1970, 1910–1980, and 1910–1995. The dedication and professionalism of the authors of these original editions—Adrian O. Van Wyen, Lee M. Pearson, Clarke Van Vleet, Dr. William J. Armstrong, Roy A. Grossnick, and Major John M. Elliott, USMC (Ret.)—laid the foundation for this new version.

In addition, the extensive revisions and updates to the previous versions' appendices would not have been possible without the generous support of the Naval Historical Foundation. Updating of this primary reference work on naval aviation was facilitated by a generous donation from former CNO Admiral James L. Holloway III, USN (Ret.). His donation to the Naval Historical Foundation enabled an aviation historian to research, write, and update all the chapters of volume II. The Naval Historical Foundation then gifted the completed text to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

A project of this magnitude requires the work of many people. The authors owe a debt of gratitude to historians Dr. Michael J. Crawford, Dr. Timothy L. Francis, Dr. Jeffrey G. Barlow, Dr. Robert J. Schneller Jr., Dr. John D. Sherwood, and Robert J. Cressman of the Naval History and Heritage Command who reviewed chapter manuscripts. Their subject matter expertise, insight, and exacting verification of salient points ensured the historical accuracy and the development of cogent themes.

Additional people outside the command generously reviewed chapter manuscripts. Vice Adm. Robert F. Dunn, USN (Ret.) of the Naval Historical Foundation; Maj. Elliott; Dr. Sarandis Papadopoulos, Secretariat Historian, Department of the Navy; Capt. Edmund T. Wooldridge, USN (Ret.); and Capt. Rosario M. Rausa, USNR (Ret.) examined the voluminous material and provided critical objectivity and analysis.

Other members of the command played a key role by researching information or by providing their extensive background knowledge in specific areas. The then Head, Archives Branch Curtis A. Utz and archivists Dale J. Gordon and John L. Hodges provided an incalculable wealth of specific knowledge of naval aviation and archival sources.

Historian Dr. Regina T. Akers of the command contributed her unparalleled knowledge of diversity issues to ensure a balanced representation of the people who comprise the rich heritage of naval aviation. Then-Art Director Morgan I. Wilbur cheerfully disregarded the repeated interruptions to help with the accurate and comprehensive selection of images. Librarians Glenn E. Helm, A. Davis Elliott, J. Allen Knechtmann, and Linda J. Edwards provided crucial, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable reference support. Former photographic curator Robert Hanshaw offered technical expertise that enabled the timely processing of the numerous photographic images.

The extent of the material involved required the assistance of additional people outside the command. Historian and consultant Harold Andrews was an indispensable technical expert, and his lifetime of experience and attentive character facilitated the compilation of multiple entries. Marine Corps historian Annette D. Amerman and Coast Guard historian Scott Price consistently offered immediate and vital assistance. William C. Booth of Aircraft Inventory N8812A provided indispensable support. Machinist's Mate 1st Class Ray H. Godfrey (Ret.) and Senior Master Sergeant William L. Slupe, USAF (Ret.), of the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) Association offered historical information.

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Because an index is the key to making this book a successful reference document, the final thanks go to those who helped with it: Cmdr. Austin W. O'Toole, USNR; Cmdr. Ronald B. Mitchell, USNR (Fleet Historian, Undersea Warfare Operations Det. D); and Byron W. Hurst, Communication and Outreach Division, NHHC.

Glossary

1st MAW	First Marine Aircraft Wing	AMO	aviation medical officer
6th FLT	Sixth Fleet	AMRAAM	advanced medium range air-to-air missile
7th FLT	Seventh Fleet	ANA	Association of Naval Aviation
A&R	Assembly & Repair	ANG	Air National Guard
A.P.	armor piercing	AOCP	aviation officer continuation pay
AAF	United States Army Air Forces	AOCS	aviation officer candidate school
AAM	air-to-air missile	ARAPHAHO	merchant ship portable modular aviation facility
AARGM	Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile	ARG	amphibious ready group
AAS	United States Army Air Service	ARM	antiradiation missile
ABATU	advanced base training unit	Arowa	Applied Research: Operational Weather Analysis
ABDA	American-British-Dutch-Australian Command	ARPA	Advanced Research Projects Agency
ACC	Air Combat Command	ARPS	automatic radar processing system
ACLS	automatic carrier landing system	ASM	air-to-surface missile
ACMR	Air Combat Maneuvering Range	ASMD	antiship missile defense
ACNO	Assistant Chief of Naval Operations	ASO	aviation supply office
ACP	aviation continuation pay	ASR	antisubmarine rocket
ADVCAP	advanced capability	ASROC	Anti-Submarine Rocket
AED	Aeronautical Engineering Duty	ASTOVL	advanced short takeoff/vertical landing
AEDO	Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer	ASV	surface vessel detection
Aéronautique Militaire	Army Air Service (France)	ASW	antisubmarine warfare
AESR	active electronically scanned radar	ATARS	Advanced Tactical Airborne Reconnaissance System
AEW	airborne early warning	ATC	Air Transport Command
AEWWINGPAC	Airborne Early Warning Wing, Pacific	ATFLIR	advanced targeting forward looking infrared
AFB	Air Force base	ATG	air task group
AIM	aircraft intermediate maintenance	ATS	Air Transport Service
AIM	air-launched aerial intercept guided missile	ATU	advanced training unit
AIMD	Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Division	AVG	American Volunteer Group
AirDet/AIR DET	air detachment	AWACS	airborne warning and control systems
AirLant/AIRLANT	Air Force, Atlantic Fleet or Commander, Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet	BAMS	Broad Area Maritime Surveillance
AirPac/AIRPAC	Air Force, Pacific Fleet or Commander, Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet	BAMS-D	Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Demonstrator
ALARS	air-launched acoustical reconnaissance	BRAC	Defense Base Closure and Realignment
ALM	Antilliaanse Luchtvaart Maatschappij (airline)	BTG	basic training group
ALNAV	All Navy	BuAer	Bureau of Aeronautics
ALVRJ	advanced low volume ramjet	BuC&R	Bureau of Construction and Repair
AMD	aeronautical maintenance duty	BuMed	Bureau of Medicine
		BuNav	Bureau of Navigation

BuOrd	Bureau of Ordnance	COMLATWING	Commander, Light Attack Wing
BuPers	Bureau of Naval Personnel	COMMATWING	Commander, Medium Attack Wing
BuShips	Bureau of Ships	COMNAVAIRESFOR	Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force
BuWeaps	Bureau of Naval Weapons	COMNAVAIRLANT	Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
CAA	Civil Aeronautics Administration	COMNAVAIRPAC	Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
CAA	Civil Aeronautics Authority	COMNAVELEX	Naval Electronic Systems Command
CAEWWS	Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School	COMNAVFOR Somalia	Commander, Naval Forces Somalia
CAINS	carrier aircraft inertial navigation system	COMNAVSUPFOR	Commander, Naval Support Force
CalTech	California Institute of Technology	COMOPDEVFOR	Commander, Operational Development Force, U.S. Fleet
CAP	Civil Air Patrol	COMPATWING	Commander, Patrol Wing
CAP	combat air patrol	COMSTRKFIGHTWING	Commander, Strike Fighter Wing
CARDIV	carrier division	CONUS	Continental United States
CASU	carrier aircraft service unit	CTF	Combined Task Force
CASU(F)	combat aircraft service unit (forward)	DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
CC	Construction Corps	DASH	Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter
CCR	circulation control rotor	DCNO	Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
CEC	cooperative engagement capability	DEW	Distant Early Warning line
CG	commanding general	DICASS	directional command active sonobuoy system
CGAS	Coast Guard Air Station	DIFAR	directional frequency analysis and recording
CHNAVRSCH	Chief of Naval Research	DMZ	demilitarized zone
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency	DOD	Department of Defense
CIC	combat information center	DODGE	Department of Defense Gravity Experiment satellite
CincPac/CINCPAC	Commander in Chief, Pacific	EALS	Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System
CincPacFlt/CINCPACFLT	Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet	ECM	electronic countermeasures
CINCUS	Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet	ECMO	electronic countermeasures operator/officer
CIWS	Close-In Weapons System (Phalanx)	ECP	Enlisted Commissioning Program
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Force	EDO	engineering duty officer
CNATRA	Chief of Naval Air Training	EFM	enhanced fighter maneuverability
CNATT	Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training	ELEX	Naval Electronic Systems Command
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations	EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
CNR	Chief of Naval Research	ESG	expeditionary strike group
COD	carrier on-board delivery	EW	electronic warfare
COIN	counter insurgency	EXCAP	expanded (extended) capability
ComAirLant	Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet	FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
ComAirPac	Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet	FAA	Fleet Air Arm
ComFAIR/COMFAIR	Commander, Fleet Air	FAB	Fleet Air Base
COMHATWING	Commander, Heavy Attack Wing	FAC	Federal Aviation Commission
COMHSLWINGPAC	Commander, Helicopter Antisubmarine Light Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet	FAC	forward air controller
COMINCH	Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet	FAETU	fleet airborne electronics training unit
COMINCUS	Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet		

FARP	forward arming and refueling point	JCM	joint common missile
FASOTRAGRULANT	Fleet Airborne Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic	JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
FAW	fleet air wing	JDAM	Joint Direct Attack Munition
FAWTUPAC	Fleet All Weather Training Unit, Pacific	JPALS	Joint Precision Approach and Landing System
FBM	fleet ballistic missile	JPATS	Joint Primary Aircraft Training System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	JRB	joint reserve base
FEWSG	Fleet Electronic Warfare Support Group	JRFB	joint reserve force base
FKR	frontoviye krilatiye raketi (frontal rocket)	JSF	joint strike fighter
FLIR	forward looking infrared radar	JSOW	joint standoff weapon
FMS	foreign military sales	JSTARS	Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System
FOB	forward operating base	KIA	killed in action
FORSCOM	Forces Command	LAMPS	Light Airborne Multipurpose System
FROG	free rocket over ground	Lant/LANT	Atlantic
FTEG	Flight Test and Engineering Group	LANTIRN	low altitude navigation/targeting infrared for night
FY	fiscal year	Laser-JDAM	Laser-Joint Direct Attack Munition
G.P.	general purpose	LCAC	landing craft, air cushion
GBU	guided bomb unit	LCS	littoral combat ship
GCA	ground-controlled approach	LDO	limited duty officer
Glomb	guided glider bomb	LGB	laser-guided bomb
GMGRU	guided missile group	LIC	low intensity conflict
GMU	guided missile unit	LJDAM	Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition
Halon	fire suppression agent	Lofti	Low Frequency Transionospheric satellite
HARM	High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile	LORAN	Long Range Navigation
HATWING	heavy attack wing	LRAACA	Long-Range Air Antisubmarine Warfare Capable Aircraft
HIPEG	high-performance external gun	LSO	landing signal officer
HTA	heavier-than-air	LTA	lighter-than-air
HUD	heads-up display	LTV	Ling-Temco-Vought Corp.
Huff-Duff	high frequency direction-finder	MAC	Military Airlift Command
HVAR	High-Velocity Aircraft Rocket	MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
IBM	International Business Machine Company	MAD	magnetic airborne/anomaly detection
ICAP	improved capability	MAG	Marine Aircraft Group
IFF	identification friend or foe	MAGTF	Marine Air-Ground Task Force
IGY	International Geophysical Year	MATS	Military Air Transport Service
IO	Indian Ocean	MAU	master augmentation unit
IOC	initial operational capability	MAW	Marine Aircraft Wing
IR	imaging infrared	MAWSPAC	Medium Attack Weapons School, Pacific
IR	infrared	MC	Medical Corps
ITALD	Improved Tactical Air Launched Decoy	MCAAS	Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station
JAGM	Joint Air-to-Ground Missile	MCAF	Marine Corps Air Facility
JASSM	Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile	MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
JATO	jet-assisted takeoff		

MCB	Marine Corps Base	NAO	naval aviation observer
MCM	mine countermeasures	NAOTS	Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station
MEB	Marine Expeditionary Brigade	NAP	naval aviation pilot/naval air pilot
Med	Mediterranean Sea	NAR	Naval Air Reserve
MEF	Marine Expeditionary Force	NARF	Naval Air Rework Facility
MEU	Marine Expeditionary Unit	NARTS	Naval Air Rocket Test Station
MIA	missing in action	NARTU	Naval Air Reserve Training Unit
MiG	Russian aircraft designed by Artem I. Mikoyan and Mikhail I. Gurevich	NARU	Naval Air Reserve Unit
MIO	maritime interception operations	NAS	Naval Aeronautic Station
MIRALC/SLBD	mid-infrared advanced chemical laser/Sea Lite Beam Director	NAS	Naval Air Station
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	NASA	National Air and Space Administration
MLS	microwave landing system	NASM	National Air and Space Museum
MMA	multimission maritime aircraft	NATB	Naval Air Training Base
MOL	Manned Orbiting Laboratory	NATC	Naval Air Training Center
MOUT	military operations in urban terrain	NATC	Naval Air Training Command
MRASM	medium range air-to-surface missile	NATEC	Naval Airship Training and Experimental Command
MRBM	medium range ballistic missile	NATMSACT	Naval Air Training Maintenance Support Activity
MRC	major regional conflict	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
MSC	Military Sealift Command	NATOPS	Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization
MSO	maritime security operations	NATS	Naval Air Transport Service
NAA	National Aeronautic Association	NATT	Naval Air Technical Training
NAAF	Naval Air Auxiliary Facility	NATTC	Naval Air Technical Training Center
NAAS	Naval Air Auxiliary Station	NAVAIR	Naval Air Systems Command
NAATSC	Naval Air Advanced Training Subordinate Command	NAVAIRSYSCOM	Naval Air Systems Command
NAB	Naval Air Base	NAVCAD	naval aviation cadet
NACA	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics	NAVICP	Naval Inventory Control Point
NAD	Naval Aviation Depot	NAVMAT	Naval Material Command
NADC	Naval Air Development Center	NAVPRO	Naval Plant Representative Office
NADEP	Naval Aviation Depot	NAVRES	Naval Reserve
NADS	Naval Air Development Station	NAVSEA	Naval Sea Systems Command
NAEC	Naval Air Engineering Center	Navstar	navigation satellite
NAESU	Naval Aviation Electronic Service Unit	NAWC	Naval Air Warfare Center
NAF	Naval Air Facility	NAWCAD	Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division
NAF	Naval Aircraft Factory	NAWCWD	Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
NAFC	Naval Air Ferry Command	NAWS	Naval Air Weapons Station
NAILS	Naval Aviation Integrated Logistic Support	NB	Naval Base
NALCOLANTUNIT	Naval Air Logistics Control Office, Atlantic Unit	NERV	Nuclear Emulsion Recovery Vehicle
NAMC	Naval Air Material Center	NFO	naval flight officer
NAMO	Naval Aviation Maintenance Office	NMC	Naval Material Command
NAMTC	Naval Air Missile Test Center	NME	National Military Establishment
		NMF	Naval Missile Facility

NNV	national naval volunteers	RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
NOB	Naval Operating Base	radar	radio detection and ranging
NORAD	North American Air Defense Command	RAF	Royal Air Force
NorLant	Northern Atlantic Ocean	RAG	replacement air group
NorPac	Northern Pacific Ocean	RAM	Rolling Airframe Missile
NOTS	Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station	RAST	recovery assist, securing, and traversing system
NOTS	Naval Ordnance Test Station	RCA	Radio Corporation of America
NR	Naval Reserve/Navy Reserve	RDT&E	research, development, test, and evaluation
NRAB	Naval Reserve Aviation Base	retrorocket ASR	rearward-firing antisubmarine rocket
NRFC	Naval Reserve Flying Corps	REWSON	reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and special operations
NRL	Naval Research Laboratory	RFC	Royal Flying Corps
NROTC	Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps	RimPac	Rim of the Pacific Exercise (Joint)
NS	Naval Station	RIO	radar intercept officer
NSA	Naval Support Activity	RN	Royal Navy
NSAWC	Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center	RNAS	Royal Naval Air Station
NSC	National Security Council	ROK	Republic of Korea
NSRB	National Security Resources Board	RPG	rocket-propelled grenade
NTPS	Naval Test Pilot School	RPV	remotely piloted vehicle
NVG	night vision goggles	RVN	Republic of Vietnam
NVN	North Vietnam	SAM	surface-to-air missile
NWC	Naval Weapons Center	SAR	search-and-rescue
OASU	Oceanographic Air Survey	SCS	sea control ship concept
OCS	Officer Candidate School	SDB	small diameter bomb
ODM	operational development model	SEAL	Sea-Air-Land team
ONR	Office of Naval Research	SEAPAC	sea activated parachute automatic crew release
OPNAV	Naval Operations	SecDef/SECDEF	Secretary of Defense
Ops	operations	SecNav/SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense	SEVENTHFLT	Seventh Fleet
OSRD	Office of Scientific Research and Development	SIXTHFLT	Sixth Fleet
P/A	pilotless aircraft	SLAM	Standoff Land Attack Missile
Pac/PAC	Pacific	SLAM-ER	Standoff Land Attack Missile–Expanded Response
PASU	Patrol Aircraft Service Unit	SLCM	Sea/Surface Launched Cruise Missile
Patriot	Phased Array Tracking Intercept of Target missile	SLEP	Service Life Extension Program
PatSU/Patsu	Patrol Aircraft Service Unit	SoLant/SOLANT	Southern Atlantic Ocean
PatWing/PATWING	Patrol Wing	SoIRad	Solar Radiation (satellite)
PIMA	planned incremental maintenance availability	SoPac/SOPAC	Southern Pacific Ocean
PLAF	People's Liberation Armed Forces (Viet Cong)	SPASUR	Navy Space Surveillance System
PLAT	Pilot Landing Aid Television system	SSM	surface-to-surface missile
PMTC	Pacific Missile Test Center	STAG	Special Task Air Group
POL	petroleum, oil, lubricants	STM	supersonic tactical missile
POW	prisoner of war	STOL	short takeoff and landing
PPI	plan position indicator		

STOVL	short takeoff/vertical landing	USAF	United States Air Force
STRATCOM	Strategic Command	USCG	United States Coast Guard
SWIP	System Weapons Integration Program	USMC	United States Marine Corps
SWOD	Special Weapons Ordnance Device	USN	United States Navy
T&E	test and evaluation	USNR	United States Naval/Navy Reserve
TACAMO	Take Charge and Move Out	USNRF	United States Naval/Navy Reserve Force
TACAN	tactical air navigation system	USNS	United States Naval Ship
TACELWING	Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing	V/STOL	vertical and/or short takeoff and landing
TACGRU	tactical group	VAST	versatile avionics shop test
TALD	tactical air launch decoy	VCNO	Vice Chief of Naval Operations
TARPS	Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance Pod System	VFAX	advanced experimental fighter aircraft
TERCOM	terrain contour matching		
TF	task force	Viet Cong	People's Liberation Armed Forces
TG	task group	VOD	vertical on-board delivery
TINS	Thermal Imaging Navigation Set	VOR	very-high frequency omni-range direction finder
TLAM	Tomahawk land-attack missile		
TOW	tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-command-link	VORTAC	very-high frequency omni-range direction finder tactical air navigation system
TRAM	Target Recognition Attack Multisensor	VSTOL	vertical/short takeoff and landing
TraWing/TRAWING	Training Air Wing	VT	variable-time (fuze)
TRIM	Trail Road Interdiction Mission	VTOL	vertical takeoff and landing
TU	task unit	VTUAV	vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle
TWA	Trans World Airlines	VTXTS	fixed-wing experimental training aircraft training system
UAS	unmanned aerial systems	VWS	ventilated wet suit
UAV	unmanned aerial vehicle	WAVES	Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service
UCAS	unmanned combat air system		
UDT	underwater demolition team	WestPac/WESTPAC	Western Pacific Ocean
UN	United Nations	WNY	Washington Navy Yard
USA	United States Army	WWI	World War I
USAAF	United States Army Air Forces	WWII	World War II
USAAS	United States Army Air Service		
USACOM	United States Atlantic Command		

Note: Acronyms or abbreviations for squadron designations, air groups or air wings, aviation ship designations, and aviation ratings may be found in the Vol. II appendices, as will other more specialized acronym meanings.