GRUMMAN S2F 'TRACKER'

NAAS KINGSVILLE 1954-1957

In the late 1940s, the Navy identified a need to replace its antisubmarine warfare (ASW) hunter-killer teams of TBM-3W2 and TBM-3S Avenger and AF-2W and AF-2S/AF-3S Guardian aircraft.

With the team concept one aircraft found the submarine, the second aircraft made the attack. The Navy wanted to incorporate the hunter-killer team into one aircraft. In January 1950, the Navy issued an Invitation to Bid for US aircraft manufacturers to come up with a design for the new aircraft.

Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation won the competition in June 1950 with its Model G-89, beating out 17 manufacturers and 23 other deigns.

The G-89 was a twin-engine aircraft with a crew of four that could carry a variety of torpedoes, depth charges, and mines in an internal bomb bay or on wing racks. It could also carry 5-inch rockets.

The aircraft carried sonobuoys -- used to detect submarine sounds and transmitting them by radio - in the rear of the engine nacelles. Initially named the Sentinel, the G-89 was renamed Tracker before entering USN service. The Navy designated the plane S2F-1, and it soon earned the nickname "Stoof" (S-two-F).

The S2F-1 first flew in December 1952, and the first Navy squadrons were outfitted with the plane in February 1954. Grumman built 1,169 Trackers between December 1952 and December 1967, and de Havilland of Canada built another 100 under license. In September 1962, all USN S2F-types were re-designated S-2s.

NAAS Kingsville used the S2F Tracker from 1954-1957 for antisubmarine training with ATU-400 out of South Field.

Technical Specifications

Wingspan: 69 ft. 8 in.
Length: 42 ft.
Height: 16 ft. 3 in.
Weight: 23,470 lbs (loaded)
Max Speed: 272 mph Ceiling: 22,800 ft.
Range: 968 miles
Engines: 2 Wright R-1820-82 radial, 1,425 hp
Crew: 4

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