

VA-125

Lineage

Reserve Attack Squadron FIFTY FIVE E (VA-55E) was most likely established during the activation of the Naval Air Reserve in 1946 and remained in an inactive status.

Redesignated Reserve Attack Squadron NINE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE (VA-923) in January 1950.

Reserve Attack Squadron NINE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE (VA-923) was called to active duty on 20 July 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (VA-125) on 4 February 1953.

Disestablished on 10 April 1958. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-125 designation.



This insignia was used by the squadron during its deployment to Korea in 1952–1953 aboard Oriskany (CVA 34).

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

There is no record for an approved squadron insignia. However, an insignia was used by the squadron during its deployment aboard *Oriskany* (CVA 34) in 1952–1953. There are no colors available for this insignia. The Latin phrase *Mors ab Alto* means Death from Above.

Nickname: Rough Raiders, 1952–1958.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Feb 1953: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. C. Micheel was killed in action in Korea.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS St. Louis	*
NAS San Diego	02 Aug 1950
NAS Miramar	Jan 1952

* The squadron's home port was assigned prior to 1950, the exact date is unknown.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Herb W. Wiley	*
CDR John C. Micheel	24 Mar 1952
LCDR Allan H. Gunderson	01 Feb 1953
LCDR John L. McMahon, Jr.	Jul 1953
LCDR Bernard E. Hackett	Oct 1954
CDR John H. Bahlman	Apr 1956
CDR A. J. Henry, Jr.	25 Oct 1957

* Assumed command prior to 1950, date unknown.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM	*
AM	1950
AD-2	Sep 1950
AD-4Q	Oct 1950
AD-4	Dec 1950
AD-3	Dec 1950
AD-4B	Jun 1953
AD-4NA	Sep 1953
AD-6	Oct 1954
AD-7	Jan 1957

* The squadron was assigned the TBM prior to 1950, date unknown.

A squadron AM-1 Mauler flown by VA-923. Pilot in photo is Hank Gastrich; it was taken following his landing in the plane in which a gauge indicated the wings were unlocked during flight, circa 1950 (Courtesy Steve Ginter Collection).



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>
10 May 1951	17 Dec 1951	CVG-102	CV 31	AD-3/4Q	Korea
15 Sep 1952	18 May 1953	CVG-102	CVA 34	AD-3/4	Korea
03 Mar 1954	11 Oct 1954	CVG-12	CVA 21	AD-4B/NA	WestPac
10 Aug 1955	15 Mar 1956	CVG-12	CVA 19	AD-6	WestPac
19 Apr 1957	17 Oct 1957	CVG-12	CVA 16	AD-6/7	WestPac



A squadron AD-3 or 4 takes off from Bon Homme Richard (CV 31) during their combat deployment to Korea in 1951.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-102/CVG-12†	D/NJ‡	1950*

* VA-923's assignment to CVG-102 was in August or September 1950.
 † CVG-102 was redesignated CVG-12 on 4 February 1953.
 ‡ The tail code was changed from D to NJ in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KSM	30 May 1951	06 Dec 1951
	17 Oct 1952	29 Oct 1952
	31 Oct 1952	29 Mar 1953
	27 Apr 1953	02 May 1953

A squadron AD Skyraider prepares to launch from Hancock (CVA 19) during its cruise to WestPac in 1955-1956.

