

Edited by JOI Joshua M. Hudson



PH: Timothy C. Ward

Awards

The 1998 RAdm. William Thompson Excellence in Public Affairs Award was presented to NAS Sigonella, Italy, and *Nimitz* (CVN 68) for bolstering the image of the Navy and its Sailors with ongoing programs that foster community support.

Lt. Steve Crawmer was presented the 1999 RAdm. Clifford H. Duerfeldt Officer of the Year Award for Leadership. This award recognizes superior performance, dedication and exceptional leadership qualities. Lt. Crawmer, stationed at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (TPS), NAS Patuxent River, Md., was cited for management of the enlisted training program and work as maintenance officer. His leadership contributed to the TPS squadron's 13,000-plus hours of mishap-free operations.

Cdr. David Dunaway was named the 1998 National Defense

Constellation (CV 64) aviation ordnancemen stand by as an F/A-18 Hornet readies for launch.

Industrial Association Military Tester of the Year by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. Dunaway is an operational test pilot for the F/A-18 E/F *Super Hornet* program at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Scan Pattern

Until the late 1990s, Sailors relied on slow boats and infrequent flights to receive mail from home which took weeks to arrive at its destination. The advent of the internet and email has been a great boost to the morale of Sailors forward deployed. On a recent deployment to the Middle East, the VAQ-123 *Scorpions*, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., were contacted by Sandra Mann, a teacher's aide at Oak Harbor Elementary School in Oak Harbor, Wash. She asked the

squadron to assist her 5th grade class with an internet project to learn proper email procedures and etiquette. The gradeschoolers' correspondence provided a refreshing break from the squadron's operational tempo. The project was a success: the students became proficient in electronic letter writing and the *Scorpions* were able to remain involved in the community even while deployed.

VP-46 and VP-9 participated in exercise Teamwork South '99 in June operating with several units from Chile and Canada. Conducted in Antofagasta, Chile, the exercise involved scenarios that stressed coordinated operations, littoral warfare and war-at-sea evolutions. The highlight of Teamwork South was participating in a live-fire missile shoot on a decommissioned Chilean naval tugboat.

The *Longhorns* search and rescue team at NAS Fallon, Nev., took to the skies six times this summer to rescue hikers.

The first rescue, on 26 July, involved a man who had broken his back during a hiking accident 15 miles north of Bishop, Calif. The team was called because the steep terrain made a land egress impossible.

On 28 July the SAR team assisted an 80-year-old hiker who had broken his femur just outside of Lee Vining, Calif. The aircrew found the hiker at 10,000 feet trapped on a 45-degree jagged rock face. The helicopter was too heavy to safely navigate close enough to rescue, so the crew had to detach the helo doors and offload a crewman to get within the 10 feet necessary to reach the victim.

On 10 August, the *Longhorns* evacuated a 21-year-old female college student with a broken ankle at Steelhead Lake, southwest of Mammoth, Calif.

On 14 August, the SAR team made three rescues in one day. On a scheduled training day, the crew quickly changed their focus to the medical evacuation of a 57-year-old woman who had fallen off her horse about five miles west of Bridgeport, Calif., and broken her leg; two members of the crew had to fight through rugged terrain to reach her. On the return flight from that mission, the *Longhorns* were called again. A middle-aged woman who suffered altitude sickness while hiking at 10,000 feet needed to be evacuated to the Bridgeport hospital. Less than 30 minutes after returning to base, the crew received a third call. A 40-year-old man had broken his leg near Twin Lakes, Calif. Closing darkness and bad weather made rescue impossible, so two of the SAR crew were left for the night with the injured hiker at 7,500 feet. The next morning the victim was moved to a suitable landing area and taken to the Bridgeport hospital. As of August, the NAS Fallon SAR team had rescued 18 people this year.

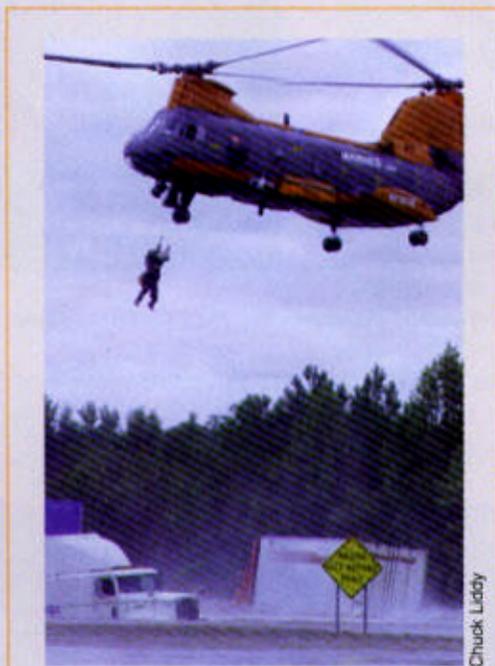
Sailors aboard *Peleliu* (LHA 5) and HC-11, NAS North Island, Calif., rescued two Orange County res-

idents lost at sea aboard jet-skis on 14 and 15 May. A skier separated from his group of 15 other jet-skiers on a trip to Catalina Island to look for a friend who had left the group. In his concern for his friend's safety, he did not notice that he had become lost and was headed out for the open ocean. When he saw *Peleliu*, he steered toward the ship to get directions. As the Sailors on board made preparations to

lower a rescue boat, they signaled the skier to stand off for safety. The man misunderstood their signals as directions for Catalina and took off into open ocean. The *Peleliu* crew blew the ship's whistle to get the skier's attention. The skier returned and he and his craft were retrieved. The *Peleliu* crew then learned there was another skier lost. A CH-46D *Sea Knight* from the ship's Marine Expeditionary Unit located the other skier and rescued him from 8 to 10 foot swells.

The *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) arrived off the coast of Turkey on 22 August. The ARG assisted ongoing humanitarian and medical relief efforts following the 17 August earthquake which killed over 12,000 people and left thousands homeless. The 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck

Turkey in the early morning hours, flattening many homes, destroying roads and burying thousands of sleeping residents. Departing Palma de Mallorca, Spain, *Kearsarge* and the embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) prepared the ship's medical ward to care for injured Turkish citizens. During the four-day transit across the Mediterranean Sea, the mission's focus changed from a medical relief mission to a humanitarian assistance mission providing supplies via helicopter to areas that needed help. The mission in Turkey continued a busy deployment for *Kearsarge*, which had participated in NATO-led air strikes during Operation Allied Force, and deployed 1,900 Marines from the 26th MEU to Kosovo in support of NATO peacekeeping efforts there.



A Marine rescue swimmer of Marine Transport Squadron 1, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., hoists a flood victim near Rocky Mount, N.C., in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

Chuck Laddy

Soaring with the Eagle

By Will McCombs

Lt. Chris "Ditto" Field, of VAQ-134, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., spent 19 August training to be an F-15E *Strike Eagle* weapons system operator. He participated in a one-day aircrew swap with the 336th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., deployed with VAQ-134 in the Mediterranean. The *Strike Eagle* is a two-seat, all-weather fighter-bomber used for precision bombing.



Field returned from his one-hour basic fighter maneuver familiarization flight with a large smile. "We played the adversary for an EA-6B *Prowler* practicing defensive counters to an enemy fighter," Field said. "The F-15 has so much information presented in a very simple manner that it gives the aircrew a lot of situational awareness."

As a Naval Flight Officer, Field was impressed with the full set of controls in the rear seat. "There were throttles and a control stick in the back and the pilot let me fly about half the flight. I even pulled a loop in afterburner!"

Courtesy of *Crosswind*, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

Special Records

Several units logged **safe flying time:**

Unit	Hours	Years
HSL-37	40,000	
HSL-46	20,000	2

Cdr. Kevin Miller, CO of VFA-

105, completed his 1,000th trap, aboard *Harry S. Truman*.

Corrections

CNO Safety Awards: In the Jul-Aug 1999 issue we listed COMMARFORLANT as COMNARFORLANT.

We also omitted the COMMARFORPAC CNO Safety Award winners:

HMLA-169	HMT-303
HMLA-369	VMA-513
HMM-268	VMFA-232
HMM-364	VMGR-152
HMT-301	MCAG YUMA

A Picture is Worth . . .



Buddy Joyce shot this spirited VF-74 F-14 *Tomcat*.

Navy Offers New College Program

The Navy is enhancing its voluntary education program with the Navy College Program (NCP), which will expand the opportunity for Sailors to earn college credit from their Navy training and on-the-job work experience.

Some features of the new program were introduced on 1 October. Every Sailor graduating from boot camp and evaluated "A" and "C" schools will receive a summary transcript showing the American Council on Education's (ACE) recommendation for academic credit. Navy Campus Offices were renamed Navy College Offices. The Navy College Center, Pensacola, Fla., manned by educational counselors 7 days a week, 15 hours a day, is accessible through a toll-free number and on the NPC website. The site offers unique rating-specific roadmaps that outline the ACE-recommended college credit for Navy training and rating-related work experience to assist Sailors in selecting a degree program.

Sailors can look forward to January 2000 when they will have access to their transcripts via computer. The Sailor/Marine Corps American Council on

Education Registry Transcript (SMART) is a computer-generated transcript that automatically records the recommended college credit a Sailor earns for military training and work experience. Sailors will also be able to submit official copies of their SMART to academic institutions. Partnerships with colleges and universities will be established to simplify acceptance of college credits for Navy training and experience.

To accommodate the varying academic needs of enlisted personnel, Navy College Offices will continue to be upgraded and additional Navy College Learning Centers will be opened. The NCP will serve as the umbrella for the current components of voluntary education, with new features added to improve opportunities for Sailors to pursue a college degree by allowing them to earn credit while they serve.

For more NCP information, call DSN 922-1828 or toll-free 877-253-7122, or check out the website at <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil>.

Information courtesy of Public Affairs Office, Chief of Naval Education and Training, Pensacola, Fla. *NA*News Assistant Editor JOSN Amy L. Pittmann also contributed to this article.

Change of Command

COMRESPATWING: Capt. Robert A. Sinibaldi relieved Capt. Riley J. Gladden, 17 Jul.

John F. Kennedy (CV 67): Capt. Michael H. Miller relieved Capt. Robin Y. Weber, 6 Aug.

John C. Stennis (CVN 74): Capt. Richard K. Gallagher relieved Capt. Douglas R. Roulstone, 27 Aug.

Kearsarge (LHD 3): Capt. Reubin B. Bookert relieved Capt. Peter A. Masciangelo, 16 Jul.

VAQ-130: Cdr. Jay Sherman relieved Cdr. William Clark,

VAW-113: Cdr. M. Neil May relieved Cdr. K. T. McCarthy, 1 Sep.

VFA-82: Cdr. Thomas C. Gurney relieved Cdr. Gregory M. Nosal, 5 Aug.

VFA-113: Cdr. Thomas Taylor relieved Cdr. Jonathan W. Hults (correction to Jul-Aug 99).

VP-30: Capt. Robert W. Andersen relieved Capt. Chalker W. Brown III, 3 Sep.

VR-48: Cdr. Bill L. Yancey relieved Cdr. Robin R Braun, 14 Aug.

VR-59: Cdr. Bart Roberts

relieved Cdr. Shane Eyer, 14 Aug.

VS-35: Cdr. Joe S. McClain relieved Cdr. Gregory F. LaBuda, 2 Sep.

VT-6: Lt. Col. Thomas G. Boodry relieved Cdr. Dale A. Lumme, 2 Sep.

VT-21: Cdr. Lowell E. Stanton relieved Cdr. Russell E. Bird, 15 Oct.

VT-31: Cdr. Jamie Naverro relieved Cdr. James P. Murry, 4 Jun.

VT-86: Cdr. Michael D. Gnozzio relieved Lt. Col. Richard W. Britton, 9 Jul.