



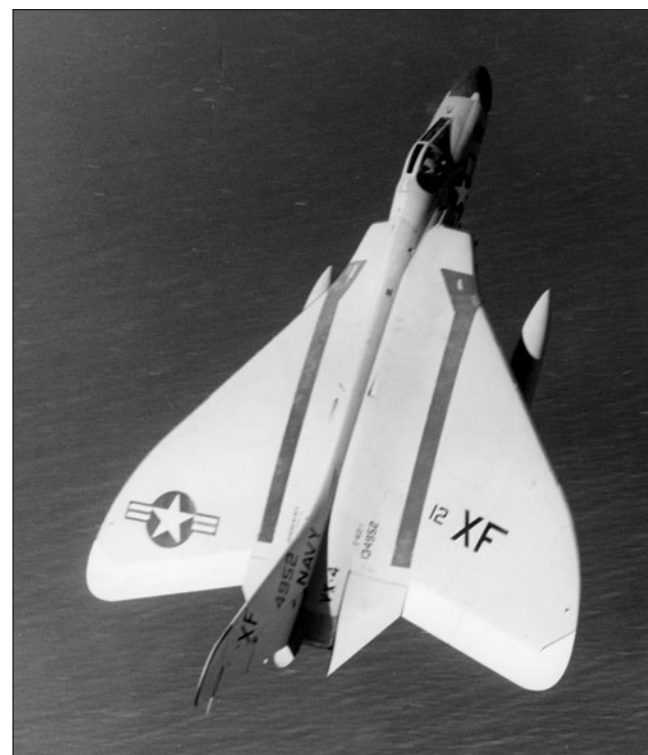
A VX-3 Skyray being prepared for launch from the USS Forrestal (CVA-59) in April 1958 during a TACAN evaluation project. The tail code of VX-3 had been changed to JC. (U.S. Navy via Robert Lawson)

VX-3 Skyrays carried a tail code of XC, and VX-3 painted on the spine with a nose number located aft of the radome. The squadron was scheduled to relocate to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, in February 1960 but it was decommissioned on 1 March 1960 and its Skyray inventory was transferred to other Fleet squadrons.²

VX-4

Air Development Squadron Four was formed on 15 September 1952 at the Naval Missile Center, Point Mugu, California. Its mission was to develop and conduct evaluations of air-launched guided missiles, and to develop all-weather intercept tactics for the best use of those missiles. Initially, VX-4 was involved in Sparrow I launches from Vought F7U-3 Cutlasses and Douglas F3D Skyknights. With the advent of the Bullpup and Sparrow III missiles, the squadron acquired FJ Furies, A4D Skyhawks, F3H Demons, F8U Crusaders, and F4D-1 Skyrays for advanced missile test programs.

VX-4, based at Point Mugu, California, used Skyrays for advanced missile test programs. VX-4 used very sparse markings, which consisted of an XF tail code. (U.S. Navy via Nick Williams Collection)



The first VX-4 Skyray, BuNo 134952, arrived in June 1959, followed by 134963 some months later. The squadron never operated more than two Skyrays, and their markings were very austere. A squadron tail code of XF was painted on the tail, VX-4 was painted on the aft fuselage, and a nose number was placed near the radome.

The exact date is not certain, but it is likely that VX-4 did not use Skyrays after 1961.³

Fleet Air Gunnery Unit, Pacific

The Fleet Air Gunnery Unit Pacific (FAGUPAC) was commissioned on 22 May 1952 at NAAS El Centro,



A close-up study of the markings on a FAGU Skyray at the Naval Air Weapons Meet on 14 April 1958. (U.S. Navy via Nick Williams Collection)



Two Fleet Air Gunnery Unit (FAGU) Skyrays in the foreground of the flight line at the Third Annual Naval Air Weapons Meet, 14 to 18 April 1958, at El Centro, California. (Boeing via Nick Williams Collection)