

From the Sea

1990–1999

The collapse of the Eastern Bloc and changes in the world order defined the 1990s, a decade also characterized by the containment of localized fighting and a revised naval strategy. As the 15 January 1991 UN deadline for the Iraqis to withdraw their troops from Kuwait approached, U.S. aircraft carriers advanced to their stations near the Persian Gulf.

The following night (17 January in the Middle East), nine ships sailing in the gulf and in the Mediterranean and Red Seas fired BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iraqi military and political targets, and a massive armada of allied aircraft struck a variety of targets. Later that same night, President George H. W. Bush announced to the American people the beginning of the liberation of Kuwait. The attacks devastated the Iraqis so thoroughly that the principal fighting on the ground ended in barely 100 hours, and on 27 February, President Bush declared the liberation of Kuwait.

Following the Persian Gulf War, UN economic sanctions against Iraq remained in effect. During the rest of the decade, naval aviation patrolled Iraqi airspace and supported UN-imposed sanctions as well as limiting the Iraqi threat to minorities within the country and to their neighbors across the Middle East. In October 1994, after the deployment of Iraqi troops to the Kuwaiti border, President William J. Clinton dispatched *George Washington* (CVN 73) to the Red Sea to protect Kuwait. The Iraqis withdrew and announced recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty. The next year, aircraft from *Independence* (CV 62), *Constellation* (CV 64), and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) patrolled the Iraqi no-fly zone during Operation Southern Watch.

The Soviets had cooperated with the United States during the Persian Gulf War, but their *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring) brought about changes and unrest among their diverse peoples that culminated in the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. The fall of the communists left the United States as the world's only superpower, but the

new global order presented regional and transnational rather than world threats as challenges shifted from the historical aberration of political conflicts back to wars of tribes and faith. In response, the Navy developed a new strategy promulgated in a white paper entitled “. . . From the Sea,” which emphasized littoral warfare (along coastlines) and maneuver from the sea.

The new global situation also called for the largest draw-down for the fleet since World War II, and many naval aviation squadrons were consequently disestablished, reorganized, or consolidated. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission had begun the shutdown of multiple shore facilities, and the Navy ended 42 years of modern support of Antarctic research.

The break up of the composite Yugoslav state into constituent republics presented the first major challenge to the new strategy. Aircraft carriers kept watch over the situation from the Adriatic Sea and supported Operation Provide Promise, the UN relief effort, and Operation Deny Flight, which monitored the air space over Bosnia-Herzegovina to prevent the warring parties from using their air strength. At times, *Saratoga* (CV 60), *America* (CV 66), and *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) supported both operations. On 30 August 1995, aircraft from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) carried out early morning strikes that began Operation Deliberate Force—action against Serbian military targets in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Dayton Accords, which the Bosnian Federation and the Bosnian Serbs signed in Paris in December 1995, brought a temporary lull to the Balkan fighting. Operation Joint Endeavor enforced the military aspects of these accords by providing a stable environment in which civil action could proceed, which in turn enabled Deny Flight to end. Four years later, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's “cleansing” of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo compelled NATO to launch Operation Allied Force to counter his crimes.



Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) with Carrier Air Wing 7 embarked, the first carrier to conduct sustained operations in the Red Sea in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, passes through the Suez Canal on 8 August 1990.

The changes in the global balance had also enabled Muslim extremists to rise to power. In the early 1980s, Saudi émigré terrorist Osama bin Laden and others had developed al-Qaeda (The Base, or the International Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders) to support the war in Afghanistan against the Soviets. They subsequently refocused their hatred against the United States and its allies after the expulsion of the Marxist regime from that country. One of their primary goals was to drive U.S. armed forces, which they perceived as representing America's "infidel" policies (and which the terrorists deemed inconsistent with al-Qaeda's Islamic extremism) from Saudi Arabia and its neighboring countries.

The decade also marked a first for women when, in April 1993, Secretary of Defense Leslie Aspin dropped most of the restrictions that prohibited women from engaging in aerial and naval combat. Later in the year, Congress supported the

secretary's decision to allow women in combat by repealing the Combat Exclusion Law. In October 1994, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* became the first carrier to deploy with women permanently assigned on board.

The last production F-14D Tomcats and A-6E Intruders entered the fleet, and F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, E-6A Mercurys, SH-60F Seahawks, T-45A/C Goshawks, AGM-65E laser-guided Maverick air-to-surface missiles, AGM-84H SLAM-ER (Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response), AGM-154A JSOW (Joint Standoff Weapon), and RIM-116A RAM (Rolling Airframe Missile) systems were prepared for their integration into operations. Meanwhile, the Navy and the Marine Corps phased-out McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom IIs. During the 1990s, naval aviation continued to adjust to changing world events, the development of new technologies, and of new strategies in order to serve the Republic.

1990

25 JANUARY • A helicopter from amphibious assault ship *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7) rescued three fishermen after their boat sank three miles off Cape Henry, Va.

25 JANUARY • An SH-60B Seahawk of HSL-45 Detachment 10 and SH-2F Seasprites of HSL-33 Detachment 3 and -35 Detachment 1, embarked on board cruiser *Lake Champlain* (CG 57), frigates *Lockwood* (FF 1064) and *Stein* (FF 1065), and tanker *Navasota* (T-AO 106), rescued 19 crewmembers from Chinese merchant vessel *Huazhu* when she sank 40 miles off northern Luzon, Philippines.

21 MARCH • Kaman Aerospace Corporation introduced the SH-2G Seasprite at the company's Bloomfield, Conn., production facility. The upgraded version of the SH-2F had been part of LAMPS Mk I, and their improvements included a sonobuoy data processing system, changes in the tactical navigation system, more powerful engines, composite rotor blades, an infrared target detection system, and several countermeasures systems.

27 MARCH • HS-2 at NAS North Island, Calif., became the first squadron to receive SH-60F Seahawks for operational deployment with the fleet.

17 APRIL • Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company delivered the last P-3C, BuNo 163295, to the Navy at Palmdale, Calif. The delivery marked the 548th Orion accepted into naval inventory since August 1962.

18 MAY • NAVAIR established the model designation BQM-145A for the medium-range unmanned aerial vehicles—programmable reconnaissance drones that could be launched from the ground and tactical aircraft.

18 MAY • Night attack F/A-18Ds, the first two-seat Hornets designated to fly tactical as opposed to training missions, began service at MCAS El Toro, Calif. They replaced A-6 Intruders as the Marines' day/night bombers.

3 JUNE • Three days after President George H. W. Bush's orders to an amphibious task force, amphibious assault ship *Saipan* (LHA 2), amphibious transport dock *Ponce* (LPD 15), and tank landing ship *Sumter* (LST 1181) began their watch



Cmdr. Rosemary B. Mariner becomes the first woman to command an operational naval aviation squadron, 12 July 1990. She led VAQ-34 during Operation Desert Storm and retired as a captain in 1997 after 24 years of service.

off Liberia. The ships were to assist evacuations of U.S. citizens threatened by an uprising there.

24 JUNE • Navy submersible *Sea Cliff* (DSV 4) located the wreckage of rigid airship *Macon* (ZRS 5) and her four F9C-2 Sparrowhawks off the coast of Point Sur, Calif. *Macon* had crashed on 12 February 1935.

26 JUNE • Cruiser *Lake Champlain* (CG 57), operating within the Pacific Missile Test Center's sea test range off California, made the first ship launch of an AGM-84 Standoff Land Attack Missile from a Harpoon canister. A LAMPS Mk III helicopter controlled the launch and down-linked video images to the ship's command information center via the helicopter's Walleye data link pod.

12 JULY • Cmdr. Rosemary B. Mariner relieved Cmdr. Charles H. Smith as commanding officer of VAQ-34, becoming the first woman to command an operational aviation squadron.

16 JULY • An earthquake rocked Manila and devastated much of the northern portion of Luzon, Philippines. Helicopters assigned to Marine Aircraft Group Task Force 4-90 and HMM-164 hauled food, water, and medical supplies to victims. CH-46E Sea Knights, CH-53D Sea Stallions, and CH-53E Super Stallions flew as transports, while UH-1N Iroquois, AH-1W Super Cobras, and OV-10 Broncos searched for survivors. SH-3G Sea Kings and Super Stallions from VC-5 at NAS Cubi Point also flew resupply and medical missions.

20 JULY • Citing default, the Navy terminated a contract with Lockheed Aeronautical Systems for the P-7A, formerly designated Long-Range Air Anti-Submarine Warfare Capable Aircraft.

31 JULY • HC-9 was disestablished, concluding the operations of the Navy's only combat search and rescue helicopter squadron. Its mission then passed to two Reserve special operations squadrons—HCS-5 at Point Mugu, Calif., and HCS-4 at NAS Norfolk, Va.

2 AUGUST • Iraq invaded Kuwait. *Independence* (CV 62) sailed in the Indian Ocean, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) steamed in the Mediterranean Sea, and eight Middle East Force ships operated in the Persian Gulf. *Independence* was directed to proceed to the northern Arabian Sea to support what subsequently became Operation Desert Shield, a UN sanctioned economic blockade of Iraq by a coalition that eventually comprised 29 nations.

2 AUGUST • A VA-145 A-6E Intruder, embarked on board *Ranger* (CV 61), spotted a barge carrying Vietnamese refugees adrift in heavy seas and torrential rains 60 miles from NAS Cubi Point, Philippines. Over the next two days, an HS-14 SH-3H Sea King and a motor whaleboat from the carrier rescued 39 people.

5 AUGUST • *Independence* (CV 62) arrived on station in the Gulf of Oman.

5 AUGUST • The State Department authorized Operation Sharp Edge—the evacuation of people caught in the Liberian civil war. Amphibious assault ship *Saipan* (LHA 2) and other ships sailed to the area, and helicopters flew Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to the U.S.

Embassy compound in Monrovia. The MEU's air combat element included HMM-261 CH-46E Sea Knights, HMMH-362 CH-53D Sea Stallions, HMLA-167 UH-1N Iroquois and AH-1T Sea Cobras, and VMA-223 AV-8B Harrier IIs. On 28 November, the opposing Liberian factions signed a cease-fire, and two days later the limited evacuation of noncombatants from Monrovia concluded after the American evacuation of 2,609 people including 330 U.S. citizens. Sharp Edge concluded on 9 January 1991.

7 AUGUST • *Saratoga* (CV 60) sailed for a scheduled deployment to the eastern Mediterranean.

7 AUGUST • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) transited the Suez Canal, and the next day entered the Red Sea. The ship formed the basis of the Red Sea Battle Group to defend Saudi Arabia in the event that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein continued his aggression beyond Kuwait. A comprehensive strike plan provided battlefield air interdiction and close air support that was designed to stop Iraqi armored forces. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and *Independence* (CV 62) carried more than 130 aircraft into potential action against Iraqi forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq, and protected airfields on the Arabian Peninsula that lay close to vital sea routes.

7 AUGUST • An EP-3E Aries II, an electronic warfare version of the P-3C, arrived to begin four months of extensive performance testing at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

15 AUGUST • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) deployed from NS Norfolk, Va. The ship sailed as a potential relief for *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) or for additional tasking to be determined by the Middle East situation.

16 AUGUST • Iraqi smuggling compelled the UN to begin multinational maritime interception operations (MIO) to enforce UN Security Council resolutions that had been imposed after the invasion of Kuwait. Resolution 661 prohibited the export of cargo that originated in Iraq, while Resolution 665 called upon the coalition to verify compliance, including the food-for-oil agreement that permitted Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for food and medicine. The coalition consistently refined MIOs to contain brazen efforts by Iraqi criminals and on occasion, terrorists, who used lucrative drug trafficking that specialized in heroin and methamphetamines to finance terrorism.

Allied ships and aircraft began to track and intercept ships that entered or left Iraqi and Iraq-occupied Kuwaiti ports.

22 AUGUST • *Saratoga* (CV 60) sailed through the Suez Canal to relieve *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) in the Red Sea.

28 AUGUST • Lack of space on board amphibious ships sailing en route to the Persian Gulf forced VMO-2 when deploying for the Persian Gulf War to ferry six of their OV-10 Broncos east across the United State from MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif.

30 AUGUST • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) transited the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea.

3 SEPTEMBER • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) transited the Strait of Gibraltar en route to the United States.

6 SEPTEMBER • Amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4) passed through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

7 SEPTEMBER • Amphibious assault ships *Guam* (LPH 9) and *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2) transited the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

14 SEPTEMBER • Amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4) arrived in the Gulf of Oman, and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) transited the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

16 SEPTEMBER • Amphibious assault ships *Guam* (LPH 9) and *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2) arrived in the Gulf of Oman.

1 OCTOBER • *Independence* (CV 62) transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to the Persian Gulf. The next day, she conducted flight operations there, becoming the first carrier to do so since *Constellation* (CV 64) in 1974. On 4 October, *Independence* (CV 62) sailed from the gulf.

8 OCTOBER • Two Marine UH-1N Iroquois disappeared with eight men during routine night training operations from amphibious assault ship *Okinawa* (LPH 3) in the Gulf of Oman.

28 OCTOBER • Marines from amphibious transport dock *Ogden* (LPD 5) boarded Iraqi vessel *Amuriyah*, which was

bound for Iraq through the Persian Gulf. The Iraqis had refused to halt despite a summons from U.S. and Australian ships. The allied vessels fired shots across her bow and aircraft from *Independence* (CV 62) buzzed low in warning passes. The Marine boarding party found no banned cargo, and the craft was allowed to proceed.

1 NOVEMBER • *Midway* (CV 41) relieved *Independence* (CV 62) in the north Arabian Sea.

2 NOVEMBER • Three Iraqi aircraft briefly penetrated Saudi airspace near the northern gulf combat air patrol. The incident tested coalition vigilance just a day before Central Command and the Saudis began a scheduled air defense exercise.

8 NOVEMBER • President George H. W. Bush announced a decision to double the number of carrier battle groups deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield. By 15 January 1991, *Ranger* (CV 61), *America* (CV 66), and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) were to join *Midway* (CV 41), *Saratoga* (CV 60), and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

15 NOVEMBER • U.S. and Saudi forces began Operation Imminent Thunder—an eight-day combined amphibious landing exercise in northeastern Saudi Arabia involving about 1,000 U.S. Marines, 16 ships, and more than 1,100 aircraft. Aircraft from *Midway* (CV 41), which had entered the gulf from the north Arabian Sea, and Marine aircraft flew close air support.

16 NOVEMBER • The Navy accepted F-14D Tomcats for fleet service at NAS Miramar, Calif.

29 NOVEMBER • The UN approved Security Council Resolution 678 authorizing the use of military force unless Iraq vacated Kuwait by 15 January 1991.

8 DECEMBER • *Ranger* (CV 61) sailed on an unscheduled deployment for Operation Desert Shield from San Diego, Calif.

20 DECEMBER • *Independence* (CV 62) returned to NAS North Island, Calif., from her deployment to the Persian Gulf.

21 DECEMBER • Israeli ferry *al-Tovia* (70290) capsized 200 yards astern of *Saratoga* (CV 60) while transporting 102 men back to the carrier after liberty at Haifa. Israeli military and police officers in boats and helicopters pulled victims from the water, and helicopters flew injured men to two hospitals in Haifa. Twenty U.S. sailors died, and an additional crew member disappeared and was presumed drowned.

28 DECEMBER • *America* (CV 66) and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield from NS Norfolk, Va. Five OV-10A Broncos and one OV-10D from VMO-1 also embarked on board *America*, and six squadron OV-10Ds sailed with *Theodore Roosevelt*. The Marines subsequently joined Marine Aircraft Group 13 (Forward) at King Abdul Aziz Naval Base, Saudi Arabia.

1991

1 JANUARY • HC-4 relocated its detachment from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Hurghada, Egypt. The detachment constructed an airhead operating site within 48 hours, and began to transport passengers, cargo, and mail to carrier battle groups and amphibious forces steaming in the Red Sea during Operation Desert Shield.

2 JANUARY • CH-53E Super Stallions from amphibious assault ship *Guam* (LPH 9) helped insert Marines into the United States Embassy compound in Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Eastern Exit. The operation rescued U.S. Ambassador James K. Bishop, the Soviet ambassador, and other foreign nationals caught in the midst of the Somali civil war.

6 JANUARY • *Saratoga* (CV 60) transited the Suez Canal into the Red Sea to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

7 JANUARY • Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney canceled the A-12A Avenger carrier-based aircraft program. He cited the inability of the principal contractors, General Dynamics and McDonnell Douglas, to design, develop, fabricate, assemble, and test Avengers within the contract schedule, and to deliver aircraft that met contract requirements. The action marked the largest Pentagon weapons contract cancellation to date.

8 JANUARY • Six VMO-1 OV-10Ds launched to NS Rota, Spain, from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) without the aid of the ship's catapults. The carrier then passed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea. Two Marine KC-130s then flew the Broncos (three in each Hercules) through Palma de Mallorca, Spain; NAS Sigonella, Sicily; Souda, Crete; Cairo, Egypt; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and, on 17 January, to King Abdul Aziz Naval Base, Saudi Arabia.

9 JANUARY • *America* (CV 66) sailed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea.

12 JANUARY • Congress voted 52 to 47 in the Senate, and 251 to 183 in the House, on a joint resolution that gave President George H. W. Bush the support he sought for military action against Iraq.

12 JANUARY • *Ranger* (CV 61) arrived in the north Arabian Sea to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

12 JANUARY • Amphibious Group Three, with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade embarked, arrived in the Arabian Sea. Eighteen vessels, including amphibious assault ships *New Orleans* (LPH 11), *Okinawa* (LPH 3), *Tarawa* (LHA 1), and *Tripoli* (LPH 10), later joined the 13 ships of Amphibious Group Three to comprise the largest amphibious task force that the United States had committed to battle since the Korean War.

12 JANUARY • *Midway* (CV 41) reentered the Persian Gulf and participated in Operation Desert Shield.

14 JANUARY • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) passed through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

15 JANUARY • *America* (CV 66) transited the Suez Canal into the Red Sea.

15 JANUARY • *Ranger* (CV 61) transited the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf.

16 JANUARY • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) transited Bab el-Mandeb from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

16 JANUARY • At 1650 (EST), a squadron of fighter-bombers took off from a field in central Saudi Arabia and

struck targets in Iraq and Kuwait just before 1900 (EST; it was the night of 17 January in the Middle East). Six carrier battle groups, two battleships, and a 31-ship amphibious task force sailed in the Red and Arabian Seas and Persian Gulf. The Navy had more than 100 ships and submarines in the area, and 75,000 sailors afloat and ashore, while more than 67,000 Marines ashore comprised a Marine expeditionary force with another nearly 18,000 Marines embarked on board naval vessels.

16 JANUARY • President George H. W. Bush addressed the nation and announced the commencement of Operation Desert Storm—the liberation of Kuwait.

17 JANUARY • At 0130, nine ships in the Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea fired the first of 122 BGM-109 cruise missiles at Iraqi targets. This marked the first combat launch of the Tomahawk. Meanwhile, *Saratoga* (CV 60), *America* (CV 66), and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) sailing in the Red Sea; *Midway* (CV 41) and *Ranger* (CV 61) in the Persian Gulf; and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) en route to the gulf; launched 228 combat sorties.

17 JANUARY • At 0130, an (apparent) Iraqi surface-to-air missile shot down Lt. Cmdr. Michael S. Speicher in an F/A-18C Hornet, BuNo 163484, of VFA-81 embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60), during a night strike over Iraq. Speicher thus became the first American casualty of the Persian Gulf War. Additional information subsequently suggested his possible survival, and on 11 January 2001, Secretary of the Navy Richard J. Danzig changed the pilot's status from killed in action/body not recovered to missing in action. On 11 October 2002, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England issued a memorandum that further changed the pilot's status to missing/captured. In July 2009, Iraqi Bedouins directed a recovery team from Multi-National Force–West to a crash site in the desert 62 miles west of Ramadi in Anbar province. The team recovered remains later confirmed as those of Speicher.

17 JANUARY • At 0215, the Iraqis began to fire an estimated eight Scud-B (R-17E) surface-to-surface missiles at Haifa and Tel Aviv, Israel. Saddam Hussein's ploy threatened to drag the Israelis into the war, which would have enraged Arabs and unraveled the coalition. The Pentagon announced that allied forces had destroyed stationary Scud sites in Iraq, but pilots started to seek out elusive mobile sites in what they termed



A VF-32 F-14A Tomcat and an A-6E Intruder assigned to CVW-3, deployed with *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) in support of Operation Desert Shield, cruise at low level over the Saudi desert, 25 October 1990.

“The Great Scud Hunt.” The United States also prepared to dispatch additional Army PAC-3 Patriot (Phased Array Tracking Intercept of Target) antimissile batteries to help the Israelis defend against the Scuds.

17 JANUARY • Lt. Cmdr. Mark I. Fox and Lt. Nicolas Mongillo of VFA-81 flying F/A-18Cs, embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60), each shot down an Iraqi MiG-21 Fishbed with AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9M Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. After these first Hornet aerial victories, the two completed bombing runs against a hangar, fuel stores, and a control station as they maneuvered to avoid anti-aircraft fire and hand-held surface-to-air missiles.

18 JANUARY • The Navy mounted its first carrier-launched aerial minelaying operation since the Vietnam War to isolate Iraqi vessels operating in the Persian Gulf from facilities at Basra, an important southern Iraq port and crossroads, and nearby Umm Qasr and az-Zubayr; and to prevent enemy



A P-3C Orion of VP-4 patrols over the Arabian Desert during Operation Desert Storm.

boats at those ports from entering the gulf. Four A-6Es supported by 14 aircraft from *Ranger* (CV 61) dropped 42 Mk 36 Destructor mines at the mouth of the Az-Zubayr River. As the Intruders made their low-level runs, the Iraqis shot down one flown by Lts. Charles J. Turner and William T. Costen of VA-155. Initial reports indicated that these men were missing, but the Pentagon later announced their status as prisoners of war. Commander Naval Forces Central Command Vice Adm. Stanley R. Arthur cancelled further aerial minelaying because of this loss and the large number of Iraqi mines in the gulf.

18 JANUARY • Naval aircraft bombed Iraqi installations near Umm Qasr, and airfields at al-Jaber and Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait. By the end of the day, they had flown 1,100 combat sorties and ships and submarines launched 216 BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles against 17 Iraqi military leadership, electric, and oil targets.

18 JANUARY • VA-35 A-6E crews, embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60), used night vision goggles in battle for the first time in the squadron's history during their initial strikes against the Iraqis. Four Intruders bombed H-3 airfield, but antiaircraft fire shot down Lts. Jeffrey N. Zaun and Robert Wetzel of VA-35 in an A-6E, BuNo 161668, ten nautical miles south-southwest of the field. The Iraqis captured and beat the men, paraded Zaun before TV cameras, and did not repatriate the prisoners until 4 March. An Iraqi Roland surface-to-air missile struck A-6E, BuNo 158539, manned by Lts. Mark F. Eddy and John A. Snevely Jr., during the same strike and forced it to divert to Al Jouf, Saudi Arabia.

18 JANUARY • An Iraqi infrared surface-to-air missile shot down Lt. Col. Clifford M. Acree, USMC, and CWO4 Guy L. Hunter, USMC, of VMO-2 in an OV-10A Bronco, about 14 miles northeast of Mishab, Kuwait. Both Marines were captured.

18 JANUARY • SH-60B Seahawks from HSL-44 Detachment 8, embarked on board frigate *Nicholas* (FFG 47), provided air targeting while *Nicholas*, Kuwaiti patrol boats *al-Sanbouk* (P 4050) and *Istiqlal* (P 5702), two Army Bell OH-58D Kiowas, and a British Lynx HAS.3 from destroyer *Cardiff* (D 108) neutralized Iraqi garrisons on nine oil platforms in the ad-Dorra oil field. AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missiles proved especially effective against the Iraqi sandbag and plywood shelters. The attack killed five Iraqis, and 23 survivors surrendered in this first combined helicopter, missile, and surface-ship gun engagement. It was also the first capture of Iraqi prisoners during the Persian Gulf War.

19 JANUARY • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) transited the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf.

19 JANUARY • A-6E Intruders and A-7E Corsair IIs, flying from *Saratoga* (CV 60) and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), made the first combat launches of AGM-84E SLAM (Standoff Land Attack Missile).

20 JANUARY • Iraqi TV broadcast what it claimed as interviews with three downed U.S. and four Allied airmen including Lt. Col. Clifford M. Acree, USMC, and CWO4 Guy L. Hunter, USMC, of VMO-2, and Lt. Jeffrey N. Zaun of VA-35. The State Department called the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Washington to protest that the broadcast ran contrary to the Third Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war, and to demand that any prisoners be granted immediate access to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The footage shocked Americans during a broadcast on U.S. TV the next day. The Iraqis also announced that they had used prisoners as human shields to deter attacks.

20 JANUARY • A Grumman A-6E Intruder and an Air Force Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt destroyed an Iraqi artillery battery.

20 JANUARY • By this point, allied air and missile attacks had eviscerated the Iraqi command, control, communications, and intelligence network, and had torn apart Saddam Hussein's integrated air defense system.

21 JANUARY • President George H. W. Bush signed an executive order that designated the Arabian Peninsula areas, that airspace, and the adjacent waters as a combat zone.

21 JANUARY • Poor weather hampered coalition air operations throughout late January, which forced the Joint Force Air Component Commander to cancel or divert many aerial sorties.

21 JANUARY • A surface-to-air missile, tentatively identified as a modified SA-2 Guideline, shot down over Iraq an F-14B Tomcat of VF-103, embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60). Special operations crew recovered pilot Lt. Devon Jones the next day, but radar intercept officer Lt. Lawrence R. Slade was captured.

21 JANUARY • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) arrived on station in the Persian Gulf.

23 JANUARY • A-6Es disabled an *al-Qadisiya*-class Iraqi tanker that had been collecting and reporting intelligence data. The Intruders also attacked and sank a Zhuk-class patrol boat and an SR.N6 Mk 6C Winchester-class hovercraft that the tanker had refueled.

24 JANUARY • A-6Es attacked and destroyed an Iraqi *Spasilac*-class minelayer and a Zhuk-class patrol boat. Another enemy minesweeper hit an Iraqi mine while attempting to evade the aerial attacks. Intruders and F/A-18 Hornets also attacked the Iraqi Umm Qasr naval station.

24 JANUARY • A patrol aircraft spotted an Iraqi minesweeper moored at Qaruh Island between the oilfield at ad-Dorra and the Kuwaiti coast. Two VA-65 A-6E Intruders from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) then discovered and disabled the *Yevgenya*-class minesweeper. Destroyer *Leftwich* (DD 984) and frigates *Curts* (FFG 38) and *Nicholas* (FFG 47) patrolling a nearby minefield turned toward the action. An SH-60B LAMPS Mk III, operating from *Curts*, sank a floating mine about 1,000 yards off the ship's starboard bow with machine gun fire. The Seahawk detected Iraqi patrol boat P4027, which while

attempting to evade the ensuing air attacks, struck a drifting Iraqi mine and sank. Two Army helicopters from the 4th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, embarked on board *Curts*, covered the Seahawk and the frigate during the apprehension of 11 Iraqi prisoners and the recovery of two bodies.

24 JANUARY • Up to five Iraqi aircraft flew from an airfield at al-Kut southeast of Baghdad for the Kuwaiti coast. Two Dassault-Breguet F-1 Mirages continued southeast along the boundary between Air Force and Navy radar coverage and penetrated into the screen surrounding ships in the Persian Gulf. An Air Force Boeing E-3A Sentry AWACS failed to notify cruisers *Bunker Hill* (CG 52), *Mobile Bay* (CG 53), and *Worden* (CG 18) by normal procedures and informed them by voice. F/A-18A Hornets operating from *Midway* (CV 41) and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) attempted unsuccessfully to intercept the intruders. The Sentry vectored four Saudi McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagles, and Capt. Ayedh al-Shamrani shot down both Mirages with AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. The Iraqis had reached a point 60 nautical miles from *Mobile Bay* and within range to launch Aérospatiale AM.39 Exocet air-to-surface missiles at the cruiser. Communications and radar errors and inexperience led to a nearly calamitous encounter.

24 JANUARY • The allies reclaimed the first Kuwaiti territory, the island of Jazirat Qurah.

24 JANUARY • The Iraqis began to set fire to many of the oil refineries and wells in their possession. Flames and smoke plumes posed challenging navigational hazards to low-flying aircraft. In addition, the Iraqis dumped oil into the gulf from their Sea Island crude oil tanker loading terminal off the Kuwaiti coast, from five tankers at Mina' al Ahmadi, Kuwait, and from storage tanks ashore through an underwater pipeline. The ensuing spill grew to be at least 20 miles long, 3 miles wide, and several feet deep in what the Department of Defense branded "an act of environmental terrorism."

28 JANUARY • The Iraqis downed Capt. Michael C. Berryman, USMC, in a VMA-311 AV-8B. His section had been unable to locate their target because of inclement weather and turned to strike an Iraqi Luna FROG (free rocket over ground) tactical surface-to-surface rocket, when an enemy surface-to-air missile hit the Harrier II. The Iraqis captured the Marine but did not acknowledge the fact.

29 JANUARY • A-6Es attacked Iraqi ships in the Bubiyan Channel at Umm Qasr Naval Base and in Kuwait harbor in what aircrew termed the “Bubiyan Turkey Shoot.” Cdrs. Richard K. Noble and Richard J. Cassara of VA-145 in an Intruder embarked on board *Ranger* (CV 61), discovered off al-Fāw (al-Fāo) Peninsula four Iraqi missile boats that had been captured from the Kuwaitis, tentatively identified as an FPB 57, two TNC 45s, and an Osa II. An E-2C Hawkeye controlled the Intruder and its wingman from VA-155 as they attacked with 500-pound laser-guided bombs. Canadians Maj. David W. Kendall and Capt. Stephen P. Hill flew two CF-18s that strafed the Osa, which escaped. The next morning, many of the remaining Iraqi vessels attempted to flee, and during 21 engagements over the following 13 hours, allied aircraft sank or damaged 7 enemy missile boats, 3 amphibious ships, a minesweeper, and 9 additional vessels between Bubiyan Island and the marshlands of the Shatt al Arab (the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers). American sailors rescued 20 Iraqi survivors. One missile boat and an amphibious ship reached Iran, but were seized by the Iranians.

29 JANUARY • Iraqi tanks and troops thrust across the Kuwait border into Saudi Arabia, but coalition forces stopped these attacks during a series of engagements. Marines at R’as al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia, directed air and artillery strikes and, overnight, allied aircraft also struck enemy concentrations in Kuwait. All 18 F/A-18C Hornets of VFA-81 and -83, embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60), dropped 100 Mk 83 1,000-pound bombs. Marine AH-1 Cobras also attacked and by daybreak on 31 January the combined firepower had broken the Iraqis. These battles distracted enemy attention away from their vulnerable desert flanks where the main allied attacks subsequently fell.

1 FEBRUARY • VAW-123 coordinated aircraft on the first of 11 patrols to locate and destroy Scud-B (R-17E) surface-to-surface missiles through 7 February. On 3 February, *America* (CV 66) confirmed the destruction of two Scud-related vehicles.

2 FEBRUARY • Iraqi antiaircraft fire shot down Lt. Cmdr. Barry T. Cooke and Lt. Patrick K. Connor in a VA-36 A-6E Intruder, BuNo 155632, embarked on board *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), near Jazīrat Faylakā (Island). Both were killed in action; Cooke’s body was not recovered.

2 FEBRUARY • An E-2C Hawkeye, BuNo 158638, of VAW-125, damaged a KA-6D of VA-35 and an F-14A+ Tomcat during a taxiing accident on board *Saratoga* (CV 60). Two sailors suffered minor injuries and the ship later disembarked the damaged tanker at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

3 FEBRUARY • Battleship *Missouri* (BB 63) supported Marines fighting in Kuwait with her 16-inch guns. Crewmembers launched the battleship’s embarked RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle with the assistance of a rocket-powered booster, and recovered the aircraft by using a net strung between two cables on the fantail. The vehicle transmitted images to shipboard TV monitors that enabled gun directors to “walk” rounds onto their targets. At one point, sailors watched images as a truck delivered food to Iraqi soldiers dug into camouflaged positions near R’as al-Khafji, and after its departure, *Missouri* shelled the site.

5 FEBRUARY • Lt. Robert J. Dwyer of VFA-87 was killed when his F/A-18A Hornet, BuNo 163096, operating from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), crashed while returning from a combat mission over Iraq.

6 FEBRUARY • Cmdr. Ronald D. McElraft and Lt. Donald S. Broce of VF-1 in an F-14A Tomcat, embarked on board *Ranger* (CV 61), downed an Iraqi Mi-8 Hip with an AIM-9M Sidewinder air-to-air missile.

6 FEBRUARY • Battleship *Wisconsin* (BB 64) temporarily relieved *Missouri* (BB 63) on the gunline near the Kuwaiti border to enable *Missouri* to rearm. *Wisconsin* often used an RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle equipped with infrared and daylight TV cameras that relayed signals to the battleship to help direct gunfire missions. A Marine OV-10 Bronco called in the first mission against an Iraqi artillery battery in southern Kuwait, and *Wisconsin* knocked it out with 11 16-inch rounds.

7 FEBRUARY • A-6E Intruders attacked and heavily damaged two Iraqi patrol boats in the northern Persian Gulf near al-Fāw (al-Fāo) Peninsula.

8 FEBRUARY • A-6E Intruders attacked and neutralized Iraqi training frigate *Ibn Marjid* (507) at Cor al Zubayr, because she was colocated with a TNC 45-class patrol boat capable of firing surface-to-surface variants of Exocet missiles.



S-3B Vikings of VS-29 from *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) fly over burning Kuwaiti oil fields, c. 1991.

9 FEBRUARY • After two attacks against Iraqi troops, an F/A-18D Hornet forward air controller marked enemy soldiers dug into a revetment as new targets. An AV-8B, flown by Capt. Russell A. C. Sanborn, USMC, of VMA-231, made a run on the Iraqi troops, but an enemy surface-to-air missile shot down the Harrier II and Sanborn was captured.

14 FEBRUARY • *America* (CV 66) transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to the Persian Gulf. The next day, after her sail of almost 2,000 miles around the Arabian Peninsula, she became the first carrier during the Persian Gulf War to conduct strikes from both sides of the peninsula.

15 FEBRUARY • Marines from HMLA-369 launched their first AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missile in battle using the Night Eagle laser system.

18 FEBRUARY • An Iraqi mine damaged the forward section of amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10), the

flagship of minesweeping clearance operations in the northern gulf. Crewmembers contained the flooding and the ship continued fighting for five days before sailing to a drydock at Bahrain for a month of repairs. Four men sustained injuries. A Manta mine detonated beneath the stern on the port side of cruiser *Princeton* (CG 59), but the crew saved the ship. Battleship *Missouri* (BB 63) turned away from the minefield barely 3,000 yards before she entered the danger zone. MH-53Es swept limited channels through Iraqi minefields, the Sea Dragons moved more rapidly than ships and accordingly covered more water.

20 FEBRUARY • The S-3Bs of VS-32, embarked on board *America* (CV 66), became the first Vikings to bomb and destroy an enemy vessel when they sank an Iraqi gunboat.

20 FEBRUARY • By this point in the fighting, AV-8B Harrier IIs of VMA-331 had flown 243 sorties along the Iraqi borders and throughout Kuwait.

1991 continued

23 FEBRUARY • Six carriers concentrated their power against the Iraqi forces: *Midway* (CV 41), *Ranger* (CV 61), *America* (CV 66), and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) sailed in the Persian Gulf; while *Saratoga* (CV 60) and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) operated in the Red Sea.

23 FEBRUARY • Aircraft from *America* (CV 66) destroyed an Iraqi Silkworm battery after the unsuccessful launch of a surface-to-surface missile at battleship *Missouri* (BB 63).

23 FEBRUARY • The Iraqis shot down and killed Capt. James N. Wilbourn II, USMC, in a VMA-542 AV-8B, during a night bombing run on Iraqi troops.

23 FEBRUARY • The search-and-rescue team from NAS Lemoore, Calif., saved a 19-year-old man who had been missing for five days when they found him at the 6,000-foot level in rugged terrain at the southern edge of Sequoia National Park. The Tulare County Sheriff's Department had requested the team's assistance.

24 FEBRUARY • Operation Desert Sabre—the ground offensive against Iraq—began.

24 FEBRUARY • While the allies continued to experience difficulties directing fixed-wing aircraft through the smoke from burning oil wells, Capt. Randall W. Hammond, USMC, led a division of four AH-1 Cobras on a long-range raid that penetrated Iraqi defenses north of Objective Ice Tray near Ali Al Salem Airfield, Kuwait. OV-10 Broncos coordinated the Cobras and laser-designated a column of Iraqi T-72 main battle tanks. The Cobras knocked out many vehicles with BGM-71 TOW (tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-command-link) antitank missiles and eight AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missiles. Capt. Steven R. Rudder, USMC, led the second section and raked the surviving Iraqis with 2.75-inch rockets and 20mm rounds.

24 FEBRUARY • Iraqi troops emerged from the smoke and early morning fog to counterattack Marines of Task Force Papa Bear. An OV-10 Bronco directed Capt. Randall W. Hammond, USMC, and a division of four AH-1 Cobras that had refueled at a forward arming and refueling point, onto the advancing Iraqis. The Marines left burning tanks and armored vehicles from 2.75-inch rockets, 16 AGM-114

Hellfire air-to-surface missiles, and 20mm fire. The Cobras rearmed, refueled, and returned, but the enemy capitulated.

24 FEBRUARY • Marine Aircraft Group 16 helicopters lifted Marines of Task Force X-Ray toward positions to protect the flank of the 1st Marine Division as it advanced inland. High winds blew a massive cloud of dust into the path of approaching aircraft as the lead AH-1Ws and Zs escorted four following waves of 10 to 12 CH-46 Sea Knights and CH-53 Super Stallions each. Heavy Iraqi fire over the landing zone forced some Cobras and Vipers into the path of the inbound transports. Despite the confusion and near misses, no aircraft were lost. The mission diverted and some helicopters returned to Saudi fields at Lonesome Dove AB near Al Khanjar and to Kibrit, while others low on fuel landed in the desert.

25 FEBRUARY • An Iraqi hand-held surface-to-air missile shot down Capt. John S. Walsh, USMC, in a VMA-542 AV-8B Harrier II, near Al Jaber Airfield, Kuwait. Walsh ejected between the opposing forces, but advancing Marines rescued and transferred him to an HMLA-369 UH-1N Iroquois, which returned him to Lonesome Dove AB, Saudi Arabia.

25 FEBRUARY • An Iraqi infrared surface-to-air missile shot down Maj. Joseph J. Small III, USMC, and Capt. David M. Spellacy, USMC, of VMO-1 in an OV-10A Bronco during a forward air control mission. Spellacy died and Small was captured.

26 FEBRUARY • Commander Seventh Fleet/Naval Forces Central Command Vice Adm. Stanley R. Arthur ordered amphibious diversions at Būbiyān and Faylakā Islands to delay the retreat of routed Iraqi troops from Kuwait City. Marine helicopters flew from amphibious assault ships *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2), *Guam* (LPH 9), and *Nassau* (LHA 4), rendezvoused with A-6E Intruders and EA-6B Prowlers, and collectively strafed and bombed Iraqi troops dug in on the islands. In the interim, most of the retreating enemy fled toward Basra along a highway in hundreds of military and civilian vehicles. The Iraqis moved through kill boxes assigned to Carrier Air Wing 2, embarked on board *Ranger* (CV 61). Aircraft dropped aerial mines to partially block their escape creating what journalists dubbed the "Highway of Death." Some panicked and drove off the road into the desert only to become mired in the sand, but most



An F-14A Tomcat of VF-114 off Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) patrols over Kuwait City with Kuwait Towers as a prominent landmark, c. 1991.

dismounted and fled there on foot. Air strikes killed several hundred of them and destroyed an estimated 1,400 tanks, armored vehicles, jeeps, cars, buses, and tractor-trailers.

27 FEBRUARY • F/A-18A/C Hornets and A-6E Intruders operating from *Ranger* (CV 61), *America* (CV 66), and *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) flew more than 600 combat missions against Iraqi troops, primarily to disrupt an orderly retreat from the advancing coalition forces.

27 FEBRUARY • At 2100 EST, President George H. W. Bush declared that the allies had liberated Kuwait, ending the Persian Gulf War. At midnight EST, all U.S. and coalition forces were to suspend further offensive combat operations.

27 FEBRUARY • The RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle flying from battleship *Wisconsin* (BB 64) detected two boats purportedly filled with Iraqi secret policemen who attempted to flee from Faylakā Island. Controllers directed bombers on a strike that sank the boats.

27 FEBRUARY • Two or more Iraqi surface-to-air missiles shot down and killed Capt. Reginald C. Underwood, USMC, in a VMA-331 AV-8B, while he led a section of four Harrier IIs from amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4) against Iraqi troops along the northern highway from Kuwait City.

27 FEBRUARY • The RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle from battleship *Wisconsin* (BB 64) spotted Iraqi

stragglers on Faylakā Island. Battleship *Missouri* (BB 63) had previously bombarded the island, and when the *Pioneer* flew over at low level with its recognizable noisy engine, the Iraqis anticipated that they were about to receive additional 16-inch gunfire. Forty men then surrendered to the *Pioneer* as it flew over their position.

3 MARCH • Loudspeaker equipped CH-46 Sea Knights rounded up surrendering Iraqi troops on Faylakā Island. Helicopters ferried the prisoners to amphibious transport dock *Ogden* (LPD 5) for further transport to Saudi prisoner of war camps.

3 MARCH • The Iraqis agreed to a ceasefire during deliberations at Safwan Airfield, Iraq.

4 MARCH • The Iraqis released POWs including eight naval aviators: Lt. Col. Clifford M. Acree, USMC; Capt. Michael C. Berryman, USMC; CWO4 Guy L. Hunter, USMC; Capt. Russell A. C. Sanborn, USMC; Lt. Lawrence R. Slade; Maj. Joseph J. Small III, USMC; Lt. Robert Wetzel; and Lt. Jeffrey N. Zaun. Their captors turned the prisoners over to U.S. officials through the International Committee of the Red Cross near the Jordanian Ruwayshid border station. The men were flown to hospital ship *Mercy* (T-AH 19) moored at Bahrain, and five days later, a Boeing 737, designated Freedom Zero-One, flew them to the United States.

4 MARCH • *America* (CV 66) departed the Persian Gulf and returned to the Red Sea. The ship had launched 3,008 combat sorties during the war.

6 MARCH • Amphibious assault ship *New Orleans* (LPH 11), with HM-14 embarked, led minesweeping activities with four minecountermeasures ships.

6 MARCH • “Aggression is defeated,” President George H. W. Bush reported to a joint session of Congress. “The war is over.”

8 MARCH • Lt. Kathleen P. Owens of VRC-40 became the last pilot to land on board *Lexington* (AVT 16), following a Navy decision to decommission the ship. Owens thus became the first female pilot to attain that distinction on a carrier. *Lexington* also had become the first carrier with female crewmembers. The C-2A Greyhound flight crew

included Lt. Paul Villagomez, AM1 Donnie E. Kicklighter, and AD2 Mark F. Pemrick.

11 MARCH • *Midway* (CV 41) and *Saratoga* (CV 60) departed the Persian Gulf for their homeports—*Midway* to Yokosuka, Japan, and *Saratoga* via the Suez Canal to NS Mayport, Fla.

12 MARCH • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) transited the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean.

13 MARCH • By executive order, President George H. W. Bush established the Southwest Asia Service Medal for award to veterans who had served in the Persian Gulf area during the war.

16 MARCH • *America* (CV 66) visited Hurghada, Egypt, for five days. The visit marked her first port call of the deployment after 78 consecutive days at sea.

28 MARCH • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) and *Saratoga* (CV 60) arrived at their homeports of NS Norfolk, Va., and NS Mayport, Fla., respectively. They were the first carriers involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to the United States.

29 MARCH • *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), her flight deck modified to accommodate F/A-18 Hornets, sailed for sea trials from the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa. This marked the first time that the ship had moved under her own power since commencing a service life extension program overhaul 3 ½ years before.

1 APRIL • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) transited Bab-al-Mandeb and began three weeks of operations in the Red Sea.

3 APRIL • *America* (CV 66) transited the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean.

6 APRIL • The Iraqis accepted UN terms for a formal ceasefire.

6 APRIL • HC-4 detachments deployed from NAS Sigonella, Sicily and Hurghada, Egypt for Diyarbakir, Turkey. Two days later, they flew Secretary of State James A. Baker III, and his party of 60 along the Turkish and Iraqi border to a remote Kurdish refugee camp. In March, the Kurds rose



A-7E Corsair IIs of VA-72 return home from *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) after their service during Operation Desert Storm. The return of VA-46 along with VA-72 marks the final operational deployment of Corsair IIs.

against Saddam Hussein, but the Iraqis recaptured the main towns and cities of Kurdistan. The Turk refusal to allow refugees entry left many Kurds stranded in the mountains during bitterly cold weather. The coalition initiated Operation Provide Comfort to aid the refugees.

8 APRIL • *America* (CV 66) transited the Strait of Gibraltar into the Atlantic.

9 APRIL • HC-4 returned to Incirlik, Turkey, to become the primary and first heavy lift helicopter combat logistics support asset for Operation Provide Comfort to aid Kurdish refugees.

9 APRIL • The UN Security Council approved Resolution 689 establishing a UN-Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission to

monitor Resolution 687 (the cease-fire). The Persian Gulf War ended at 1000 EDT two days later when the council issued Resolution 687.

15 APRIL • NAVAIR established the HH-1N designation for many of the H-1 Iroquois helicopters. The redesignation was to be completed by 30 September.

17 APRIL • *Midway* (CV 41) returned from the Persian Gulf War to Yokosuka, Japan.

17 APRIL • Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney signed an order directing military commanders to begin implementing the president's plan, announced the previous day at a press conference, which called for the establishment of several encampments in northern Iraq. United States,



A TA-4J Skyhawk of VC-5 departs NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, during the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, June 1991.

British, French, and Turkish service members had been delivering relief supplies to the refugees. The Sixth Fleet's 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit commenced operations 17 hours after the arrival of the Marines at the Silopi, Iraq, humanitarian service support base. A similar forward base was also established at Diyarbakir, Turkey.

18 APRIL • *America* (CV 66) returned from the Persian Gulf War to NS Norfolk, Va.

19 APRIL • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) transited the Suez Canal and joined vessels including amphibious assault ship *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7) operating off the Syrian and Turkish coasts in an area northeast of Cyprus. These vessels supported the 7,000 American troops of Combined Joint Task Force Provide Comfort that helped Kurdish refugees displaced by Iraqi attacks after the Persian Gulf War. During the following days, aircraft flew 820 air cover, tactical photographic reconnaissance, and close air support sorties from *Theodore Roosevelt*. VF-84 F-14A Tomcats provided more than 6,000 aerial photographs to allied troops in northern Iraq, with VS-24 S-3B Vikings delivering them using an innovative system of sonobuoy drops. The images identified Iraqi troop emplacements, armored concentrations, early warning sites, and command posts, in addition to providing valuable assistance in locating widely scattered groups of Kurds fleeing from Iraqi atrocities.

1 MAY • The Navy redesignated F-14A Tomcats that had undergone the A+/A(Plus) conversion as F-14Bs.

12 MAY • Amphibious assault ship *Tarawa* (LHA 1) and seven ships of an amphibious assault group arrived off Bangladesh for Operation Sea Angel—large-scale relief efforts in the wake of a cyclone that devastated the country on 30 April. CH-46 Sea Knights, CH-53 Super Stallions, UH-1N Iroquois, and AH-1T Sea Cobras carried food and

medical supplies to victims, and rescued people isolated by flood waters.

15 MAY • An ES-3A made the first flight of a Shadow at Lockheed's Palmdale, Calif., plant.

22 MAY • The House Armed Services Committee voted to allow women to fly combat missions in Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft. The measure was included in an amendment to the 1992 defense budget.

23 MAY • Commander Naval Forces Middle East declared the Kuwaiti port of Ash-Shuwaikh free of ordnance and Iraqi mines. The action made the facility the fifth and final operation in a series of port clearing missions by Allied forces.

30 MAY • *Forrestal* (CV 59) deployed from NS Mayport, Fla., to relieve *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) in the eastern Mediterranean.

3 JUNE • An LC-130 from VXE-6 at NAS Point Mugu, Calif., completed the first mid-winter medical evacuation from Antarctica since 1966, flying a member of New Zealand's Division of Science and Industrial Research from McMurdo Station.

12 JUNE • Mount Pinatubo on Luzon in the Philippines erupted. Typhoon Yunya added to the devastation when it slammed inland with fierce winds and rain. The eruption and typhoon killed more than 300 people and displaced more than 300,000. *Midway* (CV 41), *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), and ships from Amphibious Readiness Group Alpha led by amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5) participated in Operation Fiery Vigil—the evacuation of victims. *Abraham Lincoln* transported 4,323 people including Navy and Air Force dependents from Subic Bay, NAS Cubi Point, and Clark AB to Cebu City, Cebu, for further evacuation to Guam and the continental United States. Additional squadrons that assisted humanitarian efforts through 27 June included VFA-94, VC-5, and HSL-47.

14 JUNE • *Forrestal* (CV 59) relieved *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) in the eastern Mediterranean, which enabled the latter to pass westward through the Strait of Gibraltar two days later.

18 JUNE • Amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10) turned over her duties as flagship for Commander, Mine Countermeasures Group, to cruiser *Texas* (CGN 39). The group had located and destroyed nearly 1,200 mines in the Persian Gulf.

23 JUNE • Amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10) transited the Strait of Hormuz en route to San Diego, Calif.

28 JUNE • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) returned to NS Norfolk, Va., the last carrier involved in the Persian Gulf War to return to her homeport.

10 JULY • The president approved a list of military base closures proposed by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. This included NAS Moffett Field, Calif.; NAS Chase Field, Texas; and MCAS Tustin, Calif.

13 JULY • *Nimitz* (CVN 68) turned over operations in the Persian Gulf to *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) and then transited the Strait of Hormuz.

29 JULY • Grumman delivered the last scheduled production EA-6B Prowler to the Navy during ceremonies at its Calverton, N.Y. plant.

30 JULY • After 40 months of repairs and new equipment, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) left her berth at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., as the fourth carrier overhauled at that yard under the Service Life Extension Program.

31 JULY • The Senate voted overwhelmingly to overturn a 43-year-old law that had barred women from flying warplanes in combat. The new measure, which was an amendment to the military budget bill for the 1992 fiscal year, permitted—but did not require—the armed forces to allow women to fly combat missions.

19 AUGUST • The Naval Air Reserve celebrated its 75th anniversary.

27 AUGUST • A ceremony marked the introduction of SH-60F Seahawks into operational service with the Atlantic Fleet at NAS Jacksonville, Fla. HS-3 became the first East Coast squadron to trade SH-3H Sea Kings for the new helicopters.

27 AUGUST • The last U.S. Navy participants of the Persian Gulf War arrived home including amphibious assault ship *New Orleans* (LPH 11), with HMM-268 embarked.

6 SEPTEMBER • The first naval flight of an X-31A took place at Patuxent River, Md. The Advanced Research Projects Agency had developed the thrust-vectoring technology aircraft.

7 SEPTEMBER • After the banquet of the annual Tailhook Association convention at the Las Vegas Nevada Hilton, groups of naval aviators gathered overnight for private parties across the hotel. Women caught in the bacchanal proceedings accused conventioners of misconduct ranging from verbal to physical/sexual abuse. The scandal rocked the fleet as widespread media attention generated a panel to investigate the allegations, from which the Navy initiated an “intense campaign” to increase awareness throughout the fleet, including new policies to address sexual misconduct and harassment.

27 SEPTEMBER • The Navy retired A-3s from active duty during ceremonies hosted by VAQ-33 at NAS Key West, Fla. The attendees included Ed Heinemann, who had designed the Skywarrior. The EA-3Bs of VQ-2 became the last operational “Whales.”

27 SEPTEMBER • In a televised address, President George H. W. Bush announced that the United States would unilaterally reduce nuclear arms including the withdrawal of all tactical nuclear weapons from Navy ships. The order's provisions identified the withdrawal of Navy air-deliverable nuclear weapons from aircraft carriers and land-based naval aircraft such as patrol planes, and the storage or destruction of the weapons.

1 OCTOBER • NWC China Lake, Calif.; NADC Warminster, Pa.; and Naval Ordnance Missile Test Station, White Sands, N.M.; were transferred into NAVAIR. The action was in preparation for the consolidation of all naval air activities under the Naval Air Warfare Center as an activity of NAVAIR.

18 OCTOBER • An F/A-18 Hornet successfully launched an improved version of an AGM-84 SLAM (Standoff Land Attack Missile) at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

20 OCTOBER • A fire broke out on a hillside above California State Highway 24 near the entrance to Caldecott Tunnel, and spread from the crest of the Oakland-Berkley Hills. Naval aviation commands at NAS Alameda, NAS Moffett Field, and NS Treasure Island assisted firefighters. HS-85 provided airlift support with SH-3 Sea Kings and reservists were put on alert.

8 NOVEMBER • *Lexington* (AVT 16) was decommissioned at NAS Pensacola, Fla. She had been commissioned on 17 February 1943, and subsequently served as a training carrier assigned to the Naval Air Training Command at Pensacola.

12 NOVEMBER • A ceremony at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, marked the establishment in September of the Naval Air Training Maintenance Support Activity, Capt. David R. Timmons commanding. The establishment culminated a trend of more than 15 years toward maintaining training aircraft with contract civilians in place of service members.

4 DECEMBER • A T-45A landed on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) in the Atlantic to make the type's first carrier landing.

1992

1 JANUARY • Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) was established, Commander NAVAIR Rear Adm. George H. Strohsahl Jr. commanding. The center was to consist of aircraft (AD) and weapons (WD) divisions.

2 JANUARY • The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division—NAWC (AD)—was established at NAS Patuxent River, Md., Rear Adm. George H. Strohsahl Jr. commanding (acting). Under the realignment, NAS Patuxent River reported to Commander NAWC (AD). The division assumed the responsibility for aircraft, engines, avionics, and aircraft support, and absorbed the activities of Naval Air Development Center, Warminster, Pa.; Naval Air Engineering Center, Lakehurst, N.J.; Naval Air Propulsion Center, Trenton, N.J.; Naval Avionics Center, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md. Planners intended to consolidate Warminster at Patuxent River.

2 JANUARY • The Flight Test and Engineering Group (FTEG) was established within the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Capt. Robert Parkinson, director. The disestablishment of NATC Patuxent River, Md., occurred simultaneously, and the previous NATC directorates became directorates under FTEG.

9 JANUARY • The Department of Defense announced the acceptance of a Saudi offer to award its Kuwait Liberation Medal to members of the U.S. armed forces who had directly participated in Operation Desert Storm. King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia had established the award to honor the coalition troops that liberated Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War.

13 JANUARY • In a memorandum, Secretary of the Navy Henry L. Garrett III directed the integration of VMFAs and VMAQs into Navy carrier air wings, in order to reduce the requirements for F-14 Tomcats, F/A-18 Hornets, and EA-6B Prowlers. Marine tactical squadrons had historically operated from time to time as part of air wings, but the fleet had not institutionalized the concept in any permanent form.

18 JANUARY • VMFA-112, the last operational squadron to fly F-4s, held a retirement ceremony for its final Phantom II at NAS Dallas, Texas. On 10 January, Col. John Brennan,

USMC, made the squadron's last operational flight of the aircraft. The first flight of a Navy F-4B (F4H-1) had occurred on 27 May 1958.

19 JANUARY • The Naval Aviation History Office commemorated its 50th anniversary by preparing to move its archives to the Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

21 JANUARY • The Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division—NAWC (WD)—was established at Point Mugu, Calif., Rear Adm. William E. Newman commanding. Headquartered at Point Mugu and China Lake with a facility at White Sands, N.M., it assumed responsibility for aircraft weapons and weapons systems, simulators, and targets. NAWC (WD) absorbed the activities of Pacific Missile Test Center Point Mugu, Calif.; NWC China Lake, Calif.; Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility, Albuquerque, N.M.; and Naval Ordnance Missile Test Station, White Sands, N.M.

21 JANUARY • NAS Point Mugu, Calif., was disestablished, and NAWS Point Mugu took its place.

22 JANUARY • NAWS China Lake, Calif., was established at the site of the former Naval Weapons Center.

23 JANUARY • The first production Navy T-45A Goshawk rolled out at McDonnell Aircraft, St. Louis, Mo.

31 JANUARY • The Navy took delivery of the last production A-6E from Grumman, closing out more than 31 years of Intruder production. The aircraft was scheduled for delivery to VA-145 at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

4 FEBRUARY • Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Louis A. Williams announced to the press Navy plans to attain a goal of 12 active aircraft carriers.

5 FEBRUARY • *Forrestal* (CV 59) was redesignated a training carrier at her new homeport of NAS Pensacola, Fla. The action dropped the Navy's total of active carriers to 14 plus *Forrestal*, which was scheduled to relieve *Lexington* (AVT 16).

6 FEBRUARY • HSL-37 held a ceremony at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, to mark the beginning of its transition from SH-2F Seasprites to SH-60B Seahawks.

11 FEBRUARY • VA-34 became the first fleet squadron equipped with A-6E Intruders to fire an AGM-65E laser-guided Maverick air-to-surface missile, during an exercise in the Persian Gulf.

14 FEBRUARY • VMFA(AW)-225 accepted its first fleet two-seat F/A-18D Hornet, the first aircraft capable of operating the advanced tactical air reconnaissance pod system, at MCAS El Toro, Calif.

24 FEBRUARY • McDonnell Douglas and British Aerospace reached an exclusive partnership agreement, pending U.S. government approval, to work together to develop and produce advanced short takeoff/vertical landing strike fighter aircraft.

4 MARCH • The Navy stood up Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Patuxent River, Md., Rear Adm. (sel.) Barton D. Strong commanding.

4 MARCH • VAW-113 at NAS North Island, Calif., became the first fleet squadron to accept delivery of an E-2C Group II Hawkeye equipped with APS-145 radar.

10 MARCH • The Department of Defense announced a plan to withdraw from the Philippine Naval Facility, Subic Bay, Luzon. Major milestones in the plan included the closure of Department of Defense dependents schools in June, transfer of the majority of dependents through the summer, relocation of VRC-50 to Andersen AFB, Guam, in August, disestablishment of the Ship Repair Facility in September, and the formal turnover of the facility in December.

21 MARCH • *Independence* (CV 62) sailed from Subic Bay, Philippines, the last carrier scheduled to call at the base before its closure.

31 MARCH • NASA announced the selection of Lt. Cmdr. Wendy B. Lawrence among the agency's new astronauts. Lawrence became the first female line officer and naval aviator astronaut.

1 APRIL • The Fleet Electronic Warfare Support Group (FEWSG) merged with the Fleet Deception Group Atlantic to form the Fleet Practical Readiness Group. The new command, based at Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., assumed operational control of FEWSG's electronic aggressor squadrons VAQ-33, -34, and -35.



This E-6A Mercury, BuNo 163918, is one of 16 of the strategic communications relay aircraft type. The Navy subsequently upgraded all of these jets to E-6B standard.

1 APRIL • The Chief of Naval Operations directed the retirement of the remaining A-7 Corsair IIs in active inventory by 1 April. The service subsequently partially reversed the decision in order to retain 11 TA-7Cs and three EA-7Ls with NAWC as chase aircraft for various activities, including the BGM-109 Tomahawk missile program.

8 APRIL • McDonnell Douglas delivered the 6,000th production AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-surface missile to the Navy during a ceremony at the company's St. Charles, Mo., manufacturing facility.

13 APRIL • Volcanic activity from Mount Etna pushed a lava flow toward the town of Zafferana, Sicily. The Italian authorities requested assistance, and two CH-53Es of HMM-226, embarked on board amphibious assault ship *Inchon* (LPH 12), augmented by another Super Stallion of HC-4 flying from NAS Sigonella, placed 8,000-pound concrete blocks in the path of the lava. The plan, developed by geologists, succeeded and forced open another lava vent further down the mountain and away from the town. Italian troops supplemented these measures with explosives to divert lava streams. The relief operations continued until 25 April.

1 MAY • The first class of flight instructors from VT-21, assigned to train the next generation of naval aviators in T-45As, began their own training in Goshawks.

1 MAY • Strategic Communications Wing 1 was established at Tinker AFB, Okla. The wing reported operationally to the Strategic Command and administratively to CINCPAC via AirPac. The wing's mission was command and control of fleet ballistic missile submarines, and the coordination of all Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) operations and liaison with the host, Tinker. Its role later expanded to include the manning, training, and equipping of the Navy squadrons responsible for command and control communications with the nuclear triad. The Navy's two TACAMO squadrons, VQ-3 and -4, later relocated to Tinker.

7 MAY • A Take Charge and Move Out EC-130 began the final deployment of the modified Hercules with VQ-4 from NAS Patuxent River, Md. The squadron had begun to transition from EC-130Qs to E-6A Mercury strategic communications relay aircraft, which used Boeing 707-320 airframes.



This V-22 Osprey test aircraft, BuNo 163914, was the fourth built. It crashed during a demonstration flight near MCAS Quantico, Va., 20 July 1992, killing seven.

22 MAY • VQ-5 took delivery of its first ES-3A at NAS Agana, Guam, marking the operational service entry of the electronic reconnaissance version of the Vikings.

31 MAY • Aircraft of VS-21 attached to *Independence* (CV 62) assisted the rescue of 19 crewmen from sinking Panamanian cargo ship *Great Eagle*, 580 nautical miles off the coast of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

27 JUNE • VT-21 became operational as the first squadron to instruct trainees on T-45A Goshawks.

1 JULY • Helicopter Sea Control Wing 3 was redesignated Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Wing 1, at the same time absorbing Helicopter Sea Control Wing 1. The action placed all Atlantic Fleet HSLs under a single wing.

10 JULY • The Navy received the last production F-14D, marking the end of 22 years of Tomcat production.

20 JULY • The fourth prototype V-22A crashed into the Potomac River on approach to MCAF Quantico, Va., killing three Marines and four Boeing employees. The Navy and



With rotated wing, engine pods, and folding rotor blades, the MV-22A Osprey makes a compact package for shipboard storage.

the Marine Corps grounded the remaining three prototype Ospreys pending the results of the mishap investigation. Investigators blamed the accident on mechanical failure caused by a flash fire, engine failure, and a failed drive shaft.

22 JULY • In a Pentagon press conference, Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean O’Keefe and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso II announced a sweeping reorganization of OPNAV staff. The plan, developed by Adm. Kelso, aligned the staff with the Joint Staff, effective 1 January 1993. This included the merger of the assistant chiefs of Naval Operations for Submarine Warfare (OP-02), Surface Warfare (OP-03), Air Warfare (OP-05), and Naval Warfare (OP-07) into one staff under DCNO for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessment (code N8). Director, Air Warfare (N88), became the new designation assigned to Air Warfare (OP-05).

24 JULY • *Saratoga* (CV 60) and amphibious assault ship *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2) carried out sustained operations in the Adriatic Sea because of fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia.

5 AUGUST • The Pentagon revealed that it would ask contractors to develop a less expensive version of the V-22 Osprey.

10 AUGUST • The OPNAV staff commenced the administrative conversion to N-codes.

12 AUGUST • CINCPAC Adm. Robert J. Kelly announced the formation of six carrier battle groups for service within the Pacific Fleet.

22 AUGUST • Hurricane Andrew ravaged the Bahamas, Florida, and Louisiana, killing at least 65 people and leveling Homestead AFB, Fla. Naval aviation commands and ships with supplies and repair capabilities responded to the crisis during the succeeding days.

23 AUGUST • Following the Persian Gulf War, the UN had established two no-fly zones over Iraq. In April 1991, it authorized the northern zone to protect the Kurds from the Iraqis. Air Force aircraft predominated during the patrols over the north during these flights, designated Operation Northern Watch, mainly from Incirlik AB near Adana, Turkey. Meanwhile, the Iraqis lashed out at Shi'as and the Madan (Marsh Arabs) in southern Iraq. *Independence* (CV 62) entered the Persian Gulf prepared to enforce the southern no-fly zone established by the UN below the 32nd parallel. The coalition later extended the zone to the 33rd parallel to grant pilots more tactical options and further limit the Iraqis. Carriers usually launched patrols over the south during what became Operation Southern Watch, and in time the two zones covered half of Iraq.

26 AUGUST • President George H. W. Bush announced the commencement within 24 hours of allied aerial surveillance over southern Iraq, which included the provision to shoot down Iraqi aircraft that flew south of the 32nd parallel. The patrols began the next day that included 20 aircraft of Carrier Air Wing 5, embarked on board *Independence* (CV 62), together with AV-8B Harrier IIs of VMA-211 operating from amphibious assault ship *Tarawa* (LHA 1). *Saratoga* (CV 60) and amphibious assault ship *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2) also participated.

28 AUGUST • Typhoon Omar devastated Guam. Elements of Joint Task Force Marianas including HC-5, VQ-1 and -5, VRC-50, VR-59, and NAS Agana, coordinated the relief efforts.

3 SEPTEMBER • An unidentified faction fired a surface-to-air missile that shot down an Italian Air Force Aeritalia G.222 over (former) Yugoslavia. Two CH-53E Super Stallions and two AH-1J Sea Cobras operating from amphibious assault ship *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2), sailing in the Adriatic in support of UN Bosnian relief efforts, aided in the search for survivors and wreckage. The helicopters drew ground fire but escaped undamaged.

4 SEPTEMBER • Cmdr. Linda V. Hutton assumed command of VRC-40, becoming the first woman to command an Atlantic Fleet aviation squadron.

11 SEPTEMBER • Hurricane Iniki devastated more than 75 percent of Kauai, Hawaii. Although the storm slightly damaged the island's Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range Facility, it served as a hub of relief flight operations. Volunteers from NAS Barbers Point and tenant commands assisted victims, and amphibious assault ship *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) sailed to Kauai with troops and relief supplies. Additional commands that responded included HSL-37 and VP-1.

11 SEPTEMBER • The plight of famine-wracked Somalians was made worse when marauding gangs blocked distribution of humanitarian supplies. The UN consequently began Operation Provide Relief—the air delivery of food from Mombassa, Kenya, to Kenyan and Somali sites. On this date, President George H. W. Bush dispatched amphibious assault ship *Tarawa* (LHA 1) and amphibious transport docks *Fort Fisher* (LPD 40) and *Ogden* (LPD 5) to the area. On 17 September, *Tarawa* arrived off Somalia to provide command and control for Air Force flight operations at Mogadishu and for possible search and rescue missions. The ship's embarked AV-8B Harrier IIs of VMA-221, AH-1W Super Cobras and UH-1N Iroquois of HMLA-367, CH-46E Sea Knights of HMM-161, and CH-53E Super Stallions of HMH-466, protected the insertion of UN relief teams and Pakistani security troops into Mogadishu. *Tarawa* departed on 29 September.

14 SEPTEMBER • *Forrestal* (CV 59) arrived from NAS Pensacola, Fla., at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., to begin a 14-month, \$157 million conversion to a training carrier. In early 1993, the Navy decided instead to mothball *Forrestal* at Philadelphia, leaving the fleet without a dedicated training carrier.

16 SEPTEMBER • *Ranger* (CV 61) arrived in the Persian Gulf to support Operation Southern Watch patrols over the Iraqi no-fly zone.

28 SEPTEMBER • Secretary of the Navy Sean O'Keefe, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso II, and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr. signed "... From the Sea," a Navy/Marine Corps strategy



Amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10) provides humanitarian relief to refugees at Mogadishu, Somalia, during her deployment to support Operation Restore Hope, 3 December 1992–2 February 1993.

developed in response to the shift from global to regional threats against U.S. national security. The plan emphasized littoral warfare and maneuver from the sea.

30 SEPTEMBER • AirLant's four functional wings—Helicopter Wings, Atlantic; Patrol Wings, Atlantic; Strike Fighter Wings, Atlantic; and Tactical Wings, Atlantic—were disestablished in a sweeping change that eliminated an entire echelon of command in the administrative structure of East Coast naval aviation.

30 SEPTEMBER • The United States turned the station at Subic Bay over to the Philippines.

7 OCTOBER • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) deployed to the Mediterranean to relieve *Saratoga* (CV 60) during ongoing tensions resulting from the civil war in Yugoslavia, and the confrontation with Iraq.

15 OCTOBER • HS-14 became the first U.S. squadron to land aircraft on the deck of a Russian warship, when an SH-3H Sea King set down onto *Udaloy*-class destroyer *Admiral Vinogradov* (DDG 554) during joint exercises in the Persian Gulf.

22 OCTOBER • The Department of Defense announced the award of a contract to the Bell-Boeing Joint Program Office for the modification and test of a V-22 derivative, a scaled-down version of the Osprey tilt-rotor.

24 OCTOBER • The Atlantic Fleet was reorganized into six carrier battle groups. Previous plans had called for forming groups for specific workups and deployments.

30 OCTOBER • NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, was disestablished.

3 NOVEMBER • The Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces recommended against allowing women to fly in combat, but for allowing them to serve in some combat ships.

7 NOVEMBER • In support of Operation Provide Promise—UN efforts to supply Bosnia-Herzegovina with humanitarian supplies—amphibious assault ship *Guam* (LPH 9), with HMM-261 embarked, relieved amphibious assault ship *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2), with HMM-365 on board, in the Adriatic.

14 NOVEMBER • The RIM-116A RAM (Rolling Airframe Missile), a lightweight quick-reaction fire-and-forget system designed to counter antiship missiles attacking in waves or streams, was installed on board amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5).

14 NOVEMBER • The Navy transferred *Lexington* (AVT 16) to the city of Corpus Christi, Texas, for use as a memorial/museum ship.

7 DECEMBER • The Navy and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace finalized the \$3.715 billion development contract for F/A-18E/Fs. The cost-plus incentive contract covered 7 ½ years of engineering and support activities, including the manufacturing and testing of seven flight test Super Hornets and three ground test airframes.

7 DECEMBER • After her diversion from the Persian Gulf, *Ranger* (CV 61) reached Somali waters to support Operation Restore Hope—UN directed humanitarian aid for the Somalis.

9 DECEMBER • Operation Restore Hope—UN directed humanitarian aid for the Somalis—began. HMM-164, reinforced from amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10), provided the initial Marine helicopter support to the UN peacekeepers.

16 DECEMBER • *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) deployed five air traffic controllers to cruiser *Leahy* (CG 53) to establish approach control services in support of Operation Restore Hope at Mogadishu, Somalia. An E-2C Hawkeye of VAW-114 picked up approaching aircraft, tracked their flights, and issued advisories from 200 miles out. When the flights reached to within a range of 50 miles, *Leahy* took over and led them to within visual range of the airport ten miles away.



Marines embark CH-46E Sea Knights of HMM-164 on board amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10) during the early stages of Operation Restore Hope, 3 December 1992–2 February 1993.



An SH-60B Seahawk flies past dock landing ship *Rushmore* (LSD 47) en route to amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10), during operations off Somalia in late 1992 or early 1993.

19 DECEMBER • *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) relieved *Ranger* (CV 61) off Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope.

27 DECEMBER • In December, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had surreptitiously deployed antiaircraft missile batteries south of the 32nd parallel in violation of the cease-fire accords, warning the coalition that they would shoot down aircraft. On this date, an Air Force F-16D Fighting Falcon shot down an Iraqi MiG-25 with an AIM-120 AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile) when the Foxbat violated the southern no-fly zone. *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) left Somalia and by the New Year had dispatched 51 F-14A Tomcat and F/A-18A Hornet combat air patrol sorties to enforce the Operation Southern Watch no-fly zone.

1993

1 JANUARY • In a reorganization of the OPNAV staff, the position of ACNO (Air Warfare)/(OP-05), held by Rear Adm. Riley D. Mixon, became Director, Air Warfare (N88) and reported to DCNO (Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessment)/(N8). The N88 billet dropped from a three-star flag officer to a two-star.

13 JANUARY • On 6 January, President George H. W. Bush issued an ultimatum to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to remove missiles from the southern no-fly zone within 48 hours. Iraq responded by looting four Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles from a portion of Umm Qasr that they had ceded to the Kuwaitis. On this date, Cmdr. Kevin J. Thomas of VFA-97 led a coalition night strike of 35 aircraft from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) joined by 75 additional Air Force, British, and French aircraft against four Iraqi air defense command and control centers, and two concentrations of SA-3 Goa surface-to-air missiles.

17 JANUARY • Iraqi antiaircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles fired at allied aircraft, and enemy fighters darted back and forth across the 36th parallel in an attempt to draw coalition aircraft toward heavier concentrations of air defenses deployed just below the boundary. Meanwhile, cruiser *Cowpens* (CG 63) and destroyers *Hewitt* (DD 966) and *Stump* (DD 978) steaming in the Persian Gulf, and destroyer *Caron* (DD 970) in the Red Sea, launched 42 BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Zaafaranyah Fabrication Facility, a plant near Baghdad that intelligence analysts suspected of making nuclear weapons parts. At least 30 missiles struck the target area, and Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles bombed the Tallil Station Air Operations Center.

18 JANUARY • *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) launched F-14A Tomcats, F/A-18A Hornets, and E-2C Hawkeyes from the Persian Gulf to support an Air Force strike against military targets in northern Iraq, in response to Iraqi violations of the UN-imposed no-fly zone. The ship aborted an additional planned strike of 29 aircraft against mobile surface-to-air missiles in southern Iraq when the Iraqis moved the batteries. Meanwhile, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) headed to the eastern Mediterranean.

17 FEBRUARY • The Aircraft Carrier Memorial, a ten-foot black obelisk honoring those who have served on board U.S. carriers, was dedicated at the North Embarcadero, San Diego, Calif.

25 FEBRUARY • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) entered the Adriatic in support of Operation Provide Promise—UN efforts to supply those displaced by the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina with food and supplies.

4 MARCH • *Constellation* (CV 64) departed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa., as the fifth and final carrier to complete the Service Life Extension Program.

23 MARCH • Amphibious assault ship *Wasp* (LHD 1) arrived off Somalia to support Operation Restore Hope. Her embarked helicopters and AV-8B Harrier IIs of HMM-263 flew sorties in support of Marines deployed ashore.

31 MARCH • Two EP-3E Aries IIs of VQ-2 supported humanitarian air drops over eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina during Operation Provide Promise—UN efforts to supply those displaced by the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina with food and supplies.

1 APRIL • Sea Strike Wing 1 was redesignated Sea Control Wing Atlantic, and Air Anti-Submarine Squadrons were redesignated Sea Control Squadrons—but retained the short “VS” designator. The name change reflected the broader and all-encompassing VS mission of these commands, particularly in light of the increased multi-mission versatility of S-3B Vikings.

12 APRIL • NATO and the UN began Operation Deny Flight—the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Twelve F/A-18 Hornets temporarily shifted from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) to NATO operational control. At one point, 26 Navy EA-6B Prowlers operating from Aviano AB Italy provided the primary allied electronic warfare aircraft to suppress enemy air defenses. Marines and sailors of the Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group provided search and rescue and tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel duties from amphibious assault ship *Saipan* (LHA 2).



Sailors prepare a shipboard variant of the Army's RQ-5 Hunter for launch during testing on board amphibious assault ship *Essex* (LHD 2) in December 1993. Although the tests were positive and encouraging, the Navy did not purchase the RQ-5.

14 APRIL • Former President George H. W. Bush, his wife Barbara, two of their sons, and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, arrived in Kuwait to participate in ceremonies commemorating the allied victory in the Persian Gulf War. The Kuwaitis arrested and charged 17 men with an attempt to assassinate the president and Kuwaiti Emir (Sheikh) al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah with a car bomb. On 29 April, the CIA reported that the bomb bore evidence of Iraqi origins. The plot heightened tensions in the region that resulted in additional coalition operations including patrols by naval aircraft.

22 APRIL • An EA-6B Prowler from VAQ-209 fired the first successful over-the-horizon AGM-88 HARM (High-speed

Anti-Radiation Missile) using targeting data from a satellite delivered directly to the cockpit. A P-3B Orion of VP-60 assisted.

26 APRIL • VC-6 Detachment 2 carried out the first launch of an unmanned aerial vehicle from an amphibious vessel by operating an RQ-2A Pioneer on board amphibious transport dock *Denver* (LPD 9).

28 APRIL • Secretary of Defense Leslie Aspin lifted the ban on combat flights for women and opened up additional ships to female sailors. He further stated his intention to forward a draft proposal to Congress to remove the last legislative barrier to the assignment of women to combat vessels. Chief

of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso II concurred. On 30 November, President William J. Clinton signed legislation that lifted the ban on women serving on board combat ships.

29 APRIL • After the decision by Secretary of Defense Leslie Aspin to expand combat roles for women, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso II opened six enlisted naval aviation ratings to women: aviation antisubmarine warfare operator (AW), electronic warfare technician (EW), fire controlman (FC), gas turbine technician (GS), gas turbine technician–electrical (GSE), and gas turbine technician–mechanical (GSM).

5 MAY • Commander, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Wing, Pacific Fleet, was established at NAS North Island, Calif., Capt. John R. Brown commanding.

6 MAY • Naval Reservist Lt. Cmdr. Kathryn P. Hire was selected for assignment to VP-62, thus becoming the Navy’s first woman to be eligible to compete for assignments in aircraft engaged in combat missions.

7 MAY • Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Ronald J. Zlatoper outlined the Navy’s plan to open new opportunities for women during the seventh annual Naval Aviation Symposium at NAS Pensacola, Fla. VAQ-130 became the first squadron expected to receive women. He also revealed the impending assignment of women to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3, embarked on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), and CVW-11 on board *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72).

1 JUNE • Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, Pacific, shifted from a flag-level functional wing to a type wing as part of the ongoing reorganization of wings in the Pacific Fleet.

8 JUNE • Patrol Wing 2 was disestablished after 56 years of service.

11 JUNE • A groundbreaking ceremony took place for the Aircraft Technology Laboratory at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

26 JUNE • Cruiser *Chancellorsville* (CG 62) launched nine BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the northern Persian Gulf, and destroyer *Peterson* (DD 969) fired 14 more missiles from the Red Sea, in a coordinated night attack against

the Iraqi intelligence service headquarters building in Baghdad. At least 13 missiles struck the compound. During a press conference, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA, described the attack as a “proportionate” response to the Iraqi assassination plot against former President George H. W. Bush, his wife Barbara, two of their sons, and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, during their visit to Kuwait on 14 April. The United States subsequently dispatched *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) and destroyer *Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51) to reinforce allied forces in the Red Sea.

14 JULY • Secretary of Defense Leslie Aspin approved an order directing U.S. aircraft to join NATO’s planned air support to UN protection forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) thus entered the Mediterranean to participate in Operation Deny Flight—the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

17 AUGUST • An EA-6B Prowler of VAQ-209 at NAS Point Mugu, Calif., conducted the first successful over-the-horizon AGM-88 HARM (High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile) and AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-surface missile war-at-sea strike using targeting data from space-based sensors delivered directly to the cockpit. A P-3B Orion of VP-60 assisted.

1 SEPTEMBER • President William J. Clinton unveiled a revised plan to cut the armed forces based on a doctrine developed by President George H. W. Bush that prepared the United States to fight two simultaneous major regional wars and one low-intensity war. The plan called for 11 carrier battle groups, with a 12th carrier to serve as a Reserve and training ship. The original plan called for 12 battle groups.

3 SEPTEMBER • AIM-120 AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile) achieved initial operating capability for the Navy with Carrier Air Wing 11 on board *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72).

9 SEPTEMBER • The creation of the fleet’s largest aviation squadron occurred during the merger of VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., with VP-31 at NAS Moffett Field, Calif. The consolidation resulted from downsizing, and enabled the Navy to train all P-3 Orion crews at Jacksonville.

11 SEPTEMBER • *Forrestal* (CV 59) was decommissioned at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, Pa.

1 OCTOBER • The NAVCAD program was disestablished. It had begun during World War II as the V-5 program, and had subsequently been redesignated V-12. It was disestablished in 1966, but later reinstated in 1986 to help train more pilots for the planned 600-ship fleet.

1 OCTOBER • The Atlantic Command became responsible for the joint training and deployment of all continental U.S.-based forces. The action merged the Atlantic Fleet, Marine Forces Atlantic, Army Forces Command, and USAF Air Combat Command into a single combat command. The Atlantic Command was to support all U.S. involvement in UN peacekeeping operations, plan for the land defense of the homeland, and respond to natural disasters within the United States.

1 OCTOBER • The Naval Training Systems Center, Orlando, Fla., was redesignated Naval Air Warfare Center, Training Systems Division, although without a change of mission.

1 OCTOBER • The first phase of a new joint primary training program began when five Air Force aviators reported to NAS Whiting Field, Pensacola, Fla. Meanwhile, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard flight instructors reported for training to Randolph AFB, Texas.

3 OCTOBER • Overnight, the Army's Task Force Ranger became embroiled in a battle against Somali clansmen in Mogadishu, Somalia. The Somalis killed 18 Americans and wounded 84, and claimed losses of 312 dead and 814 wounded. On 5 October, the Navy ordered *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) to make for Somali waters to aid the allied troops. On 8 October, the carrier passed through the Strait of Hormuz, and on 12 October, arrived off the Horn of Africa to participate in Operation Restore Hope. Three days later, the ship disembarked Marines of her detachment in Somalia to reinforce international peacekeepers. The Marines remained ashore until 22 October while carrying out this unique operation from an aircraft carrier. *Abraham Lincoln* departed on 3 November.

15 OCTOBER • Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the consolidation at the Naval Aviation Schools Command, NAS Pensacola, Fla., of Aviation Officer Candidate School and Officer Candidate School as a cost-saving initiative.

17 OCTOBER • Amphibious assault ships *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7) and *New Orleans* (LPH 11) arrived off Somalia.

29 OCTOBER • *America* (CV 66) transited the Suez Canal southbound, and subsequently relieved *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) off the coast of Somalia.

16 NOVEMBER • The aviation antisubmarine warfare operator rating changed to aviation warfare systems operator to reflect the broadened scope of responsibilities. The existing rating badge and abbreviation "AW" remained the same.

24 NOVEMBER • The X-31A international test program announced the first supersonic flights of its enhanced fighter maneuverability demonstrator when Aircraft No. 1 flew nine sorties, achieving Mach 1.08 at an altitude of 37,500 feet.

30 NOVEMBER • President William J. Clinton signed legislation that lifted the ban on women serving on board combat ships.

1 DECEMBER • Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced the first assignment of women to combat ships to begin by June 1994, pending notification of Congress as required by the fiscal year 1994 Defense Authorization Bill. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) were scheduled to be the first carriers to embark women, followed by *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) at the end of 1994.

9 DECEMBER • A V-22 Osprey returned to NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., from facilities in Wilmington, Del., to begin full engineering manufacturing development testing. The new program ushered in an integrated team concept of testing and evaluation.

1994

1 JANUARY • The Navy began to train aviators in the T-45 Training System at NAS Kingsville, Texas, which included T-45A Goshawks that replaced aging T-2 Buckeyes and TA-4 Skyhawks.

18 JANUARY • In a press briefing held at the Pentagon, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso II



Army and Navy helicopters pack the flight deck of *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) as she steams to Haitian waters, September 1994. During Operation Uphold Democracy she transported about 1,800 soldiers of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps.

emphasized that the naval forces of the future would deploy smaller numbers of ships, aircraft, and personnel but operate at enhanced capability because of new technologies and prudent cost-cutting measures.

1 FEBRUARY • *Saratoga* (CV 60) took station in the Adriatic Sea. During this deployment the carrier's joint task group participated in various U.S., NATO, and UN missions throughout the Mediterranean, Black, and Red Seas including combat air patrol, and command, control, and surveillance aircraft for Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise—to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and UN efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the fighting there, respectively.

18 FEBRUARY • Ens. Alta J. DeRoo became the first female naval aviator to receive her wings in the Grumman E-2 Hawkeye community during a ceremony at Norfolk, Va.

21 FEBRUARY • Lt. Shannon L. Workman of VAQ-130, embarked on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), became the first female combat pilot to successfully pass fleet carrier qualifications. She was slated as one of four female aviators to deploy to *Dwight D. Eisenhower* in October.

3 MARCH • Amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5) joined amphibious assault ship *Inchon* (LPH 12) off the coast of Somalia to support the withdrawal of U.S. troops from that country.

3 MARCH • The A-6 Composite Rewing Program at NAD Norfolk, Va., ended when the last A-6E Intruder completed its new wing upgrade. The program, which began in 1990, replaced an aircraft's original metal wing with a composite structure as it reached the end of its fatigue life.

7 MARCH • The Navy ordered the first 63 women of the ship's crew to report to *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69).

19 MARCH • An experimental T-45A Goshawk equipped with the digital Cockpit 21 made its inaugural flight at McDonnell Douglas, St. Louis, Mo.

24 MARCH • Troopship *Empire State* (T-AP 1001) sailed from Modgadishu as the last American military transport ship to depart Somalia. Amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5) sailed off the coast to cover the evacuation and support UN operations.

31 MARCH • The Department of Defense assigned the name Peregrine to the BQM-145A medium-range unmanned aerial vehicle.

1 APRIL • The first operational flight of the airborne multisensor pod system took place at NAWCWD Point Mugu, Calif.

29 APRIL • Short-range, inertially guided AGM-119B Penguin Mk 2 Mod 7 air-to-surface missiles reached initial operational capability with the Navy. On 25 June, an SH-60B Seahawk of HSL-51 Detachment 6, embarked on board destroyer *Hewitt* (DD 966), made the first fleet launch of a Penguin at the Pacific Missile Range Facility off Hawaii during exercise RIMPAC '94.

2 MAY • Two F-14B Tomcats of VF-103, embarked on board *Saratoga* (CV 60), dropped three GBU-16 laser-guided bombs that scored direct hits at Capo Frasca Target Complex, Sardinia. The action marked the first time that Tomcats dropped Paveway IIs.

5 MAY • The House Armed Services Committee approved \$3.65 billion for CVN-76 and advance procurement for the large-deck amphibious ship LHD-7 as part of the \$263.3 billion defense budget for 1995.



Army UH-60 Black Hawks lift off from the flight deck of *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) off the coast of Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy, September 1994.

16 MAY • Seventeen Russian pilots tested nine two-seat F/A-18s at NAS Patuxent River, Md., accompanied by U.S. Navy pilots in the back seats.

5 JUNE • President William J. and First Lady Hillary R. Clinton led an entourage of the nation's leaders on board *George Washington* (CVN 73) during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day. *George Washington* sailed off the coast of Portsmouth, England, and then crossed the English Channel toward the Omaha and Utah invasion beaches of Normandy, France.

28 JUNE • A P-3C, ordered by South Korea, rolled out of the assembly hangar at Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Company, Marietta, Ga. The event marked the return to production of the maritime patrol Orions.

1 JULY • A ceremony marked the closing of NAS Moffett Field, Calif.

1 JULY • The schedule for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS) flight evaluation was established at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. From 24 July through 8 October, inspectors evaluated various aircraft. The JPATS eventually replaced T-34C Turbomentors and Air Force T-37B Tweets with a common training system.

6 JULY • Amphibious assault ship *Inchon* (LPH 12) sailed from Norfolk, Va., in response to a crisis in Haiti. After the Haitian Army's overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991, a succession of governments led to sectarian violence, and in May 1994 the Haitian Army imposed Supreme Court Justice Emile Jonassaint as the



Former *Saratoga* (CV 60) under tow to Philadelphia, Pa., from Naval Station Mayport, Fla., where she was decommissioned on 20 August 1994.

provisional president. The UN authorized force to restore order and the United States initiated Operations Support Democracy and Uphold/Restore Democracy—Uphold Democracy for a peaceful entry into Haiti, and Restore Democracy in the event of resistance.

7 JULY • The name White Hawk was established for the VH-60N, whose primary mission was to provide executive transport in support of the president and his staff.

31 JULY • Lt. Kara S. Hultgreen of VF-213 made her first qualifying landing in an F-14A on board *Constellation* (CV 64) southwest of San Diego, Calif. She thus became the first fully qualified female Tomcat pilot, and Lt. j.g. Carey Dunai became the second woman to reach the milestone with her qualifying trap in another Tomcat moments later.

17 AUGUST • Amphibious assault ship *Inchon* (LPH 12) returned to Norfolk, Va., following her relief by amphibious assault ship *Wasp* (LHD 1) off Haiti.

31 AUGUST • Five Navy MH-53E Sea Dragons arrived at MCAS Tustin, Calif., during the consolidation of helicopter training for sailors and Marines. With the disestablishment of HM-12, the Navy's H-53 fleet readiness squadron, HMT-302, had assumed the training responsibility.

12 SEPTEMBER • The ongoing crisis in Haiti prompted a response by a multinational force that included *America* (CV 66) and *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). About 1,800 soldiers of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps embarked on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. Most of the carrier's fixed-wing aircraft remained ashore to make room for, at times,

HC-2, HCS-4, and HS-7 operated with dozens of Army helicopters—a total of 51 Navy and Army aircraft. In addition, *Dwight D. Eisenhower's* Marines provided a security force for search and rescue. The Haitians agreed to allow the Americans to land peacefully, and on 31 March 1995, the United States transferred peacekeeping functions to international forces. The crisis marked the first operational deployment of Army helicopters on board a carrier in lieu of most of an air wing.

30 SEPTEMBER • The aircraft model designation TC-18F was established for two Boeing B-707-382Bs, which had been modified to include cockpit avionics and a universal air refueling receptacle for dry contacts only. The naval training support unit at Tinker AFB Okla., used these aircraft to train pilots of VQ-3 and -4 for Take Charge and Move Out missions with E-6A Mercury aircraft.

1 OCTOBER • NAS Fort Worth, Texas, was established as a joint reserve force base. The station was to be home for Navy and Marine squadrons formerly based at two stations after the closure of NAS Dallas, Texas, and the discontinuance of air operations at NAS Memphis, Tenn.

1 OCTOBER • Commander, Patrol Wings, Atlantic Fleet was established at Norfolk, Va., Rear Adm. Michael D. Haskins commanding.

5 OCTOBER • The first aviator class to use the T-45 Training System graduated from VT-21 at NAS Kingsville, Texas.

6 OCTOBER • Intelligence analysts identified the apparent preparations of five Iraqi divisions to invade Kuwait, and the United States launched Operation Vigilant Warrior to protect the Kuwaitis. The next day, President William J. Clinton dispatched *George Washington* (CVN 73) from the Adriatic to the Red Sea, which she reached on 10 October. In addition, amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10) and 2,000 Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit moved to the northern Persian Gulf. These moves convinced Saddam Hussein to withdraw his mobile troops from the Kuwaiti border.

6 OCTOBER • President William J. Clinton visited *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). The ship provided national-level command and control for the chief executive during his visit.

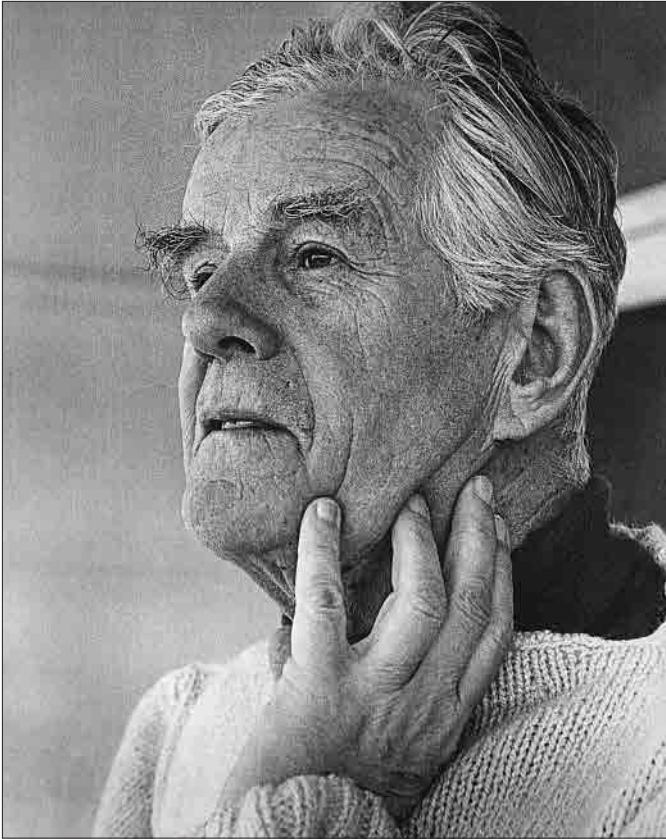


An F-14 Tomcat of VF-143, deployed on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), flies over a destroyed Iraqi radar site, c. 2000.



Cmdr. Donnie Cochran is the first African American commanding officer of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels). He took command on 15 November 1994.

20 OCTOBER • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) deployed to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf as the first carrier with women permanently assigned. More than 400 women served on board at times during the cruise. The ship returned on 13 April 1995.



The creator of Grampaw Pettibone, Dilbert the Pilot, and Spoiler the Mechanic is artist Robert C. Osborn. His drawings of Gramps appeared in *Naval Aviation News* for 51 years.

25 OCTOBER • Pilot Lt. Kara S. Hultgreen and radar intercept officer Lt. Matthew P. Klemish of VF-213 crashed in F-14A Tomcat, BuNo 160390, while attempting to land on board *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) off San Diego. Hultgreen thus became the first naval female combat pilot to die in an aircraft accident. Klemish ejected and survived with minor injuries.

15 NOVEMBER • Cmdr. Donnie Cochran became the first African American commanding officer of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels). He had previously commanded VF-11 at NAS Miramar, Calif., and flown with the Blue Angels from 1985 to 1988.

6 DECEMBER • The "Spirit of Naval Aviation," a monument dedicated to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviation personnel who had earned their wings, was unveiled at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C. The National Museum of Naval Aviation subsequently displayed the monument at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

8 DECEMBER • NASA announced the selection of five naval aviators among 19 new astronaut candidates for the space shuttle pilot instruction program: Cmdr. Jeffery S. Ashby of VFA-94; Cmdr. Dominic L. Gorie of VFA-106; Lt. Cmdr. Scott D. Altman of VF-31; Lt. Cmdr. Joe F. Edwards Jr. of the Joint Staff; and Lt. Susan L. Still of VF-101. Still's appointment marked the first female naval aviator selected for the program. In addition, Naval Reservist Lt. Cmdr. Kathryn P. Hire was chosen for training as a mission specialist.

20 DECEMBER • Robert C. Osborn died at the age of 90 at his home in Salisbury, Conn. For more than 51 years he had drawn the cartoon "Grampaw Pettibone" in *Naval Aviation News*. During World War II, Osborn created the "Dilbert the Pilot" and "Spoiler the Mechanic" posters and the "Sense" pamphlets, which were disseminated throughout the fleet.

1995

17 JANUARY • T-45A Goshawks and their associated training system elements completed a successful Department of Defense Milestone III review. The approval enabled prime contractor McDonnell Douglas to continue to produce 12 Goshawks per year for a total order of 174 aircraft by 2003.

2 FEBRUARY • Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced that President William J. Clinton had approved his recommendation to name the two *Nimitz* (CVN 68)-class carriers under construction as *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) and *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).

14 FEBRUARY • A groundbreaking ceremony occurred for the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Chevalier Field, NAS Pensacola, Fla.

17 FEBRUARY • A groundbreaking ceremony took place at NAS Patuxent River, Md., for a facility to house NAVAIR headquarters, which was to be relocated from Arlington, Va.

28 FEBRUARY • More than 1,800 sailors and Marines from amphibious assault ship *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) and amphibious transport dock *Ogden* (LPD 5), supported by 350 Italian Marines, landed and established a rear-guard security perimeter at Mogadishu, Somalia, to support Operation United Shield—the withdrawal of UN forces from Somalia.



Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), laid down on 29 November 1993, is under construction at Newport News, Va. She was commissioned on 25 July 1998.

Marines and SEALs clashed with Somali clansmen during the withdrawal. Amphibious assault ship *Essex* (LHD 2) also took part in the evacuations, which concluded on 2 March.

1 MARCH • Amphibious assault ship *Inchon* (LPH 12) was redesignated a mine countermeasures ship (MCS 12).

2 MARCH • Space shuttle *Endeavour* launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on mission STS-67. Naval aviator Cmdr. Stephen S. Oswald, USNR, commanded the mission, and Lt. Cmdr. Wendy B. Lawrence, the first female Naval Academy graduate astronaut, also became the first female naval aviator in space when she launched as a crewmember. On 18 March, *Endeavour* touched down at Edwards AFB, Calif.

6 MARCH • The first Air Force F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter engine was delivered for depot-level repair at NAD Jacksonville, Fla.

14 MARCH • Naval aviator and astronaut Capt. Michael A. Baker was assigned as NASA Manager of Operational Activities at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, Star City, Russia. The assignment coincided with the launching of naval aviator Capt. Norman E. Thagard, USMC, and two cosmonauts on board a Soyuz TM-12 spacecraft for Mir-18, a three-month stay on board Russian orbital research station *Mir*. On 7 July, Thagard returned with space shuttle *Atlantis*, on mission STS-71, to John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla.



Lt. Cmdr. Wendy B. Lawrence is the first female U.S. Naval Academy graduate astronaut, and on 2 March 1995 became the first female naval aviator in space.

10 APRIL • VA-196 accepted the last rewinged A-6E, BuNo 159579, at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. From June 1989, NAD Alameda, Calif., had rewinged 23 Intruders.

3 MAY • AW3 Carly R. Harris of VS-22 became the first aircrew-qualified female warfare systems operator in the S-3 Viking community.

20 MAY • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) transited the Suez Canal and made for the Adriatic Sea to participate in Operation Deny Flight. The ship reached the Adriatic six days later.

1 JUNE • The Department of Defense unveiled the low-observable Tier III Minus unmanned aerial vehicle, known as DarkStar, designed for the reconnaissance of highly defended areas, in a ceremony at Lockheed's Skunk Works, Palmdale, Calif.

2 JUNE • A Serbian SA-6 surface-to-air missile shot down Capt. Scott F. O'Grady, USAF, of the 555th Fighter Squadron, in an F-16C Fighting Falcon over Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 8 June, the allies established voice contact with O'Grady and orchestrated a search-and-rescue involving 40 NATO aircraft including VF-41 F-14A Tomcats and F/A-18C Hornets of VFA-15 and -87 and VMFA-312, embarked on board *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71); two EA-6B Prowlers of VAQ-141 and -209 operating from Aviano AB, Italy; and four AV-8 Harrier IIs, two AH-1W Super Cobras, and two CH-53E Super Stallions of a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel force from amphibious assault ship *Kearsarge* (LHD 3). Despite fire from Serbian anti-aircraft guns and several surface-to-air missiles, the Super Stallions rescued O'Grady.

27 JUNE • Space shuttle *Atlantis*, on mission STS-71, launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Naval aviator Capt. Robert L. Gibson commanded *Atlantis* on this first shuttle mission to Russian orbital research station *Mir*, and the first joint docking mission between the Americans and Russians since the Apollo-Soyuz test project flight in 1975. Capt. Norman E. Thagard, USMC, on board *Mir*, returned on the shuttle when it landed at the space center on 7 July.

30 JUNE • Thirty-six-year-old *Independence* (CV 62), Capt. David P. Polatty III commanding, became the oldest ship in the active fleet. On 1 July, Polatty received the "Don't Tread on Me" Navy jack during a ceremony. The flag had been transferred from ammunition ship *Mauna Kea* (AE 22) after her decommissioning.

1 JULY • The Fifth Fleet was established at NSA Bahrain, Vice Adm. John S. Redd commanding.

14 JULY • An F-14D Tomcat of NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., flew for the first time using a new digital flight control system designed to protect aviators against unrecoverable flat spins and carrier landing mishaps.

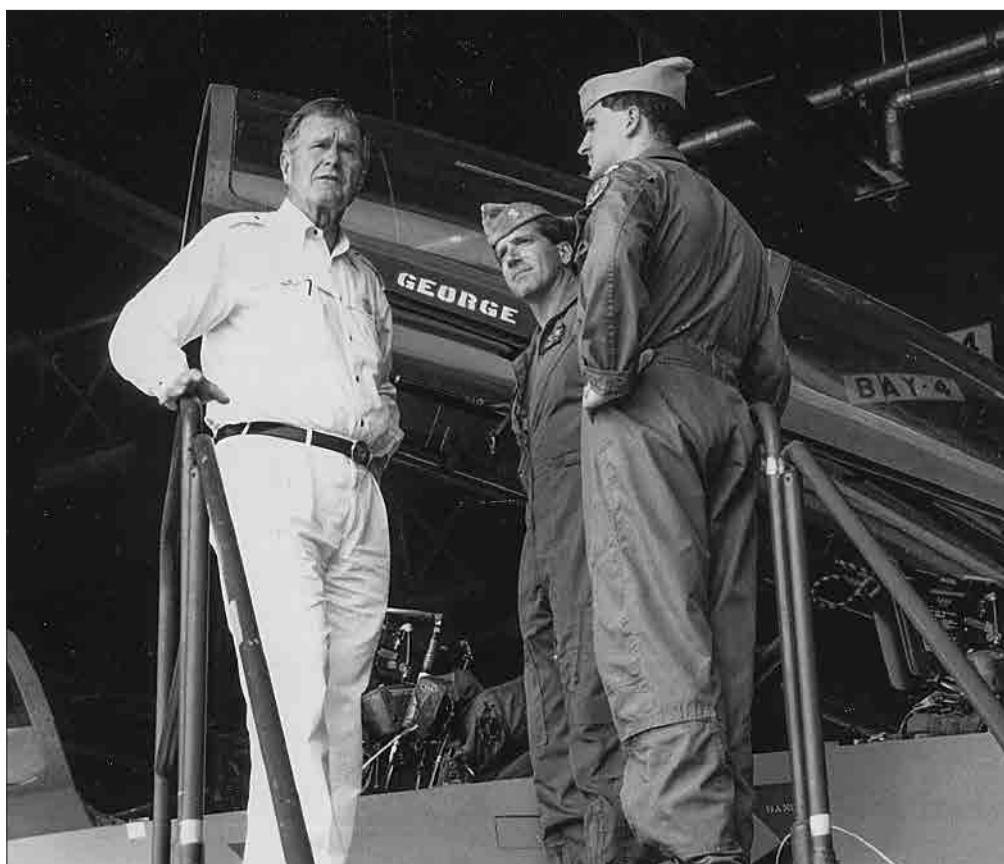
19 AUGUST • The winter fly-in to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, began when LC-130 Hercules of VXE-6 delivered supplies and support personnel. The teams were to construct an ice runway in preparation for the 1995-1996 season during the 40th year of Operation Deep Freeze.

30 AUGUST • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) launched the initial NATO strikes against the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina that began Operation Deliberate Force— aerial attacks to reduce Serbian military capabilities to threaten safe areas, UN peacekeepers, and humanitarian aid workers. Targets included enemy field forces and heavy weapons, command and control facilities, direct and essential military support facilities, supporting infrastructure, and lines of communication in the southeast of the country. The strike consisted of two waves of four F-14A Tomcats of VF-41; 31 F/A-18C Hornets of VFA-15 and -87 and VMFA-312; and two EA-6Bs; supported by other Prowlers from Aviano AB Italy. During the second wave, the ship also launched an S-3B Viking of VS-24 and an ES-3A Shadow. Five echelons of allied strikes followed the naval aircraft with attacks on targets in and around Sarajevo. Through 4 September, aircraft flew 492 sorties from *Theodore Roosevelt*.

9 SEPTEMBER • *America* (CV 66) conducted strike and flight operations in the Adriatic Sea in support of Operation Deliberate Force. The ship continued her strikes through 30 September.

1 OCTOBER • VAW-77 was established at NAS Atlanta, Ga. The squadron worked in tandem with the Coast Guard and federal law enforcement agencies to combine and coordinate counter narcotics operations.

1 OCTOBER • The Naval Aviation Supply Office was disestablished at Philadelphia, Pa., and Naval Inventory Control Point, Philadelphia/Mechanicsburg, Pa., was established in its place. The new command took over both



Former President George H. W. Bush, a naval aviator during World War II, visits *George Washington* (CVN 73) during the 50th anniversary of V-J—Victory in Japan—Day, August 1995.

the functions of the supply office and the Ships Parts Control Center at Mechanicsburg, which also was disestablished.

12 NOVEMBER • Space shuttle *Atlantis*, on mission STS-74, launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Naval aviator Col. Kenneth D. Cameron, USMC, commanded this second shuttle flight to dock with Russian orbital research station *Mir*. *Atlantis* returned to the center on 20 November.

29 NOVEMBER • F/A-18E1, the first Super Hornet, made its first flight at Lambert International Airport near St. Louis, Mo.

11 DECEMBER • *America* (CV 66) arrived in the Adriatic Sea to begin Operation Joint Endeavor—a venture under NATO leadership to oversee the military aspects of the implementation of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 18 December, amphibious assault ship *Wasp* (LHD 1) rendezvoused with *America* and also began Joint Endeavor participation.



The first F/A-18E Super Hornet, designated E1, takes off on its maiden flight at St. Louis, Mo., 29 November 1995.

14 DECEMBER • The Bosnian Federation and the Bosnian Serbs signed the final Dayton Accords concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Paris, France.

21 DECEMBER • NATO commemorated the end of Operation Deny Flight, the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, at Dal Molin Airport, Vincenza, Italy.

1996

4 JANUARY • Lt. Jean L. O'Brien of VP-16 became the first woman to earn the designation of patrol squadron tactical coordinator in a P-3C Orion.

7 JANUARY • An HH-60 Seahawk embarked on board *America* (CV 66), piloted by squadron commanding officer Cmdr. Robert L. Wilde, with copilot Lt. Craig M. Davis,

and aircrewmembers AW1 Rob Betts and AW3 Brett Shopsin of HS-11, transported Commander Sixth Fleet Vice Adm. Donald L. Pilling to *Admiral Kuznetsov* (Project 1143.5). HS-11 thus became the Navy's first squadron to land on board a Russian aircraft carrier.

10 JANUARY • The roll out of the first production F-14A/B to complete the major upgrade program to provide Tomcats with a multimission capability took place at NAD Norfolk, Va.

11 JANUARY • Space shuttle *Endeavour*, on mission STS-72, launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. The crew included naval aviators Cmdr. Winston E. Scott and Lt. Cmdr. Brent W. Jett Jr. *Endeavour* returned to the center on 20 January.

18 JANUARY • Lts. Dane L. Dobbs and James F. Skarbek of VF-101 made the first F-14B Tomcat arrested landing on board *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).



Before commissioning, *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) leaves the James River and heads to sea for builders trials off the Virginia Capes, 23 October 1995.

24 JANUARY • NAWC (WD) Point Mugu, Calif., conducted flight performance testing of the ADM-141C Improved TALD (tactical air launch decoy), which was designed to deceive enemy radar and interception aircraft in hostile environments.

5 FEBRUARY • The Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School completed its move from NAS Miramar, Calif., to NAS Fallon, Nev., and began training a class for the E-2C Hawkeye community.

15 FEBRUARY • McDonnell Douglas delivered the first of seven F/A-18E/F Super Hornets to NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., to begin a three-year flight test program to prepare the type for duty on aircraft carriers.

20 FEBRUARY • HSL-44 became the initial East Coast LAMPS Mk III squadron to fire an AGM-119B Penguin air-to-surface missile. Pilot Lt. Cmdr. John W. Funk, copilot Lt.

Richard Davis, and aircrewmembers AWC Todd Sitler and AW2 Matthew Polzin of Detachment 5 flew an SH-60B Seahawk, while embarked on board destroyer *Briscoe* (DD 977).

1 MARCH • VPU-1, which had been established on 1 July 1982, became a full command after 13 years as an independent detachment with an officer in charge. Cmdr. Walter Kreidler became the initial commanding officer when he relieved Lt. Cmdr. Jack Scorby.

21 MARCH • Cmdrs. Edward Baden and Edward Arcand, Lt. Cmdrs. Claude Nelson and Mike Lamb, Lt. Garry Vagt, AW1s Jack Peebles and Joe Taylor, AT1 Randy Osborne, AD1 Roger Pullman, AW2 Sam Rabideau, AO2 Ron Clarke, and AE2 Chris George of VP-69 manned a P-3C and assisted in the rescue of 17 people from fishing vessel *Toku*, disabled and adrift 450 nautical miles south of Guam. The Orion dropped supplies and directed merchant vessel *Microtrader* to pick up the victims and take *Toku* under tow.

N1601-BS-10/95-004



E-2C Hawkeyes are the eyes of the fleet. The airborne early warning and command and control aircraft were first deployed in 1964.

29 MARCH • The Tier III Minus DarkStar high-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle successfully completed its first flight at the USAF Test Flight Center, Edwards AFB, Calif.

29 MARCH • Cmdr. Nora Tyson became the first female naval flight officer to assume duties as executive officer of an operational squadron, VQ-4.

29 MARCH • Lt. Col. Marcelyn A. Adkins, USAF, became the first Air Force officer to serve as executive officer of VT-10, after the squadron's assumption of responsibility for basic navigation training for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

4 APRIL • VF-2 began the F-14 homeport shifts resulting from the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission when it arrived from NAS Miramar, Calif., at NAS Oceana, Va. The consolidation of Tomcat squadrons

was scheduled for completion by January 1997 with the additional transfer of VF-11, -31, -101, -211, and -213.

12 APRIL • McDonnell Douglas project test pilot Fred Madenwald completed the first supersonic F/A-18E Super Hornet flight tests at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

29 APRIL • VAW-123 became the initial East Coast squadron to deploy with E-2C Hawkeye Group 2 aircraft.

1 MAY • The first T-1A Jayhawks arrived at NAS Pensacola, Fla., for use in naval flight officer and Air Force navigator training conducted by VT-4 and -10. This heralded the first step in creating the Joint Navigator/Naval Flight Officer Training Program, which eventually trained all such applicants for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

6 MAY • AE3 Michelle Rehak sailed with HSL-42 Detachment 7 on board destroyer *Hayler* (DD 997),



An A-6E Intruder, BuNo 160423, from VA-34 assigned to CVW-7 launches an AGM-65 Maverick air-to-ground missile near Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., in late 1993.

National Museum of Naval Aviation 1996.253.6851

marking the first deployment of a female LAMPS aircraft maintenance technician on board a surface combatant.

14 MAY • The Navy selected Hughes Technical Services to assume operation of NAWCAD Indianapolis, Ind. Hughes began to control daily operations in 1997 during the first privatization of a naval facility.

20 MAY • Helicopters flew Marines of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit from amphibious assault ship *Guam* (LPH 9) to Bangui, Central African Republic, to evacuate Americans and to safeguard the U.S. Embassy during a crisis there.

30 MAY • The Navy approved the Cockpit 21 concept to replace analog displays in T-45A Goshawks with digital displays similar to those in carrier-based jets, in an effort to make training more effective for student aviators.

4 JUNE • Japanese destroyer *Yūgiri* (DD 153) inadvertently shot down Lt. Cmdr. William E. Royster and Lt. Keith A. Douglas in an A-6E, BuNo 155704, with her Phalanx Close-In Weapons System. The Intruder towed a gunnery target while operating from *Independence* (CV 62) during exercise RIMPAC '96. Royster and Douglas ejected and *Yūgiri* recovered both men.

6 JUNE • Helicopter Landing Trainer *IX-514* achieved her 50,000th landing since beginning operation in 1986. An MH-60G Pave Hawk of the Air Force 55th Special Operations Squadron landed on board while the vessel operated near NAS Pensacola, Fla.

7 JUNE • VMU-1, the first Marine unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Marines provided real-time imagery for reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

13 JUNE • Vice Adm. Donald D. Engen, a World War II naval aviator who had received the Navy Cross for his service during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, was named as the director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

14 JUNE • The F-14B LANTIRN (low altitude navigation/targeting infrared for night) system, which gave Tomcats the ability to drop laser-guided bombs, was introduced to the fleet at NAS Oceana, Va. LANTIRN-equipped F-14Bs first deployed operationally with VF-103 on board *Enterprise* (CVN 65) on 28 June 1996.

15 JUNE • The Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) celebrated its 50th anniversary on the date of the squadron's first organized performance in 1946.

21 JUNE • Cmdr. David J. Cheslak relieved Lt. Col. Carl K. Hergesell, USAF, as commanding officer of the 562nd Flying Training Squadron, and became the first naval flight officer to command an Air Force squadron.

28 JUNE • A-6E Intruders deployed for the last time on a carrier, with VA-75 on board *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

30 JUNE • Capt. David S. McCampbell, the Navy's top-ranking ace in World War II credited with 34 aerial victories and a Medal of Honor recipient, died at the age of 86.

1 JULY • Under a joint program in which EA-6B Prowlers replaced General Dynamics EF-111A Ravens as the Air Force's primary electronic countermeasures aircraft, the initial Air Force Prowler crew, Lt. Col. Ronald Rivard, and Capts. David Shintaku and Richard Armstrong of VAQ-129, carrier qualified in an EA-6B on board *Constellation* (CV 64).

10 JULY • HMLA-167 and -169 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., conducted the first fleet firings of two types of weapons: BGM-71E TOW (tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-command-link) antitank and AGM-114K Hellfire II air-to-surface missiles.

11 JULY • NSAWC stood up at NAS Fallon, Nev., Rear Adm. Bernard J. Smith commanding. The center focused on tactics development and assessment, training for fleet-

experienced aviators, joint operations, and training and standardization of training within aviation communities.

5 AUGUST • Naval aviator Adm. Jay L. Johnson, who had flown F-8 Crusaders during the Vietnam War, was sworn in by Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton as the 26th Chief of Naval Operations.

16 AUGUST • NASA selected Cmdr. Wendy B. Lawrence, the first female naval aviator in space, to train for shuttle mission STS-86, which involved extended stays on board Russian orbital research station *Mir*.

16 AUGUST • 1st Lt. Jeanne Buchanan, USMC, became the first female naval flight officer in the Marine Corps.

3 SEPTEMBER • Operation Desert Strike began—retaliation against the 31 August dispatch by Saddam Hussein of 40,000 Iraqi Republican Guardsmen and regulars against Irbil, a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan town 48 miles east of Mosul. Desert Strike attacked Iraqi fixed surface-to-air missile sites and air defense command and control facilities in southern Iraq. Cruiser *Shiloh* (CG 67) and destroyer *Laboon* (DDG 58) fired 14 of 27 BGM-109 Tomahawk TLAMs (Tomahawk-Land Attack Missile) launched in the first wave. Four F-14D Tomcats of VF-11, embarked on board *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), escorted two Air Force B-52H Stratofortresses that staged through Guam and launched 13 AGM-86C CALCMs (Conventional Air-Launched Cruise Missile). The next day, destroyers *Hewitt* (DD 966), *Laboon*, and *Russell* (DDG 59), and submarine *Jefferson City* (SSN 759) fired 17 more TLAMs. A P-3C Orion of VP-1 operated in the area forward deployed through NAF Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. In addition, *Enterprise* (CVN 65) received notification of deployment to the north Arabian Sea a month ahead of schedule.

3 SEPTEMBER • *George Washington* (CVN 73) became the first carrier to undergo more frequent maintenance periods under the Planned Incremental Maintenance Availability program. This aimed to save money by performing maintenance on a regular basis, thus allowing carriers to return to the fleet after shorter but more intensive overhaul periods.

12 SEPTEMBER • *Enterprise* (CVN 65) received orders to support Operation Desert Strike—retributive attacks against



Crewmembers of *Constellation* (CV 64)—Go Navy—and *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63)—Beat Army—spell out their sentiments, 18 October 1995. Unfortunately, Army won 14–13.

Iraq for crimes against the Kurds. *Enterprise* sprinted from the Adriatic Sea and, on 19 September, arrived in the Red Sea.

12 SEPTEMBER • Lt. Todd White of NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., piloted a P-3C at Point Mugu, Calif., during the first guided launch of an AGM-84E SLAM (Standoff Land Attack Missile) from an Orion.

13 SEPTEMBER • Cmdr. Ruth A. Forrest became the Navy's first female Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department officer on a carrier when she reported to *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

20 SEPTEMBER • The Senate Armed Services Committee modified the Tailhook reporting requirements for officers nominated for promotion. It continued the requirement of Tailhook certification for officers potentially implicated by a post-Tailhook investigation, but it did not require further certification for subsequent nominations. The revision did not address the issue of officers not on active duty as of September 1991, and also allowed the personnel subject to Tailhook certification—but not yet nominated—to review all information held by the Navy relating to their activities at Tailhook, allowing them to submit information on their behalf.

NOVEMBER • The Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System completed shore-based technical evaluation at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The system was consequently installed on board *George Washington* (CVN 73).

9 DECEMBER • AH-1Ws of HMLA-269, deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, became the first Super Cobras to do so with a night targeting system that allowed the helicopters to operate in all battlefield conditions.

1997

During 1997, *Independence* (CV 62) received the first flight simulator installed on board a carrier. The Carrier-Based Weapons Systems Trainer, designed by Boeing, enabled F/A-18 Hornet pilots to perform training and operating procedures standardization checks, review emergency procedures, and simulate various types of flight operations with different weapons.

18 JANUARY • Lt. Francis D. Morley made the first F/A-18F arrested landing, in the first two-seat Super Hornet, designated F1, on board *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) during the ship's sea trials.

28 FEBRUARY • 1st Lt. Kerri L. Schubert, USMC, completed her naval flight officer (NFO) training and became the first female Marine NFO chosen to fly an F/A-18D Hornet.

1 MARCH • The operational testing and evaluation of the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System began when an F/A-18 Hornet from NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., trapped on board *George Washington* (CVN 73).

15 MARCH • The first V-22 Osprey built to production standards arrived for testing and evaluation at NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md.

18 MARCH • Lt. Carl P. Chebi of Naval Weapons Test Squadron, China Lake, in an F/A-18C Hornet, made the first test firing of an AGM-84H SLAM-ER (Standoff Land Attack Missile–Expanded Response).

10 APRIL • VF-213 arrived at NAS Oceana, Va. The move marked the final F-14 Tomcat squadron transfer from NAS Miramar, Calif., mandated by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

11 APRIL • Capt. Jane S. O'Dea retired. O'Dea had been one of an initial group of six women who trained as naval aviators, receiving her wings in April 1974.

21 APRIL • Lts. Michael J. Angelopoulos, Timothy R. Worthy, and Jamie Marek, and AW2 Brent Hudson of VS-22, made the first S-3B Viking launch of an AGM-65F Maverick infrared air-to-surface missile.

29 MAY • During Operation Noble Obelisk, Marine CH-53E Super Stallions flying from amphibious assault ship *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) evacuated people from Sierra Leone, West Africa, because of instability generated by a coup in that country.

2 JUNE • The Navy and Air Force at Randolph AFB, Texas, unveiled the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System aircraft, the T-6A Texan II designed to replace Navy T-34C Turbomentors and Air Force T-37 Tweets.

8 JUNE • A Northrop Grumman crew flew an EA-6B Block 89A upgrade validation aircraft during its first flight. The Navy intended to upgrade all Prowlers to the Improved Capability II Block 89A configurations.

9 JUNE • NADEP Cherry Point, N.C., completed the first conversion of an F-4S Phantom II, BuNo 155524, to a QF-4S drone to provide fighter-sized targets for weapon system testing and evaluation. The depot also delivered to HMM-162 the first CH-46E Sea Knight, BuNo 157697, to undergo a full-scale airframe change.

18 JUNE • The Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron at NAS Patuxent River, Md., assisted a Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) team in testing a cargo hook restraint system, which allowed SEALs to attach their assault raft to the bottom of an HH-60H Seahawk for faster deployment, instead of occupying space in the cabin area.

8 AUGUST • Capt. Rosemary B. Mariner, the last of the original group of female naval aviators, retired after 24



An older EA-6B Expanded Capability Prowler, BuNo 159586, leads a newer Improved Capability II version, BuNo 162934. Both are from VAQ-132, CVW-17, operating from NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., 1993.

years of service. Mariner's accomplishments included the first female naval aviator to fly tactical jet aircraft—A-4E Skyhawks and A-7E Corsair IIs—and to command an operational squadron, VAQ-34.

22 AUGUST • The Navy received the first of 17 T-39N Sabreliners as part of a \$42.5 million acquisition for use in undergraduate naval flight officer training. The Navy owned the jets, but Boeing North American provided all the pilot services, maintenance, and ground support.

1 SEPTEMBER • *Nimitz* (CVN 68) completed a global circumnavigation when she shifted her homeport from Puget

Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash., to Newport News, Va. The sail marked the first operational deployment of the AGM-154A JSOW (Joint Standoff Weapon).

11 DECEMBER • Researchers from the Science Applications International Corporation flew the manned version of the Vigilante, designed as an optionally piloted or unmanned aerial vehicle, under consideration to perform tactical reconnaissance from destroyers and cruisers.

15 DECEMBER • A T-45C Goshawk modernized with the Cockpit 21 system entered service with TraWing 1 at NAS Meridian, Miss.



The Navy's SH-60B Seahawk is a sea-adapted version of the Army's UH-60 Black Hawk. The first production versions flew in February 1983.

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18 JANUARY • Iraq's unwillingness to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors and other issues prompted Central Command to launch Operation Desert Thunder I—a large-scale deployment to the Middle East that included the planned continual availability of two aircraft carriers. On this date, *Nimitz* (CVN 68), *George Washington* (CVN 73), and British carrier *Invincible* (R 05) operated in the region along with a total of more than 50 additional allied ships and submarines, including amphibious assault ship *Guam* (LPH 9). A resurgence of tensions later in the year led to additional deployments as part of Operation Desert Thunder II.

19 JANUARY • Magnum 447, an SH-60B Seahawk manned by Lts. Paul A. Puopolo and Dabney R. Kern, and AW2 Ron Williams of HSL-44 Detachment 4, made the first fleet firing of an AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missile.

3 FEBRUARY • Capts. Richard J. Ashby, USMC; Joseph P. Schweitzer, USMC; William J. Rancy II, USMC; and Chandler P. Seagraves, USMC; of VMAQ-2 from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., severed the cable of a ski gondola near Cavalese, Italy, while on a low-level training mission in an EA-6B Prowler, BuNo. 163045. The accident killed all 20 people in the gondola. The crew was uninjured and the plane made an emergency landing at Aviano Air Base.

8 FEBRUARY • *Independence* (CV 62) relieved *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Thunder I—a large-scale deployment to the Middle East to pressure the Iraqis and bolster the UN’s negotiating position.

20 FEBRUARY • The Navy ended 42 years of modern support of Antarctic research and Operation Deep Freeze with the disestablishment of Naval Support Unit Antarctica. The service transferred the mission to the 109th Mobility Air Wing, New York Air National Guard, but provided limited flight support to the program throughout the 1998–1999 research season.

20 FEBRUARY • Judge Robert Hodges Jr. of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruled concerning the Navy’s decision to cancel the A-12A Avenger. Hodges ruled that the Navy was liable for \$1.8 billion because the government, not the contractors, had canceled the program. The Navy appealed the decision.

3 MARCH • British carrier *Illustrious* (R 06) replaced *Invincible* (R 05) in the Persian Gulf while operating with *George Washington* (CVN 73) and *Independence* (CV 62) during Operation Desert Thunder I.

3 MARCH • Maj. Bill Wainwright, USMC, and Capt. William Witzig, USMC, made the first night flight of a V-22 while using night vision goggles during Osprey testing and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

5 MARCH • NAWC (AD) Patuxent River, Md., coordinated the first test flight of a Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical RQ-4A Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle at Edwards AFB, Calif.

5 MARCH • Pilot Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey M. Bocchicchio, copilot Lt. Jason A. Burns, and AW2 Ferninand Hollis of HSL-44 Detachment 1, in an SH-60B Seahawk operating from destroyer *Scott* (DDG 995) 110 miles east of Honduras, assisted in the capture of a 35-foot boat, four suspected narcotics smugglers, and 57 bales of cocaine weighing more than 3,000 pounds.

12 MARCH • *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) relieved *George Washington* (CVN 73) in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Thunder I.

12 MARCH • The Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Division rolled out the first of nine OPT II Pioneer Plus unmanned aerial vehicles at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

14 MARCH • Capt. Duncan H. Read (Naval Aviator No. 145), who had served during both world wars and was one of four naval aviator brothers, died at the age of 101.

25 MARCH • Two SH-60Bs of HSL-40 from NS Mayport, Fla., successfully rescued six utility workers stranded on a 670-foot-high burning smoke stack at the Palatka Seminole Electric Plant, Palatka, Fla. Lts. Andrew I. Krasny and Mark T. Murray, AW1 Andy Zawolik, and AW2 Heath Rominger in Airwolf 407, and Lts. Billy Carter and Dana R. Gordon, and AW2s Eric Kazmerchak and Scott West in Airwolf 403 made the rescue.

30 MARCH • The Chief of Naval Operations approved the redesignation of all VAQs from tactical electronic warfare squadrons to electronic attack squadrons. The action reflected a shift toward joint doctrine in the suppression of enemy air defenses, and in joint Navy/Air Force expeditionary squadrons.

3 APRIL • *George Washington* (CVN 73) returned from a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf and disembarked the 26 Marines of her security detachment, ending an era of a Marine Corps security presence on board carriers.

8 APRIL • Boeing delivered the first production AGM-84H SLAM-ER (Standoff Land Attack Missile–Expanded Response) to the Navy.

11 APRIL • The first flight of a Hawkeye 2000 occurred at Northrop Grumman, St. Augustine, Fla. The fifth generation of the E-2C airborne early warning command and control aircraft integrated improvements to the mission computer, advanced control indicator set workstations, satellite communications, and an advanced equipment cooling system.

18 MAY • The Navy announced the relocation of all East Coast F/A-18 Hornet squadrons from NAS Cecil Field, Fla. Nine fleet squadrons and the fleet readiness squadron subsequently shifted to NAS Oceana, Va., and two fleet

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squadrons relocated to MCAS Beaufort, S.C. The plans called for the squadrons to have completed their moves by October 1999.

19 MAY • A search team headed by Dr. Robert D. Ballard operating from deep submergence support ship *Laney Chouest* located *Yorktown* (CV 5), which had been sunk by the Japanese during the Battle of Midway on 7 June 1942, on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean at 16,650 feet.

26 MAY • Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton approved the transfer of *Hornet* (CV 12) to the Aircraft Carrier *Hornet* Foundation. The organization restored the ship, and on 17 October 1998 opened the *Hornet* Memorial Museum to the public at former NAS Alameda, Calif.

2 JUNE • Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installation and Facilities) Duncan Holaday signed a record of decision to move VAW-112, -113, -116, and -117 from MCAS Miramar to NAWS Point Mugu, Calif.

6 JUNE • Two C-130 Hercules from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit evacuated 172 Americans and third-country nationals from Asmara, Eritrea, to Amman, Jordan, because of a border dispute that led to fighting between the Eritreans and Ethiopians.

15 JUNE • The first production T-6A Texan II made its maiden flight at Raytheon, Wichita, Kans.

17 JUNE • An SH-60F Seahawk of HS-3 conducted air searches and provided aerial reconnaissance to assist firefighters battling fires near Jacksonville, Fla.

26 JUNE • World War II ace Maj. Gen. Marion E. Carl Jr., USMC, was shot and killed during a burglary at his home in Roseburg, Oreg.

29 JUNE • A Tier III Minus DarkStar high-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle flew for the first time since the initial vehicle crashed on 22 April 1996. The mishap prompted the redesign of the landing gear and flight control software.

3 JULY • An MH-53E Sea Dragon of HC-4 from NAS Sigonella, Sicily, helped combat a series of wildfires by providing water to firefighters battling the blazes.

8 JULY • The Navy and Air Force accepted the AGM-154A JSOW (Joint Standoff Weapon) as ready for operational service at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas.

8 JULY • Lt. Cmdr. Thomas A. Kennedy, Lts. James B. Smelley and Mike Zaner, Lt. j.g. Thomas F. Foster Jr., AW1 Bill Trippett, and AW2 Brian Mowry of HSL-44 Detachment 5, in an SH-60B Seahawk embarked on board frigate *John L. Hall* (FFG 32), assisted in the recovery of more than 2,000 pounds of cocaine from two boats near Panama.

8 JULY • The Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division accepted the UH-1N Iroquois weapon system trainer for training Marine pilots, at Orlando, Fla.

18 JULY • *Independence* (CV 62) turned over duties as the permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier to *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) while at NS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

20 JULY • The Navy inaugurated FlashJet, a less expensive and more environmentally friendly method to remove paint from T-45 Goshawks via pulsed light energy and dry ice pellets, at NAS Kingsville, Texas.

22 JULY • Rear Adm. Alan B. Shepard Jr. died at the age of 74 after a lengthy battle with leukemia. Shepard had been one of the original seven Mercury astronauts and, on 5 May 1961, became the first American in space during his flight on board *Freedom 7*. On 31 January 1971, Shepard returned to space on board *Apollo 14*, becoming the fifth man to walk on the moon.

7 AUGUST • Al-Qaeda terrorists detonated truck bombs at the U.S. Embassies at Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing at least 301 people including 12 Americans, and injuring an estimated 5,000 victims.

13 AUGUST • General Electric delivered the first two F414 production engines for the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet program.



This EP-3E Aries II, BuNo 149668, is a modified P-3A Orion, which was delivered on 31 July 1962. It was converted in 1970 and transferred to VQ-2 on 30 July 1971 and provided intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance until retired in 1995.

20 AUGUST • Operation Infinite Reach (Resolute Response) began—two simultaneous retaliatory raids in response to the twin al-Qaeda attacks on the embassies in East Africa on 7 August. Cruisers *Cowpens* (CG 63) and *Shiloh* (CG 67), destroyers *Elliot* (DD 967) and *Milius* (DDG 69), and submarine *Columbia* (SSN 771) of the *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) Carrier Battle Group sailing in the north Arabian Sea fired 73 BGM-109 TLAMs (Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles) at the Zhawar Kili al-Badr terrorist training and support complex, 30 miles southwest of Khowst, Afghanistan. Destroyers *Briscoe* (DD 977) and *Hayler* (DD 997) steaming in the Red Sea launched six TLAMs against the al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant near Khartoum, Sudan. Intelligence analysts suspected the plant of having ties to terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and of manufacturing precursor chemicals for the deadly VX series of nerve gas. The Sudanese and critics claimed that the plant did not produce VX. Vessels involved in these battles included amphibious assault ship *Essex* (LHD 2), dock landing ship *Anchorage* (LSD 36),

and amphibious transport dock *Duluth* (LPD 6), with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked. Forward-deployed VQ-1 EP-3E Aries IIs and VP-9 P-3C Orions operated as part of Task Force 57. The attacks killed at least 11 terrorists. *Abraham Lincoln* evaluated the “pivotal” role of her command, control, communications, computers, and information suite in the two simultaneous operations on two separate continents, and in the dissemination of the initial battle damage assessment.

20 AUGUST • The reconfigurable flight controls of an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet were demonstrated at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The control system replaced the mechanical backup of earlier Hornets, greatly enhancing aircraft safety and the pilot’s ability to recover control of the aircraft.

25 SEPTEMBER • E-6B Mercury Take Charge and Move Out aircraft operating from Tinker AFB, Okla., took over the flying command post mission from the Air Force following the retirement of the last EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft.

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1 OCTOBER • VFA-122 at NAS Lemoore, Calif., was established as the first F/A-18E/F Super Hornet fleet readiness squadron.

19 OCTOBER • HSL-46 Detachment 9 participated in its first successful drug interdiction mission during a deployment on board cruiser *Ticonderoga* (CG 47). The detachment recovered about four metric tons of cocaine with a street value of \$50 million.

20 OCTOBER • VXE-6 departed for its final tour of duty in Antarctica to provide aerial and logistical support for the Antarctic program.

1 NOVEMBER • P-3Cs began flying daily surveillance missions over Kosovo in support of NATO enforcement operations. The Orions' onboard surveillance equipment provided allied commanders with real-time video and radar images of the fighting on the ground.

2 DECEMBER • NAWS Point Mugu, Calif., was redesignated NAS Point Mugu.

3 DECEMBER • Lt. Cmdr. William C. Hamilton fired two AGM-88 HARMs (High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile) from F/A-18F, BuNo 165170, in the first full-system live-fire test of the Super Hornet program with forward-firing ordnance.

16 DECEMBER • The coalition launched Operation Desert Fox against the Iraqis.

1999

5 JANUARY • In a dogfight over Iraq, Navy and Air Force aircraft unsuccessfully fired six air-to-air missiles against Iraqi MiG-25 Foxbats that violated the no-fly zone.

14 JANUARY • An engineering and manufacturing development MV-22, designated Osprey No. 10, began initial sea trials on board amphibious assault ship *Saipan* (LHA 2) and dock landing ship *Tortuga* (LSD 46). The trials extended through 8 February.

25 JANUARY • F/A-18C Hornets of VFA-22 and -94, embarked on board *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), made the first operational launch of the AGM-154A JSOW (Joint Standoff Weapon) in action against Iraqi military targets during Operation Southern Watch.

27 JANUARY • The United States promulgated new rules of engagement that allowed allied aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones to target a wider range of Iraqi air defense systems and supporting installations, in order to reduce their overall capabilities against the aerial patrols.

24 FEBRUARY • Three LC-130R Hercules of VXE-6 returned to NAS Point Mugu, Calif., after a four-month deployment to Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze 1998 to 1999. This marked the end of VXE-6's support of the Antarctic program.

3 MARCH • The F/A-18F completed its second round of sea trials on board *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) during the ship's sea trials off the Virginia Capes through 14 March. Capt. Robert O. Wirt Jr.; Lt. Cmdrs. Timothy H. Baker, Robert L. Floyd, and Michael M. Wallace; Maj. Matt Shihadeh, USMC; and Lts. Alan D. Armstrong, Erik O. Etz, and Klas W. Ohman flew the first two dual-seat Super Hornets.

10 MARCH • VC-6 Detachment A completed a four-week RQ-2A Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle deployment in support of the counternarcotics Operation Alliance to NAF El Centro, Calif. Over 32 sorties, the detachment used a forward-looking infrared-sensor equipped Pioneer to apprehend 438 suspected drug traffickers/illegal aliens, together with narcotics valued at \$8.9 million.

18 MARCH • NADEP Jacksonville, Fla., completed the modification of 32 P-3C Orions designed to enhance the fleet's ability to seek out drug runners from standoff ranges. The Counter Drug Upgrade modifications included the replacement of the air search radar by the same APG-66 multimode radar used in many General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcons. The modification of the first Orion, BuNo 157311, had begun on 15 September 1995, and the final plane, BuNo 161014, completed the upgrade on this date.



USN 990412-N-CO140-004

An F-14D Tomcat launches from the port catapult of *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) during Operation Allied Force, 12 April 1999.

24 MARCH • After diplomatic efforts to counter what Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic termed “cleansing” of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo collapsed, on this date, NATO began Operation Allied Force—an air campaign to reduce the ability of the Serbs to sustain their operations. Naval aviation contributed land-based EA-6B Prowlers and EP-3E Aries IIs and F/A-18D Hornets. Allied aircraft dropped Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) operationally for the first time. Additional aircraft involved included five Antisurface Warfare Improvement Program–modified P-3C Orions of VP-5 equipped with synthetic aperture radar and AGM-84E SLAM (Standoff Land Attack Missiles), and RQ-1A Predator camera-carrying unmanned aerial vehicles.

24 MARCH • VS-31 bid farewell to the last aviation warfare systems operator–rated crewmen during their removal from S-3 Viking mission requirements and transfer to other aircraft.

26 MARCH • The Navy released plans to select 12 limited duty officers and chief warrant officers as naval flight officers (NFO). One new NFO was scheduled to be assigned to each patrol squadron, with periodic selection boards held to determine replacements as needed.

27 MARCH • A surface-to-air missile shot down an Air Force Lockheed F-117A Nighthawk on a night mission over Kosovo. VAQ-134 assisted with the rescue of the pilot, neutralizing Yugoslav air defenses by jamming and firing AGM-88 HARMs (High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile).

3 APRIL • *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) arrived in the Mediterranean to support Operation Allied Force. Aircraft flew a total of 4,270 sorties of all types from the carrier during the operation, and destroyed or damaged 447 tactical and 88 fixed military targets.



USN 990414-N-6240R-513

After a strike into Kosovo, an AV-8B Harrier II of HMM-266 returns to amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4), 14 April 1999.

11 APRIL • MH-53E Sea Dragons and H-46 Sea Knights of HM-14 and -15, embarked on board mine countermeasures ship *Inchon* (MCS 12), delivered 6,000-pounds of relief supplies to refugees in Kukes, Albania. These flights began the Navy's contribution to NATO Operation Shining Hope—humanitarian assistance to people displaced by the fighting in Kosovo.

13 APRIL • Lts. Christopher D. Marrs, Michael W. Reinmuth, and Douglas W. Carpenter, and Lt. j.g. Dirk J. Hart of VS-31, successfully guided an AGM-84 SLAM (Standoff Land Attack Missile) from an S-3B Viking for the first time. Lt. Kevin Healey of VFA-131 piloted the F/A-18 Hornet that launched the missile at San Nicolas Island, Calif.

1 MAY • Five P-3C Orions of VP-40 operating out of Kadena, Okinawa, rescued 18 survivors from a Filipino ship that broke apart during Tropical Storm Leo in the South China Sea.

12 MAY • “The Today Show” made the first live television broadcast from an aircraft carrier underway on board *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) in the Mediterranean.

27 MAY • F/A-18E/F Super Hornets entered their six-month operational evaluation with VX-9 at NAWS China Lake, Calif.

27 MAY • Aircraft No. 11, the first of 360 low-rate initial production MV-22 Ospreys planned for the Marine Corps, arrived at the MV-22 Multi-Service Operational Test Team, MCAF Quantico, Va.

1 JUNE • A ceremony celebrated the ground breaking for a \$2.1 million hangar to house VC-6 Detachment A at Webster Field Annex, NAS Patuxent River, Md. This was the Navy's first RQ-2A Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle hangar.



USMC 990608-N-9593R-003

Marine Sgts. Todd Abbott and Andrew McNally man their .50-caliber machine guns on board a CH-53D Sea Stallion while transporting Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Skopje, Macedonia, 8 June 1999.

30 JUNE • An F/A-18D made the first guided launch of an AIM-9X air-to-air missile from a Hornet at NAWS China Lake, Calif. The Sidewinder successfully intercepted a QF-4 drone.

5 AUGUST • The first fully upgraded SH-60R Seahawk rolled out at Lockheed Martin, Owego, N.Y. The Navy planned a total of 250 SH-60Rs for upgrades through 2012.

10 AUGUST • The Navy retired the last two ES-3A Shadows during the deactivation of VQ-6 at NAS Jacksonville, Fla. The retrofitting of 16 Shadows from S-3B Vikings had provided battle group commanders with state-of-the-art organic reconnaissance, but the upgrade cost proved prohibitive. Shore-based EA-6B Prowlers and EP-3E Aries IIs subsequently performed the specialized tasking.

11 AUGUST • Secretary of the Navy Richard J. Danzig announced the assignment of a team to observe the 1999 Tailhook convention to evaluate the possibility of reestablishing the Navy's connection with the organization.

19 AUGUST • Amphibious assault ship *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) crossed the Mediterranean to Turkey in response to a 17 August 7.4-magnitude earthquake that devastated the region, killing more than 24,000 people. On 23 August, helicopters from *Kearsarge* began to ferry aid to the victims, and on 12 September the ship left the area.

2 SEPTEMBER • In the Caribbean, a P-3C Orion of VP-26 assisted Coast Guardsmen with the seizure of a vessel smuggling 2,000-pounds of cocaine.

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15 SEPTEMBER • Hurricane Floyd forced the evacuation of 80 Navy ships and dozens of aircraft from between Mayport, Fla., and Norfolk, Va. Two HH-60H Seahawks of HS-11 rescued eight crewmembers when heavy seas swamped tugboat *Gulf Majesty* and her tow, a container barge, 300 miles off Florida. In another incident, HS-11 rescued another mariner.

1 OCTOBER • NavAdmin 271/99 established career enlisted flyer incentive pay, and also increased the selective reenlistment bonus. Simultaneously, the service offered aviation continuation pay program for Fiscal Year 1999 to pilots who had reached or surpassed their minimum service requirement.

7 OCTOBER • As tensions caused by rival independence movements in East Timor erupted into warfare, the UN launched Operation Stabilise—a multinational peacekeeping effort. On this date, amphibious assault ship *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) arrived in the area to participate. On 26 October, amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5) relieved *Belleau Wood*, and on 26 November *Peleliu* left the region.

31 OCTOBER • Egypt Air Flight 900, a Boeing 767-300ER, crashed 60 miles east of Nantucket Island, Mass., killing all 217 on board. Navy commands that assisted in the search for victims and wreckage included three MH-53E Sea Dragons operating from amphibious transport dock *Austin* (LPD 4).

17 NOVEMBER • The first seven training and evaluation F/A-18E/Fs arrived at Super Hornet fleet readiness squadron VFA-122, NAS Lemoore, Calif. A total of 92 aircraft were scheduled for delivery to the squadron's parent strike fighter wing by 2004.

22 NOVEMBER • The Navy and Coast Guard participated in the first successful shipboard landing of a CL-327 Guardian vertical takeoff and landing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) on board Coast Guard Cutter *Thetis* (WMEC 910) off Key West, Fla. Sailors simultaneously tested the UAV common automatic recovery system for fleet compatibility.

24 NOVEMBER • Lt. Cmdr. Gregory C. Huffman piloted the first ATFLIR (advanced targeting forward looking infrared)-equipped F/A-18D Hornet at NAWS China Lake, Calif. The system featured improved target acquisition at greater standoff ranges.

3 DECEMBER • Local opposition drove the Puerto Rican government to ask the Navy to abandon its live-fire exercises on Vieques Island. The government rejected the Navy's proposal to end the exercises in five years, which undermined fleet readiness and compelled *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and amphibious assault ship *Wasp* (LHD 1) to disrupt their training schedules.

17 DECEMBER • Civilians from Seaward Services, Inc., replaced the Navy crew of helicopter landing trainer *IX-514* at NAS Pensacola, Fla.