

# HEAVY ATTACK SQUADRON NINE (VAH-9)



Heavy Attack Squadron Nine (VAH-9) flies the "Big Brother" of all currently operational carrier aircraft, the AJ Savage. Capable of carrying atomic or conventional bombs, the AJ's based aboard the Ticonderoga are also "flying gas stations" for the Air Group's jet aircraft, which refuel in flight from a hose extended by the AJ. During the Ticonderoga's 1956 Med cruise one jet fighter was "saved" by VAH-9 when it made refueling contact with only two minutes' gas remaining. With its long endurance, the AJ was also found to be valuable in establishing communications relays between distant fighters and the Ti. Commanding Officer of HATRON Nine is Cdr. W. E. Lemos; O-in-C of Detachment 39 was Lcdr. W. D. Emerson.