



PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

*Edited by JO3 Amy L. Pittmann
and JO1(SW) Ed Wright*

Awards

The **2000 Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Efficiency Awards** were presented to the commands achieving the highest overall scores in readiness, including operations, maintenance, safety and administration. In addition to the command award, members earn the right to wear the Battle "E" ribbon.

The Atlantic Fleet winners:
George Washington (CVN 73), HC-8, HM-15, HS-5, HSL-44, VAQ-132, VAW-125, VF-103, VFA-34, VP-8 and VS-30.

Aviation winners of the **2000 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Awards:**

Natural Resources Conservation, large installation runner-up: MCAS Miramar, Calif.

Natural Resources Conservation, small installation winner: NAS Pensacola, Fla.

Have you ever wondered how those magnificent air-to-air photos are taken? Here, PHAA Lee McCaskill caught PH3 Alex Witte and Japanese photographer Katsuhiko Tokunaga at work. They are shooting an S-3B *Viking* of VS-21 from the cargo door of a C-2 *Greyhound* deployed aboard *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) operating in the Sea of Japan.

Cultural Resources Management, installation runner-up: NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Cultural Resources Management, individual/team winner: NAS Patuxent River, Md., Douglas P. Lister; runner-up: Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force Training Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Environmental Quality, industrial installation winner: MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.; runner-up: NADEP Jacksonville, Fla.

Environmental Quality, nonindustrial installation runner-up: MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

Environmental Quality, individual/team runners-up: NADEP North Island Calif., Theodore Beyer; and MCAS Beaufort, S.C., Charles Herron.

Environmental Quality, large ship winner: *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70); runner-up: *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6).

Pollution Prevention, nonindustrial installation winner: MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif.; runner-up: MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

Recycling, industrial installation winner: MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

Recycling, nonindustrial installation runner-up: NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

Recycling Program Team runner-up: MCAS Beaufort S.C., James Williams.

Environmental Cleanup, installation runner-up: NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Aviation winners of the Navy Community Service Program's **2000 Environmental Stewardship Flagship Awards**: large shore honorable mention, NAS Patuxent River, Md.; and medium overseas winner, NAF Misawa, Japan. The award encourages military and civilian personnel within each Navy command to join efforts with local communities to educate youth and families about environmental initiatives.

NAS Atlanta, Ga., was selected as the **2000** winner of the **Conway Trophy**, presented annually to the best managed naval air station in the Commander Naval Air Reserve Force program.

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) was named best in the Atlantic Fleet by the Naval Supply Systems Command and the Navy Exchange Services Command. The carrier received a **Service Excellence Award** and a **Best of Class Award** for high-level quality of life for Sailors throughout FY 00.

VR-61 won the **Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing Career Information Program Management Excellence Award**. The squadron was selected from among all C-9 *Skytrain II* and C-20 *Gulfstream* squadrons.

HS-7 received the **2000 Commander Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Maintenance Trophy** on 19 January for superior performance carrying out the Naval Aviation Maintenance Program.

At a 20 February ceremony in Yuma, Ariz., **Marine Capt. Glen Lindstrom** received an **Air Medal** for meritorious service in flight

while assigned to HMH-365 during the 1999 Serbian withdrawal.

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class (Aviation Warfare) Michael Cope was named **Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Controller of the Year** for 2000. AC1(AW) Cope is stationed aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72).

Aviation winners of the **2000 Personal Excellence Partnership Award**: Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit, North Island, Calif., medium shore; TACRONs 11 and 12, small shore; and HSL-51, medium overseas unit.

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) was awarded the **2000 Edward F. Ney Award for Food Service Excellence** in the Atlantic Fleet's aircraft carrier category, for the third time. The year-long competition grades ship- and shore-based facilities on their customer service techniques, quality of food and crew feedback. Other winners in the Atlantic Fleet were *Bataan* (LHD 5) in the large afloat category and *Enterprise* (CVN 65), runner-up in the aircraft carrier category. The Pacific Fleet honorees include winner *Constellation* (CV 64) and runner-up *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70). Air stations receiving the award

ROLL OF HONOR INDUCTEE



AFCM Edward J. Witt, Jr., is pictured kneeling, third from right, with members of VO-67.

Retired Master Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate (Reciprocating Engine) Edward J. Witt was inducted into the **Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor** aboard the *Yorktown* (CV 10) museum at Patriots Point, S.C., on Veterans Day 2000. The honor came 32 years after his Observation Squadron (VO) 67 was disestablished. The squadron's mission consisted of dropping listening devices and sensors to alert U.S. forces of enemy truck convoys coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Once a convoy was found, an air strike was called. Because of the squadron's heroic measures, Army reports showed VC truck kills more than tripled.

Witt flew 25 combat missions with VO-67, earning two Air Medals in a seven-month period. Later, as part of VQ-1, he earned two additional Air Medals for combat support missions. Today, Witt works as a civilian supervisor at NAS Whidbey Island.

KIDS FLOCK TO SEE SAR CREWS

By Tony Popp

The NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., search and rescue (SAR) crews sparked many young imaginations when they visited Hillcrest Elementary School on 5 January and Oak Harbor High School on 9 January. LCdr. Mike Kammerzell, HMCS(AW/FMF/NAC) Bryce Schuldt, HM2(NAC/FMF) Ken Mazer, OS1(SW) Tim Taton and AT3(NAC) Bryan McKinnon visited Hillcrest Elementary School to demonstrate emergency preparedness and Navy partnership. They set up different stations in the school gym, where 600 students



NAS Whidbey Island SAR crew members give students from Hillcrest Elementary School a "ride" in a rescue basket.

passed through during the day. On 9 January the SAR crew flew their UH-3H *Sea King* to the Oak Harbor High School athletic field as part of a career fair. On board were LCdrs. Geoff Grindeland and Pete Field, AMS1 Marty Crews, AE1 Mike Conroy, AC1 George Turner, AD2 Chad Rines and Mazer. Crew members showed students around the helicopter and gave presentations on air traffic control, electronics and engine mechanics, demonstrating the future has unlimited possibilities.

included NAS North Island, Calif.; NAS Point Mugu, Calif.; and NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

NADEP Cherry Point, N.C., recognized several employees for their participation in the **Beneficial Suggestion Program for FY 00**. The Depot realized a savings of \$7,041,943 and awarded \$94,774 to employees for ideas that were adopted to improve government operations and reduce cost.

Scan Pattern

Sailors in the Aviation Machinist's Mate and Aviation Structural Mechanic ratings can now apply the skills learned in Navy 'A' School to an Associate's degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). An agreement signed on 28 March allows Sailors with approved skills to earn up to 80 credit hours toward the degree for training they received while on active duty.

AMT is a two-year program leading to an Associate's degree and eligibility for certification by the Federal Aviation Administration as aviation maintenance technicians with airframe and power plant ratings. Members applying their Navy experience will need to have completed at least 18 months of Navy service in the appropriate

Academy Aviators Spring Toward Nationals

The Naval Academy's Flying Team won its first regional championship at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association regional competition in Danville, Va.

This marks the Navy's third year of regional competition, and its third time at the nationals. The first year, the academy team went as an open-invite school, last year as the second-place qualifier, and this year as the regional champion, which qualifies the team for nationals in Fort Union, N.D., in May.

credible rating, then contact the nearest Flight Standards District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Astronaut Training Program Lifts Off at NAS Pensacola

By Ron Westlake

The "Cradle of Naval Aviation" took another step toward the future by becoming a key player in astronaut primary training. A program developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) utilizes NAS Pensacola, Fla.'s Training Squadron (VT) 4 and its T-34C *Turbo-Mentor* trainers for primary astronaut orientation flight training. Astronaut Cdr. Mark Kelly, program coordinator, said, "The instructors here at VT-4 are well trained at working with flight students with no experience." In the past, Air Force T-38 *Talon* supersonic trainers were used for the primary orientation flight training stage, but the high-performance trainer proved to be too extreme for new civilian mission specialists with limited flight experience. The five-week program includes classroom studies of basic navigation and aeronautics, water survival and 12 orientation flights in the T-34C *Turbo-Mentor*. When completed, the astronauts will spend



MAN OVERBOARD!



PH3 Melissa Needham

another five weeks at Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, for advanced training.

Every two years NASA selects as many as 25 new candidates for the space program. In August 2000, 17 new mission specialists were chosen to begin the rigorous training required for space travel. Eight will be trained as shuttle pilots.

Kelly also said, "Of the 17 selected candidates, the four being trained at NAS Pensacola have the least amount of flight experience. The pilot program will enhance and accelerate this stage of their training." Kelly added that the program will be evaluated "when the candidates are near completion of the T-38 stage. Their time at VT-4 will be an indicator of how far ahead they will be in the program versus someone with little or no flight experience."

NASA receives over 4,000 astronaut applications each year. Currently, there are 175 astronaut candidates in the program, all of whom will eventually pilot or work on a space shuttle mission or be assigned to the international space station within the next five years. Once an astronaut pilot or mission specialist completes training, he or she will participate in an average of four space missions.

Records

VP-46 marked 37 years and 260,000 safe-flight hours on 30

A whaleboat crew responds to a signal flare during a man overboard drill aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) while en route to a liberty port. *Lincoln* returned from deployment on 24 April. Special thanks to Lincoln's Public Affairs Office for their timely submissions and dedication during deployment.

January.

On 18 December, **Cdr. Jim Winkler** surpassed 2,000 flight hours in the DC-9. Cdr. Winkler is a Selected Reserve pilot with VR-46, NAS Atlanta, Ga., and has accumulated more than 4,000 Navy flight hours.

Anniversaries

***Kitty Hawk* (CV 63)** celebrated its 40th anniversary on 29 April.

VP-46 celebrated its 37th anniversary on 30 January.

Rescues

After a commercial aircraft spotted the wreckage of a chartered plane on a heavily wooded bluff in Northern Lake, Mich., three children and their mother were airlifted by a Coast Guard helicopter to an area hospital, where they were evaluated and later released. Two other passengers were found dead in the aircraft, which was reported missing on 8 February after failing to arrive at the Beaver

Island airport.

On 8 February a Coast Guard C-130 *Hercules* sighted Haitian migrants stranded in a 40-foot vessel. Coast Guard cutter *Tampa* from Integrated Support Command Portsmouth, Va., rescued the 120 survivors, who were 60 miles northwest of Great Inagua Island. The Haitians had been at sea for four days without life jackets, in 4 to 6 foot seas. They had no navigational or safety equipment on board. This was *Tampa's* second migrant interdiction in less than a month.

On 2 February Coast Guard helicopter crews out of New Orleans, La., rescued a man crushed in a winch on a shrimp boat and another man who was having seizures. The man in the winch was so badly hurt that a flight surgeon was flown to the scene. Both men were transported to area hospitals for further treatment.

On 9 January Capt. Jim Adams, an AH-1W *Super Cobra* instructor at MAWTS-1, Camp Pendleton, Calif., saved the life of a Marine during a training exercise. After taking his copilot, Capt. David

CHANGE OF COMMAND

NAMTRAU Whidbey Island, Wash.: Cdr. Bob Fiegl relieved Capt. Robert W. Blakley, 21 Feb.

HC-4: Cdr. Daniel E. Braswell relieved Cdr. Michael E. Zamesnik, 6 Apr.

HC-8: Cdr. George M. Matais relieved Cdr. Keith R. Barton, 25 Jan.

HM-14: Cdr. Kevin D. Scott relieved Cdr. Harry L. Myers, 3 Mar.

HS-7: Cdr. Andrew T. Macyko relieved Cdr. Richard P. Scudder, 20 Dec 00.

Inchon (MCS 12): Capt. Charles E. Smith relieved Capt. Daniel N. Hartwell, 5 Jan.

Tarawa (LHA 1): Capt. James L. Clark relieved Capt. Garry E. Hall, 21 Jan.

VAW-124: Cdr. John S. Andrews relieved Cdr. Stephen L. Guse, 6 Apr.

VAW-137: Cdr. Gary C. Peterson relieved Cdr. William T. Griffin, 5 Apr.

VAW-140: Cdr. Thomas L. Mascolo relieved Cdr. William P. Cullen III, 25 Jan.

VF-14: Cdr. Bruce W. Fecht relieved Cdr. Samuel B. Richardson, 12 Apr.

VF-41: Cdr. Brian G. Gawne relieved Cdr. James J. Bauser, 30 Mar.

VF-211: Cdr. Owen P. Honors relieved Cdr. Michael Ullrich, 2 Feb.

VFA-86: Cdr. William C. Hamilton, Jr., relieved Cdr. Michael B. Chase, 5 Jan.

VFA-94: Cdr. Hal C. Murdock relieved Cdr. Carroll F. LeFon, 7 Mar.

VFA-97: Cdr. Charles A. Sternberg relieved Cdr. Martin F. O'Loughlin, 12 Jan.

VFA-105: Cdr. James Dalberg relieved Cdr. T. M. Shoemaker, 7 Feb.

VP-4: Cdr. M. Doug Yancey relieved Cdr. J. Craig Whitaker, 6 Apr.

VQ-4: Cdr. G. F. Hoffer relieved Cdr. D. R. Seesholtz, 27 Apr.

VR-59: Cdr. Mark Woodall relieved Capt.(sel) Bart Roberts, 9 Dec 00.

VR-61: Cdr. Rob C. Spero relieved Cdr. Tim T. Miller, 13 Jan.

VT-7: Cdr. Michael Sherlock relieved Cdr. Brian S. Neunaber, 2 Mar.

The U.S. Naval Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron, NAS Patuxent River, Md., recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. The squadron commissioned this Aerocature™ by Hank Caruso to commemorate its hundreds of test programs used in the development of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft, systems and flight procedures over the years. Included in this fly-by: 1) CH-53E *Super Stallion* with two underslung humvees; 2) SH-60F *Seahawk* during dipping sonar and laser sensor evaluation; 3) MH-53E *Sea Dragon* with mine-sweeping sled; 4) Coast Guard HH-65 *Dolphin*; 5) TH-57C *Sea Ranger* flying photo chase; 6) Skyship 500/600; 7) UH-1N "Huey" undergoing door armament testing; 8) AH-1W *Sea Cobra* gunning for mines; 9) MH-60S *Seahawk* during underslung load envelope expansion; 10) SH-3H *Sea King* testing dipping sonar; 11) NVH-3A *Sea King* executive transport; 12) CH-46E *Sea Knight* undergoing load and night-vision goggles testing; 13) NSH-60B *Seahawk* during high gross weight tests; 14) SH-60R *Seahawk* undergoing stores testing; 15) MV-22 *Osprey* prototype; 16) Coast Guard HH-60J *Jayhawk*;



17) SH-2F *Seasprite*; 18) SH-60B *Seahawk* test firing Hellfire missile; and 19) *Fire Scout* VTUAV (vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle). Pax River's trademark Cedar Point Lighthouse is in the background.

To obtain a copy of this print, contact Public Affairs Officer, Naval Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron, 301-342-1762; DSN 342-1762. Artwork © Hank Caruso.

Ratzel of HMLA-367, on a night certification flight, Adams was headed back to the helipad when he spotted lights in the woods and decided to land and investigate. The helo crew turned on searchlights and found two Navy corpsmen and three Marines, one of whom had an intravenous tube in his arm due to heat stroke. The *Super Cobra* was running low on fuel but the crew was unable to make radio contact requesting another helo to assist, so Adams decided to fly the victim to the hospital.

On 15 December 2000, while a search and rescue team from MCB Beaufort, S.C., was conducting training exercises, they were called to help paramedics transport a fallen construction worker 50 miles away in Hilton Head. The CH-46 *Sea Knight* arrived on scene and transported the back-injury victim to a hospital in Savannah, Ga.

On 26 December 2000 a VP-1 P-3C *Orion* from Kadena, Japan, responded to a call for assistance in locating a missing father and son. After their 19-foot skiff was reported missing about 300 miles south of Guam, a 10-hour search covered 200 square miles without success. The crew covered a 500-mile area the next day, again with no luck. The search was called off after a third day. Miraculously, seven days later, father and son safely washed ashore.