

## SECOND VA-125

### Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWENTY SIX (VA-26) on 30 June 1956.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (VA-125) on 11 April 1958.

Disestablished on 1 October 1977. The second squadron to be assigned the designation VA-125.



*The tiger head was the squadron's first insignia.*

was brown and white with black markings; the lightning bolt whiskers were yellow and outlined in black; the tongue and inside of the mouth were red.

When the squadron's mission was changed, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 13 May 1959. Colors for the torch of learning insignia are unknown.

Nickname: Skylancers, 1956–1958

Rough Raiders, 1958–1977.

### Chronology of Significant Events

**11 Apr 1958:** The squadron's mission was changed from air-to-ground/surface attack to the indoctrination and training of pilots and enlisted personnel in attack aircraft for assignment to combat carrier squadrons.

**11 Dec 1958:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. E. Thomas, was killed in an aircraft accident.

**Mar 1960:** With the addition of the A4D-2N Skyhawk, the squadron added radar and inflight refueling training to its flight syllabus.

### Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 18 December 1956. Colors for the cougar insignia were: a dark blue background outlined in black; white scroll outlined in black with black lettering; white stars; the cougar's face



*When the squadron's mission changed to fleet replacement training, this insignia was adopted and approved for used by the squadron.*

**19 May 1966:** VA-125 was the first squadron in the Navy to receive the TA-4F Skyhawk.

**Jun 1966:** The first of several groups of Australians arrived for training by the squadron on the A-4 Skyhawk. The pilots were to form the nucleus of Australia's first A-4 squadron scheduled for assignment to HMAS *Melborne* (R-21).

**13 Mar 1967:** The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. D. Shaw, was killed in an aircraft accident during a routine carrier qualification exercise on the *Kearsarge* (CVS 33).

**31 Mar 1969:** The last A-4 Fleet Replacement Pilot class began.

**30 Jun 1969:** The last A-4 Fleet Replacement Enlisted Maintenance training program was completed.

**Nov 1969:** The squadron began to develop the required training program for the Light Attack Weapons School. In December 1969 the squadron, in conjunction with VA-122, inaugurated a graduate level course for the Light Attack Weapons School that involved all phases of attack aviation.

**Jan 1970:** The first A-7 Fleet Replacement Enlisted Maintenance and Fleet Replacement Pilot classes began.



*A formation of squadron F9F-8 Cougars, circa 1957.*

### Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Miramar	30 Jun 1956
NAS Moffett Field	Aug 1956
NAS Lemoore	24 Jul 1961

### Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard D. Greer, Jr.	30 Jun 1956
CDR C. H. Carr	11 Apr 1958
CDR J. E. Thomas	15 Jul 1958
CDR F. E. Ward, Jr.	11 Dec 1958

**Commanding Officers—Continued**

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR P. H. Durand	30 Nov 1959
CDR O. L. Dauphin	05 Apr 1961
CDR James W. Porter	09 Apr 1962
CDR Earl F. Godfrey	29 May 1963
CDR William J. Forgy	14 Sep 1964
CDR Jack A. Endacott	27 Aug 1965
CDR John D. Shaw	29 Jul 1966
CDR Gary H. Palmer (acting)	13 Mar 1967
CDR Charles E. Hathaway	12 May 1967
CDR Otto E. Krueger	11 Jul 1968
CDR Ronald H. Caldwell	31 Jul 1969
CDR George E. LeBlanc, Jr.	31 Jul 1970
CDR James B. Busey IV	10 May 1971
CDR James M. Gleim	31 Mar 1972
CDR Charles R. Bowling	06 Jul 1973
CDR Robert C. Taylor	12 Sep 1974
CDR Denis R. Weichman	17 Dec 1975
CDR J. W. Keathley	28 Mar 1977

**Aircraft Assignment**

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8B	Jul 1956
F9F-8	Oct 1956
A4D-1	10 Jun 1958
A4D-2/A-4B*	Aug 1958
A4D-2N/A-4C*	03 Mar 1960
AD-5/A-1E*	Sep 1960
A-4E	Dec 1962
TA-4F	19 May 1966
A-4F	Feb 1968
A-7B	25 Sep 1969
A-7A	Oct 1969
A-7C	Aug 1975

\* The A4D-2, A4D-2N and AD-5 designations were changed to A-4B, A-4C and A-1E in 1962.



A close up of an F9F-8 Cougar with squadron personnel, taken during the squadron's 1957–1958 deployment to WestPac aboard *Kearsarge* (CVA

**Major Overseas Deployments**

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
09 Aug 1957	02 Apr 1958	ATG-3	CVA 33*	F9F-8	WestPac

\* During the deployment aboard *Kearsarge* (CVA 33) the squadron was based at NAS Agana, Guam, for a considerable part of the cruise.



*A formation of five different models of the A-4 Skyhawk flown by the squadron in 1969; the A-4B, A-4C, A-4E, A-4F and TA-4F.*

**Air Wing Assignments**

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
ATG-3	Y/NC*	30 Jun 1956
RCVG-12/RCVW-12†	NJ	11 Apr 1958
COMFAIRLEMOORE	NJ‡	01 Jul 1970
COMLATWINGPAC§	NJ	30 Jun 1973

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

† The Replacement Air Group designation (RCVG) was changed to Combat Readiness Air Group (RCVG) on 1 April 1963 and then to Combat Readiness Air Wing (RCVW) on 20 December 1963.

‡ RCVW-12 was disestablished on 1 July 1970 and the squadron was assigned to Commander Fleet Air Lemoore. However, the tailcode NJ, which had been assigned RCVW-12, was retained by VA-125 and the other squadrons that had been assigned to RCVW-12.

§ COMFAIRLEMOORE was redesignated COMLATWINGPAC (Commander Light Attack Wing, Pacific) on 30 June 1973.



*A squadron A-1E Skyraider, 1965 or 1966.*

*A formation of squadron A-7 Corsair IIs over NAS Lemoore, California, 1970.*

