

## **A-4E BLUE ANGELS**

art.9010 MADE IN U.S.A.



The Skyhawk designed in 1952 by Ed Heinemann, cheif Designer at Douglas, has often been used as a good example of airplane design. Conceived during the Koreanwar as a subsonic lighter bornber for the U.S. Navy, it proved to be an exceptionally sturdy well armed light plane (5-11 tons) and indeed its validity is proved by the fact that it was kept in production for over twenty years. The prototype, which first flew on June 22 1954 (piloted by Bob Rahn) was followed by the first mass produced version known initially as A4D-1 and then an A-4A.

The <-second generation> Skyhawk (nicknarmed <<Socotor>> because of its size) was the A4D-5 or A-4E, nicknarmed <-Klighty Mite>> and was characterized by a considerable inprovement in the performance was considerable interpretable was considerable interpretab

classed his generations. Skrijman (incharation <<sscotters) because of its size) was the AdD-5 or A-E, nicknamed <<sli>Mightly Mites> and was characterized by a considerable improvement in the performance and in the armament. In this version the thrust of the engine increased 362 kgs and the wing was given two new connection points for the armament; the visibility longer nose had from also for a Doppler radar and an altimeter device which gave the plane good all weather navigation possibilities. It was also possible to increase the speed and to improve range by 27% after a general revision of the design. The first A-E, took off on July 12, 1961 and at the end of the next year started operating with the VA-28 Black Knights Squadron of the U.S. Navy. Later on, immediately before the merger with the McDonnell. Douglas worked out a new version; the A-4F, characterized by a further increase in the thrust, which made it possible to increase the speed and gave a highter <-load capacity>> (zero-zero ejection seat, wing spoliers and dorsalavionics hump for the new communications and navigation systems). This latter version first flew on August 31, 1966 and went into operation on June 20, 1967. Soon the A-4Es, tor standardization purposes, also began to have the back fairing for the electronics units; both versions took a part in the Vistnam war.

















