

# PEOPLE • PLANES • PLACES

Edited by J02 E. Blake Towler

## Awards

A number of Naval Aviation organizations were recognized when the Secretary of the Navy FY-96 Achievement in Safety Ashore Awards were announced in July: NADEP Jacksonville, Fla., runner-up, Large Industrial Activity; NAS Keflavik, Iceland, runner-up, Out-CONUS Non-Industrial Activity; and an honorable mention went to MAG-29 at MCAS New River, N.C., in the Fleet Operational/ Support Unit Ashore category.

Ltjg. Luke Arkins of VFA-147 was presented the Cdr. Robert Rothschild Award by Strike Fighter Wing Pacific on 1 August at NAS Lemoore, Calif. The award recognizes the accomplishments of the junior officer in the local strike fighter community who best displays superior leadership in aviation and logistics management.



On 29 January, while flying as a bombardier navigator in an A-6E Intruder from VA-75, RAdm. Stanley W. Bryant, right, COMCARGRU-4, made his 1,000th career arrested landing. This milestone trap took place aboard Enterprise (CVN 65) during a post-deployment ammo off-load. LCdr. Tom Dacey of VA-75 piloted the Intruder.



## Special Records

Several units marked safe flying milestones:

Unit	Hours	Years
VP-16	217,000	32
HS-1	93,000	14
VQ-1	61,000	10
VMR-2	60,000	14
VX-1	50,000	12
HC-2	47,000	10
VAW-117	44,050	20
VPU-2	36,900	15
HSL-37	30,000	5
VFA-115	10,000	

Capt. Charles A. Wyatt, CO of CW-8, marked a significant personal milestone 19 August when he logged his 4,000th hour in the F-14 Tomcat, while aboard John F. Kennedy (CV 67).

## Anniversaries

The VFA-97 Warhawks celebrated 30 years of service in August.

The HC-6 Chargers mark 30 years of service in September.

The HC-11 Gunbearers celebrate 20 years of service in October.

## Rescues

The NAS Fallon, Nev., Longhorn Search and Rescue (SAR) team saved a severely injured hiker near Mammoth Lakes, Calif., on 30 June. The 19-year-old woman fell 70 feet down a glacier on 29 June and spent that night on a rocky point near a lake before her companions were able to hike out and notify authorities. The Longhorn crew, consisting of Lts. Rich McCabe and Anne Wilson, AD2 Pat Schatzlein,

AE3 Wes Taylor and HM3 Shawn Templeton, launched their HH-1N "Huey" from NAS Fallon at 1000 and arrived at Mammoth Lakes airport at 1130. After waiting two hours for a cold front to move through the area, they headed to the site of the victim at Iceberg Lake, elevation 9,700 feet. Swirling winds prevented the helo from landing near the injured hiker, so they landed 500 feet below her, and Schatzlein and Templeton hiked up to the victim with a rescue litter and almost 100 pounds of medical gear, intent upon transporting her back to the waiting helo. After an hour hike in snow and 30-degree temperatures, they arrived at the victim. Templeton determined that she had neck and back injuries, as well as a broken leg and ankle.

Knowing the seriousness of her injuries would make it an extremely difficult trek back to the rescue helicopter, the crewmen radioed the pilots and asked if they would try once again to bring the helo closer. The pilots agreed and flew back to the airport to refuel before returning to the scene, where they discovered the winds had died down enough to land the helo near the victim. The crewmen loaded the hiker into the helicopter and flew to the Mammoth hospital where she received treatment for her injuries.

The quick response of an H-46D Sea Knight crew from HC-11 Det 9 enabled the timely rescue of a man overboard from New Orleans (LPH 11) while operating in the Shoal Water Bay Training area off the northeastern coast of Australia. The helo crew was making practice landings aboard Fort McHenry (LSD 43) when they received the call that a Marine had fallen over the side of New Orleans, 17 miles away. The crew arrived in seven minutes to discover the Marine outlined by smoke markers and a life ring. The pilot, Lt. Dan Inbat, guided the Sea Knight into a 10-foot hover, while rescue swimmer AD3 (NAC) Chris Berman jumped in the water to secure the victim. The Marine was quickly plucked from the sea and was back on the ship receiving medical attention for shock only 18 minutes after his fall. He was released later that day. Also aboard the rescue helo were copilot Lt. Kyle Taylor and crew chief AME2 (NAC) Douglas Kidd.

SAR units from NAS Lemoore Calif., saved a pair of injured hikers in two separate incidents. In the first instance, the Sequoia National Park Service notified NAS Lemoore on 27 July that a hiker was three days overdue. A SAR team, consisting of Lts. Marvin de la Vega and Steve Ostrander, HML Rich Freund and AMS2 Ryan Pederson, lifted off in an HH-1N "Huey" at 1630 and proceeded to an area three miles northeast of Cedar Grove in the Sequoia

National Forest. Once there, SAR team members spotted the missing hiker in a rocky clearing. Because of the uneven terrain, the crew dropped a line to the man and hoisted him aboard the helo. The hiker was suffering from blistered feet, hunger and exhaustion. He was flown to the Cedar Grove helicopter pad where he received further assistance from park rangers.

Two days later, the team was called out again to save a seriously injured hiker who had fallen approximately 40 feet onto rocky terrain, suffering severe injuries to his head, neck and right arm. The victim was located along the south fork of the Stanislaus River. Upon arrival at the scene, corpsman HMC Mark Horrall rappelled down to the victim, who had already been positioned in a rescue litter by the ground party. After

attaching the rescue line to the victim, he and Horrall were hoisted back to the waiting "Huey," which then flew to a clearing where a med-flight helo was standing by. Other crew members for the second rescue were Lts. Ross Moreno and Brian Nicholas, AMS2 Pederson and AT3 Max Bradford.

Two Iranian merchant seamen found adrift in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf were rescued by crewmen from Constellation (CV 64) on 14 July. Lookouts aboard the San Diego-based aircraft carrier spotted the two men clinging to floating debris about 70 nautical miles northeast of Bahrain. Constellation crewmen immediately launched a rescue boat to retrieve the stranded seamen. Once on board, the two stated they

## Senior Woman Naval Aviator Retires



The Navy's senior woman Naval Aviator, Capt. Rosemary B.

Mariner, retired 8 August during a ceremony at the National War College in Washington, D.C. Capt. Mariner was the first military woman to command an operational aviation squadron, Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34. In January 1973 Mariner was chosen as one of the first eight women to enter Navy pilot training.



**Capt. Mariner with RAdm. Michael McDevitt, Commandant, National War College.**



**Piloting a Fleet Composite Squadron 2 S-2 Tracker as an ensign in 1975.**

PH2 Dennis G. Keske

Designated a Naval Aviator in June 1974, she became the first female military aviator to fly a tactical jet aircraft, the single-seat A-4E/L Skyhawk. In 1976 she transitioned to the A-7E Corsair II, becoming the first woman to fly this light attack aircraft. She retires after 24 years of service with over 3,500 military flight hours in 15 different aircraft. She was the last of the original group of women Naval Aviators to retire.

had been adrift for approximately five days, after their Iranian cargo ship, *Ramazan*, with eight other crewmen aboard, broke up in rough seas. A search for other survivors was conducted using helicopters from HSL-37 Det 9, embarked aboard *Lake Erie* (CG 70), and HSL-42 Det 5, onboard *Thorn* (DD 998), but none were found. The two Iranian seamen were treated for exposure and turned over to a shore-based medical facility.

## Scan Pattern

Congratulations to the 12 active duty unrestricted line of ficer aviators who were nominated for promotion to rear admiral (lower half): Larry C. Bacon; Robert E. Besal; Christopher W. Cole; Alan M. Gemmill; Kenneth F. Heimgartner; Gerald L. Hoewing; Michael L. Holmes; Michael D. Malone; James D. McArthur, Jr.; Michael J. McCabe; David C. Nichols, Jr.; and Robert F. Willard.

PH13 Joseph Lee Lynch



**Lt. Pete Waters sets off a smoke flare used to mark location in a combat search and rescue mission during Desert Rescue VI.**

The combat search and rescue (CSAR) exercise Desert Rescue VI was held in the Nevada desert near NAS Fallon, Nev., 11-20 June. The annual exercise is designed and orchestrated by the Naval Strike and

## New HSL-47 Insignia

Almost 10 years since the squadron's inception, the HSL-47 *Sabrehawks* proudly unveiled their new squadron insignia on 25 July. The change was made to more accurately reflect the evolved LAMPS mission and correctly depict the key elements of the official squadron nickname.



Air Warfare Center (NSAWC), aboard NAS Fallon, to provide joint training in CSAR. This year, 14 units and more than 700 members from all branches of the armed forces took part. In addition to standard CSAR, the exercise was expanded to related mission areas, such as a noncombatant evacuation operation, which simulated an evacuation of American Embassy personnel from a foreign country.

Within an hour after Korean Air Flight 801 went down on Guam at 0150 on 6 August, Sailors from nearby NB Guam scrambled in the darkness to reach the crash scene. Navy rescue teams arrived about 45 minutes after the crash and established perimeter security while searching for survivors. Two H-46 Sea Knight helicopters from HC-5 responded to the scene soon after to begin evacuating survivors. HC-5 helicopters transported victims from the crash site to U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam throughout the rescue. Navy resources, from base chaplains to stretcher bearers, lent a hand in a joint effort to assist in accessing the crash site and transporting rescue personnel.

Retired Naval Aviator RADM. J. Lloyd Abbot, Jr. was awarded a new commission 12 August by the mayor and city council of Mobile, Ala., when he was named "Mobile's First Sea Lord." The idea was formed eight years ago during a Mardi Gras visit by NATO Standing Force, Atlantic. In gratitude for RADM. Abbot's tireless energy in supporting

the visit by the international warships, RADM. Scott Redd, Commander of the Standing Force, eventually dubbed Abbot as Mobile's First Sea Lord. The title itself comes from British Admiralty and traditionally referred to the officer who served as chief of the naval staff and principal advisor to the government on professional naval matters. RADM. Abbot earned his wings in 1941 and saw action in WW II as skipper of Scouting Squadron 66.

**The mayor of Mobile, Ala., Michael C. Dow, honors retired RADM. J. Lloyd Abbot, Jr., as First Sea Lord of the City of Mobile.**



Lt. S.C. Rye, USNR

VR-57, NAS North Island, Calif., helped a sixth grader from Little Rock, Iowa, break records while completing his school's social studies project. Ryan Wiersma's project was to learn about America, the world and its people by "visiting" as many places as possible during the school year. The visits were achieved through a travel pal-in Ryan's case, a stuffed rabbit named Bouncer. Ryan enlisted the help of his uncle, AE2 (AW/NAC) Alan Heidebrink of VR-57. From 31



AE2 (AW/NAC) Alan Heidebrink, his 12-year-old nephew, Ryan Wiersma, and travel pal Bouncer reunite in Sioux Falls, S.D.

November 1996 to 28 March 1997, Bouncer traveled with Heidebrink and his squadronmates on missions to 60 different locations in the western Pacific, Middle East and Europe. At the end of the project, Bouncer had accumulated numerous lapel pins, foreign currency and a thick travel diary, and had broken every previous travel pal record in Sibley-Icheyedan Elementary School.

## “Old Ironsides” Sails!

USS *Constitution*, the world's oldest commissioned warship, fires its port and starboard guns while underway in Massachusetts Bay, Mass., as the Navy's *Blue Angels* Flight Demonstration Squadron passes overhead. Commissioned on 21 October 1797, *Constitution* set sail unassisted for the first time in 116 years on 21 July. *Constitution* will celebrate her 200th birthday on 21 October 1997 after completing a 40-month overhaul.



JO2 Todd Stevens

## Change of Command

HC-6 : Cdr. Kenneth J. Barker relieved Cdr. David J. Jerabek, 17 Jun.

H&HS, NADEP Cherry Point : Capt. Anthony C. Archer relieved Maj. Steven A. Kelly, 4 Jun.

HM-14 : Cdr. Randolph K. Young relieved Cdr. John D. Scott, 5 Sep.

HM-15 : Cdr. V. W. Jimenez relieved Cdr. J. A. Brown, 16 Sep.

HSWINGPAC : Capt. Michael Fuqua relieved Capt. William Kordis, 18 Jul.

HT-8 : Cdr. Walter B. Watson relieved Cdr. Catherine H. Osran, 28 Aug.

Kitty Hawk (CV 63) : Capt. Jack Samar, Jr., relieved Capt. Steven Tomaszewski, 31 Jul.

MAG-46 : Col. Gary Gisolo relieved Lt. Col. Richard Coulter, 2 Jul.

M ATSG : Col. Steven D. Summers relieved Col. Robert E. Braithwaite, 27 Jun.

NAS Patuxent River : Capt. Paul

Roberts relieved Capt. Elmer Standridge, 1 Aug.

NAS Kingsville : Capt. Patrick J. Twomey relieved Capt. Kris T. Ackerbauer, 18 Jul.

NAWCAD : RAdm. Joseph W. Dyer relieved RAdm. Dana B. McKinney, 11 Jul.

Nimitz (CVN 68) : Cdr. Don Barbaree relieved Cdr. Eric Neidlinger, Jul.

S WATSLANT : Cdr. Steven M. Jacobsmeyer relieved Cdr. James K. School, 22 Aug.

T RAWING 6 : Col. Richard J. Jensen relieved Capt. Daniel R. McCort, 25 Jul.

USNTPS : Cdr. Mike Rabens relieved Cdr. Lyn Whitmer, 20 Jun.

VF-11 : Cdr. Mark A. Vance relieved Cdr. Ron Weisbrock, 31 Jul.

VFA-15 : Cdr. Mark D. Guadagnini relieved Cdr. John K. Stuart, Jr., 19 Jul.

VFA-83 : Cdr. Thomas Cropper relieved Cdr. William Warfield, 7 Aug.

VFA-106 : Cdr. Jeffrey M. Cathey relieved Cdr. William E. Gortney, 25 Jul.

VMGR-352 : Lt. Col. Robert J. Bader relieved Lt. Col. J. Peter Donato, 19 Jun.

VP-30 : Capt. Chalker W. Brown III relieved Capt. Michael L. Holmes, 22 Aug.

VP-91 : Cdr. Steven M. Sharkey relieved Cdr. Andrew J. Cucca on 16 Aug.

VQ-3 : Cdr. William G. Okoniewski relieved Cdr. Samuel S. Burdick, 24 Jul.

V RWING : Capt. Charles R. White relieved Capt. Walter L. Baker III, 19 Jul.

VS-31 : Cdr. Bradley Smith relieved Cdr. Thomwell Rush, Jr., 24 Jul.

VT-23 : Cdr. Jason Tibbels relieved Cdr. Gilbert Bever, 31 Jul.

VT-86 : Cdr. Daniel L. Quimette relieved Lt. Col. Henry J. Krauss, Jr., 28 Jul.