

VAL-4

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego, Calif., December 27, 1968 -- Commissioning ceremonies for the first squadron of its type in the U. S. Navy are scheduled for 10 a.m. January 3, 1969, at the North Island Naval Air Station. Vice Admiral Allen M. Shinn, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, will be the principal speaker.

To be commissioned is Light Attack Squadron FOUR (VAL-4), a squadron of aircraft specifically developed for Counterinsurgency Warfare. Called the "Bronco," the twin turboprop aircraft has been combat-proved in Vietnam by Air Force and Marine pilots.

Presiding at the commissioning will be the squadron's prospective executive officer, Commander Martin S. Schuman of Brooklyn, N.Y. Following Admiral Shinn's address, the prospective commanding officer, Commander Gilbert L. Winans of Battle Creek, Mich., will deliver informal remarks and read his orders. North Island's senior chaplain, Commander Ralph G. Caldwell, will give the invocation and benediction, and music will be provided by a Navy band.

North American Rockwell is the manufacturer of the light attack aircraft, designated OV-10A. With the new squadron, the Navy for the first time will deploy a highly versatile fixed-wing aircraft which can fly slow enough for observation and air drop activities, and fast enough for attack.

Commander Winans started his Naval career in 1951 while attending Michigan

VAL-4 -- 2,2,2,2,2

State University. After earning his wings in 1953, he began a 14-year association with the Douglas A-1 Skyraider. He served with squadrons deployed at sea aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42), USS WASP (CVS-18), and USS INTREPID (CVS-11). He is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Cdr. and Mrs. Winans and their three children reside on "G" Avenue in Coronado.

Commander Schuman is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a graduate of the University of Georgia. Since completion of flight training in 1953, he has been a pilot and staff officer with anti-submarine and attack squadrons. His squadrons were embarked on the USS ESSEX (CVA-9) and USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59). Prior to joining the new squadron, Commander Schuman served as operations officer for Commander Carrier Air Wing Three. Cdr. Schuman's wife and their two sets of twins currently live in Jacksonville, Fla.

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NOTE: Media representatives are invited to attend the commissioning ceremonies. Please RSVP the COMNAVAIRPAC Public Affairs Office at North Island, 437-6115. /7531

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