

VQ-2 Logo Evolution 008



First logo of newly commissioned ECMRON 2 (early 1956)



Logos that replaced the 'Infamous Ear' patch

Captain John McIntyre writes: Carl Bockenbauer, Harry Pitcher, Pat Patschke and a couple of the NCU-34G guys came up one morning in early '56 - I remember this clearly - with a draft of what became the "Ear" and talked Morrie Kalin into going with it. After we had gotten OP-05 or whoever approved stuff like that to sanction it, we had the cloth patches made and sewn on. Almost immediately, we ran into trouble with the Air Force. We did extensive training and operational work with the USAF 4905th Special mission Squadron in Weisbaden, Germany - they flew P2Vs as "RB-69s" and did what we did - but they were absolutely horrified by the "open" use of the term "Electronic Countermeasures" on flight jackets.

The bat image was designed in response to a squadron wide contest in 1957 to select a new image to replace the now-infamous "Ear." I was the squadron Personnel Officer and "Welfare and Rec" was all part of the job so I got to "run" the contest. Judging was by popular acclaim and the Bat was the least awful of a half-dozen or so entries. The contest was won by AD2 Blatchford who was awarded a \$25 savings bond. If my 90 year old memory is correct, I bought the bond myself out of coffee-mess funds. The paper work for the substitution of the bat for the ear was initiated by myself sometime in 1958 and apparently "adopted" (according to your text) in '59, although I clearly remember getting it woven and sewn on my own flight jacket way earlier than September 1958 when I left. (It's still there.) It is of interest that the "FAIRECONRON TWO" rocker is of later vintage than the bat design itself because upon commissioning in '55, "Electronic Countermeasures Squadron TWO" had been officially authorized with the "Ear" patch.

The bat symbolized the totally black Martin P4M-1Q Mercator, which initially flew at night and often unmarked. The background represents the blue night sky with the clouds and Big Dipper representing high altitude flight symbolizing undetected presence. The lightning bolts represent electronic reconnaissance. The outer ring is red for of the original red field of the squadron flag flown while VQ-2 was home ported in Port Lyautey, French Morocco. The red field duplicates the French Moroccan flag's solid red background with a centered five-pointed golden yellow star centered.



A logo (above) that has long been associated with VQ-2 is the Spanish Sandeman, a somewhat sinister silhouette of a man in a long cape and a Spanish influenced hat raked low over the figures eyes. The original rendering of the Sandeman can be traced to the mid-sixties when VQ-2 sent crews from Rota, Spain to supplement

VQ-1s commitment in Vietnam. Due to security considerations, squadron markings couldn't be worn on the Det. To set VQ-2 personnel apart from their VQ-1 brothers, an innocuous logo was devised to suit this purpose! Dan Savcki writes; "My first deployment to Det B, Republic of Vietnam occurred in August 1966. The pilot was Jack 'Rip' Taylor, NAV LT Christesen, EVAL LCDR Bueche, PC Harry Curtis, Operators, Tim Ziller, Jeffery (JC) Park and me. Tim said we needed a crew hat and "any ideas?". The road to Jerez (a town outside the base at Rota) was lined with Bodega billboards, Osborne Bull, Gonzales Bypass, Tio Pepe and the most

obvious ringer for the squadron; The Sandeman. I said, “The Sandeman.” I think JC was the one who had the patch and hat made. Mine made it to about 1988 when it was stolen while I was at work. It will be an interesting read to find out when and the circumstances of the squadron logo change to the real Sandeman. I assume the winery gave approval. I probably learned of the switch in the 90’s. The old brain cells reactivated about our hats and just another tidbit, so no one would confuse us as VQ-1 and we couldn’t put VQ-2 on, Ziller added SEF above the logo and TBSA in the back above the strap. The SEF stood for, Spanish Expeditionary Force and the TBSA was, TheBat Strikes Again.



First prototype of Sandeman patch as it appeared on a ball cap in 1966. Not quite legible are the initials S. E. F. that stands for, Spanish Expeditionary Force



The Sandeman, as it appears on bottles of Sherry, the inspiration for the logo sported by VQ-2.

