

# 1996

## The Year in Review



By William T. Baker

**D**uring 1996, the Navy maintained a constant global presence supporting national interests and reinforcing international policy as *Enterprise* (CVN 65), *Nimitz* (CVN 68), *Kitty Hawk* (CV 62), *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), *George Washington* (CVN 73), *America* (CV 66) and *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) deployed in support of Operations Joint Endeavor, Desert Strike, Southern Watch and Sharp Guard.

Naval Aviation looked forward to the

future and reflected on its past. *America* was decommissioned on 30 September after 31 years of service, the venerable A-6 *Intruder* deployed with Attack Squadron 75 for its final deployment and the *Blue Angels* marked their 50th anniversary. Looking ahead to the 21st century, the Navy received the first F/A-18E/F *Super Hornets*, the LANTIRN (low-altitude navigation and targeting infrared radar for night)-capable F-14B *Tomcat* and christened the newest aircraft carrier, *Harry*



Ted Carlson took this stunning sunset shot of a Patrol Squadron 4 P-3C *Orion* at Barbers Point, Hawaii.

***S. Truman (CVN 75).***

Many significant firsts were achieved during 1996. Women continued to make their mark as 1st Lt. Jeanne Buchanan, USMC, earned her wings as the first woman Naval Flight Officer in the Marine Corps and AE3 Michelle Rehak of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 42 became the first woman Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System aircraft maintenance technician deployed aboard a combatant. Joint training and operations

increased cooperation between the Navy and the Air Force as the first Air Force crew carrier qualified in the EA-6B *Prowler*, and the first T-1A *Jayhawks* for use in the Joint Navigator Naval Flight Training program were received by Training Squadrons 4 and 10.

Bringing to a close the 86th year of Naval Aviation, the challenges of 1996 that were met with the highest degree of professionalism and commitment are highlighted in this review.

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PH3 Todd Summerlin

An HH-60 *Seahawk* lands aboard *Admiral Kuznetsov* while the Russian carrier conducted training exercises with U.S. Navy ships in the Mediterranean.

### January

**4** Lt. Jean O'Brien of Patrol Squadron 16 became the Navy's first woman to earn the designation of patrol squadron tactical coordinator in a P-3C *Orion*.

**7** An HH-60 *Seahawk* embarked aboard *America* (CV 66)—piloted by Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 11 CO Cdr. Robert L. Wilde and copilot Lt. Craig Davis, with crew members AW1 Rob Betts and AW3 Brett Shopsin—transported VAdm. Donald L. Pilling, Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet, to *Admiral Kuznetsov*, making HS-11 the first Navy squadron to land on board a Russian aircraft carrier.

**7** Capt. Daniel W. "Tommy" Tomlinson, USNR (Ret.), a WW I Naval Aviator who created the flight demonstration team *The Three Seahawks* and who served as Commander Naval Air Transport Service, Pacific Wing and Deputy Commander of the Berlin Airlift, died at age 98.

**10** Naval Aviation Depot, Norfolk, Va., rolled out the first production F-14A/B to complete the

major upgrade program that provided the *Tomcat* with a multimission capability and improved threat-warning sensitivity, threat processing and displays.

**11–20** Naval Aviators and astronauts LCDr. Brent W. Jett, Jr., and Cdr. Winston E. Scott, serving respectively as pilot and mission specialist aboard *Endeavour*, retrieved the Space Flying Unit satellite and deployed and retrieved the SPARTAN device used for gathering astronomical data. They also conducted two spacewalks to evaluate and better understand the assembly requirements and techniques for the international space station.

**13** VAdm. Donald L. Pilling, Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet, hosted Adm. Igor V. Kasatonov, First Deputy Commander of the Russian Federation Navy, on board *America* (CV 66).

**18** Lts. Dane Dobbs and Jim Skarbek of Fighter Squadron 101 made the first arrested landing aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) flying an F-14B *Tomcat*.

**24–30** Naval Air Warfare Center

Weapons Division, Point Mugu, Calif., conducted flight performance testing of the ADM-141C Improved Tactical Air Launch Decoy designed to deceive enemy radar and intercept aircraft in a hostile environment.

**30** The Senate confirmed Adm. Joseph W. Prueher, a Vietnam-era A-6 pilot and current Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, relieving Adm. Richard C. Macke.

### February

**5** The Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School completed its move from NAS Miramar, Calif., to NAS Fallon, Nev., and commenced its first training class for the E-2C *Hawkeye* community at its new location.

**5** The Navy awarded a \$4 billion contract to the Raytheon Aircraft Company for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System aircraft, the Beech/Pilatus PC-9 Mk III, for the joint Air Force–Navy program following resolution of a series of contract disputes that delayed the awarding of the contract.

7 VR-58 christened its newest C-9B (BuNo 160051) the *City of Orlando* to commemorate the Navy's relationship with Orlando, Fla., as mayor Glenda E. Hood proclaimed the day Fleet Logistic Support Squadron Fifty-Eight Day.

15 McDonnell Douglas delivered the first of seven F/A-18E/F *Super Hornets* to Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md., to begin a three-year flight test program to prepare the aircraft for duty aboard fleet aircraft carriers.

20 An SH-60B *Seahawk*—piloted by LCdr. John Funk and Lt. Rich Davis, with crew members AWC Todd Sitler and AW2 Matthew

commander aboard *Columbia* when the Tethered Satellite System was deployed but lost when the tether cable failed. He also conducted experiments using the U.S. Microgravity Payload, continuing research on materials under zero-G conditions.

28 VAdm. Walter J. Davis, Jr., relieved RAdm. David R. Morris as the Navy's Gray Eagle, becoming the most senior Naval Aviator by date of designation, on board *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

## March

1 Patrol Squadron Special Projects Unit 1, established on 1

dren from a 40-foot fishing vessel. The aircrew located the disabled *Toku*, adrift after losing engine power 450 nautical miles south of Guam, dropped survival supplies and directed the merchant vessel *Microtrader* to the location, where her crew picked up the passengers and put *Toku* under tow.

26 Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Charles C. Krulak called a 48-hour halt to all nonessential Marine Corps flight operations after a series of aircraft mishaps in which the Corps lost five aircrew and six aircraft between 16 February and 25 March.

29 The Tier III Minus DarkStar high altitude endurance unmanned aerial vehicle, designed for reconnaissance of highly defended areas, successfully completed its first flight at the Air Force Test Flight Center, Edwards AFB, Calif.

29 VAdm. William A. Martin, USN (Ret.), a WW II Naval Aviator who pioneered the development of night carrier operations, died at 85.

29 Cdr. Nora Tyson became the first woman Naval Flight Officer to assume duties as executive officer of an operational squadron (Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4), where she would serve for a year prior to assuming command.

29 Lt. Col. Marcelyn A. Adkins, USAF, became the first Air Force officer to serve as executive officer of Training Squadron 10 since it assumed responsibility for basic navigation training for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

## April

4 Beginning the home port shifts resulting from Base Realignment and Closure Commission rulings, Fighter Squadron (VF) 2 was the first F-14 *Tomcat* unit to arrive at NAS Oceana, Va., from NAS Miramar, Calif. Consolidation of F-14 squadrons was scheduled to be completed by January 1997 with the arrival of VFs 211, 101, 11, 31 and 213.

12 An F/A-18E *Super Hornet*, E1, piloted by McDonnell Douglas project test pilot Fred Madenwald, completed its first supersonic flight tests at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Pilot Lt. Eric Percival and radar intercept officer Lt. John Keiser of VF-31's *Fighting Tomcatters* arrive at their new home aboard NAS Oceana, Va., on 15 November 1996. VF-31 was moved from NAS Miramar, Calif., by order of the Base Realignment and Closure initiative.



PH1 Alexander C. Hicks, Jr.

Polzin—from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 44 Det 5 aboard *Briscoe* (DD 977) became the first East Coast Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System MK III squadron to fire the AGM-119B Penguin antiship missile.

22 Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jeremy M. "Mike" Boorda ordered a 72-hour safety standdown for all F-14 *Tomcat* squadrons to evaluate flight operations and safety procedures following several mishaps.

22 Feb-9 Mar Naval Aviator and astronaut Lt. Col. Andrew M. Allen, USMC, was the STS-75 mission

July 1982, became a full command after 13 years as an independent detachment with an officer in charge. Cdr. Walter Kreitler became the first commanding officer, relieving LCdr. Jack Scorby.

21 Reservists from Patrol Squadron 69 flying a P-3C *Orion*—pilot Cdr. Ed Baden, copilots LCdr. Claude Nelson and Lt. Garry Vagt and crew members Cdr. Ed Arcand, LCdr. Mike Lamb, AW1s Jack Peebles and Joe Taylor, AT1 Randy Osborne, AW2 Sam Rabideau, AO2 Ron Clarke, AD1 Roger Pullman and AE2 Chris George—assisted in the rescue of 12 adults and 5 chil-

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PH1 Stephen Batiz

**29** Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 123 became the first East Coast squadron to deploy with the new Grumman E-2C *Hawkeye* Group 2 aircraft.

**LCdr. Bill McMasters of Fighter Squadron 154 preflights his aircraft awaiting launch aboard *Independence* (CV 62). The permanently forward-deployed carrier was moved closer to the Taiwan Straits on 10 March, following China's intent to conduct live-fire war games off the coast of Taiwan.**

### May

**1** Among the 35 astronaut candidates selected by NASA, the Navy and Marine Corps selectees included Cdrs. David M. Brown and Lee M. Morin; LCdrs. Stephen N. Frick, Daniel C. Burbank, Laurel B. Clark, John B. Herrington, William C. McCool, Lisa M. Nowak and Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper; twin brothers Lts. Scott J. and Mark E. Kelly; and Marine aviators Capt. Charles O. Hobaugh and Maj. Christopher J. Loria.

**1** The first T-1A *Jayhawks* for use in Naval Flight Officer (NFO) and Air Force Navigator (AFN) training conducted by Training Squadrons 4 and 10 arrived at NAS Pensacola, Fla. This was the first step in creating the Joint Navigator Naval Flight Officer Training Program, which will eventually

train all NFOs/AFNs for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

**6** AE3 Michelle Rehak deployed with Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 42 Det 7 aboard *Hayler* (DD 997), becoming the first woman Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System aircraft maintenance technician deployed aboard a combatant.

**9** Retired officers Adms. Forrest P. Sherman and Maurice F. Weisner, VAdm. James B. Stockdale, RAdm. Joseph C. Clifton and Gen. Christian F. Schilt, USMC, and Mr. Charles Kaman were inducted into the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla.

**9** Sanders, a Lockheed Martin company, was awarded a \$5.9 million contract to produce new multi-purpose color flat panel displays for

the S-3B *Viking*. Initial production called for 130 units, with an option for an additional 128 units to be delivered over five years.

**14** Hughes Technical Services was selected over two other companies to assume operation of Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Indianapolis, Ind. Hughes would assume control of daily operations in 1997, marking the first privatization of a military facility.

**16** Jay Beasley, a former Lockheed test pilot and aviation pioneer known as "Mr. P-3" for his contributions to naval maritime patrol and development of innovative safety procedures for the P-3 *Orion* program, died at age 82.

**18** *Bataan* (LPH 5), the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship and the second ship to bear the name, was christened at Ingalls

Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss.

**19–29** Naval Flight Officer and astronaut Cdr. Daniel W. Bursch served as a mission specialist on STS-77 aboard *Endeavour* from which numerous scientific and technological experiments were conducted and four rendezvous maneuvers were executed with two satellites.

**20** Operating from *Guam* (LPH 9), elements of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit flew to Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, to evacuate American civilians and to safeguard the American embassy.

**28** *Inchon*, former amphibious assault ship (LPH 12), was redesignated a mine countermeasures ship (MCS 12), after conversion at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss.

**30** The Navy approved the McDonnell Douglas “Cockpit 21”

concept that will replace the analog displays in the T-45A *Goshawk* with digital displays similar to those in carrier-based jets, making the jet training received by student aviators more effective.

## June

**1** VAdm. Thomas F. Connolly, USN (Ret.), who as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) from 1966–1971 was instrumental in the development of the F-14 and for whom the *Tomcat* was named, died at age 86.

**4** An A-6E *Intruder* (BuNo 155704), operating from *Independence* (CV 62), was inadvertently shot down by the Phalanx Close In Weapons System aboard the Japanese destroyer *Yuugiri* while towing a gunnery target during RIMPAC '96 exercises. Pilot LCdr.

William E. Royster and bombardier navigator Lt. Keith A. Douglas ejected safely from the stricken aircraft and were recovered by *Yuugiri*.

**6** The Helicopter Landing Trainer (IX-514) at NAS Pensacola, Fla., achieved its 50,000th landing, since beginning operation in 1986, when an Air Force MH-60 *Pavehawk* from the 55th Special Operations Squadron landed aboard.

**7** VMU-1, the first Marine Corps unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina providing real-time imagery for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition in support of NATO Operation Joint Endeavor.

**8** Reservists from Patrol Squadron 92 and Fleet Logistic Support Squadron 62 relocated to NAS Brunswick, Maine, from NAS South Weymouth, Mass., becoming part of Naval Air Reserve Center, Brunswick, officially established on 1 April.

**12** Navy and Marine Corps CH-53E *Sea Stallions* and MH-53E *Sea Dragons* were temporarily grounded

**AMS3 Keith Tourney (l) and ATCS Duane Richey look on as AMS2 Raymond Sudduth fires a .50-caliber machine gun from a Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 8 CH-46D *Sea Knight* during a gun shoot in the Red Sea. The helicopter was flying from the ammunition ship *Mount Baker* (AE 34).**



Lt. Dan Kneisler

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pending resolution of technical problems with the swashplate duplex bearing assembly in the main rotor as a precautionary safety measure following several mishaps involving the aircraft.

**13** VAdm. Donald D. Engen, USN (Ret.), a WW II Naval Aviator who was awarded the Navy Cross for action at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and former head of the Federal Aviation Administration, was named director of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

**14** The F-14B Low Altitude Navigation/Targeting Infrared for Night (LANTIRN) system, which gives the *Tomcat* the ability to deliver laser-guided bombs on long-range strike missions against tactical and strategic targets, was introduced to the fleet at NAS Oceana, Va. LANTIRN-equipped F-14s first deployed operationally with Fighter Squadron 103 aboard *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

**15** The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the *Blue Angels*, organized by Capt. Roy M. "Butch" Voris, USN (Ret.), celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on the date of its first organized performance in 1946.

**19** After three years of embargo enforcement against the former Yugoslavia by ships and patrol aircraft to block arms shipments into the region, during which 73,000

ships were challenged, Operation Sharp Guard ended when the United Nations lifted the arms embargo.

**20 Jun–7 Jul** Naval flight surgeon and astronaut Cdr. Charles E. Brady, Jr., served as a mission specialist for STS-78 aboard *Columbia*, which was carrying the Life and Microgravity Science Space Lab designed to study living organisms in a low-gravity environment.

**21** Cdr. David J. Cheslak assumed command of the 562d Flying Training Squadron (relieving Lt. Col. Carl K. Hergesell, USAF), becoming the first Naval Flight Officer to command an Air Force Squadron.

**27** *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) arrived at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va., to begin a Post Shakedown Availability period for modifications, repairs, upgrades and maintenance work.

**28** A-6E *Intruders* from Attack Squadron 75 deployed for the last time aboard an aircraft carrier, *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

**29** Ten demilitarized A-6 *Intruders* donated by the Navy were sunk off the coast of St. Augustine, Fla., to form an artificial reef appropriately named Intruder Reef.

**30** Capt. David S. McCampbell, USN (Ret.), the Navy's top-ranking ace in WW II and Medal of Honor recipient, who is credited with 34 aerial victories during the Battles of

the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf, died at age 86.

## July

**1** Under a joint program in which the EA-6B *Prowler* replaces the EF-111 as the Air Force's primary electronic countermeasures aircraft, the first Air Force crew (assigned to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 129) carrier qualified in an EA-6B aboard *Constellation* (CV 64). The *Prowler* was flown by Lt. Col. Ronald Rivard, with crew members Capt. David Shintaku and Richard Armstrong.

**10** Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadrons 167 and 169 conducted the first fleet firings of two new missiles, the TOW 2A (Air) and the AIM-114K Hellfire II, at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

**11** The Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC), which consolidated the Naval Strike Warfare Center, Navy Fighter Weapons School and Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School, stood up at NAS Fallon, Nev., under the command of RAdm. Bernard J. Smith. NSAWC will focus on tactics development and assessment, training for fleet-experienced aviators, joint operations and training and standardization of training within aviation communities.

**11** The island was installed on the flight deck of the Navy's next carri-



A-6E *Intruders* of Attack Squadron 34 fly over the Arabian Gulf on 27 April in support of Operation Southern Watch. This was the *Blue Blasters*' final deployment with the A-6 before transitioning to the F/A-18 *Hornet* and becoming Strike Fighter Squadron 34.

Lt. Tom Haeussler

## Aviation Command Changes, 1996

### Established/Activated

Naval Air Reserve Center, Brunswick, ME	1 Apr
Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Fallon, NV	12 Jul
VAQ-133 <i>Wizards</i>	1 Apr
VAQ-137 <i>Rooks</i>	1 Oct
VMU-2	15 Jan

### Disestablished/Deactivated

Naval Aviation Depot, Alameda, CA	30 Sep
Naval Aviation Depot, Norfolk, VA	30 Sep
Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Warminster, PA	30 Sep
Naval Aviation Depot Operations Center, Patuxent River, MD	30 Sep
VA-165 <i>Boomers</i>	30 Sep

VAW-122 <i>Steeljaws</i>	31 Mar
VF-21 <i>Freelancers</i>	31 Jan
VF-24 <i>Fighting Renegades</i>	31 Aug
VF-45 <i>Blackbirds</i>	31 Mar
VFA-127 <i>Desert Bogeys</i>	31 Mar
VMFA-235 <i>Death Angels</i>	30 Jun
VP-68 <i>Blackhawks</i>	31 Dec

### Decommissioned

<i>America</i> (CV 66)	30 Sep
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### Redesignated

1st Marine UAV Company to VMU-1	15 Jan
VA-34 <i>Blue Blasters</i> to VFA-34	30 Sep
VA-115 <i>Eagles</i> to VFA-115	30 Sep

Note: The dates listed are official and may differ from those reported in earlier issues and from ceremonial dates.

er, *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), bringing the carrier one step closer to completion. The prospective commanding officer, Capt. Tom Otterbein, placed his wings and a Truman medallion donated by President Truman's daughter under the island.

**20** Capt. David S. McCampbell, USN (Ret.); Harry B. Combs; Maj. Donald K. Slayton, USAF (Ret.); and Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbetts, Jr., USA (Ret.), were enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio.

**26** Training Squadron 4 completed training of its last eight student Naval Aviators before transitioning to its new mission of training only Naval Flight Officers and Air Force Navigators.

### August

**5** Adm. Jay L. Johnson, a Naval Aviator who flew F-8 *Crusaders* during Vietnam and later the F-14 *Tomcat*, was sworn in by Secretary of the Navy John Dalton as the 26th Chief of Naval Operations.

**6** An F/A-18F *Super Hornet*, F1, piloted by LCdr. Tom Gurney, made its first catapult launch from the land-based catapult at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md.

**16** NASA selected Cdr. Wendy B. Lawrence, the first woman Naval

Aviator in space, and Dr. David A. Wolf to train respectively for shuttle missions STS-86 and STS-89 involving extended stays on the Russian space station *Mir*.

**16** 1st Lt. Jeanne Buchanan, USMC, became the first woman Naval Flight Officer in the Marine Corps.

**20** NASA announced selection of the crew—including Marine aviators and astronauts Col. Robert D. Cabana and Maj. Frederick Sturckow—for STS-88, the first space station assembly mission, scheduled for December 1997.



LCdr. Tom Gurney taxis his F/A-18F *Super Hornet* into position for its first-ever catapult launch on 6 August 1996 at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

### September

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

intensive overhaul periods.

**4** President Bill Clinton extended the Iraqi southern "no fly zone" northward to the 33d parallel to make it easier for the United States and the coalition nations to contain Saddam Hussein's aggression.

**7** *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, was christened by Drucie S. Horton in a ceremony attended by Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay Johnson, Senators Chuck Robb and John Warner and Representative Ike Skelton. The ship's sponsor is Margaret Truman Daniel.

**12** The first guided launch of the AGM-84E Standoff Land Attack Missile from a P-3C *Orion* took place at Point Mugu, Calif. The aircraft, assigned to Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md., was flown by Lt. Todd White.

**13** Cdr. Ruth Forrest became the Navy's first woman Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department officer aboard an aircraft carrier when she joined *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

**16–29** Naval Aviators and astronauts Capt. William F. Readdy, USNR, and Lt. Col. Terrence W. Wilcutt, USMC, served respectively

## Patrol Squadron Major Deployments, 1996

Squadron	Dates	Aircraft	Squadron	Dates	Aircraft
<b>NAS Sigonella, Sicily</b>			<b>NAF Misawa, Japan (Det at NAF Kadena, Okinawa)</b>		
VP-8	Jul 95–Jan 96	P-3C UIIR	VP-4	Nov 95–May 96	P-3C UIII
VP-11	Jan–Jun 96	P-3C UIIR	VP-47	May–Nov 96	P-3C UIII
VP-45	Jun–Sep 96	P-3C UIIR	VP-46	Nov 96–May 97	P-3C UIII
VP-16	Sep 96–Jan 97	P-3C UIIR			
<b>NAS Keflavik, Iceland/NS Roosevelt Roads, PR*</b>					
VP-5	Aug 95–Feb 96	P-3C UIIR			
VP-10	Feb–Aug 96	P-3C UIIR			
VP-26	Aug 96–Feb 97	P-3C UIIR			
<b>NAF Diego Garcia, B.I.O.T. (Det at Bahrain and Al Masirah, Oman)</b>					
VP-40	Nov 95–May 96	P-3C UIII			
VP-1	May–Nov 96	P-3C UIII			
VP-9	Nov 96–May 97	P-3C UIII			



A Patrol Squadron 9 P-3C Orion over Diamond Head, Hawaii.

\*Squadron detachments deploy concurrently to both locations.

Key to P-3C versions: UIII = Update III, UIIR = Update III Retrofit

as mission commander and pilot for the STS-79 mission aboard *Atlantis*, which retrieved astronaut Shannon Lucid from and transferred astronaut John Blaha to the Russian space station *Mir*.

**19** McDonnell Douglas's Common Operational Flight Program successfully demonstrated the reusability of a new navigation software module on different tactical aircraft equipped with different commercial processors. This initiative was aimed at reducing maintenance and software/hardware development costs.

**20** The Senate Armed Services Committee modified Tailhook reporting requirements for officers nomi-

nated for promotion so that Tailhook certification was still required for officers potentially implicated by a post-Tailhook investigation, but no further certification was required for subsequent nominations. This revision provided no requirement for officers not on active duty as of September 1991 and also allowed officers subject to Tailhook certification, but not yet nominated, to review all information held by the Navy relating to their activities at Tailhook, and allow them to submit information on their behalf.

**26** Lt. Col. Shawn D. Elliott, USAF, the first Air Force officer to serve as commanding officer of

a Navy squadron (Training Squadron 3), was relieved by Cdr. Reed A. Eckstrom.

### October

**4** Secretary of the Army Togo West, Secretary of the Navy John Dalton and Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall embarked on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) for a conference on command, communications, control, computers and intelligence issues.

**7** The Navy awarded McDonnell Douglas a contract for the production of five Thermal Imaging Sensor Systems to enhance the warfighting capability of surface ships by pro-

## Bureau Numbers Issued in 1996

Numbers below were assigned by the CNO during 1996 for future Navy and Marine Corps aircraft procurement:

Numbers	Qty	Type	Name	Contractor
165399–165416	18	F/A-18C/D	<i>Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165417–165432	16	AV-8B	<i>Harrier II</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165433–165444	12	MV-22	<i>Osprey</i>	Bell-Boeing
165445–165450	6	AH-1W	<i>Super Cobra</i>	Bell
165451–165454	4	AV-8B	<i>Harrier II</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165455–165456	2	E-2C	<i>Hawkeye</i>	Northrop Grumman
165457–165502	46	T-45A	<i>Goshawk</i>	McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace

# Carrier and LAMPS MK III Ship Deployments, 1996

## HSLWINGPAC

### *Nimitz (CVN 68)*

27 Nov 95–20 May 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-37 Det 1	<i>Port Royal</i> (CG 73)
HSL-43 Det 2	<i>Callaghan</i> (DDG 994)
HSL-45 Det 1	<i>Ford</i> (FFG 54)
HSL-47 Det 5	<i>Oldendorf</i> (DD 972)

### *Kitty Hawk (CV 63)*

11 Apr–9 Oct 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-43 Det 10	<i>Cushing</i> (DD 985)
HSL-45 Det 3	<i>Antietam</i> (CG 54)
HSL-49 Det 5	<i>Cowpens</i> (CG 63)

## Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates	Ship
HSL-45 Det 10	31 Jun 95–31 Jan 96	<i>Harry W. Hill</i> (DD 986)
HSL-49 Det 7	15 Sep 95–31 Jan 96	<i>Chandler</i> (DDG 996)
HSL-47 Det 8	6 Jan–2 May 96	<i>Cape St. George</i> (CG 71)
HSL-45 Det 3	6 Jan–6 May 96	<i>Anzio</i> (CG 68)
HSL-45 Det 7	8 Jan–19 Apr 96	<i>Ingraham</i> (FFG 61)
HSL-45 Det 2	11 Jan–3 Jul 96	<i>Vincennes</i> (CG 49)
HSL-49 Det 8D	9 Feb–9 Aug 96	<i>Rodney M. Davis</i> (FFG 60)
HSL-43 Det 8	9 Feb–9 Aug 96	<i>John Young</i> (DD 978)
HSL-51 Det 2	9 Feb–9 Aug 96	<i>Thach</i> (FFG 43)
HSL-47 Det 7	13 May–13 Nov 96	<i>Vandegrift</i> (FFG 48)
HSL-51 Det 6	3 Jun–5 Oct 96	<i>Hewitt</i> (DD 966)
HSL-47 Det 8	12 Aug 96–12 Feb 97	<i>Valley Forge</i> (CG 50)
HSL-43 Det 5	12 Aug 96–12 Feb 97	<i>Jarrett</i> (FFG 33)
HSL-51 Det 1	3 Sep 96–22 Jan 97	<i>O'Brien</i> (DD 975)
HSL-51 Det 2	14 Oct–6 Nov 96	<i>McClusky</i> (FFG 41)
HSL-47 Det 8	6 Nov 96–6 Feb 97	<i>Chancellorsville</i> (CG 62)
HSL-37 Det 2	18 Nov 96–12 May 97	<i>Fletcher</i> (DD 992)
HSL-37 Det 7	18 Nov 96–17 May 97	<i>Leftwich</i> (DD 984)

### *Carl Vinson (CVN 70)*

14 May–14 Nov 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-37 Det 3	<i>Crommelin</i> (FFG 37)
HSL-49 Det 5	<i>Shiloh</i> (CG 67)



PH3 Robert Morales

*Choi Moo Sun*, a Republic of Korea submarine, surfaces near *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) during multinational operations in the western Pacific.

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viding long-range, high-resolution detection and recognition of small targets, such as floating mines, periscopes, surface boats, cruise missiles and swimmers.

**11** NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa., commemorated its 70th anniversary. Beginning in 1926, aviation pioneer Harold Pitcairn used the area to build and test aircraft such as the autogiro, a predecessor of the modern-day helicopter.

**17** Aviation Continuation Pay became available in FY 97 for

F/A-18, F-14, EA-6, S-3, E-6A, EP-3, SH-60F, SH-3H and C-130 pilots and certain NFOs with at least 6 years but less than 13 years of commissioned service, provided they would remain on active duty in a flying status through their 14th year (see NAVADMIN 250/96).

**24** Litton was awarded a contract to provide replacement navigation systems for all Navy P-3 *Orion* and C-130 *Hercules* aircraft.

**28 Oct–1 Nov** Initial sea trials of

the F-14 Digital Flight Control System underwent evaluations aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). The system provides increased stability as well as improved handling characteristics and spin recovery of the *Tomcat*.

**31** Sanders, a Lockheed Martin company, received a \$18.9 million contract to upgrade the USQ-113 communications jammer on the EA-6B *Prowler*.

## November

**2** RAdm. John G. Crommelin,

## The Year in Review

### HSLWINGLANT

#### *America (CV 66)*

28 Aug 95–24 Feb 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 9	<i>Kauffman</i> (FFG 59)
HSL-42 Det 10	<i>Boone</i> (FFG 28)
HSL-44 Det 2	<i>Hancock</i> (DD 981)
HSL-46 Det 9	<i>Anzio</i> (CG 68)

#### *George Washington (CVN 73)*

26 Jan–23 Jul 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 4	<i>Samuel B. Roberts</i> (FFG 58)
HSL-44 Det 1	<i>Conolly</i> (DD 979)
HSL-46 Det 7	<i>Arthur W. Radford</i> (DD 968)
HSL-48 Det 8	<i>San Jacinto</i> (CG 56)

#### Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates	Ship
HSL-44 Det 10	29 Sep 95–19 Mar 96	<i>Vicksburg</i> (CG 69)
HSL-48 Det 4	29 Sep 95–19 Mar 96	<i>Elrod</i> (FFG 55)
HSL-44 Det 7	1 Jan–7 May 96	<i>Simpson</i> (FFG 56)
HSL-46 Det 6	8 Jan–8 Jul 96	<i>Underwood</i> (FFG 36)
HSL-42 Det 1	10 Jan–8 Jul 96	<i>Caron</i> (DD 970)
HSL-44 Det 9	3 Apr–1 Nov 96	<i>Doyle</i> (FFG 39)
HSL-48 Det 2	12 Apr–29 Sep 96	<i>McInerey</i> (FFG 8)
HSL-42 Det 6	3 Jul–25 Nov 96	<i>John L. Hall</i> (FFG 32)
HSL-46 Det 10	3 Jul–24 Nov 96	<i>Moosbrugger</i> (DD 980)
HSL-44 Det 4	20 Aug–31 Dec 96	<i>Stephen W. Groves</i> (FFG 29)
HSL-48 Det 10	20 Aug–31 Dec 96	<i>Stump</i> (DD 978)
HSL-44 Det 8	9 Dec 96–9 Jun 97	<i>Halyburton</i> (FFG 40)
HSL-46 Det 8	9 Dec 96–9 Jun 97	<i>Nicholson</i> (DD 982)

#### *Enterprise (CVN 65)*

28 Jun–20 Dec 96

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 2	<i>Klakring</i> (FFG 42)
HSL-44 Det 5	<i>Briscoe</i> (DD 977)
HSL-46 Det 3	<i>Robert G. Bradley</i> (FFG 49)
HSL-46 Det 4	<i>Philippine Sea</i> (CG 58)
HSL-48 Det 3	<i>Gettysburg</i> (CG 64)

#### *Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)*

25 Nov 96–22 May 97

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 3	<i>Leyte Gulf</i> (CG 55)
HSL-42 Det 7	<i>Hayler</i> (DD 997)
HSL-44 Det 6	<i>Vella Gulf</i> (CG 72)
HSL-48 Det 5	<i>Hawes</i> (FFG 53)
HSL-48 Det 6	<i>Carr</i> (FFG 52)



“Venom 504,” an SH-60B *Seahawk* from HSL-48 Det 5, lifts off from *Hawes* (FFG 53).

USN (Ret.), a prominent WW II Naval Aviator and key participant in what became known as the “Revolt of the Admirals,” died at age 94.

**16** The Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) competition field narrowed as the tailless design submitted by McDonnell Douglas was eliminated from consideration, leaving Boeing and Lockheed Martin, who were awarded contracts to continue development of their JSF concepts.

**17–25** Air Force representatives from the Philippines and the Czech Republic conducted flight evaluations of the F/A-18 *Hornet* at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, China Lake, Calif., as a part of potential Air Force modernization programs.

**19 Nov–7 Dec** Naval Aviators and astronauts Cdrs. Kenneth D. Cockrell and Kent V. Rominger served respectively as mission commander and pilot aboard *Columbia* during STS-80 in which two research satellites were released and recovered and biomedical and genetic research experiments were conducted in zero-G conditions.

**Nov** The Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System completed its shore-based technical evaluation at NAS Patuxent River, Md. Prior to its installation on board *George Washington* (CVN 73) in December 1996, it first would be used operationally at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Fentress, in Chesapeake, Va.

### December

**9** The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit was the first to deploy with AH-1W *Super Cobra* helicopters (from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269) equipped with a night targeting system that allows the AH-1W to operate in all battlefield conditions providing close air support for ground forces.

**13** The Naval Air Systems Command awarded Hughes Missile Systems Company a \$169 million contract for engineering and manufacturing of the AIM-9X Sidewinder for the Navy and the Air Force as a next-generation replacement for the existing AIM-9M Sidewinder short-range air-to-air missile. ✈

# Carrier and Air Wing Deployments, 1996

## *America (CV 66)*

CVW-1 (Tail Code: AB)  
Mediterranean/Persian Gulf  
28 Aug 95–24 Feb 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-102	F-14B
VFA-82	F/A-18C
VFA-86	F/A-18C
VMFA-251	F/A-18C
VAW-123	E-2C
VMAQ-3	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det A	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 4	C-2A
VS-32	S-3B
HS-11	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Nimitz (CVN 68)*

CVW-9 (Tail Code: NG)  
WestPac/Indian Ocean/Persian Gulf  
27 Nov 95–20 May 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-24	F-14A
VF-211	F-14A
VFA-146	F/A-18C
VFA-147	F/A-18C
VA-165	A-6E
VAW-112	E-2C
VAQ-138	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det C	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 4	C-2A
VS-33	S-3B
HS-8	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *George Washington (CVN 73)*

CVW-7 (Tail Code: AG)  
Mediterranean/Persian Gulf  
26 Jan–23 Jul 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-143	F-14B
VFA-131	F/A-18C
VFA-136	F/A-18C
VA-34	A-6E
VAW-121	E-2C
VAQ-140	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det B	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 1	C-2A
VS-31	S-3B
HS-5	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Independence (CV 62)\**

CVW-5 (Tail Code: NF)  
Contingency Operations;  
China/Taiwan area  
5 Mar–24 Mar 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-154	F-14A
VA-115	A-6E
VFA-192	F/A-18C
VFA-195	F/A-18C
VAW-115	E-2C
VAQ-136	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det A	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 5	C-2A
VS-21	S-3B
HS-14	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Kitty Hawk (CV 63)*

CVW-11 (Tail Code: NH)  
WestPac  
11 Apr–9 Oct 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-213	F-14A
VFA-22	F/A-18C
VFA-94	F/A-18C
VFA-97	F/A-18C
VAW-117	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det B	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 2	C-2A
VS-29	S-3B
HS-6	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Carl Vinson (CVN 70)*

CVW-14 (Tail Code: NK)  
WestPac/Indian Ocean/Persian Gulf  
14 May–14 Nov 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-11	F-14D
VF-31	F-14D
VFA-25	F/A-18C
VFA-113	F/A-18C
VA-196	A-6E
VAW-113	E-2C
VAQ-139	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det D	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 1	C-2A
VS-35	S-3B
HS-4	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Enterprise (CVN 65)*

CVW-17 (Tail Code: AA)  
Mediterranean/Persian Gulf  
28 Jun–20 Dec 96

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-103	F-14B
VFA-81	F/A-18C
VFA-83	F/A-18C
VA-75	A-6E
VAW-125	E-2C
VAQ-132	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det C	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 2	C-2A
VS-30	S-3B
HS-15	HH-60H/SH-60F

## *Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)*

CVW-3 (Tail Code: AC)  
Mediterranean/Persian Gulf  
25 Nov 96–22 May 97

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-32	F-14A
VFA-37	F/A-18C
VFA-105	F/A-18C
VMFA-312	F/A-18C
VAW-126	E-2C
VAQ-130	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det D	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 3	C-2A
VS-22	S-3B
HS-7	SH-60F/HH-60H

*\* Independence (CV 62), below, is forward deployed and operates from her home port in Yokosuka, Japan.*

Capt. John Leenhouts



Mr. Baker is a historian in the Naval Aviation History Branch of the Naval Historical Center. Special thanks to Rick Burgess for his contributions to this article.