

DOUGLAS NEWS



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PHOTO CAPTION

NEW SKYHAWK'S FIRST FLIGHT -- Small but rugged Navy A-4F attack bomber streaks off runway at Palmdale Airport today on maiden flight. The A-4F is the latest of the Skyhawk family of jet bombers built by Douglas Aircraft Company for the U.S. Navy. With Douglas test pilot Walter S. Smith at the controls, the A-4F remained aloft for 1 hour and 12 minutes in a test of its principal systems and handling characteristics. A-4F has number of improvements over earlier versions, including more powerful engine, steerable nose gear, wing-lift spoilers and advanced escape system. Skyhawks are a Navy and Marine mainstay in Vietnam, operating off carriers and forward landing strips. Douglas produces A-4F at its Aircraft Division facilities in Long Beach, Palmdale, Calif.