



Air

The Air Department fulfills the basic mission of the carrier itself--the operation of aircraft. This includes landing the aircraft, fueling and arming them, providing facilities for their maintenance and then launching them again on their assigned missions.

To perform these varied functions the department is organized into six divisions. V-1 handles all aircraft movement on the Flight Deck while V-3 controls maneuvers in the Hangar Bay. During a normal working day V-1 may handle and respot as many as 375 aircraft. Each of these divisions also has repair parties for damage control and in case of aircraft accidents.

V-2 is the "stop and go" division. It operates the catapults and arresting gear. This division has made more than 26,000 "cat" shots and completed their 64,000th arrested landing during the BENNINGTON's recent cruise.

V-4 fuels and defuels all aircraft and operates the ship's complex aviation gasoline fueling system. This division sends the gasoline to one of 30 pump rooms where it is then directed to the tanks of the aircraft.

V-5 is responsible for the operation and upkeep of the shipboard shops and facilities required for the maintenance and repair of embarked aircraft and their equipment.

V-6 also operates and maintains all power driven vehicles attached to the ship.

Each of these divisions wears different colored sweaters making this the most colorful department on board the BENNINGTON. Each different color shirt represents the function of the weater. This function is explained in the General Information Section of this booklet.

