

VPB-45

Lineage

Established as Patrol Squadron FORTY FIVE (VP-45) on 10 March 1943.

Redesignated Patrol Bombing Squadron FORTY FIVE (VPB-45) on 1 October 1944.

Disestablished on 5 June 1945.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

None on record.

Chronology of Significant Events

10 Mar–Apr 1943: VP-45 was established at NAS Seattle, Wash., as a seaplane squadron flying the PBY-5 Catalina. The actual training of the squadron took place at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., through mid-April 1943. During this period VP-45 came under the operational control of FAW-6.

22 Apr–Jun 1943: With training completed, six of the squadron's aircraft were relocated to Alaska, arriving at Kodiak on 27 April and Adak on 1 May 1943. The squadron officially deployed to Kodiak, Alaska, in May and came under the operational control of FAW-4. The squadron arrived just in time for the occupation of Attu, in the Aleutian chain. Japanese forces had occupied this small island on 7 June 1942. On 28 May 1943, General Yamaziki of the Imperial Japanese Army received a surrender invitation via air drop by a VP-43 Catalina. He refused and the U.S. Army took Attu on 29 June. While the campaign for Attu was going on, tender *Casco* (AVP 12) provided support for VP-45 operations which consisted of antishipping strikes in the vicinity of Attu, Amchitka and Kiska.

4 May 1943: The first regular patrols by VP-45 began from NAF Amchitka and beyond Attu towards the Kuriles.

30 Jun 1943: With the capture of Attu, larger facilities for coping with the requirements of a seaplane squadron became available. The remaining six aircraft of the squadron, which had been waiting impatiently at Seattle, deployed to augment the *Casco* group. Until shore facilities were built, the squadron continued open sea operations from the tender *Casco* (AVP 12) at Attu.

10–19 Jul 1943: VP-45 made its first bombing run on Paramushiro, Kurile Islands. The bombs were released by radar at night in overcast with unknown results. This performance was repeated on 19 July 1943.

10 Aug–9 Oct 1943: VP-45 personnel were able to move ashore at Attu. Duties consisted primarily of sector searches for enemy activity, which by this time had

been largely eliminated. Casco Cove at Attu was too small to provide adequate protection for the entire squadron and facilities for use of beaching gear for the nonamphibious PBY-5s was nonexistent. On 9 October 1943, the squadron was relieved by VP-43 for return to Seattle, where the squadron could be refitted with new PBY-5A amphibious aircraft.

14 Jan 1944: VP-45 was reformed at Seattle, Wash., with amphibious PBY-5A aircraft and new personnel. Operational control was exercised by FAW-6. Training took place at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., but instead of returning north upon completion of refitting and training, the squadron received orders in early March to proceed southeast to Norfolk, Va.

15 Mar 1944: VP-45 departed NAS Whidbey Island for NAS Norfolk, where it came under the operational control of FAW-5. Shortly after arrival the squadron was relocated to Boca Chica, Fla., where it was given training, as well as conducting operational ASW patrols.

29 Apr 1944: VP-45 deployed to NAF Belem, Brazil, with detachments maintained at NAF Amapa and NAF Sao Luiz, Brazil. Duties consisted of sweeps and anti-submarine patrols. Operational control over the squadron was exercised by FAW-16.

7 Jun 1944: A detachment was sent to NAF Fernando de Neronha Island to conduct daily sector sweeps and antisubmarine patrols. Facilities at this tiny base located 210 miles off the eastern coast of Brazil were cramped and primitive. VP-45 shared the base with PV-1 Ventura landplane detachments from VBs 125, 134 and 145 based out of NAF Pici Field, Forteleza, Brazil.

1 Oct 1944: VP-45 was redesignated VPB-45. During this period the squadron conducted routine patrols and was additionally tasked with training Brazilian aircrews at NAF Galeao Field, Rio de Janeiro.

Jan 1945: One aircraft was reported overdue from a patrol and presumed lost. Although weather may have been a factor, enemy action was more probable as German U-boats were increasingly heavily armed. In the previous year several Navy patrol aircraft had been shot down or damaged while attempting to complete a bombing run on surfaced submarines.

Feb 1945: Six of the squadron's aircraft were detached to Ascension Island for antisubmarine patrols and convoy coverage.

15 Mar–22 May 1945: VP-45 was relocated to NAF Ipitanga, Bahia, Brazil. Routine patrols were resumed until orders were received on 22 May 1945 for return to the continental United States.

27 May 1945: VP-45 reported aboard NAS Norfolk, Va., under the operational control of FAW-5.

5 Jun 1945: VP-45 was disestablished at NAS Norfolk.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date of Assignment</i>
NAS Seattle, Wash.	10 Mar 1943
NAS Norfolk, Va.	15 Mar 1944

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR C. Atkinson	14 Jan 1944
LCDR H. B. Scott	8 Jun 1944
LCDR L. E. Binion	7 May 1945

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Guy Howard (actg)	10 Mar 1943
LT Carl H. Amme	1 May 1943

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
PBY-5	Mar 1943
PBY-5A	Jan 1944

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Base of Operations</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operations</i>
22 Apr 1943	*	FAW-4	Kodiak <i>Casco</i> (AVP 12)	PBY-5	NorPac
30 Jun 1943	9 Oct 1943	FAW-4	Attu <i>Casco</i> (AVP 12)	PBY-5	NorPac
29 Apr 1944	†	FAW-16	Belem	PBY-5A	SoLant
15 Mar 1945	27 May 1945	FAW-16	Ipitanga	PBY-5A	SoLant

* Continued combat deployment in the Aleutians, moving from base to base.

† Continued combat deployment in South America, moving from base to base.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
FAW-6		10 Mar 1943
FAW-4		22 Apr 1943
FAW-6		Oct 1943
FAW-5		15 Mar 1944
FAW-16		29 Apr 1944

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
FAW-5		27 May 1945

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Date Covering Unit Award</i>
None on record.	