# United States Naval Aviation 1910–1995

Roy A. Grossnick

with contributions from

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### Information on Photographs

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#### Forew ord

he fourth edition of *United States Naval Aviation* 1910–1995 is a testimony to Naval Aviation's achievements as it prepares to enter the 21st century and its first one hundred years of service. The Naval Historical Center's Aviation History Office has expanded on previous editions to make this chronology the quintessential reference work on Naval Aviation history.

This work is designed to provide naval personnel, historians and aviation enthusiasts with a general background on Naval Aviation history. It highlights the significant events and developments that shaped Naval Aviation from 1910 to 1995, rather than providing a detailed treatise of particular subjects or actions. It covers all aspects of Naval Aviation, including operational activities, technical developments and administrative changes.

To help make this book a more useful reference tool, Mr. Roy Grossnick and his expert staff have more

than doubled the number of appendices, which include the most commonly requested subjects or data on Naval Aviation. The aim is to make this the first-source document that people use when they are looking for basic information on Naval Aviation. The book provides the opportunity to gain an insight and learn about the origins, achievements and traditions of Naval Aviation as it relates to the rich naval heritage of the United States.

Naval Aviation has undergone immense change since 1910. It now plays a defining role in the nation's defense structure and is on call to respond to military crises around the world. The past developments, as chronicled in this book, serve as a prologue to future developments in Naval Aviation.

William S. Dudley Director of Naval History

#### Preface

he history of this book goes back to 1956 when the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air) and Chief, Bureau of Aeronautics supported the preparation of a chronology for Naval Aviation. Their intent was to record events of special interest and lasting significance pertaining to the growth of U.S. naval air as an element of sea power, its employment and accomplishments in war and peace.

The writing project was undertaken by two history offices, the Naval Aviation History Office assigned to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air) and the Historian's Office in the Bureau of Aeronautics. Under the initial directive, the two offices were permitted considerable leeway in defining the elements to be included in the chronology. Adherence to professional standards was paramount. Accuracy and comprehensive coverage of events and developments were key words for the project; its scope included the air elements of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard in time of war.

At the outset of the project, the historians in the two offices realized that "one of the drawbacks of chronologies as a form of exposition stems from the fact that they record, or chronicle, events with no attempt at explanation." Their chronology departed from that form, particularly for extended periods such as war campaigns and for developments in various technical areas. Some types of information, important to the history of Naval Aviation, became repetitious when included in a chronology. When such information was amenable to statistical or tabular treatment, it was incorporated in appendixes. Thus, the chronology project evolved into two parts: an actual chronology and various appendices providing invaluable facts and figures on subjects not suitable for the chronology but pertinent to the history of Naval Aviation.

The authors of the initial publication, *United States Naval Aviation 1910–1960*, did an admirable job in adhering to their professional objectives. Mr. Adrian O. Van Wyen, historian DCNO (Air), and Mr. Lee M. Pearson, historian, Bureau of Aeronautic/Bureau of Weapons, set the standards for future aviation historians to chronicle the history of Naval Aviation.

The first update, *United States Naval Aviation* 1910–1970, followed the basic scope and concept put forth in the earlier edition. Authors for this update were: Mr. Clarke Van Vleet, historian, DCNO (Air); Mr. Adrian O. Van Wyen, historian (Ret), DCNO (Air); and Mr. Lee M. Pearson, historian, Naval Air Systems Command. The second update, *United States Naval Aviation* 1910–1980, represented a more substantial upgrade to the publication. It retained the basic format but included more detailed appendices. The primary authors were Dr. William J. Armstrong, historian, Naval Air Systems Command, and Mr. Clarke Van Vleet, historian, DCNO (Air Warfare).

Many transformations in Naval Aviation have taken place since the first publication in the early 1960s. The world structure has undergone major realignments and old adversaries are now allies, or at least friends. People and machines are still the key ingredients for Naval Aviation. However, technology has come to play a very dominate role in how Naval Aviation projects its power in support of national defense objectives and our nation's heritage. The third update, *United States Naval Aviation 1910–1995*, attempts to bring into focus the myriad aspects of Naval Aviation and how they play a role in defense as well as the humanitarian side of their mission.

This edition, besides attempting to maintain the professional standards set by the early authors, has attempted to correct any errors in previous editions and make it the primary reference source on Naval Aviation for the Navy Department and researchers. It is not designed as a comprehensive source on Naval Aviation but as a basic guide to educate readers on Naval Aviation history. In order to accomplish this goal, the number of appendices covering commonly requested data on Naval Aviation has been more than doubled. The chronology provides a narrative flow of information, while the appendices provide an insight into the multiple functions of Naval Aviation. All aspects of Naval Aviation, including operational activities, administrative and personnel changes and technical developments, have been incorporated.

When drafting a reference work with such an extensive range of data, it is almost impossible to prevent errors. An exhaustive effort was made to check the accuracy of information in this book. When different sets of records or sources provided conflicting data, I selected the most accurate information based on reviewing all the possible sources. As the primary

compiler for this edition, I accept full responsibility for any mistakes or errors of fact or misinterpretations that may have occurred in the book, and I welcome any corrections.

Roy A. Grossnick

### **Acknowledgments**

began working in the Naval Aviation History Office in 1980 and this book, in its editions as *United States Naval Aviation 1910–1970* and *1910–1980*, has been my primary reference source. It was the first source I used when a quick answer was needed on a particular Naval Aviation subject. Credit for making the book an indispensable reference tool must go to its past authors: Mr. Adrian O. Van Wyen, Mr. Lee M. Pearson, Mr. Clarke Van Vleet and Dr. William J. Armstrong.

Compiling a reference work of this magnitude was beyond the scope of just one person. The staff of the Naval Aviation History Office, both past and present, must be complimented on the work they have done over the years that contributed to updating the book. Special recognition goes to the contributors who are listed on the title page. Without the work done by Dr. William J. Armstrong, historian, Naval Air Systems Command, and Naval Aviation History Office staffers Mr. John M. Elliott, historian, retired; Ms. Judith A. Walters, historian; Ms. Gwendolyn J. Rich, archivist; and Mr. W. Todd Baker, historian, this edition would not have been possible. I extend to them my sincere thanks for all the extra time and diligent work they put into the project.

The Naval Aviation News magazine staff contributed their expertise in editing the manuscript. Their knowledge of Naval Aviation terminology and subject matter helped smooth out any writing discrepancies that may have crept into the text. Commander Diana T. Cangelosi's staff includes: Ms. Sandra K. Russell, Ms. Wendy E. Karppi, Journalists Second Class Gerald E. Knaak and E. Blake Towler, Mr. Morgan I. Wilbur, Art Director, and Mr. Charles C. Cooney, former Art Director.

Several people outside the Naval Historical Center also played a role in reviewing, making comments and providing information on special topics. Mr. Hal Andrews' vast knowledge of Naval Aviation, particularly its technical aspects, helped make this book a primary reference source for years to come. Lieutenant Commander Richard R. Burgess, USN (Ret.); Mr. Robert Lawson; Captain James E. Lesher, USNR (Ret.); and Mr. Leroy Doig III contributed to special sections in the appendices. A special thank-you goes to four people who spent considerable time reviewing the entire man-

uscript and making some excellent recommendations: Captain Rosario "Zip" Rausa, USNR (Ret.); Captain Richard C. Knott, USN (Ret.); Dr. William J. Armstrong and Dr. Jeffrey G. Barlow.

I would also like to recognize the professional staff in the Naval Historical Center who provided a wide range of support for the book. Mr. Bernard Cavalcante's Operational Archives Branch was always ready to assist in locating specific records, particularly Mrs. Kathy M. Lloyd, head of the Reference Section. The Ship's History Branch, headed by Mr. John C. Reilly, Jr., was instrumental in reviewing and documenting specific information on aviation ships. Ms. Jean L. Hort and her staff in the Navy Department Library provided the minute details that were easy to overlook. A special thank-you to Ms. Sandra J. Doyle for her strong support and liaison work. Perhaps the most important thanks go to Senior Historian Dr. Edward Marolda and Director Dr. William S. Dudley, who recognized the importance of continuing to update this reference source, supported the project and allocated the resources for publication.

The details surrounding the research and writing of a book are well recognized, but the administrative support necessary is usually forgotten in the flourish of getting the book to the printer. The center's Administrative Branch needs to be recognized for all the work it does in supporting the operations of the Naval Aviation History Branch. Branch head Lieutenant Carol Dula, USN, and her staff consistently responded to our administrative needs. Special recognition goes to Mr. Randy Potter for his technical computer support and to Ms. Donna Smilardo, the center's Budget Analyst, for keeping us out of the red ink.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Mary, and daughter, Maki, for being patient during the period of extended working hours necessary to get this book to publication. A special debt of gratitude is extended to Mr. John Grier, design and typesetting specialist of the Government Printing Office, for his layout efforts. For those I have not mentioned by name, let me say that your contributions are appreciated and are not forgotten.

Roy A. Grossnick

## Glossary

1st MAW First Marine Aircraft Wing

6thFLT Sixth Fleet
7thFLT Seventh Fleet
A&R Assembly & Repair
A.P. Armor Piercing
AAF Army Air Forces
AAM Air-to-air Missile
AAS Army Air Service

ABATU Advanced Base Aviation Training Unit

ACC Air Combat Command

ACLS Automatic Carrier Landing System
ACMR Air Combat Maneuvering Range

ACNO (Air Warfare) Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare)

ADM Admiral

ADVCAP Advanced Capability

AED Aeronautical Engineering Duty
AEDO Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer

AEW Airborne Early Warning

AEWWINGPAC Airborne Early Warning Wing, Pacific

AFB Air Force Base

AFEM Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

AIM Air Launched Aerial Intercept Guided Missile

AIM Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance

AIMD Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department

AirDet/AIR DET Air Detachment

AirLant/AIRLANT Air Force, Atlantic Fleet or Commander, Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
AirPac/AIRPAC Commander, Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet or Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

ALARS Air Launched Acoustical Reconnaissance

ALNAV All Navy

ALVRJ Advance Low Volume Ramjet
AMD Aeronautical Maintenance Duty

AMO Aviation Medical Officer

AMRAAM Advanced Medium Range Air-to-air Missile

ANA Association of Naval Aviation

ANG Air National Guard

AOCP Aviation Officer Continuation Pay AOCS Aviation Officer Candidate School

ARAPAHO Name for a portable modular aviation facility for merchant ships

ARG Amphibious Ready Group ARM Antiradiation Missile

ARPA Advanced Research Projects Agency
ARPS Automatic Radar Processing System

ASM Air-to-surface Missile
ASMD Anti-ship Missile Defense
ASO Aviation Supply Office
ASROC Antisubmarine Rocket Missile

ASTOVL Advanced Short Takeoff/Vertical Landing

ASW Antisubmarine Warfare

ATARPS Advanced Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance Pod System

ATG Air Task Group

ATU Advanced Training Unit

BRAC Base Closure and Realignment Commission

BTG Basic Training Group
BuAer Bureau of Aeronautics

BuC&R Bureau of Construction and Repair BuMed Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

BuNavBureau of NavigationBuOrdBureau of OrdnanceBuPersBureau of Naval Personnel

BuShips Bureau of Ships

BuS&A Bureau of Supplies and Accounts
BuWeps Bureau of Naval Weapons
CO/co Commanding Officer
CAA Civil Aeronautics Authority

CAEWWS Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School

CAF Confederate Air Force

CAINS Carrier Aircraft Inertial Navigation System

CalTech California Institute of Technology

CAP Civil Air Patrol
CAP Combat Air Patrol

CAPT Captain

CARDIV Carrier Division

CASU Carrier Air Service Unit

CASU(F) Combat Aircraft Service Units (Forward)

CC Construction Corps
CCR Circulation Control Rotor

CDR Commander

CG Commanding General
CIC Combat Information Center
CincPac/CINCPAC Commander in Chief, Pacific

CincPacFlt/CINCPACFLT Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
CINCUS Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet
CIWS Close in Weapons System (Phalanx)

CNATRA Chief of Naval Air Training
CNR/CHNAVRSCH Chief of Naval Reserarch
CNO Chief of Naval Operations
COD Carrier On-board Delivery
COIN Counter Insurgency

ComAirLant Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet ComAirPac Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

ComFAIR/COMFAIR Commander, Fleet Air

COMHATWING Commander, Heavy Attack Wing

COMHSLWINGPAC Commander, Helicopter Antisubmarine Light Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet

COMINCH Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet
COMINCUS Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet
COMLATWING Commander, Light Attack Wing

COMMATWING Commander, Medium Attack Wing COMNAVAIRESFOR Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force

COMNAVAIRLANT Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet COMNAVAIRPAC Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

COMNAVFOR Somalia Commander, Naval Forces Somalia COMNAVSUPFOR Commander, Naval Support Force

COMOPDEVFOR Commander, Operational Development Force, U.S. Fleet

COMPATWING Commander, Patrol Wing

COMSTRKFIGHTWING Commander, Strike Fighter Wing

CONUS Continental United States

DASH Drone Antisubmarine Helicopter
DCNO Deputy Chief of Naval Operations

DFC Distinguished Flying Cross

DICASS Directional Command Active Sonobuoy System

DMZ Demilitarized Zone
DoD Department of Defense
ECM Electronic Countermeasures

ECMO Electronic Countermeasures Operator/Officer

ECP Enlisted Commissioning Program

EDO Engineering Duty Officer

EFM Enhanced Fighter Maneuverability
ELEX/COMNAVELEX Naval Electronic Systems Command

ENS Ensign

EW Electronic Warfare

FAA Federal Aviation Administration

FAETU Fleet Airborne Electronics Training Units

FASOTRAGRULANT Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic

FAW Fleet Air Wing

FAWTUPAC Fleet All Weather Training Unit, Pacific

FBM Fleet Ballistic Missile

FEWSG Fleet Electronic Warfare Support Group

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared Radar

FMS Foreign Military Sales FORSCOM Forces Command

Ft Feet

FTEG Flight Test and Engineering Group

FY Fiscal Year G.P. General Purpose

GCA Ground Controlled Approach

Glomb Guided Glider Bomb
GMGRU Guided Missile Group
GMU Guided Missile Unit
Halon Fire Suppression Agent

HARM High Speed Antiradiation Missile

HATWING Heavy Attack Wing

HIPEG High Performance External Gun

hp Horsepower
HTA Heavier-than-air
HUD/Hud Heads up Display

Hvar High Velocity Aircraft Rocket

IBM International Business Machine Company

IFF Identification Friend or Foe IGY International Geophysical Year

IO Indian Ocean

IOC Initial Operational Capability

IRImaging InfraredJATOJet Assisted TakeoffJCSJoint Chiefs of Staff

JPATS Joint Primary Aircraft Training System

KIA Killed in Action

KIAS Knots indicated air speed KLM Kuwait Liberation Medal

KPUC Korean Presidential Unit Citation

KSM Korean Service Medal

LAMPS Light Airborne Multipurpose System

Lant/LANT Atlantic lbs Pounds

LCACAir Cushion Landing CraftLCDRLieutenant CommanderLCOLLieutenant ColonelLDOLimited Duty OfficerLGBLaser Guided BombLICLow Intensity Conflict

Loran/LORAN Long Range Navigation Equipment

LRAACA Long-range, Air Antisubmarine Warfare-capable Aircraft

LSO Landing Signal Officer

LT Lieutenant

LT (jg) Lieutenant Junior Grade

LTA Lighter-than-Air
LTV Ling Temco Vought Corp.
MAC Military Airlift Command

MACV Military Assistance Command, Vietnam MAD Magnetic Airborne (or Anomaly) Detection

MAG Marine Air Group

MAGTF Marine Air Group Task Force
MATS Military Air Transport Service
MAU Master Augmentation Unit
MAW Marine Air Wing

MAWSPAC Medium Attack Weapons School, Pacific MCAAS Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station

MCAF Marine Corps Air Facility
MCAS Marine Corps Air Station
Med Mediterranean Sea

MEF Marine Expeditionary Force
MEU Marine Expeditionary Unit

MIA Missing in Action

MiG Russian aircraft designed by Artem I. Mikoyan and Mikhail I. Gurevich

MIRALC/SLBD Mid Infrared Advanced Chemical Laser/Sea Lite Beam Director

MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIS Microwave Landing System MRC Major Regional Conflicts

MUC Meritorious Unit Commendation
NAAF Naval Air Auxiliary Facility
NAAS Naval Air Auxiliary Station

NAB Naval Air Base

NACA National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics

NAD Naval Aviation Depot

NADC Naval Air Development Center

NADEP Naval Aviation Depot

NAEC Naval Air Engineering Center

NAESU Naval Aviation Electronic Service Unit

NAF Naval Air Facility
NAF Naval Aircraft Factory
NAFC Naval Air Ferry Command

NAILS Naval Aviation Integrated Logistic Support Task Force

NALCOLANTUNIT Naval Air Logistics Control Office, Atlantic Unit

NAMC Naval Air Material Center

NAMO Naval Aviation Maintenance Office
NAMTC Naval Air Missile Test Center
NAO Naval Aviation Observer

NAP Naval Aviation Pilot/Naval Air Pilot

NAR Naval Air Reserve

NARF Naval Air Rework Facility
NARTU Naval Air Reserve Training Unit

NARU Naval Air Reserve Units
NAS Naval Aeronautic Station

NAS Naval Air Station

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASM National Air Space Museum NATC Naval Air Test Center

NATMSACT Naval Air Training Maintenance Support Activity

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Natops/NATOPS Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Program

NATB Naval Air Training Base
NATC Naval Air Training Center
NATS Naval Air Transport Service

NATEC Naval Airship Training and Experimental Command

NATT Naval Air Technical Training

NATTC Naval Air Technical Training Center

NAVAIR Naval Air Systems Command NAVAIRSYSCOM Naval Air Systems Command

NAVCAD Naval Aviation Cadet
NavE Navy Battle "E" Ribbon
NAVICP Naval Inventory Control Point
NAVMAT/NMC Naval Material Command

NavPro/NAVPRO Naval Plant Representative Office

NAVRES/NR Naval Reserve
Navstar Navigation Satellite
NAWC Naval Air Warfare Center

NAWC (WD)

Naval Air Warfare Center (Weapons Division)

NAWC (AD)

Naval Air Warfare Center (Aircraft Division)

NDSM National Defense Service Medal NEM Navy Expeditionary Medal

NERV Nuclear Emulsion Recovery Vehicle

NFO Naval Flight Officer

NFRC Naval Reserve Flying Corps

nm Nautical Mile

NNV National Naval Volunteers NOB Naval Operating Base

NORAD North American Air Defense Command

NorLant Northern Atlantic Ocean NorPac Northern Pacific Ocean NOTS Naval Ordnance Test Station
NRAB Naval Reserve Aviation Bases
NRFC Naval Reserve Flying Corps

NRL Naval Research Lab/Naval Research Laboratory

NROTC Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

NS Naval Station

NSF National Science Foundation
NTPS Naval Test Pilot School
NUC Navy Unit Commendation
NVG Night Vision Goggle
NVN North Vietnam

NWC Naval Weapons Center
O&R Overhaul and Repair
OASU Oceanographic Air Survey
OCS Officer Candidate School

ODM Operational Development Model

ONR Office of Naval Research
OPNAV Naval Operations

Ops Operations

ORI Operational Readiness Inspection
OSD Office of Secretary of Defense

P/A Pilotless Aircraft

Pac/PAC Pacific

PASU Patrol Aircraft Service Unit PatSU/Patsu Patrol Aircraft Service Unit

PatWing/PATWING Patrol Wing

PLAT Pilot Landing Aid Television
PMTC Pacific Missile Test Center
Pol Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants

POW Prisoner of War

PPI Plan Position Indicator
PUC Presidential Unit Citation

Radio Detection and Ranging Equipment

RADM Rear Admiral RAF Royal Air Force

RAM Rolling Airframe Missile

RAST Recovery Assist, Securing and Traversing System

RCA Radio Corporation of America

RDT&E Research, Development, Training and Evaluation

Ret Retired

REWSON Reconnaissance, Electronic Warfare and Special Operations

RFC Canadian Royal Flying Corps
RimPac Pacific Rim Exercise (Joint)
RIO Radar Intercept Officer

RN Royal Navy

RNAS Royal Naval Air Station
ROK Republic of Korea
RPV Remotely Piloted Vehicle

RPV Star Ship-deployable, Tactical Airborne Remotely Piloted Vehicle

RVN Republic of Vietnam

RVNGC Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross)

SAM Surface-to-air Missile SAR Search and Rescue

SASM Southwest Asia Service Medal

SCS Sea Control Ship Concept

Seals Sea-air-land Team

SEAPAC Sea Activated Parachute Automatic Crew Release

SecDef/SECDEF Secretary of Defense SECNAV/SecNav Secretary of the Navy

SEVENTHFLT Seventh Fleet SIXTHFLT Sixth Fleet

SLAM Standoff Land Attack Missile

SLCM Sea/Surface Launched Cruise Missile SLEP Service Life Extension Program

Sol Rad Solar Radiation

SoLant/SOLANT Southern Atlantic Ocean

SOOS Stacked Oscars on Scout System

SoPac/SOPAC South Pacific

SPASUR Navy Space Surveillance System

Sq Square

SSM Surface-to-surface Missile
STM Supersonic Tactical Missile

STRATCOM Strategic Command SVN South Vietnam

SWIP System Weapons Integration Program SWOD Special Weapons Ordnance Device

TACAMO Take Charge and Move out
Tacan/TACAN Tactical Air Navigation System
TACELWING Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing

TACGRU Tactical Group
T&E Test and Evaluation

TARPS Tactical Aerial Reconnaissance Pod System

TERCOM Terrain Contour Matching

TF Task Force
TG Task Group

TINS Thermal Imaging Navigation Set
TRAM Target Recognition Attack Multisensor

TraWing/TRAWING Training Air Wing

TRIM Trail Road Interdiction Mission

TWA Trans World Airlines
UAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UDT Underwater Demolition Team

U.K. United KingdomU.S. United StatesUN United Nations

UNSM United Nations Service Medal

USA U.S. Army

USACOM U.S. Atlantic Command

USAF U.S. Air Force
USCG U.S. Coast Guard
USMC U.S. Marine Corps

USN U.S. Navy

USNR U.S. Navy Reserve
USNRF U.S. Navy Reserve Force
USNS United States Naval Ship

USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

VADM Vice Admiral

VAST Versatile Avionics Shop Test

VCNO Vice Chief of Naval Operations

VFAX Advanced Experimental Fighter Aircraft

VLAD Vertical Line Array DIFAR VOD Vertical on board Delivery

Vstol Vertical/short Take-off and Landing Vtol Vertical Take-off and Landing

Vtol/stol Vertical Take-off and Landing; Short Take-off and Landing

Vtxts Navy Undergraduate Jet Flight Training System

VWS Ventilated Wet Suit
WestPac/WESTPAC Western Pacific Ocean
WNY Washington Navy Yard
WTS War Training Service

WW-I World War I World War II

Note: Acronyms or abbreviations for squadron designations, air groups or air wings, aviation ship designations and aviation ratings may be found in appendices 16, 15, 3, and 14, respectively. Other appendices in the book also provide a limited number of more specialized acronym meanings.