Third VP-45

Lineage

Established as Patrol Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIVE (VP-205) on 1 November 1942.

Redesignated Patrol Bombing Squadron TWO HUN-DRED FIVE (VPB-205) on 1 October 1944.

Redesignated Patrol Squadron TWO HUNDRED FIVE (VP-205) on 15 May 1946.

Redesignated Medium Patrol Squadron (Seaplane) FIVE (VP-MS-5) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Patrol Squadron FORTY-FIVE (VP-45) on 1 September 1948, the third squadron to be assigned the VP-45 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was submitted to CNO for approval in January 1944, and was approved on 1 February. The central character of the design was a sea monster wrapping its coils around a helpless



The squadron's World War II insignia.

German U-boat with its trident aimed at the conning tower. The monster symbolized the tenacity with which the squadron held its contacts and attacks against the submarine. Colors: sea monster, yellow body outlined in black; Nazi submarine, black with white insignia; trident, black; horns, white; tongue, red; eyes, white and black; teeth, white; claws, red.

The second insignia for VP-45 was submitted to CNO for approval on 4 February 1949, but for some undetermined reason was not approved until 1 December 1955. In the interim, however, the squadron used the design with later CNO approval simply making it official. The primary character of the design is a pelican, whose wing span in profile was highly sug-



The squadron's second insignia used a

gestive of the PBM-5 profile. Pelicans, like

the Mariner, were known for distance flying, accuracy in spotting targets, and determined diving ability. The binoculars around the bird's neck represented the search mission and the periscope below,

the submarine target. The bomb

under each wing represented the position of the wing bomb bays of the PBM. Colors: pelican, gray with yellow beak; bombs, yellow; binoculars, black; ocean, dark blue; sky, light blue with white clouds; periscope, gray with white stripe. This insignia has been in use from 1949 to the present.

Nickname: Pelicans, 1949–1963. Red Darters, 1968–1980. Pelicans, 1981–present.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Nov 1942: VP-205 was established at NAS Norfolk, Va., as a seaplane squadron flying the PBM-3 Mariner. During the first phase of training at Norfolk, the squadron came under the operational control of FAW-5.

26 Jan–Jun 1943: Upon completion of the first phase of training, VP-205 was relocated to San Juan, P.R., with tender support provided by *Albemarle* (AV 5). On 1 February 1943, the squadron came under the operational control of FAW-11. Training in advanced base operations continued along with regular operational patrol duties until June 1943. The squadron complement of aircraft was brought up to 13.



Squadron PBMs being serviced by the seaplane tender Timbalier (AVP-54), 80-G-483683.

- **2–10 Jun 1943:** VP-205 was relocated to Trinidad, B.W.I. Duties consisted of antishipping and antisubmarine patrols. New PBM-3S aircraft with improved radar replaced the older PBM-3C versions. On 10 June 1943, one of the new VP-205 Mariners was lost at sea during a patrol, possibly due to enemy action.
- **3 Aug 1943:** A Mariner piloted by Lieutenant (jg) C. C. Cox attacked a U-boat located on the surface and was shot down during the bomb run with the loss of all hands. Lieutenant Cox's attack resulted in the sinking of the submarine, later identified as *U-572*, Oberleutnant Heinz Kummentat commanding.
- **6 Aug 1943:** A Mariner piloted by Lieutenant Anthony Matuski attacked a U-boat on the surface and was shot down with the loss of all hands. The heavily damaged submarine, *U-615*, was later dispatched by other aircraft.
- **7 Jul 1944:** VP-205 was relocated to NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Duties consisted of long range antisubmarine patrols and convoy coverage.
- **19 Sep 1944:** VP-205 was relieved for return to NAS Norfolk, Va. Personnel were given rehabilitation leave upon arrival and the PBM-3S aircraft were turned in for replacement with the PBM-5 version.
- **17 Oct 1944:** Squadron personnel began returning from leave and check out in the new PBM-5 aircraft began. Reforming of the squadron and its assets was completed by the end of the month, and VPB-205 received orders to relocate to NAAS Harvey Point, N.C., for training.
- **29 Nov 1944–30 Jan 1945:** Upon completion of training the squadron's area of operation was changed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The cross-country flights from Harvey Point to NAS San Diego, Calif., and then on to NAS Alameda, Calif., commenced with all aircraft arriving safely by 1 December. Upon arrival, aircrews began preparing their aircraft for the immi-

- nent transpac to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. During this period the squadron came under the operational control of FAW-8. The first elements of the squadron began their transpac to NAS Kaneohe on 21 December, with all aircraft arriving safely two days later. Operational training began immediately after the crews had settled into quarters. While at Kaneohe the squadron came under the operational control of FAW-2. From 23 to 30 January 1945, the squadron made several ferry flights between Kaneohe and NAS Alameda.
- **25 Mar 1945:** VPB-205 relocated to the Marianas operating under FAW-1. On 1 April 1945, the squadron moved temporarily ashore at NAB Tanapag, Saipan. From this location the squadron flew antishipping patrols, occasional Dumbo missions and sector searches.
- **18 May 1945:** VPB-205 was placed under the operational control of FAW-18 (TU 94.1.2). The squadron mission was changed from daytime to night antishipping patrols.
- **25 Aug 1945:** VPB-205 was relocated from Saipan to Chimu Wan, Okinawa, under the operational control of FAW-1. Tender support was provided by *St. George* (AV 16). Duties consisted of antishipping patrols and long range searches.
- **23 Sep 1945:** VPB-205 was relocated to Wakayama, Japan, to provide surveillance support during the military disarmament of the home islands, and courier/passenger services for the occupation forces. During this period the squadron came under the operational control of FAW-17.
- **21 Nov 1945:** VPB-205 was relieved for return to NAS Norfolk, Va., for a period of training and overhaul.
- **Apr 1946:** VPB-205 was assigned a new homeport at Bermuda.
- **1950:** VP-45 received a permanent change of station to NAS Norfolk, Va., to participate in experiments with



Squadron P5Ms in flight over Coco Solo, Panama, 1956.



A squadron P-3C flying over a Soviet freighter.

specially modified PBM-5 aircraft to transport marine assault forces to the beach.

1 Sep 1956: VP-45 received a permanent change of station from NAS Coco Solo, C.Z., to Bermuda.

1961–1963: VP-45 participated in all of the Project Mercury space shots as a member of the Bermuda Recovery Unit.

25 Jan-May 1963: VP-45 deployed to NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Cuban missile crisis. The squadron was employed in shipping surveillance and ASW patrols, returning to NAS Bermuda in February. The squadron deployed again to Guantanamo on 27 March, returning to NAS Bermuda in May.

1 Jul 1963: VP-45 conducted its last deployment as a seaplane squadron at NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During the two-month deployment the squadron conducted numerous 12-hour search and rescue (SAR) missions for distressed or wrecked vessels in the Caribbean.

Sep 1963: The Pelicans established detachments at NAS Patuxent River, Md., and NAS Jacksonville, Fla., to begin transition from the SP-5B Marlin to the Lockheed P-3A Orion. VP-45 was the last patrol squadron in the Atlantic Fleet to use seaplanes, closing out 53 years of continuous service by these remarkable aircraft.

1 Jan 1964: Upon completion of transition training, the squadron was given a new homeport at NAS

Jacksonville, Fla., under the operational control of FAW-11.

17 Nov 1964: A squadron P-3A, BuNo. 151362, crashed in the Atlantic with the loss of all hands.

27 May 1968: The Red Darters were among the patrol squadrons and other naval units called upon to assist in the search for the ill-fated *Scorpion* (SSN 589), last heard from on 21 May 1968, 50 miles south of the Azores. The search proved futile, and the four VP-45 patrol aircraft were released for return to NAS Jacksonville, Fla., on 5 June 1968. *Scorpion* was struck from the Navy list on 30 June 1968. In late October of that same year, the remains of *Scorpion* were discovered in 10,000 feet of water 400 miles southwest of the Azores. No cause was ever determined for the sinking.

14 Dec 1968-5 Feb 1969: VP-45 deployed to NS Sangley Point, Philippines, with a detachment at U-Tapao, Thailand. The squadron's primary mission was coastal surveillance patrols in conjunction with Operation Market Time. On 5 February 1969, the squadron was called upon to assist in locating a capsized civilian vessel.

2 Jun 1969: Crew 20, returning from MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, in P-3A, BuNo. 151363, attempted a takeoff at NAS Adak, Alaska, to continue their return to NAS Jacksonville, Fla., from deployment. Apparent engine failure caused the crew to abort the takeoff, but the aircraft lacked sufficient runway to stop. The PPC, Commander R. A. Mason, elected to take the air-

craft off the runway into the tundra, rather than going over the end of the runway into the rocks and water. In doing so the landing gear collapsed and the starboard wing parted company with the aircraft. All 15 crewmembers exited the plane without injury shortly before it burst into flame.

19 Oct 1970: VP-45 deployed to NAF Sigonella, Sicily. The squadron provided support for the Sixth Fleet during the Jordanian crisis of 25 September 1970, when Palestinian commandos attempted to overthrow the government in Amman. The squadron received a Meritorious Unit Citation for it activities during this period.

Apr-Oct 1972: VP-45 began transition to the P-3C version of the Orion. The squadron was fully operational with the new aircraft by October 1972.

12 Aug–22 Nov 1975: VP-45 deployed to NAF Sigonella, Sicily. On 22 November, the squadron provided medical and logistical support following the collision of *Belknap* (DLG 26) and *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67). NAF Sigonella served as the initial medical evacuation site.

1980: Reduced manning levels resulted in the reassignment of personnel to meet the drop in the squadron aircraft complement from 12 to 9 crews.

May 1980: The temporary lifting of the ban on immigration from Cuba resulted in a tremendous influx of refugees into the straits separating Cuba from the

ing crisis in Lebanon. An alert aircraft armed with MK-46 torpedoes and AGM-84 Harpoon missiles was kept on ready status to support the U.S. battle group off the coast of Beirut. For this support the squadron earned a Navy Expeditionary Medal.

2 Jul 1987: During the squadron's deployment to NAS Sigonella, Sicily, its aircraft supported Sixth Fleet operations near Libya, flying missions armed with AGM-84 Harpoon missiles.

Mar-Dec 1988: The first of VP-45's P-3C MOD (modification) aircraft returned from a refit to the P-3C UIII configuration. The remaining squadron aircraft completed retrofitting by December 1988. VP-45 was the first East Coast squadron to be equipped with the update III retrofit version, deploying to Bermuda in February 1989.

Nov 1989: VP-45 sent a detachment for the first time to NAS Key West, Fla., in support of Joint Task Force 4's drug interdiction program.

22 Jun 1990-10 Jan 1991: The Pelicans flew to their deployment site at NS Rota, Spain. During the deployment the squadron was called upon to support Operation Sharp Edge, the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Liberia during the period of civil unrest. In August, VP-45 became part of the UN blockade of Iraq after its occupation of Kuwait (Operation Desert Shield). All of the squadron's commitments (ASW coverage of the Mediterranean, Operation Sharp Edge and



A VP-45 P-3C at NAS Jacksonville in January 1980 (Courtesy Rick R. Burgress Collection).

tip of Florida. VP-45 was tasked with monitoring the flow of boats and their safe arrival at Florida while attempting to prevent the southward transit of additional vessels.

13 Apr-Aug 1983: The Pelicans deployed to NAF Sigonella, Sicily, relieving VP-49. Prior to deployment the squadron had completed an eight week modification program making VP-45 combat ready to employ the Harpoon ship-killer missile. The squadron spent much of August on standby during the escalat-

Operation Desert Storm) were met without injury or aircraft mishap during the entire deployment.

Apr–Jun 1991: VP-45 provided a detachment in support of Joint Task 4, based at NS Roosevelt Roads, P.R. The detachment compiled a database on maritime traffic that greatly enhanced the ability of the task force to track illegal narcotics operations in the Caribbean.

25 Feb-Sep 1992: The Pelicans deployed to NAS Keflavik, Iceland, with detachments at various times to

ten different sites. As Russian submarine traffic in the North Atlantic drastically diminished with the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, far fewer acoustic and photo intelligence opportunities were available to the squadron. Numerous exercises with NATO allies helped take up the slack during the deployment.

Sep 1993-Mar 1994: During the squadron's deployment to NAS Keflavik, Iceland, Russian submarine traffic continued to decrease, with far fewer captures than in previous years.

11 Dec 1994-May 1995: VP-45 deployed to NS Roosevelt Roads, P.R. The full-squadron deployment supported Joint Task 4 in the interdiction of drug trafficking in the Caribbean area. When the squadron returned to NAS Jacksonville, Fla., in May 1995, it marked its 25th consecutive year of Class A mishapfree flight operations.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Date of Assignment
NAS Norfolk, Va.	1 Nov 1942
NS San Juan, P.R.	26 Jan 1943
NAS Trinidad, B.W.I.	2 Jun 1943
NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	7 Jul 1944
NAS Norfolk, Va.	19 Sep 1944
NAAS Harvey Point, N.C.	17 Oct 1944
NAS Alameda, Calif.	1 Dec 1944
NAS Kaneohe, Hawaii	23 Dec 1944
NAS Norfolk, Va.	21 Nov 1945
NAS Bermuda, B.W.I.	Apr 1946
NAS Norfolk, Va.	1950
NAS Coco Solo, C.Z.	Apr 1951
NAS Bermuda, B.W.I.	1 Sep 1956
NAS Jacksonville, Fla.	1 Jan 1964

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
LCDR A. S. Hill	6 Nov 1942
LCDR M. C. McGrath	24 May 1943
LCDR R. S. Null	1 Oct 1943
LCDR G. B. Cattermole	23 Apr 1944
LCDR H. E. Hanset	9 Oct 1944
LCDR N. K. Brady	17 Nov 1945
CDR W. L. Brantley	15 Feb 1947
LCDR W. M. Arnold	10 Jun 1948
CDR O. O. Dean	25 Jun 1948
CDR T. G. White, Jr.	9 Dec 1949
CDR W. W. Bemis	5 Sep 1951
CDR T. R. Perry	30 Sep 1952
CDR W. T. Luce	Jan 1954
CDR W. J. Denholm	Jan 1955
CDR E. W. Pollard	Mar 1956
CDR H. E. Sorenson	Apr 1957
CDR S. A. Thomas	5 Apr 1958

Commanding Officers—Continued

	Date Assumed Command
CDR H. M. Durham	3 Mar 1959
CDR H. B. Palm	17 Mar 1960
CDR A. S. Lee	20 Mar 1961
CDR G. R. O'Bryan	30 Mar 1962
CDR J. R. Chappell	25 Mar 1963
CDR J. D. Collins	21 Dec 1963
CDR D. M. Hume	17 Dec 1964
CDR J. H. Chapman	17 Dec 1965
CDR J. W. Townes, Jr.	4 Nov 1966
CDR Harley D. Wilbur	8 Nov 1967
CDR William H. Saunders III	2 Oct 1968
CDR R. A. Mason, Jr.	19 Aug 1969
CDR S. J. McArdle, Jr.	25 Aug 1970
CDR Charles F. Cook	11 Jun 1971
CDR Paul E. Herring	16 Jun 1972
CDR Joseph M. Notargiacomo	1 Jun 1973
CDR Patrick F. Ryan	3 Jun 1974
CDR William T. Pendley	19 Jun 1975
CDR Steven F. Loftus	17 Jun 1976
CDR Charles J. McKinney, Jr.	30 Jun 1977
CDR William J. Rodriguez	Jun 1978
CDR Robert F. Stephenson	28 Jun 1979
CDR Lester W. Carl	27 Jun 1980
CDR David C. Bennett	25 Jun 1981
CDR Richard H. Phelan	2 Jul 1982
CDR Joseph F. Phelan	7 Jul 1983
CDR Stoney L. Stoutamire	31 Aug 1984
CDR Thomas Lawler	10 Jan 1986
CDR R. L. Hume	23 Jan 1987
CDR Charles J. Dale	19 Feb 1988
CDR William B. Evers CDR James R. Cannon	17 Apr 1989
CDR Allen A. Efraimson	27 Apr 1990
CDR Robert B. Brannon	26 Apr 1991
CDR Robert W. Elliott	17 Apr 1992
CDR Dennis W. Stevens	Apr 1993 22 Apr 1994
CDR Brian J. Meyerriecks	7 Apr 1995
CDR Kenneth W. Deutsch	12 Apr 1996
CDR Jerry L. Hyde, Jr.	28 Mar 1997
CDR Gregory A. Miller	27 Mar 1998
ODI GICEOLY A. WILLEI	21 Mai 1330

Aircraft Assignment		
Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received	
PBM-3C	Nov 1942	
PBM-3S	Jun 1943	
PBM-5	Sep 1944	
P5M-1	Apr 1954	
P5M-2	Dec 1956	
SP-5B	Dec 1962	
P-3A	Sep 1963	
P-3C	Oct 1972	
P-3C UIII	Mar 1988	
P-3C UIIIR	1993	



A squadron P5M-2 in flight, May 1962, USN-1060670.

Major Overseas Deployments

Date of	Date of		Base of	Type of	Area of
Departure	Return	Wing	Operations	Aircraft	Operations
26 Jan 1943	*	FAW-11	San Juan	PBM-3C	Carib
			Albemarle (AV 5)		
2 Jun 1943	*	FAW-11	Trinidad	PBM-3S	Carib
7 Jul 1944	19 Sep 1944	FAW-11	Guantanamo	PBM-5	Carib
21 Dec 1944	*	FAW-2	Kaneohe	PBM-5	WestPac
25 Mar 1945	*	FAW-1/18	Tanapag	PBM-5	SoPac
25 Aug 1945	*	FAW-1	Chimu Wan	PBM-5	SoPac
			St. George (AV 16)		
23 Sep 1945	21 Nov 1945	FAW-17	Wakayama	PBM-5	WestPac
5 Sep 1953	16 Sep 1953	FAW-3	Galapagos	PBM-5	SoLant
25 Jan 1963	21 Feb 1963	FAW-11	Guantanamo	SP-5B	Carib
27 Mar 1963	26 May 1963	FAW-11	Guantanamo	SP-5B	Carib
1 Jul 1963	30 Aug 1963	FAW-11	Guantanamo	SP-5B	Carib
May 1964	1 Feb 1965	FAW-11	Argentia	P-3A	NorLant
17 Jul 1965	15 Jan 1966	FAW-4	Adak	P-3A	NorPac
13 Jul 1966	13 Jan 1967	FAW-11	Bermuda	P-3A	Lant
28 Jun 1967	15 Dec 1967	FAW-11	Bermuda	P-3A	Lant
16 Dec 1968 [†]	1 Jun 1969	FAW-8	Sangley Pt.	P-3A	WestPac
16 Dec 1968 [†]	30 May 1969	FAW-8	U-Tapao	P-3A	WestPac
18 Apr 1968	28 May 1969	FAW-8	Cam Ranh B.	P-3A	WestPac

Major Overseas Deployments—Continued

Date of Departure	Date of Return	Wing	Base of Operations	Type of Aircraft	Area of Operations
Nov 1969	17 Jul 1970	FAW-11	Rota	P-3A	Med
19 Oct 1970	27 Feb 1971	FAW-11	Sigonella	P-3A	Med
Dec 1971 [†]	20 Apr 1972	FAW-11	Rota	P-3A	Med
Dec 1971 [†]	20 Apr 1972	FAW-11	Lajes	P-3A	Lant
Dec 1972	21 Jan 1973	FAW-11	Lajes	P-3C	Lant
26 Jan 1973	28 Nov 1973	FAW-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
11 Jul 1974	12 Dec 1974	PatWing-11	Keflavik	P-3C	NorLant
12 Aug 1975	14 Jan 1976	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
26 Dec 1976	25 May 1977	PatWing-11	Keflavik	P-3C	NorLant
Feb 1978	Jul 1978	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
8 May 1979	24 Oct 1979	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
1 Oct 1980 [†]	14 Dec 1980	PatWing-1	Kadena	P-3C	WestPac
1 Oct 1980 [†]	15 Mar 1981	PatWing-11	Bermuda	P-3C	Lant
10 Dec 1981	26 May 1982	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
13 Apr 1983	2 Oct 1983	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
Sep 1984 [†]	10 Feb 1985	PatWing-11	Rota	P-3C	Med
Sep 1984 [†]	10 Feb 1985	PatWing-11	Lajes	P-3C	Lant
8 Feb 1986	9 Aug 1986	PatWing-11	Bermuda	P-3C	Lant
2 Jul 1987	10 Jan 1988	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C	Med
10 Feb 1989	Aug 1989	PatWing-11	Bermuda	P-3C UIII	Lant
Nov 1989	23 Mar 1990	PatWing-11	Key West	P-3C UIII	Carib
22 Jun 1990	10 Jan 1991	PatWing-11	Rota	P-3C UIII	Med
Apr 1991	Jun 1991	PatWing-11	Roosevelt Rds.	P-3C UIII	Carib
25 Feb 1992	10 Sep 1992	PatWing-11	Keflavik	P-3C UIII	NorLant
24 Sep 1993	Mar 1994	PatWing-11	Keflavik	P-3C UIIIR	NorLant
11 Dec 1994	Jul 1995	PatWing-11	Roosevelt Rds.	P-3C UIIIR	Carib
Jun 1996	Sep 1996	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C UIIIR	Med
Aug 1997	Feb 1998	PatWing-11	Sigonella	P-3C UIIIR	Med

^{*} Continued forward deployment in the combat zone, moving from base to base.

Wing Assignments

Wing Tail Code Assignment Date FAW-5 1 Nov 1942 FAW-11 1 Feb 1943 FAW-5 19 Sep 1944 FAW-8 1 Dec 1944 FAW-2 23 Dec 1944 FAW-1 25 Mar 1945 **FAW-18** 18 May 1945 FAW-1 25 Aug 1945 FAW-17 23 Sep 1945 EE* Nov 1945 FAW-5 Apr 1951 FAW-11 EE/LN† FAW-5 LN 1958 FAW-11/PatWing-11[‡] LN 1 Jan 1964

* The squadron remained assigned to FAW-5, but was assigned the tail code EE on 7 November 1946.

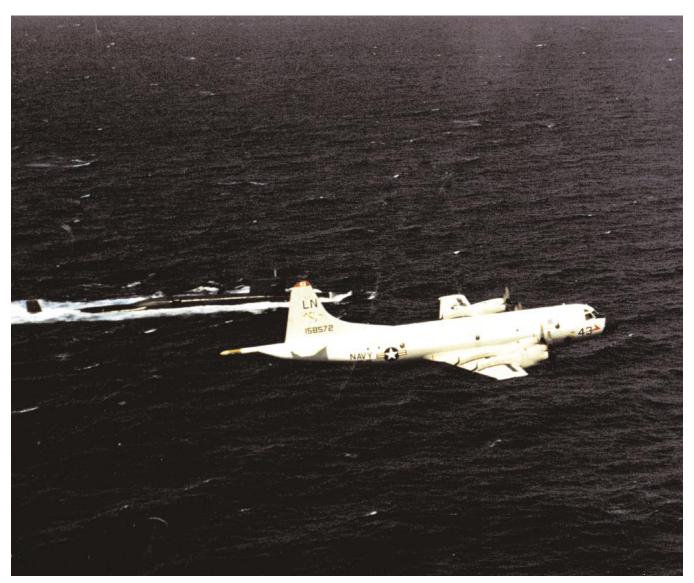
Unit Awards Received

Inclusive Da	ate Covering Unit Award
9 Sep 1970	31 Oct 1970
1 Oct 1982	1 Oct 1983
10 Feb 1989	10 Aug 1989
5 Oct 1945	21 Nov 1945
1 Jan 1969	30 Apr 1969
1 Jan 1984	31 Dec 1984
3 May 1980	4 May 1980
12 Sep 1984	12 Feb 1985
1 May 1991	21 Jun 1991
5 Aug 1990	21 Feb 1991
15 Oct 1980	31 Dec 1980
20 May 1983	
	9 Sep 1970 1 Oct 1982 10 Feb 1989 5 Oct 1945 1 Jan 1969 1 Jan 1984 3 May 1980 12 Sep 1984 1 May 1991 5 Aug 1990 15 Oct 1980

[†] The squadron conducted split deployment to two or more sites on the same dates.

[†] The squadron's tail code was changed from EE to LN in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 1958 (1 July 1957).

[‡] FAW-11 was redesignated Patrol Wing 11 (PatWing-11) on 30 June



A squadron P-3C flying over a nuclear missile submarine.