

PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

AMS1 Kevin Peck



Edited by JOSN Brandy Lewis

Awards

Cdr. Paul S. Dillman of CARGRU-5 received the **Air Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device** for heroic achievement in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

VP-66 won the **2003 Reserve P-3 Liberty Bell** competition held at NAS North Island, Calif. The annual tactical event tests the aircrew and ordnance load teams' proficiency in a variety of warfighting areas.

John C. Stennis (CVN 74) received the **Pacific Fleet's annual Ship's Store Retail and Service Excellence Award** while *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) and *Kearsarge*

(LHD 3) were named the Atlantic Fleet's "Best of Class" winners. The award recognizes outstanding professionalism and contributions made by ship's store personnel in improving the quality of life for their shipmates.

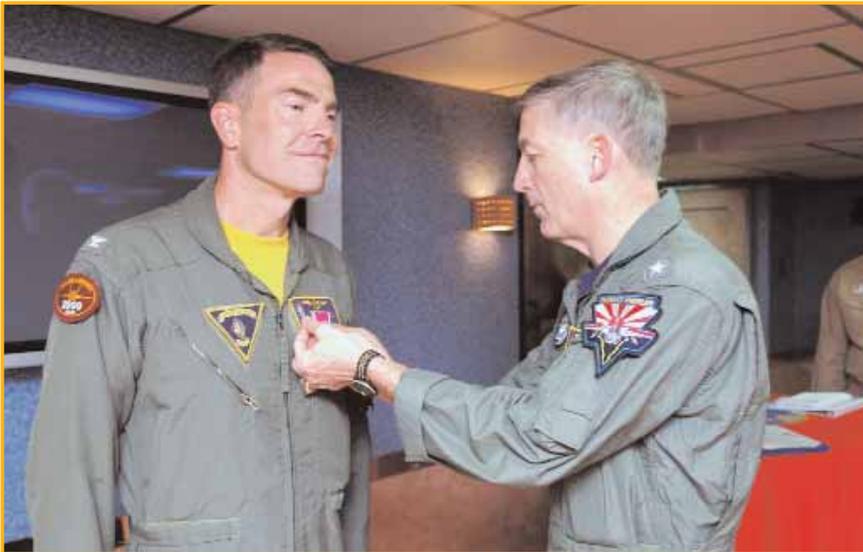
The **2003 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award** recognizes outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapon systems maintenance by organizations of the military services. Naval Aviation commands were among the winners in every competitive category, including: Small, VFA-81; Medium, MALS-12; and Large, MALS-14.



Facing page, two HH-60H helicopters assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadron (HCS) 5 fly over a hardened aircraft structure heralding “Fly Navy” at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. Below, Chief Petty Officer William Kruppa of HCS-5 mans a machine gun during a flight over Baghdad.



SSgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



Capt. Patrick Driscoll makes his last arrested landing, below, as Commander Carrier Air Wing 5 aboard *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), handing over the reigns to Capt. Joseph Aucoin during a unique airborne change of command ceremony. Left, Rear Admiral James Kelly, Commander Carrier Group 5 pins the Legion of Merit on Capt. Driscoll for his meritorious service as COMCVW-5.



PHAN Bo Flannigan

The Atlantic Fleet Retention Excellence Award acknowledges superior levels of retention. Aviation community winners were:

Ships and Shore Commands

- AIMD Key West, Fla.
- AIMD Oceana, Va.
- ASD Brunswick, Maine
- ASD Key West, Fla.
- ASD Mayport, Fla.
- BR Med Clinic NAS Oceana, Va.
- COMCARGRU-6 (staff)
- COMFITWINGLANT (staff)
- Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69)
- Enterprise* (CVN 65)
- Iwo Jima* (LHD 7)
- NAS Brunswick, Maine
- STRIKEFIGHTWPNSCOLANT
- Nassau* (LHA 4)

Squadrons	HSL-42	VF-32	VFA-87	VQ-2
	HSL-44	VF-154	VFA-131	VRC-40
HC-2	HSL-46	VF-211	VP-5	VS-22
HC-4	HSL-48	VF-213	VP-8	VS-24
HM-14	VAW-121	VFA-15	VP-10	VS-30
HM-15	VAW-125	VFA-37	VP-26	VS-32
HS-5	VAW-126	VFA-82	VP-45	
HS-7	VF-11	VFA-83	VPU-1	

During a 3 December 2003 ceremony at the Pima Air and Space Museum, Tuscon, Ariz., Navy pilot Charles D. Cain was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Public Service Medal for his efforts in restoring the last remaining WW II-era Martin PBM-5A Mariner flying boat.





PH2 Michael Watkins

DILBERT DUNKER RETIRED

NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., retired its 9E8E single-place underwater egress trainer on 14 November 2003. Capt. Stephen Black, above, is one of more than 8,300 aircrew personnel who trained in the “Dilbert Dunker” since it was put into use in 1984 as part of the

Aviation Survival Training Center’s curriculum. The device impacts the water, submerges and turns upside down while the student is strapped in the “cockpit.” The 9E8E trainer was retired when the Naval Operational Medicine Institute opened a new \$4.5 million state-of-the-art Aircrew Water Survival Training Facility at Whidbey Island in mid-January 2004. A multiplace underwater egress trainer that can seat multiple fliers, a parachute overwater trainer and a parachute drag and helicopter trainer is part of the new pool complex.

Records

George Washington (CVN 73) surpassed 100,000 traps on 19 November 2003.

LCdr. Joel Janopoulos of CVW-1 made his 500th career trap, aboard *Enterprise* (CVN 65), on 5 November 2003 in an F/A-18 Hornet.

VFA-195 surpassed 21 years and 90,000 Class A mishap-free hours in September 2003.

VAW-77 CO Cdr. John Winkler

surpassed 3,000 flight hours in the E-2C Hawkeye on 26 October 2003.

VR-52 surpassed 6,564 Class A mishap-free hours in 2003.

Rescue

In November 2003, 40-year-old Panamanian civilian Jose Hernandez experienced decompression sickness, commonly known as the “bends,” while diving 350 miles off the coast of Costa Rica. An SH-60B Seahawk helicopter from the **HSL-43** detachment deployed on board *McC Campbell* (DDG 85) flew

to *Rentz* (FFG 49) to pick up the injured diver and then returned to *McC Campbell*. Later, a P-3 Orion provided overhead coverage and communication relay for the helo as it then flew from *McC Campbell* to a civilian hospital in Panama City, Fla., where the victim was treated in a decompression chamber.

Anniversary

In November 2003, the Naval Air Systems Command celebrated the 25th anniversary of the **F/A-18 Hornet’s** first flight.

BLUE ANGELS 2004 AIRSHOW SCHEDULE

May

1-2 Fort Lauderdale, FL
 8-9 NAS Atlanta, GA
 15-16 Andrews AFB, MD
 22-23 NAS Kingsville, TX
 26 U.S. Naval Academy, MD
 29-30 Calverton, NY

June

5-6 Myrtle Beach, SC
 12-13 Bermuda
 19-20 Oklahoma City, OK
 26-27 Elmendorf AFB, AL

July

3-4 Traverse City, MI
 9-10 Pensacola Beach, FL
 17-18 Rochester, NY
 24-25 Peoria, IL
 30 Helena, MT

August

1 Helena, MT
 7-8 Seattle, WA
 21-22 Chicago, IL
 28-29 TBD

September

4-6 St. Louis, MO

11-12 Shearwater, Nova Scotia
 18-19 Nantucket, MA
 25-26 NAS Oceana, VA

October

2-3 Salinas, CA
 9-10 MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI
 16-17 MCAS Miramar, CA
 23-24 NAS New Orleans, LA
 30-31 NAS Jacksonville, FL

November

6-7 Key West, FL
 12-13 NAS Pensacola, FL



PHAN Mark Rebilas

The *Blue Angels* are accepting officer applications until 30 April for two demonstration pilots (both Navy and Marine), an events coordinator, a Marine C-130 pilot (for "Fat Albert," above at MCAS Miramar, Calif.), a flight surgeon, a supply officer and an administrative/executive officer. **Enlisted applications** for the E-5 and E-6 levels in all aviation ratings and E-5 and E-6 yeoman billets will be accepted until 1 April. Application details and additional information are available at www.blueangels.navy.mil.



Tom McFalls

Tom McFalls' squadron of "helicopters" can be seen from the air in late fall through spring. The NADEP Cherry Point, N.C., aeronautical engineer increased the display from one to four birds in 2003 to honor service members stationed on foreign soil. His message, made from grass and dirt, greets aircraft crews who fly over his private airstrip near MCAS New River, N.C.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

CCG-7: RAdm. Patrick M. Walsh relieved RAdm. Matt Moffit, 15 Nov 03.

CPRW-5: Capt. Daniel G. Lynch relieved Capt. James C. Grunewald, 12 Dec 03.

CVW-5: Capt. Joseph Aucoin relieved Capt. Patrick Driscoll, 5 Dec 03.

HT-18: Lt. Col. Ronald J. Colyer, USMC, relieved Cdr. David Schnell, 13 Nov 03.

LHA-5: Capt. Pam A. Markiewicz relieved Capt. Dennis D. DuBard, 14 Aug 03.

LPD-9: Capt. Todd A. Zecchin relieved Capt. Bradley E. Johanson, 11 Dec 03.

TACRON 22: Cdr. Jeffery C. Smith relieved Cdr. Steven G. Brockett, 21 Nov 03.

VAQ-137: Cdr. Jeff Ruth relieved Cdr. Brian Glackin, 30 Oct 03.

VF-11: Cdr. W. Scott Moyer relieved Cdr. Leif E. Lagergren, 7 Nov 03.

VFA-27: Cdr. Jay Bynum relieved Cdr. Gary Shoman, 29 Aug 03.

VFA-204: Cdr. James Kuhn relieved Cdr. Thomas L. Egbert, 31 Jan.

VS-24: Cdr. Tom Fasanello relieved Cdr. Brad Robinson, 16 Dec 03.



The Naval Aviation Schools Command has streamlined the **naval aircrew (NAC) training program** that prepares 1,575 graduates for flight duty each year. Those who decide that NAC training is not for them are permitted to drop on request while at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., rather than wait until they reach the school in Pensacola, Fla. This initiative frees up a billet for a recruit who has been waiting for a slot, and it saves the government the expense of moving personnel to Pensacola. In addition, a physical readiness test for potential aircrew members has been added to the recruit manual. It is modeled after the existing SEAL (sea-air-land) program with aircrew-unique requirements. Also, senior aircrewmen are being stationed at Great Lakes to teach NAC candidates about choosing Naval Enlisted Codes. Serving as subject-matter experts, NAC instructors talk with candidates and show them videos to educate them about the aircrewman career path.



PHAN Joan Kreischner

AW2 Kenneth Hayman loads a .50 caliber machine gun with ammunition in an SH-60F Seahawk aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73).

Scan Pattern

The **Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT)** is one of 13 “learning centers” under Naval Personnel Development Command, Norfolk, Va., which is responsible for developing and

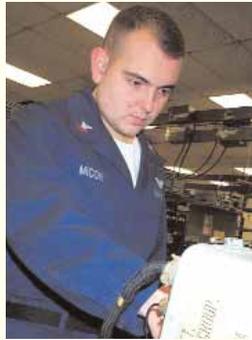
maintaining the sailor continuum. One of CNATT’s newest initiatives involves identifying aviation technical training devices for possible conversion to computer simulation. If implemented, it could result in lower training costs, reduced training time and a quicker

turnaround time for students headed to the fleet. Simulation allows the students to make mistakes with little or no down time. For instructors and administrators who maintain this equipment, correcting problems could be as easy as pushing the reset button.

FROM TEST BENCH TO CLASSROOM

By JOCS (SW) Doug Hummel

Aviation Electronics Technician Second Class Kristopher M. Micon, a production supervisor in the avionics division of the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department at NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa., didn't want to give up his dream of earning a college degree. He applied for a program that would pay him while he attended school full-time. After spending almost a year preparing his package for submission, he was selected for the



AT2 Kristopher M. Micon conducts a test on the magnetic anomaly detector compensator at his test bench in the AIMD avionics shop. Micon will be moving from the test bench to the classroom in April as he was selected to participate in the Seaman to Admiral 21 commissioning program.

Seaman to Admiral 21 (STA-21) commissioning program, which gives sailors the opportunity to receive a college education while continuing to receive a paycheck with full military benefits. STA-21 also gives a sailor \$10,000 a year to cover expenses as a college student. After receiving their degree, students are commissioned as ensigns. Micon advises anyone thinking about applying to the program to take advantage of the opportunity. For more information on this program, visit www.sta-21.navy.mil.

Cdr. Thomas Halley, Strike Fighter Squadron 82 CO, pilots the squadron's air show F/A-18 Hornet which sports a brand-new paint scheme. The squadron is currently conducting operations in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



LCDR Peter R. Catalano

MIDWAY: A MUSEUM AFLOAT

By JO3 Delwyn X. Campbell

The 58-year-old aircraft carrier *Midway* (CV 41), which last saw service in April 1992, has a new mission. *Midway*, which participated in combat operations from the Korean War to Desert Storm, arrived at Navy Pier 10 in San Diego, Calif., in January 2004. Now renamed the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, the former warship will educate visitors about the role of U.S. Naval Aviation in our nation's defense. Among the activities planned for the floating museum, youth groups will be invited to spend the night on board as part of the Overnight Exploration Program. During their time aboard the ship, they will work in the galley, tour the engine and boiler rooms and participate in team-building activities. They will also view historical collections and exhibits and take



PHCS Mahlon K. Miller

Spectators watch as the carrier *Midway* is moved into her final berth where she will be the centerpiece of the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum.

part in interactive displays, a learning laboratory and an aircraft flight simulator. The museum is expected to open to the public in the spring 2004.