

Douglas AD/A-1 Skyraider

The Douglas AD Skyraider is a carrier-capable attack aircraft. Its development started during WWII, but it entered service with the USN in 1946. It was a large, single-engined propeller-driven aircraft. In 1962, it was redesignated as the A-1.

The Skyraider was initially armed with two 20 mm M3 cannon in the wings, but after experience in the early part of the Korean War this was increased to four in the AD-4 and subsequent versions. Later versions also had additional armor. It could also carry a heavy load on its centerline and underwing weapon stations.

In addition to the attack versions, it was adapted for radar search, anti-submarine, night attack, ECM, and night attack.

Early versions were a mainstay of the USN in the Korean War and later versions served in early part of the US involvement in the Vietnam War with the USN and USAF. It also saw limited service with the USMC. Most attack versions were single-seat, but the AD-5/A-1E had side-by-side seating for a pilot and copilot and was used by the USAF during Operation Farm Gate with a USAF pilot and nominal South Vietnamese copilot. Attack versions were also used by RVAF, Armée de l'Air, and the air forces of Cambodia, Chad, and Gabon. The AD-4W radar-search version also served with the RN as the Skyraider AEW.1.

From 1967, USAF A-1s were equipped with the Stanley rocket extraction system. While not an ejection seat, this system used a rocket to pull the pilot out of the cockpit when bailing out.

A typical air-to-ground load in the Korean War might be 500 lb M64, 1000 lb M65, or 2000 lb M66 GP bombs or 750 lb BLU-1 napalm bombs on the centerline and inner wing pylons and HVAR rockets or 100 lb M30, 250 lb M57 bombs on the outer wing pylons.

A typical air-to-ground load in the Vietnam War might include 500 lb Mk 82 or 1000 lb Mk 83 GP bombs or 750 lb BLU-27 napalm bombs on the centerline and inner wing station, a single SUU-11 gun pod on an inner-wing station, and 100 lb M47 WP bombs, 250 lb Mk 81 GP bombs, 500 lb BLU-11 napalm bombs, LAU-3 or LAU-68 70 mm rocket pods, CBU-25 cluster bomb dispensers on the outer wing pylons.

ADCs are provided for:

- AD-4
- AD-5
- A-1E
- AD-6

- A-1H
- AD-7
- A-1J

AD-4 Skyraider									Crew: Pilot
Power APs/DPs: ⊙									Maneuver DPs:
CL 1/2 DT Fuel									LR/DR 2.5
FT 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5									VR 1.5
HT 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.2									
N 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1									
I 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0									
SPBR 1.0 2.0 2.0 —									

AD-5 Skyraider									Crew: Pilot and Copilot		
									Maneuver DPs:		
									LR/DR	2.5	
									VR	1.5	
Power APs/DPs: ⊙									Turn DPs:		
	CL	1/2	DT	Fuel					CL	1/2	DT
FT	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.5					TT	0.5	0.5
HT	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2					HT	1.0	1.0
N	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1					BT	1.0	1.5
I	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0					ET	—	—
SPBR	1.0	1.0	1.0	—							
					Cruise Spd. CL: 2.0	Restr. Arcs:	—				
					Climb Spd.: 1.5	Blind Arcs:	30–				
					Visibility: 6	Internal Fuel:	120				
					Size: +0	AtA Refuel:	No				
					Vulnerability: +2	Ejection Seat:	None				

Speeds and Ceilings						Climb Capabilities					
Alt. Band	Conf. Ceil.	CL 30	1/2 24	DT 13	Dive Speed	CL AB	Oth	1/2 AB	Oth	DT AB	Oth
EH+	46+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VH	36–45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HI	26–35	1.5 – 3.0	—	—	4.5	—	0.5	—	—	—	—
MH	17–25	1.5 – 3.0	1.5 – 2.5	1.5 – 2.0	4.5	—	0.5	—	0.5	—	0.5
ML	8–16	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 2.5	1.0 – 2.5	4.0	—	1.0	—	0.5	—	0.5
LO	0–7	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 2.5	4.0	—	1.0	—	1.0	—	0.5

Radar:	—	ECM:	IFF	Weapon Stations Diagram:					
ECCM:	—	RWR:	—						
Arcs:	—	DDS:	—						
Search:	—	DJM:	—						
Track:	—	AJM:	—						
Lock-On:	—	BJM:	—						
Guns:	Four 20 mm M3	Technology:		Load Point Limits:					
To Hit:	5/4/3	None		CL : < 7 1/2: <13					
Ammunition:	6.0			Weight Limit: 8,000 DT : ≥13					
Gunsight:	TT+0/HT+1/BT+2								
Ranging:	—			Station					
AtA/AtG:	5/6*			Limit					
Bomb System:	Manual			Allowed Loads					
Notes:	<p>1. The Douglas AD-5 Skyraider is a propeller-driven, carrier-capable attack aircraft. It was developed from the AD-4 and added a widened fuselage and cockpit with a copilot next to the pilot, additional armor, and omitted the lateral dive brakes. In 1962, it was redesignated A-1E.</p>								
<p>VPs: 8/5/3/1</p>									
<p>v3.0000000 0000-00-00T00:00:00</p>									

A-1E Skyraider									Crew: Pilot and Copilot
Power APs/DPs: ⊙									Maneuver DPs:
CL 1/2 DT Fuel									LR/DR 2.5
FT 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5									VR 1.5
HT 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.2									
N 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1									
I 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0									
SPBR 1.0 1.0 1.0 —									

AD-6 Skyraider									Crew: Pilot
Power APs/DPs: ⊙									Maneuver DPs:
CL 1/2 DT Fuel									LR/DR 2.5
FT 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5									VR 1.5
HT 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.2									
N 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1									
I 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0									
SPBR 1.0 2.0 2.0 —									

A-1H Skyraider					Crew: Pilot				
					Maneuver DPs:				
					LR/DR	2.5			
					VR	1.5			
					Turn DPs:				
					CL	1/2	DT		
					TT	0.5	0.5	0.5	
					HT	0.5	1.0	1.0	
					BT	1.0	1.0	1.5	
					ET	—	—	—	

AD-7 Skyraider					Crew: Pilot
Power APs/DPs: ⊙					Maneuver DPs:
CL 1/2 DT Fuel					LR/DR 2.5
FT 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5					VR 1.5
HT 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.2					
N 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1					
I 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0					
SPBR 1.0 2.0 2.0 —					
Cruise Spd. CL: 2.0 Restr. Arcs: —					
Climb Spd.: 1.5 Blind Arcs: 30—					
Visibility: 6 Internal Fuel: 120					
Size: +0 AtA Refuel: No					
Vulnerability: +2 Ejection Seat: None					

Speeds and Ceilings				Climb Capabilities							
Alt.	Conf.	CL	1/2	DT	Dive Speed	CL AB	1/2 AB	DT AB	Oth Oth	Oth Oth	Oth Oth
Alt.	Band	Conf. Ceil.	CL 30	1/2 24	DT 13	Dive Speed	CL AB Oth	1/2 AB Oth	DT AB Oth		
EH+	46+	—	—	—	—	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	EH+
VH	36–45	—	—	—	—	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	VH
HI	26–35	1.5 – 3.0	—	—	4.5	— 0.5	— —	— —	— —	— —	HI
MH	17–25	1.5 – 3.0	1.5 – 2.5	1.5 – 2.0	4.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	MH
ML	8–16	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 2.5	1.0 – 2.5	4.0	— 1.0	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	ML
LO	0–7	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 3.0	1.0 – 2.5	4.0	— 1.0	— 1.0	— 0.5	— 0.5	— 0.5	LO

Radar: —	ECM: IFF	Weapon Stations Diagram:
ECCM: —	RWR: —	
Arcs: —	DDS: —	
Search: —	DJM: —	
Track: —	AJM: —	
Lock-On: —	BJM: —	
Guns: Four 20 mm M3	Technology:	Load Point Limits: CL : < 7 1/2: <13
To Hit: 5/4/3	None	Weight Limit: 8,000 DT : ≥13
Ammunition: 6.0		Station Limit Allowed Loads
Gunsight: TT+0/HT+1/BT+2		1–6 and 10–15 500 BB RK RP
Ranging: —		7 and 9 2,200 BB RK RP FT
AtA/AtG: 5/6*		8 2,200 BB FT
Bomb System: Manual		Load Notes:
Notes:	1. The Douglas AD-7 Skyraider is a propeller-driven, carrier-capable attack aircraft. It was developed from the AD-6. In 1962, it was redesignated A-1J.	
	2. Stations 1 to 6 and 10 to 15 are closely spaced and have restrictions: a station adjacent to one other loaded with a store of more than 250 lb may only carry a store of 250 lb or less and a station between two others loaded with stores of more than 250 lb may not be used.	
	VPs: 8/5/3/1	
	v3 0000000 0000-00-00T00:00:00	

A-1J Skyraider									Crew: Pilot
Power APs/DPs: ⊙									Maneuver DPs:
CL 1/2 DT Fuel									LR/DR 2.5
FT 1.5 1.0 1.0 0.5									VR 1.5
HT 0.5 0.5 0.5 0.2									
N 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1									
I 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0									
SPBR 1.0 2.0 2.0 —									