

Aviation Commands

In order of their establishment

***Officer in Charge of Aviation
Director of Naval Aeronautics
Director of Naval Aviation***

CAPT Washington I. Chambers	26 Sep 1910–17 Dec 1913
CAPT Mark L. Bristol	17 Dec 1913–4 Mar 1916
CAPT Noble E. Irwin	17 May 1917–May 1919
CAPT Thomas T. Craven	May 1919–7 Mar 1921
CAPT William A. Moffett	7 Mar 1921–26 Jul 1921

The person in charge of aviation affairs for the Navy was initially designated as the officer to whom all correspondence on aviation should be referred. This position was a special duty assignment as officer in charge of aviation. The position was identified by the title Director of Naval Aeronautics on 23 November 1914. It was discontinued on 4 March 1916 and reinstated as Director of Naval Aviation on 7 March 1918. The title Director of Naval Aviation was replaced in July 1921 by the establishment of the Bureau of Aeronautics.

***Officer-in-Charge, Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps
Director of Marine Corps Aviation
Deputy Chief of Staff (Air), Marine Corps
Director Chief of Staff for Aviation, Marine Corps***

MAJ Alfred A. Cunningham	17 Nov 1919–12 Dec 1920
LCOL Thomas C. Turner	13 Dec 1920–2 Mar 1925
MAJ Edward H. Brainard	3 Mar 1925–9 May 1929
COL Thomas C. Turner	10 May 1929–28 Oct 1931
MAJ Roy S. Geiger	6 Nov 1931–29 May 1935
COL Ross E. Rowell	30 May 1935–10 Mar 1939
BGEN Ralph J. Mitchell	11 Mar 1939–29 Mar 1943
MGEN Roy S. Geiger	13 May 1943–15 Oct 1943
BGEN Louis E. Woods	15 Oct 1943–17 Jul 1944
MGEN Field Harris	18 Jul 1944–24 Feb 1948
MGEN William J. Wallace	24 Feb 1948–1 Sep 1950
BGEN Clayton C. Jerome	1 Sep 1950–1 Apr 1952
LGEN William O. Brice	1 Apr 1952–31 Jul 1955
LGEN Christian F. Schilt	1 Aug 1955–31 Mar 1957
LGEN Verne J. McCaul	1 Apr 1957–2 Dec 1957
MGEN Samuel S. Jack	14 Jan 1958–20 Feb 1958
MGEN John C. Munn	21 Feb 1958–14 Dec 1959
MGEN Arthur F. Binney	15 Dec 1959–10 Sep 1961
COL Keith B. McCutcheon	11 Sep 1961–17 Feb 1962
COL Marion E. Carl	18 Feb 1962–4 Jul 1962
BGEN Norman J. Anderson	5 Jul 1962–20 Oct 1963

MGEN Louis B. Robertshaw	21 Oct 1963–15 Jun 1966
MGEN Keith B. McCutcheon	15 Jun 1966–18 Feb 1970
MGEN Homer S. Hill	19 Feb 1970–24 Aug 1972
MGEN Edward S. Fris	25 Aug 1972–27 Aug 1974
BGEN Philip D. Shutler	28 Aug 1974–Jan 1975
MGEN Victor A. Armstrong	Jan 1975–21 Aug 1975
LGEN Thomas H. Miller, Jr.	22 Aug 1975–29 Jun 1979
LGEN William J. White	1 Jul 1979–30 Jun 1982
LGEN William H. Fitch	1 Jul 1982–31 Aug 1984
LGEN Keith A. Smith	1 Sep 1984–29 Apr 1988
LGEN Charles H. Pitman	30 Apr 1988–1 Aug 1990
LGEN Duane A. Wills	17 Aug 1990–30 Jun 1993
LGEN Richard D. Hearney	1 Jul 1993–14 Jul 1994
LGEN Harold W. Blot	15 Jul 1994–

On 1 April 1936 the title of the senior aviator attached to Headquarters, Marine Corps, changed from Officer-in-Charge, Aviation, to Director of Aviation, and on 25 April 1962 became Deputy Chief of Staff (Air). On 16 September 1972 the title changed to Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation.

Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics

RADM William A. Moffett	26 Jul 1921–4 Apr 1933
RADM Ernest J. King	3 May 1933–12 Jun 1936
RADM Arthur B. Cook	12 Jun 1936–1 Jun 1939
RADM John H. Towers	1 Jun 1939–6 Oct 1942
RADM John S. McCain	9 Oct 1942–7 Aug 1943
RADM Dewitt C. Ramsey	7 Aug 1943–1 Jun 1945
RADM Harold B. Sallada	1 Jun 1945–1 May 1947
RADM Alfred M. Pride	1 May 1947–1 May 1951
RADM Thomas S. Combs	1 May 1951–30 Jun 1953
RADM Apollo Soucek	30 Jun 1953–4 Mar 1955
RADM James S. Russell	4 Mar 1955–15 Jul 1957
RADM Robert E. Dixon	15 Jul 1957–1 Dec 1959

Established by act of Congress, 12 July 1921, and merged 1 December 1959 with the Bureau of Ordnance to form the Bureau of Naval Weapons.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aeronautics *Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air*

Edward P. Warner	10 Jul 1926–Mar 1929
David S. Ingalls	16 Mar 1929–1 Jun 1932
Artemus L. Gates	5 Sep 1941–1 Jul 1945
John L. Sullivan	1 Jul 1945–17 Jun 1946
John N. Brown	12 Nov 1946–8 Mar 1949
Dan A. Kimball	9 Mar 1949–25 May 1949
John F. Floberg	5 Dec 1949–23 Jul 1953
James H. Smith	23 Jul 1953–20 Jun 1956
Garrison R. Norton	28 Jun 1956–5 Feb 1959

Established by act of Congress 24 June 1926 with title Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aeronautics. Office vacant 1 June 1932 to 5 September 1941. On 11 September 1941 it was retitled Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air and abolished on 5 February 1959.

U.S. Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet
Commander, Air Force, Pacific Fleet
Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet

RADM Aubrey W. Fitch	1 Sep 1942–15 Sep 1942
RADM Leigh Noyes	15 Sep 1942–14 Oct 1942
VADM John H. Towers	14 Oct 1942–28 Feb 1944
RADM Charles A. Pownall	28 Feb 1944–17 Aug 1944
RADM George D. Murray	17 Aug 1944–20 Jul 1945
RADM Alfred E. Montgomery	20 Jul 1945–31 Aug 1946
VADM John D. Price	31 Aug 1946–5 Jan 1948
VADM Harold B. Sallada	5 Jan 1948–1 Oct 1949
VADM Thomas L. Sprague	1 Oct 1949–1 Apr 1952
VADM Harold M. Martin	1 Apr 1952–1 Feb 1956
VADM Alfred M. Pride	1 Feb 1956–30 Sep 1959
RADM Murr E. Arnold	30 Sep 1959–12 Oct 1959
VADM Clarence E. Ekstrom	12 Oct 1959–30 Nov 1962
VADM Paul D. Stroop	30 Nov 1962–30 Oct 1965
VADM Thomas F. Connolly	30 Oct 1965–1 Nov 1966
VADM Allen M. Shinn	1 Nov 1966–31 Mar 1970
VADM William F. Bringle	31 Mar 1970–28 May 1971
VADM Thomas J. Walker III	28 May 1971–31 May 1973
VADM Robert B. Baldwin	31 May 1973–12 Jul 1976
VADM Robert P. Coogan	12 Jul 1976–31 Jan 1980
VADM Robert F. Schoultz	31 Jan 1980–4 Aug 1985
VADM Crawford A. Easterling	4 Aug 1982–16 Aug 1985
VADM James E. Service	16 Aug 1985–21 Aug 1987
VADM John H. Fetterman, Jr.	21 Aug 1987–14 Dec 1990
VADM Edwin R. Kohn, Jr.	14 Dec 1990–17 Jun 1993
RADM Steven R. Briggs	17 Jun 1993–26 Oct 1993
VADM Robert J. Spane	26 Oct 1993–24 Jan 1996
VADM Brent M. Bennitt	24 Jan 1996–

Established 1 September 1942 as an administrative command replacing the commands Carriers, Pacific Fleet and Patrol Wings, Pacific Fleet. The title, U.S. Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet was changed 14 October 1942 to Air Force, Pacific Fleet and 30 July 1957 to Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet.

Commander, Air Force, Atlantic Fleet
Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet

RADM Alva D. Bernhard	1 Jan 1943–8 Mar 1943
VADM Patrick N. L. Bellinger	20 Mar 1943–2 Feb 1946
VADM Gerald F. Bogan	Feb 1946–Dec 1948
VADM Felix B. Stump	Dec 1948–11 May 1951
VADM John J. Ballentine	11 May 1951–1 May 1954
VADM Frederick G. McMahon	1 May 1954–29 May 1956
VADM William L. Rees	29 May 1956–30 Sep 1960
VADM Frank O'Beirne	30 Sep 1960–30 Sep 1963
VADM Paul H. Ramsey	30 Sep 1963–31 Mar 1965
VADM Charles T. Booth	31 Mar 1965–28 Feb 1969
VADM Robert L. Townsend	1 Mar 1969–29 Feb 1972
VADM Fredrick H. Michaelis	29 Feb 1972–14 Feb 1975
VADM Howard E. Greer	14 Feb 1975–31 Mar 1978

VADM George E. R. Kinnear	31 Mar 1978–31 Jul 1981
VADM Thomas J. Kilcline	31 Jul 1981–8 Dec 1983
VADM Robert F. Dunn	8 Dec 1983–23 Dec 1986
VADM Richard M. Dunleavy	23 Dec 1986–25 May 1989
VADM John K. Ready	25 May 1989–6 Aug 1991
VADM Anthony A. Less	6 Aug 1991–18 Mar 1994
VADM Richard C. Allen	18 Mar 1994–

Established 1 January 1943 as an administrative command replacing the commands Carriers, Atlantic Fleet and Fleet Air Wing, Atlantic Fleet. The original title, Air Force, Atlantic Fleet, was changed 30 July 1957 to Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet.

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air)
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare)
Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare)
Director, Air Warfare

VADM John S. McCain	18 Aug 1943–1 Aug 1944
VADM Aubrey W. Fitch	1 Aug 1944–14 Aug 1945
VADM Marc A. Mitscher	14 Aug 1945–15 Jan 1946
VADM Arthur W. Radford	15 Jan 1946–22 Feb 1947
VADM Donald B. Duncan	6 Mar 1947–20 Jan 1948
VADM John D. Price	20 Jan 1948–6 May 1949
VADM Calvin T. Durgin	16 May 1949–25 Jan 1950
VADM John H. Cassady	25 Jan 1950–31 May 1952
VADM Matthias B. Gardner	31 May 1952–16 Mar 1953
VADM Ralph A. Ofstie	16 Mar 1953–3 Mar 1955
VADM Thomas S. Combs	11 Apr 1955–1 Aug 1956
VADM William V. Davis, Jr.	1 Aug 1956–22 May 1958
VADM Robert B. Pirie	26 May 1958–1 Nov 1962
VADM William A. Schoech	14 Nov 1962–1 Jul 1963
VADM John S. Thach	8 Jul 1963–25 Feb 1965
VADM Paul H. Ramsey	31 Mar 1965–1 Oct 1966
VADM Thomas F. Connolly	1 Nov 1966–31 Aug 1971
VADM Maurice F. Weisner	1 Sep 1971–4 Aug 1972
VADM William D. Houser	5 Aug 1972–30 Apr 1976
VADM Forrest S. Petersen	1 May 1976–5 Oct 1976
VADM Frederick C. Turner	6 Oct 1976–30 Jun 1979
VADM Wesley L. McDonald	1 Jul 1979–1 Sep 1982
VADM Robert F. Schoultz	2 Sep 1982–27 Jan 1985
VADM Edward H. Martin	25 Feb 1985–14 Jan 1987
VADM Robert F. Dunn	15 Jan 1987–25 May 1989
VADM Richard M. Dunleavy	25 May 1989–12 Jun 1992
RADM Riley D. Mixson	12 Jun 1992–22 Nov 1993
RADM Brent M. Bennitt	22 Nov 1993–15 Jan 1996
RADM Dennis V. McGinn	15 Jan 1996–

Established by the Secretary of the Navy, 18 August 1943, as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air). Changed to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) on 15 July 1971. On 1 October 1987 the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) was reorganized and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) was redesignated Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare). On 10 August 1992 the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) was changed to Director, Air Warfare Division.

Chief of the Bureau of Naval Weapons

RADM Paul D. Stroop	10 Sep 1959–29 Oct 1962
RADM Kleber S. Masterson	27 Nov 1962–24 Mar 1964
RADM Allen M. Shinn	28 May 1964–1 May 1966

Established as the Bureau of Naval Weapons on 18 August 1959, merging the Bureaus of Ordnance and Aeronautics. It was abolished on 1 May 1966 during the reorganization of the bureaus. The reorganization assigned elements of the Bureau of Naval Weapons to three new commands: Naval Air Systems Command, Naval Ordnance Systems Command and Naval Electronic Systems Command.

Commander Naval Air Systems Command

RADM Allen M. Shinn	1 May 1966–1 Sep 1966
RADM Robert L. Townsend	1 Sep 1966–20 Feb 1969
RADM Thomas J. Walker III	20 Feb 1969–1 Apr 1971
RADM Thomas R. McClellan	1 Apr 1971–31 Aug 1973
VADM Kent L. Lee	31 Aug 1973–29 Aug 1976
VADM Forrest S. Petersen	29 Aug 1976–30 Apr 1980
VADM Ernest R. Seymour	30 Apr 1980–22 Jul 1983
VADM James B. Busey IV	22 Jul 1983–23 Aug 1985
VADM Joseph B. Wilkinson	23 Aug 1985–19 Sep 1989
VADM Richard C. Gentz	19 Sep 1989–22 Jan 1991
VADM William C. Bowes	22 Mar 1991–10 Mar 1995
VADM John A. Lockard	10 Mar 1995–

Established by a reorganization of the Navy Department effective 1 May 1966.



Following the end of World War II many carriers were placed in the mothball fleet. This photo shows six Essex class carriers in mothballs at the Naval Ship Yard, Puget Sound, USN-428458



Lexington (CV 2) underway with a load of aircraft beginning their launch cycle.