

NAVY-DOUGLAS TA-4F SKYHAWK Background Information

Fifth in the versatile Douglas Skyhawk series is a two-place advanced jet trainer, designated the TA-4F and now in production for the U.S. Navy at Douglas Aircraft Division, Long Beach and Palmdale, California.

A modification of the single-seat Skyhawk attack bomber, the TA-4F includes the addition of a 28-inch section for a second seat and dual set of controls while retaining the Skyhawk combat capabilities with bombs, rockets, missiles and guns.

The new trainer made its first flight June 30, 1965, two months ahead of schedule.

Initial delivery of the TA-4F to an operational squadron occurred May 19, 1966, when three of the trainers were turned over to Navy operational training squadron VA-125 at Lemoore Naval Air Station, California.

The TA-4F attains a maximum speed of 675 miles an hour and cruises at 500 m.p.h. Maximum range with external fuel is about 2000 miles, and its endurance of more than four hours permits nearly double the flight training time of present jet trainers.

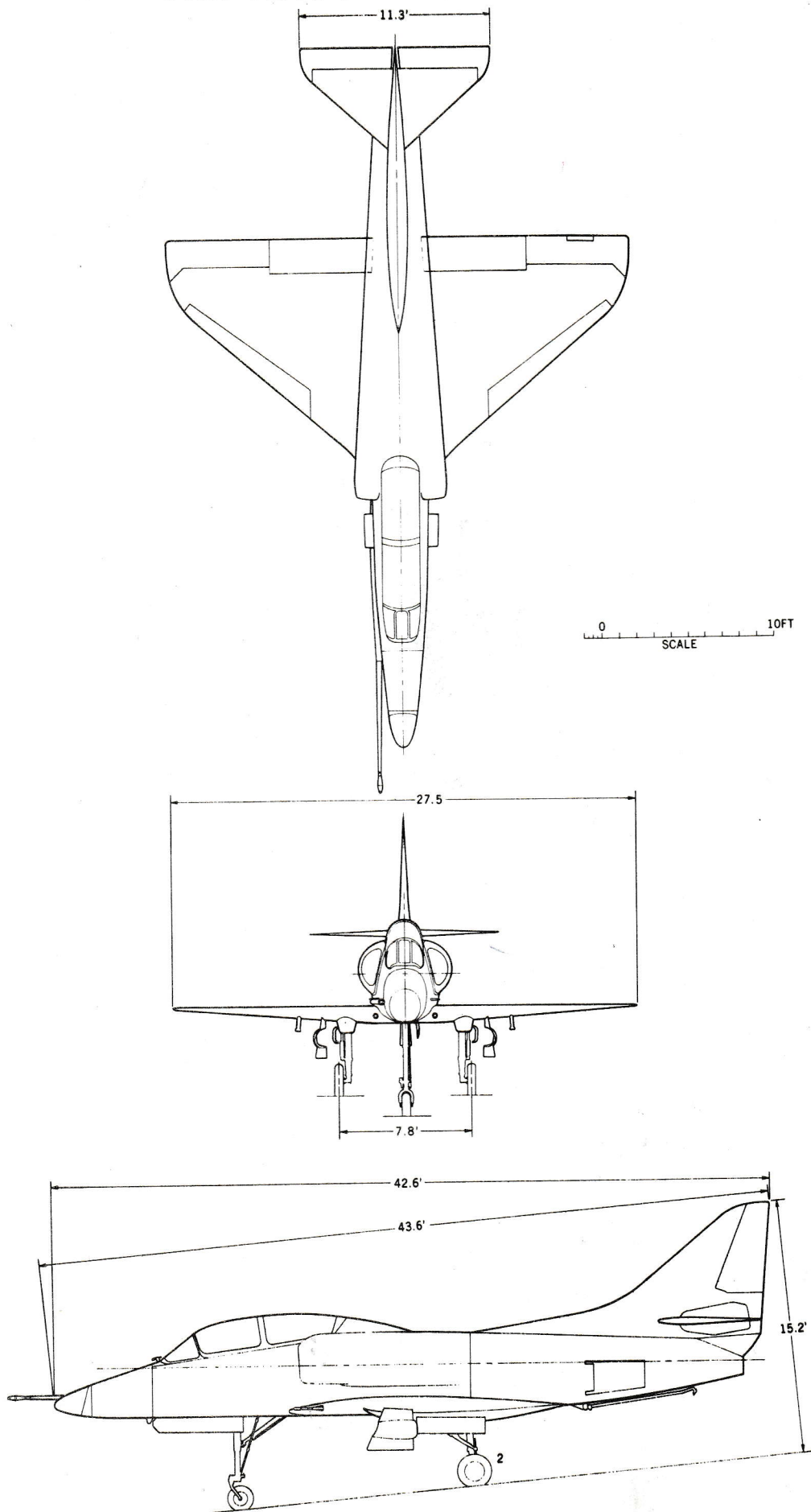
The TA-4F is manufactured on the same production line which has delivered more than 1500 Skyhawks. It retains the design features which have made the A-4 the safest combat jet in the U.S. Navy's air arm. New safety features include the Navy-Douglas ESCAPAC zero-level, zero-speed ejection seat system for both instructor and student.

The trainer is powered by a Pratt & Whitney Aircraft J52-P-8A jet engine, which has a 10 per cent greater thrust than the A-4E engine and 21 per cent more thrust than power plants on earlier Skyhawk versions. This same engine is used in the A-4F attack aircraft, an improved version of the A-4E.

Skyhawks are first-line combat aircraft on virtually all the United States Navy carriers today and are used extensively in Navy and Marine operations over Vietnam. The new trainer version will be phased into service with other A-4 aircraft, operating either from landing fields or from carrier decks. It can readily be used in combat if desired.

The Skyhawk production line provides a source of combat aircraft for United States military forces as well as those of NATO and SEATO nations.

U.S. NAVY MODEL TA-4F



DESCRIPTIVE ARRANGEMENT

THE DOUGLAS SKYHAWK MODEL A-4F

