



The forward section of the F9F-8 shows the extended nose and underside fairing for the jet's ARA-25 radar. This Cougar is painted in the modern gull gray with white underside, which replaced the earlier glossy sea blue. (Jim Sullivan Collection)



BuNo 131067 undergoes carrier suitability trials aboard USS Coral Sea (CVB-43). The "FT" on the nose denotes a NATC Flight Test Division aircraft. The pilot is about to move onto one of the forward catapults. (Jim Sullivan Collection)



With its aft section removed, the engine of this Cougar is visible, as are the tops of the fuel cells. One of the "blow-in" engine air intakes is also open. (Jim Sullivan Collection)



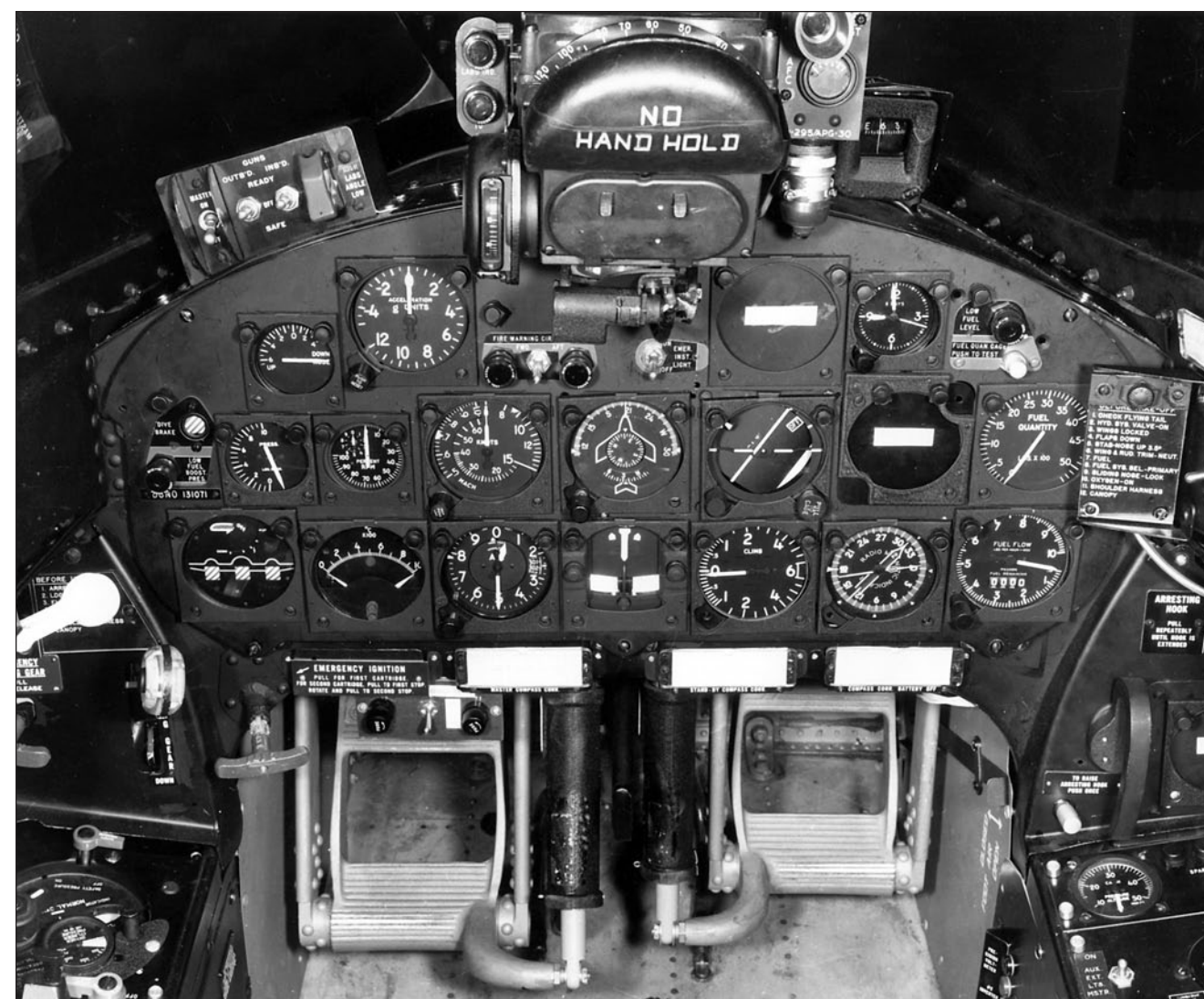
An excellent view of the under-nose fairing that houses the ARA-25 can be seen on this F9F-8. Note the Sidewinders on the wings. (National Archives)



Wings folded, three Cougars from VF-24 are shown in the foreground, while five VF-63 Cougars can be seen in the background. All are awaiting their turn at the catapults on the USS Essex (CV-9) during the carrier's 1955 deployment. (National Museum of Naval Aviation)



Two VA-76 F9F-8Bs await launch from their carrier USS Forrester (CVA-59) in 1957. The squadron's markings were colorful and reflected their name, "Spirits of 76." VA-76 transitioned from the Banshee to the F9F-8 in 1956, which they flew until 1959. (Naval Aviation Museum)



Cockpit arrangement of the F9F-8 appears more pleasing to the eye than those found in earlier models, due to the exact symmetrical alignment of the flight instruments. (Jim Sullivan Collection)