

RAN Aircraft Codes Explained By Jeff Chartier, 723 Squadron, RAN

<http://www.adf-messageboard.com.au/invboard/index.php?showtopic=2482>

“The coding of the RAN FAA's aircraft is basically a carry on from the old days where we managed everything in line with the Royal Navy standards of operation. From 1946, all RN FAA aircraft, whether at home or abroad, would carry a 3 digit fuselage code of which the first digit would denote its layout or function. Single seaters used 100 codes, 2 seaters used 200 codes, 3 seaters used 300 codes, Multi engines used 400 codes, Fleet Support (FRU) used 500 codes, Multi engined light trainers used 600 codes, 700 codes were spare, Communications aircraft used 800 codes, Station flights used 900 codes, Trials / development aircraft used 000 codes. The RAN FAA adopted the same system when it stood up in 1948. It continued to use a fairly similar system, changing to 900 series codes for all 2nd Line Units in 1955, & then a whole of FAA change to 800 series codes for both 1st & 2nd Line Units in 1958.

By 1977 and into the 80's, the RAN had used / were using pretty much all available 800 codes:

HS-748: 800-801

Wessex: 810-836

Tracker (E): 840-853

Tracker (G): 844-859

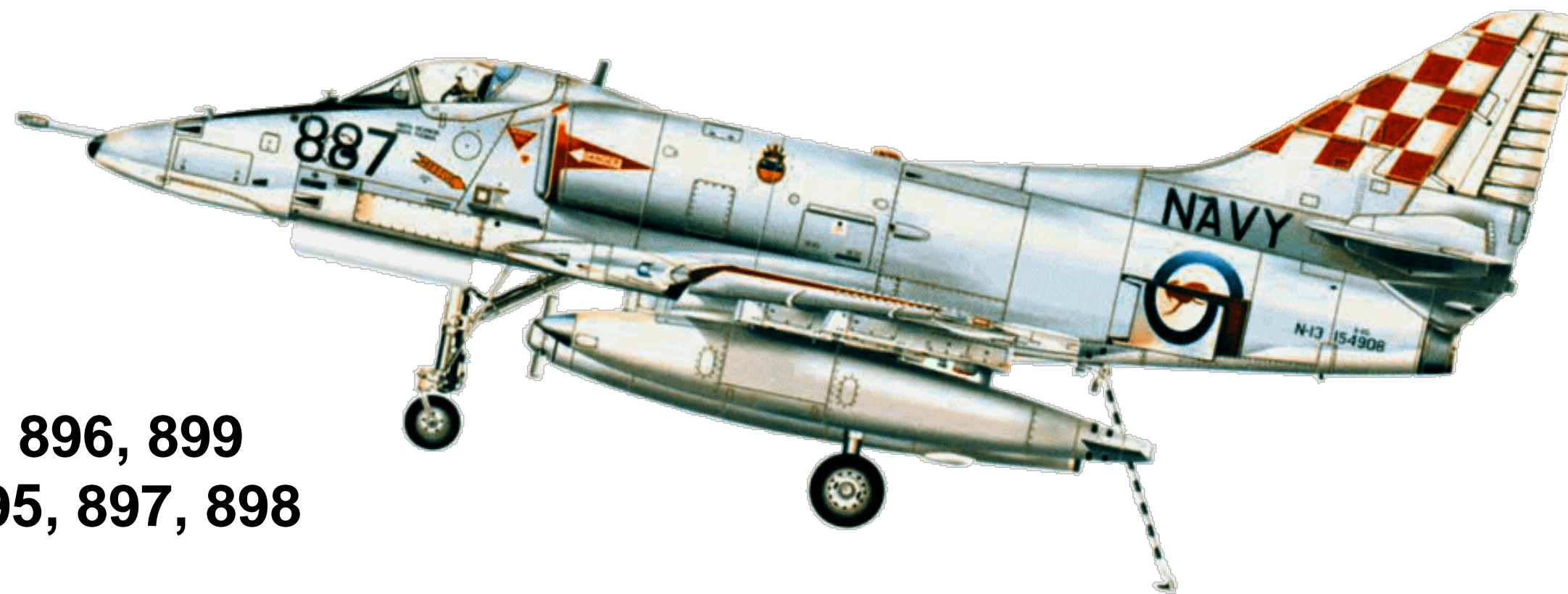
Macchi: 860-869

Skyhawk: 870-889

Kiowa: 890, 891, 892, 896, 899

Iroquois: 893, 894, 895, 897, 898

Sea King: 901-910



The exceptions to this, have been the contractor supplied Agusta A-109E's & Bell 429's, which have used their manufacturers numbers (A109: 501, 505, 510; Bell 429: 047, 048, 049).

The MRH-90's do also use their manufacturer's numbers as their side numbers. But that has more to do with the fact that all MRH-90's are pooled between Navy and Army, making the process of repainting airframes a costly undertaking to reflect who they may be operating with at any given time. Similar to why they will ALL operate in a camouflage scheme, instead of the Navy cabs being painted grey.

<http://www.adf-gallery.com.au/ran.htm>

MH-60R will be coded 901-924. Which is nice to see, as a good proportion of those numbers were last used on the last ASW Helo we had with a dipping sonar capability the mighty Sea King!”