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PEOPLE • PLANES • PLACES

Edited by J02 Joshua M. Hudson



A close-up shot of a VMFT-401 F-5E *Tiger II*. The *Snipers* recently marked 10,000 safe-flying hours. Photo by Ted Carlson



Awards

On 27 October 1998 at the Navy Memorial & Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C., **VT-4** was recognized for its outstanding energy management and conservation achievements. Through the use of more efficient aircraft, innovative scheduling and increased energy awareness, the

squadron is saving \$975,000 annually.

HSL-44's superior performance in the past four years of operations earned the *Swamp Foxes* the Meritorious Unit Commendation on 28 September 1998. During this time, the *Swamp Foxes* operated in the Jacksonville, Fla., area and deployed numerous times to the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Caribbean and Arabian Gulf. They have flown 90,000 flight hours without a Class A mishap, for which they received the 1996 Chief of Naval Operations' Safety "S" Award.

The **VS-32 Maulers** won recognition throughout their community by winning the Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMNAVAIRLANT) Battle Efficiency Award; the Capt. Arnold J. Isbell Trophy for excellence in

antisubmarine warfare; the COMNAVAIRLANT Aviation Safety "S"; and the Silver Anchor retention award. During the past year, the *Maulers* completed 2,068 sorties, 1,327 traps, logged 4,276 flight hours and passed more than 2,137,000 pounds of fuel to U.S. and NATO aircraft.

Special Records

Several units marked safe flying time:

Units	Hours	Years
HMM-773	55,000	28
VMFA-142	55,000	20
HMLA-775 Det A	40,000	15
VMGR-452	35,000	9
HMLA-773	20,000	7
HMLA-775	15,000	7
VMFT-401	10,000	3

The VF-103 *Jolly Rogers* CO and XO made squadron history



when they simultaneously made their 1,000th trap on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). Skipper **Cdr. James Greene**, radar intercept officer, and **Cdr. Roe Massey**, pilot, caught the three wire in their F-14 *Tomcat*. Each were presented commemorative plaques sporting half of a *Tomcat* tailhook.

Rescues

While deployed 90 miles west of Jamaica on counter-drug operations, the **HSL-44 *Swamp Foxes*** received a distress call from the Russian tug *Umka*. Arriving on scene, they found *Umka* towing an oil derrick, *Rigmar 151*, which was foundering in the heavy seas. *Umka* relayed information of an injured crewman on board the derrick. He had lost his fingers

and part of his hand from sheet metal torn by the high seas. Despite 25 knot winds and the derrick pitching 25 degrees, the HSL-44 crew was able to evacuate the injured sailor and six other crew members as *Rigmar* sank. The oil derrick's crew was taken to *Scott* (DD 995) until they could be delivered to Montego Bay, Jamaica. LCdr. Jeff Bocchicchio, Lt. Jack Barry and AW1(AW/SW/NAC) Mike Mellema were awarded Air Medals. AW2(AW) Ferdinand Hollis received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Eight hundred miles southwest of the Aleutian Islands, commercial airline traffic detected a distress signal. The Coast Guard asked for assistance from the **VP-46 *Grey Knights***. Within an hour a VP-46 crew launched from their detachment in

Misawa, Japan. After searching through the night, it wasn't until the next morning that the *Grey Knights* found the 40-foot Russian sailing vessel *Avacha* with its mast broken, adrift in high seas and winds. Dropping a search and rescue buoy and supply kit, VP-46 stayed on station until a Coast Guard HC-130 *Hercules* arrived to relieve the P-3 *Orion*.

Several Naval Aviation personnel participated in off-duty rescues using the skills, training and clear thinking they acquired in the Navy. Flight Surgeon Cdr. Dennis Pratt, LCdr. Willis Biles, AE2 Allen Weddle and AMS3 David Messenger, **VR-56 Det WESTPAC**, assisted in the rescue of a mother and daughter who had fallen and were seriously injured during a recreational climb on Mount Fuji. The

Higher learning. . .

Pilots and RIOs of VF-103 attend a pre-flight briefing aboard *Eisenhower* (CVN 69) deployed to the Arabian Gulf.



PH2 Shawn Eklund



Ted Carlson

Strap on a Herc. . .

Capt. Hal Zabrowski "straps in" as he takes his turn flying a VMGR-352 KC-130F Hercules near the Salton Sea.

crew used survival techniques to fashion a litter out of walking sticks and clothing, while Cdr. Pratt tended to the daughter's broken leg and the mother's head injury. In another incident, AW1 Al Burchfield, AW2 Roger Gray, AMS2 John Rigby and AD2 David Clarkson of the **VP-40 Fighting Marlins** encountered an automobile accident near Fairbanks, Alaska. After positioning flares and diverting traffic, the group administered first aid and CPR to the victims until medical personnel arrived.

Scan Pattern

Different military branches are given the opportunity to learn from each other through joint training.

Reservists from **Naval Reserve Unit Naval Air Wings Pacific 0194** recently had their joint experience with the Air Force in the Joint Doctrine Air Campaign Course. Students from all aircraft communities and services are eligible to attend the course conducted by active duty instructors from the Air Force College of Aerospace Doctrine Research and Education at Maxwell AFB, Ala. The primary goal is to expose students to how the Air Force conducts air campaigns in a joint environment.

Trader Jon's pub, Pensacola, Fla., has been a favorite hangout for aviators and Naval Aviation fans since 1953. It is filled with hundreds of photos, aircraft models and *Blue*

Angel memorabilia. Recently, customers were shocked and dismayed to find that their favorite bar is up for sale. Owner Martin Weissman was paralyzed by a stroke in early 1998, and his family does not want to manage the bar. Kent Bolin, a self-employed flight simulator consultant, has formed **Trader Jon's Preservation Squadron, Inc.**, a group raising money to make a bid for the popular drinking establishment. "We don't plan on making a penny," Bolin said, explaining that the group was established for the "charitable, civic and educational purposes of acquiring and preserving this landmark."

At Sea with Enterprise

Clockwise from right: Ordnancemen from the *Checkerboards* of VMFA-312 load a practice bomb on the wing of an F/A-18C *Hornet*. AMS3 Isaac Stevens conducts a tap test on an F-14B *Tomcat* to check for interior delamination. An F/A-18C of the VFA-37 *Bulls* launches from *Enterprise* on a mock strike run during CVN 65's participation in Joint Task Force Exercise 98 off the Virginia Capes. Cpl. Scott C. Espil of VMFA-312 gives a thumbs up to indicate his *Hornet* is ready for launch.



PH2 Michael W. Pendergrass



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PH3 Anthony O. Miranda



Photo by PH1 Mario P. Romero



Lt. Tom Carrington

What's this bird doing here?

On 11 November 1998, *Blue Angels* flight leader Cdr. Patrick Driscoll made history when he landed aboard *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), the first arrested landing of a Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron plane aboard an aircraft carrier. Above, flight deck personnel prepare *Blue Angel* #1 for its historic catapult shot.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Carrier Group 1: RAdm. David P. Polatty III relieved RAdm. William W. Pickavance, Jr.

HC-6: Cdr. Peter O. Wheeler relieved Cdr. Kenneth Burker.

HS-5: Cdr. Fredric P. Flight relieved Cdr. James Pendley.

HSL-45: Cdr. Thomas O'Keefe, Jr., relieved Cdr. Daniel Gomrick.

NADEP North Island, Calif.: Cdr. Colleen Waltry relieved Capt. Denny Williams.

NAS Cecil Field, Fla.: Capt. Kenneth Cech relieved Capt. Frank Bossio.

SECNAV: Richard Danzig

relieved John Dalton, 16 Nov.

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71): Capt. David R. Bryant relieved Capt. David Architzel.

VAQ-129: Cdr. Donald Quinn relieved Capt. Kenneth P. Parks, 6 Oct.

VAQ-137: Cdr. Jeffery K. Gruetzmacher relieved Cdr. M. C. Green, 30 Sep.

VF-31: Cdr. Fredrick G. Doran, Jr., relieved Cdr. Michael C. Manazir, 4 Sep.

VFA-83: Cdr. Patrick Rainey relieved Cdr. Thomas A. Cropper, 19 Sep.

VFA-115: Cdr. S. T. Craig relieved Cdr. E. M. Storrs, 4 Sep.

VFA-151: Cdr. Victor Steiman relieved Cdr. Scott Grant.

VP-69: Cdr. Larry A. Peck relieved Cdr. Malcolm J. McPhee, Jr., 3 Oct.

VR-61: Cdr. David J. Mahoney III relieved Cdr. George Rockwood III, 12 Sep.

VS-24: Cdr. Randall B. Cohn relieved Cdr. Raymond C. Ivie.

VT-22: Cdr. David J. Spangler relieved Cdr. Ronald Unterreiner, 9 Oct (correction).

