





THE
YEAR
IN
REVIEW
1997

By William T. Baker

During 1997, the Navy maintained a vigilant watch worldwide as *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), *Independence* (CV 62), *Constellation* (CV 64), *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), *Nimitz* (CVN 68) and *George Washington* (CVN 73), along with patrol squadrons and HSL detachments, deployed to support national interests and reinforce international policy.

Pausing to reflect, Naval Aviation bid a final farewell to the A-6 *Intruder* after 34 years, acknowledged the legacy of opportunity left by retiring Captains Jane Skiles O'Dea and Rosemary B. Mariner, marked the end of a major aircraft name as McDonnell Douglas merged with Boeing, and consolidated all F-14 *Tomcat* squadrons at NAS Oceana, Va., in preparation for the turnover of NAS Miramar,

Calif., to the Marine Corps.

Focusing on the future, the F/A-18E/F *Super Hornet* made its first carrier arrested landing, Naval Aviators participated in missions to advance space exploration and research, the Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response successfully completed its first test flight, testing began on the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System, the T-6A *Texan II* was introduced as the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System platform, the T-45C *Goshawk* was modernized with Cockpit-21 technology, and the Joint Standoff Weapon deployed operationally for the first time.

These and other events, places and people of Naval Aviation in 1997 are highlighted in this review.

VF-213 F-14A photo by Ted Carlson

The Year in Review

January

12–22 Shuttle mission STS-81, with Naval Aviators/astronauts Capt. Michael A. Baker, Cdr. Brent W. Jett, Jr., and Capt. Jerry M. Linenger serving respectively as mission commander, pilot and mission specialist aboard *Atlantis*, rendezvoused with the Russian space station *Mir* to replace John Blaha with Capt. Linenger.

18 An F/A-18F *Super Hornet* (F1), piloted by Lt. Frank Morley, made its first carrier arrested landing, aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), as part of its initial sea trial qualifications.

28 *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) completed an 18-month overhaul on the propulsion equipment, combat systems and elevators at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va.

February

6 Remains returned from Vietnam in April 1995 were identified as those of Lt. Roger G. Emrich, USN. A radar intercept officer assigned to the VF-51 *Screaming Eagles* aboard *Coral Sea* (CV 43), Emrich was lost while flying a combat air patrol mission in an F-4B *Phantom* over North Vietnam on 17 November 1967. The remains of the pilot, Cdr. W. D. McGrath, were returned from Vietnam in 1985.

11–21 Shuttle mission STS-83, with Naval Aviator/astronaut Cdr. Kenneth D. Bowersox serving as mission commander aboard *Discovery*, conducted routine maintenance on the Hubble Space Telescope to prolong its longevity and upgrade its scientific capabilities to improve its performance.

13 *Enterprise* (CVN 65) commenced a six-month maintenance period at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va., to upgrade the radar, berthing spaces, elevators and propulsion systems.

19 Remains returned from Vietnam in June 1995 were identi-

fied as those of Capt. William Clay III, USMC. Clay, of the VMA-211 *Wake Island Avengers*, was lost flying a close support mission in his A-4E *Skyhawk* on 12 April 1967.

28 1st Lt. Kerri Lynn Schubert, USMC, completed her Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training and became the first woman Marine Corps NFO chosen to fly in the F/A-18D *Hornet*.

March

1 Operational testing and evaluation of the Improved Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System (IFLOLS) began as an F/A-18 *Hornet* from Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md., trapped aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73).

15 The first V-22 *Osprey* built to production standards was delivered to Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Md., for testing and evaluation.

18 Harris Corporation was awarded a contract for the Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability to provide the Navy with an advanced digital map system that improves navigation and situational awareness for the F/A-18E/F *Super Hornet*. The system will also upgrade the F/A-18C/D *Hornet*, AV-8B *Harrier II*, V-22 *Osprey*, AH-1W *Super Cobra* and the UH-1N *Iroquois*.

18 The Standoff Land Attack Missile–Expanded Response successfully completed its first test flight after being fired from an F/A-18C *Hornet* flown by Lt. Carl Chebi assigned to Naval Weapons Test Squadron, China Lake, Calif.

28 The Navy received approval from the Department of Defense for the purchase of 62 F/A-18E/Fs over three years as part of the low-rate initial production of the *Super*



Hornet. The first aircraft will be delivered in 1999.

April

4–8 Shuttle mission STS-83, with Naval Aviator/astronaut LCdr. Susan L. Still serving as pilot for *Columbia*, was shortened after the orbiter experienced a fuel cell problem.

10 The VF-213 *Fighting Black Lions* arrived at NAS Oceana, Va., the final F-14 squadron to transfer from NAS Miramar, Calif., as mandated by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

10 Production of 60 Standoff Land Attack Missiles–Expanded Response was approved by the Navy as part of the low-rate initial production of the weapon system.

11 Capt. Jane Skiles O’Dea, one of the initial group of six women trained as Naval Aviators, retired. O’Dea received her wings in April 1974 and was the first to achieve command (Navy Recruiting District, Indianapolis, Ind.) and to be promoted to the rank of captain.

16 Cdr. Russell E. Brown, Sr., USN (Ret.), a highly decorated WW II Naval Aviator, died at age 74 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Russell received the Navy Cross for combat action in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

21 The VS-22 *Checkmates* became the first S-3B *Viking* squadron to launch the AGM-65F Infrared Maverick missile. Crew members were Lt. Michael Angelopoulos, Lt. Timothy Worthy, Lt. Jamie Marek and AW2 Brent Hudson.

23 F-14 *Tomcats* of the VF-41 *Black Aces* demonstrated Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System–



Photo sequence by PHC Thomas Hensely

Above, with Lt. Frank Morley at the controls, the F/A-18F Super Hornet made its first carrier-based arrested landing on 18 January 1997, on board *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74). Right, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay Johnson (r) gives a press conference after taking a "test drive" in the Super Hornet on 28 March 1997. At left is Cdr. Tom Gurney, lead test pilot for carrier suitability.



Randy Hepp

Digital Imagery (TARPS-DI) by photographing the Pentagon and transmitting real-time images to a computer in a Humvee in the parking lot.

28 The Naval Air Training Command halted T-2C *Buckeye* flights pending resolution of control anomalies experienced in flight.

28 Capt. Quentin C. Crommelin, USN (Ret.), a decorated WW II Naval Aviator and the last surviving member of a family of WW II veterans, died at age 78 in Montgomery, Ala. Crommelin graduated from the Naval Academy in 1941, saw combat duty at Guadalcanal and was CO of *Lexington* (CVS 16).

May

9 The Gray Owl Award, for the Naval Flight Officer with the earliest date of designation, passed from RAdm. Jon Coleman to VAdm. Herbert Browne, Commander, Third Fleet.

9 NADEP Cherry Point, N.C.,

completed On-Conditional Maintenance for an Air Force MH-53J *Pavelow* helicopter in a record-setting 100-day turnaround time.

15-24 Shuttle mission STS-84, with Naval Aviator/astronaut Maj. Carlos I. Noriega, USMC, serving as mission specialist aboard *Atlantis*, continued the joint Russia-United States space exploration effort, replacing Capt. Jerry Linenger with

Mike Foale aboard *Mir*.

19 Based on the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Pentagon reduced the total number of MV-22 *Ospreys* the Marine Corps will receive to replace the aging fleet of CH-46 *Sea Knight* helicopters from 425 to 360.

27 The Naval Air Training Command began gradually returning T-2Cs to operational status after

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grounding *Buckeyes* on 28 April 1997 following an incident in which a T-2C experienced uncommanded flight control input.

29 During Operation Noble Obelisk, Marine Corps CH-53E *Super Stallions* from *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) conducted noncombatant evacuation of civilians from the region due to instability caused by the military coup in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

June

2 The Joint Primary Aircraft Training System aircraft, the T-6A *Texan II*, which will replace the Navy T-34C *Turbo-Mentor* and Air Force T-37 *Tweet*, was unveiled by VAdm. Patricia Tracey and Gen. Lloyd Newton, USAF, at Randolph AFB, Texas.

8 A Northrop Grumman crew flew the EA-6B *Prowler* Block 89A upgrade validation aircraft for approximately two hours during its first flight. All EA-6B *Prowlers* will be

upgraded to the Improved Capability-II Block 89A configuration.

9 NADEP Cherry Point, N.C., completed the first conversion of an F-4S (BuNo 155524) to a QF-4S drone that provides fighter-size targets for weapon system testing and evaluation, and delivered the first CH-46E *Sea Knight* (BuNo 157697) to undergo the full-scale airframe change to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162.

15 Capt. Elbert S. McCuskey, USN (Ret.), one of the most decorated Naval Aviators in WW II, died at age 82. McCuskey saw combat in the Battle of Coral Sea and in the liberation of the Philippines, and was credited with downing 14 Japanese aircraft during the war.

George Washington (CVN 73) prepares for an underway replenishment with Seattle (AOE 3). GW completed an unprecedented and highly successful six-month Planned Incremental Availability period at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in 1997.

18 The Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron at NAS Patuxent River, Md., assisted a sea-air-land team in testing the cargo hook restraint system that allows the team's assault raft to be attached to the bottom of the HH-60H *Seahawk* for faster deployment instead of occupying space in the cabin area during missions.

20 T-2C *Buckeyes* were grounded again after an aircraft based at NAS Meridian, Miss., experienced a flight control anomaly during a training mission.

July

1-7 Shuttle mission STS-94, with Naval Aviator/astronaut LCdr. Susan L. Still serving as pilot aboard *Columbia*, conducted a variety of microgravity research experiments to examine how various materials and liquids change and behave in the weightless environment of space, which had been originally programmed for the STS-83 mission.



PH3 Erik Kenney



PH2 Robert Fluegel

A P-3C Orion attached to VP-45 from Jacksonville, Fla., lands in Gibraltar on 9 August 1997.

8 *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) arrived at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va., for a year-long overhaul to include replacing all four propellers, painting the hull, renovating onboard storage tanks and upgrading many systems.

August

1 McDonnell Douglas became part of the Boeing Company, marking the end of a major name in military aviation. The merger created one of the world's largest aerospace companies with about \$48 billion in revenue and over 200,000 employees.

7-18 Shuttle mission STS-85, with Naval Aviators/astronauts Cdr. Kent V. Rominger and LCdr. Robert L. Curbeam, Jr., serving respectively as pilot and mission specialist, respectively, conducted atmospheric research by deploying and retrieving the CRISTA-SPAS-2 satellite.

8 Capt. Rosemary B. Mariner, the last of the original group of women Naval Aviators, retired after 24 years of service. Mariner was the first woman Naval Aviator to fly tactical jet aircraft, the A-4E *Skyhawk* and A-7E *Corsair II*, and

to command an operational squadron, Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34.

11 Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company, received a \$12 million contract from the U.S. Navy for the design, development and production of advanced common electronic modules that will reduce life cycle

costs for ships and aircraft by increasing component reliability, simplifying logistics and reducing weight and power consumption.

19 The 5,000th AQM series (AQM-37C) target missile produced by Raytheon Aircraft was delivered to the Navy. Since its introduction in 1962, the AQM series has been

Patrol Squadron Major Deployments, 1997

NAS Keflavik, Iceland/NS Roosevelt Roads, PR/Howard AFB, Panama*

- VP-26 Aug 96–Feb 97
- VP-5 Feb 97–Aug 97
- VP-10 Aug 97–Feb 98

NAS Sigonella, Sicily

- VP-16 Aug 96–Feb 97
- VP-8 Feb 97–Aug 97
- VP-45 Aug 97–Feb 98

NAF Diego Garcia, B.I.O.T (Det at Bahrain and Al Masirah, Oman)

- VP-9 Nov 96–May 97
- VP-4 May 97–Nov 97
- VP-47 Nov 97–Jun 98

NAF Misawa, Japan (Det at Kadena, Okinawa)

- VP-46 Nov 96–May 97
- VP-40 May 97–Nov 97
- VP-1 Nov 97–Jun 98

*Squadron detachments deploy concurrently to all three locations.
Note: All squadrons listed above flew the P-3C.

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PHAN Johnnie Robbins

updated continually for improved performance.

22 An *Altus II* unmanned aerial vehicle reached a cruising altitude of 43,500 feet during testing sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School at the Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards AFB, Calif., to evaluate performance characteristics of the aircraft up to 45,000 feet.

22 Boeing North American delivered the first of 17 T-39N *Sabreliners* to the Navy as part of a \$42.5 million acquisition to be used in undergraduate Naval Flight Officer training. The Navy will own the aircraft, but all pilot services, maintenance and ground support will remain with Boeing North American.

September

1 The Joint Standoff Weapon was deployed as an operational weapon system for the first time, aboard *Nimitz* (CVN 68).

19–26 The Department of Defense ordered a standdown from flight operations to review safety following a series of mishaps.

25 Sep–6 Oct Shuttle mission STS-86, with Naval Aviators/astro-nauts Cdr. James D. Wetherbee and

AN Brian Nesteby gives a “thumbs up” following the successful launch of an F-14B *Tomcat* attached to VF-102 aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73).

Cdr. Wendy B. Lawrence, serving respectively as mission commander and mission specialist aboard *Atlantis*, continued the cooperative efforts between the United States and Russia, replacing Mike Foale with David Wolf on board the Russian space station *Mir*.

October

7 The *Rawhides* of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 40, NAS Norfolk, Va., assisted the Virginia Marine Science Museum by transporting a pygmy sperm whale that had been stranded on a beach. The C-2 *Greyhound* carried the whale to the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Md., for rehabilitation.

16 The Standoff Land Attack Missile–Expanded Response performed flawlessly in its second flight, destroying the intended target after launching from an F/A-18 *Hornet* piloted by LCdr. Wade Knudson.

November

19 Nov–5 Dec Shuttle mission STS-87, with Naval Aviator/astro-naut Capt. Winston E. Scott serving as a mission specialist aboard *Columbia*, conducted microgravity research to gain additional understanding of the basic properties and behavior of various materials and liquids.

21 Boeing selected the Hughes Aircraft Company to develop the Advanced Targeting Forward-Looking Infrared sensor which will enable the launch of air-to-ground weapons beyond the range of enemy artillery and surface-to-air missiles, thus increasing the performance of the F/A-18 *Hornet* and *Super Hornet*.

December

9 The F/A-18E/F program surpassed 2,000 hours of flight test and evaluation with Lt. Matt Tysler piloting *Super Hornet* F2 at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

11 Researchers from Science Applications International Corporation flew the manned version of the *Vigilante*, designed as a vertical/short takeoff and landing

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1997 Carrier and Air Wing Deployments, 1997

PH3 Demetrius L. Patton

Kitty Hawk (CV 63)

CVW-11 (Tail Code: NH)
WestPac/Indian Ocean/Arabian Gulf
11 Oct 96–11 Apr 97

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-213	F-14A TARPS
VFA-22	F/A-18C
VFA-94	F/A-18C
VFA-97	F/A-18A
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/SH-60F/H



An SH-60 *Seahawk* from HS-3 dips its sonar bouy during flight operations in the Red Sea.

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)

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

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-32	F-14A TARPS
VFA-37	F/A-18C
VFA-105	F/A-18C
VMFA-312 (DR)**	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	HH/SH-60F/H

Constellation (CV 64)

CVW-2 (Tail Code: NE)
WestPac/Indian Ocean
1 Apr 97–1 Oct 97

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-2	F-14D TARPS/LANTIRN
VFA-137	F/A-18C
VFA-151	F/A-18C
VMFA-323 (WS)**	F/A-18C
VAW-116	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det C	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 3	C-2A
VS-38	S-3B
HS-2	HH/SH-60F/H

Nimitz (CVN 68)

CVW-9 (Tail Code: NG)
WestPac/Indian Ocean
1 Sep 97–1 Mar 98

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-211	F-14A TARPS/LANTIRN
VFA-146	F/A-18C
VFA-147	F/A-18C
VMFA-314 (VW)**	F/A-18C
VAW-112	E-2C
VAQ-138	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det D	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 4	C-2A
VS-33	S-3B
HS-8	HH/SH-60F/H

Independence (CV 62)*

CVW-5 (Tail Code: NF)
WestPac/Indian Ocean
15 Feb 97–10 Jun 97

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-154	F-14A TARPS
VFA-27	F/A-18C
VFA-192	F/A-18C
VFA-195	F/A-18C
VAW-115	E-2C
VAQ-136	EA-6B
VQ-5 Det 5	ES-3A
VRC-30 Det 5	C-2A
VS-21	S-3B
HS-14	HH/SH-60F/H

John F. Kennedy (CV 67)

CVW-8 (Tail Code: AJ)
Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf
29 Apr 97–28 Oct 97

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-14	F-14A LANTIRN
VF-41	F-14A TARPS
VFA-15	F/A-18C
VFA-87	F/A-18C
VAW-124	E-2C
VAQ-141	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det A	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 4	C-2A
VS-24	S-3B
HS-3	HH/SH-60F/H

George Washington (CVN 73)

CVW-1 (Tail Code: AB)
Mediterranean/Arabian Gulf
3 Oct 97–3 Apr 98

Squadrons	Aircraft
VF-102	F-14B TARPS/LANTIRN
VFA-82	F/A-18C
VFA-86	F/A-18C
VMFA-251 (DW)**	F/A-18C
VAW-123	E-2C
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VQ-6 Det B	ES-3A
VRC-40 Det 1	C-2A
VS-32	S-3B
HS-11	HH/SH-60F/H

* *Independence* is forward deployed and operates from her home port in Yokosuka, Japan.

** While on deployment, VMFA squadrons take on the tail code of the air wing. Their original tail codes are noted in parentheses.

TARPS: Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System

LANTIRN: Low-Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared System for Night

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Carrier and LAMPS MK III Ship Deployments, 1997

HSLWINGLANT

Battle Group Deployments

Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group

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>Doyle</i> (FFG 39)
HSL-48 Det 5	<i>Hawes</i> (FFG 53)
HSL-48 Det 6	<i>Carr</i> (FFG 52)

John F. Kennedy Battle Group

29 Apr 97–28 Oct 97

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 8	<i>Spruance</i> (DD 963)
HSL-44 Det 3	<i>Hue City</i> (CG 66)
HSL-44 Det 10	<i>Vicksburg</i> (CG 69)
HSL-46 Det 2	<i>John Hancock</i> (DD 981)
HSL-46 Det 5	<i>Taylor</i> (FFG 50)
HSL-48 Det 1	<i>Thomas S. Gates</i> (CG 51)



George Washington Battle Group

3 Oct 97–13 Apr 98

Squadron	Ship
HSL-42 Det 1	<i>Boone</i> (FFG 28)
HSL-44 Det 7	<i>Underwood</i> (FFG 36)
HSL-46 Det 6	<i>John Rodgers</i> (DD83)
HSL-48 Det 8	<i>Normandy</i> (CG 60)

Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates
HSL-44 Det 4	20 Aug 96–17 Feb 97
HSL-48 Det 10	21 Aug 96–16 Feb 97
HSL-48 Det 9	5 Dec 96–5 May 97
HSL-44 Det 8	9 Dec 96–9 Jun 97
HSL-46 Det 8	9 Dec 96–9 Jun 97
HSL-42 Det 5	26 Mar 97–28 Sep 97
HSL-42 Det 9	26 Mar 97–28 Sep 97
HSL-44 Det 9	15 Apr 97–8 Jun 97
HSL-44 Det 5	12 May 97–11 Jul 97
HSL-46 Det 9	20 Jun 97–3 Nov 97
HSL-48 Det 7	1 Jul 97–26 Nov 97
HSL-44 Det 2	2 Jul 97–25 Nov 97
HSL-42 Det 10	7 Jul 97–24 Dec 97
HSL-46 Det 1	15 Jul 97–15 Jan 98
HSL-48 Det 4	17 Jul 97–15 Jan 98
HSL-48 Det 10	20 Aug 97–7 Oct 97
HSL-48 Det 2	25 Sep 97–27 Jan 98
HSL-44 Det 9	27 Oct 97–13 Dec 97
HSL-42 Det 4	14 Nov 97–3 May 98
HSL-44 Det 1	5 Dec 97–30 Apr 98

Ship
<i>San Jacinto</i> (CG 56)
<i>Stump</i> (DD 978)
<i>Yorktown</i> (CG 48)
<i>Halyburton</i> (FFG 40)
<i>Nicholson</i> (DD 982)
<i>Thorn</i> (DD 988)
<i>Nicholas</i> (FFG 47)
<i>Gettysburg</i> (CG 64)
<i>John L. Hall</i> (FFG 32)
<i>Ticonderoga</i> (CG 47)
<i>Comte De Grasse</i> (DD 974)
<i>DeWert</i> (FFG 45)
<i>Peterson</i> (DD 969)
<i>O'Bannon</i> (DD 987)
<i>Elrod</i> (FFG 55)
<i>Stephen W. Groves</i> (FFG 29)
<i>McInerney</i> (FFG 8)
<i>Gettysburg</i> (CG 64)
<i>Samuel B. Roberts</i> (FFG 58)
<i>Scott</i> (DDG 989)



An SH-60B from HSL-42 takes off from the flight deck of *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) for a patrol flight of the Arabian Gulf during Operation Southern Watch.

JO2 Craig P. Strawser



PH2 Thomas Lorentzson

An SH-60B *Seahawk* attached to HSL-45 Det 5 rests on the fantail of *Inghram* (FFG 61) in the Arabian Gulf.

HSLWINGPAC

Battle Group Deployments

Kitty Hawk Battle Group

11 Oct 96–11 Apr 97

Squadron	Ship
HSL-49 Det 6	<i>Cowpens</i> (CG 63)
HSL-45 Det 4	<i>Antietam</i> (CG 54)
HSL-43 Det 4	<i>Cushing</i> (DD 985)

Constellation Battle Group

1 Apr 97–1 Oct 97

Squadron	Ship
HSL-37 Det 9	<i>Lake Erie</i> (CG 70)
HSL-43 Det 8	<i>Merrill</i> (DD 976)
HSL-37 Det 6	<i>Chosin</i> (CG 65)

Nimitz Battle Group

1 Sep 97–1 Mar 98

Squadron	Ship
HSL-37 Det 1	<i>Port Royal</i> (CG 73)
HSL-49 Det 3	<i>Lake Champlain</i> (CG 57)
HSL-47 Det 2	<i>Kinkaid</i> (DD 965)
HSL-45 Det 8	<i>Ford</i> (FFG 54)

Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates	Ship
HSL-43 Det 5	12 Aug 96–12 Feb 97	<i>Jarrett</i> (FFG 33)
HSL-47 Det 8	21 Aug 96–12 Feb 97	<i>Valley Forge</i> (CG 50)
HSL-51 Det 1	3 Sep 96–22 Jan 97	<i>O'Brien</i> (DD 975)
HSL-47 Det 8	6 Nov 96–6 Feb 97	<i>Chancellorsville</i> (CG 62)
HSL-37 Det 7	18 Nov 96–12 May 97	<i>Fletcher</i> (DD 992)
HSL-37 Det 8	18 Nov 96–17 May 97	<i>Leftwich</i> (DD 984)
HSL-49 Det 8F	13 Jan 97–12 Jun 97	<i>Mobile Bay</i> (CG 53)
HSL-43 Det 3	15 Jan 97–11 Jul 97	<i>Princeton</i> (CG 59)
HSL-51 Det 2	15 Feb 97–8 Jun 97	<i>Fife</i> (DD 991)
HSL-51 Det 4	15 Feb 97–8 Jun 97	<i>Curts</i> (FFG 38)
HSL-47 Det 9	18 Feb 97–22 Aug 97	<i>Paul F. Foster</i> (DD 964)
HSL-45 Det 5	19 Feb 97–21 Aug 97	<i>Inghram</i> (FFG 61)
HSL-43 Det 9	28 Apr 97–14 Oct 97	<i>Callaghan</i> (DDG 994)
HSL-47 Det 1	1 May 97–28 Aug 97	<i>McClusky</i> (FFG 41)
HSL-45 Det 6	14 May 97–20 Nov 97	<i>David R. Ray</i> (DD 971)
HSL-49 Det 5	20 May 97–20 Nov 97	<i>Rentz</i> (FFG 46)
HSL-49 Det 8G	5 Aug 97–17 Dec 97	<i>Vincennes</i> (CG 49)/ <i>Mobile Bay</i> (CG 53)
HSL-45 Det 7	19 Aug 97–19 Feb 98	<i>Harry W. Hill</i> (DD 986)
HSL-43 Det 10	19 Aug 97–19 Feb 98	<i>Gary</i> (FFG 51)
HSL-47 Det 10	1 Oct 97–15 Dec 97	<i>Chandler</i> (DDG 996)
HSL-45 Det 9	18 Nov 97–18 May 98	<i>John Young</i> (DD 973)
HSL-37 Det 4	18 Nov 97–11 May 98	<i>Reuben James</i> (FFG 57)
HSL-37 Det 5	25 Nov 97–11 May 98	<i>Ingersoll</i> (DD 990)

PH1 C. P. Cavanaugh



An SH-60 *Seahawk* from HSL-41 flies alongside *Denver* (LPD 9) during fleet operations in the Pacific.

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unmanned aerial vehicle that is slated to perform tactical reconnaissance from destroyers and cruisers.

15 The T-45C *Goshawk*, fully modernized with Cockpit-21 technology, entered service with Training Air Wing 1 at NAS Meridian, Miss.

15 Northrop Grumman announced that it was awarded a \$28.8 million Navy contract for the production of 119 BQM-74E multi-role aerial targets and kits. The BQM-74E is used to evaluate weapon systems by simulating enemy aircraft and anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles, and to train aircrews and anti-aircraft and gunnery crews.

Also in December: *Independence* (CV 62) received the first flight

Aviation Command Changes, 1997

Established/Activated

VAQ-142 <i>Gray Wolves</i>	1 Apr
VR-1 <i>Starlifters</i>	1 May
VR-51 <i>Windjammers</i>	1 Jun
VQ-11 <i>Bandits</i>	1 Jul
VAQ-128 <i>Fighting Phoenix</i>	1 Oct

Disestablished/Deactivated

VP-11 <i>Proud Pegasus</i>	15 Jan
VP-68 <i>Blackhawks</i>	16 Jan
COMFITWINGPAC	31 Jan
VA-196 <i>Main Battery</i>	21 Mar
VA-75 <i>Sunday Punchers</i>	31 Mar
COMATKWINGLANT	1 Apr
COMATKWINGPAC	30 Apr
NADEP Norfolk, VA	16 May
HS-1 <i>Seahorses</i>	30 Jun
NAS Alameda, CA	30 Sep
NAS South Weymouth, MA	30 Sep

Commissioned

<i>Bataan</i> (LHD 5)	1 Aug
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Redesignated

NAS Miramar, CA to MCAS Miramar	1 Oct
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Note: The dates listed are official and may differ from those reported in earlier issues and from ceremonial dates.

simulator installed on an aircraft carrier. The Carrier-Based Weapons Systems Trainer designed by Boeing enables F/A-18 *Hornet* pilots to perform Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization checks, review emergency procedures and simulate various types of flight operations with different weapons.

The VF-154 *Black Knights* retrofitted their F-14 *Tomcats*, becoming the only squadron permanently equipped with the Low-Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared System for Night, which expands the mission of the squadron by adding the ability to deliver precision guided munitions. ✈

Mr. Baker is a historian in the Naval Aviation History Branch of the Naval Historical Center.



George Washington (CVN 73), top, relieved *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) in the Mediterranean Sea on 16 October 1997. Fast combat support ship *Seattle* (AOE 3) cruises in the foreground.

PHAN Brian Fleske

Bureau Numbers Issued in 1997

Numbers below were assigned by CNO during 1997 for future Navy and Marine Corps aircraft procurement:

Numbers	Qty	Type	Name	Contractor
165503–165504	2	CH-53E	<i>Super Stallion</i>	Sikorsky
165505–165506	2	T-45A	<i>Goshawk</i>	McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace
165507–165508	2	E-2C	<i>Hawkeye</i>	Grumman
165509–165525	17	T-39N	<i>Sabreliner</i>	Boeing North American
165526–165544	19	F/A-18C/D/E/F	<i>Hornet/Super Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165545–165565	21	AH-1W	<i>Super Cobra</i>	Bell
165566–165597	32	AV-8B	<i>Harrier II</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165598–165646	49	T-45C	<i>Goshawk</i>	McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace
165647–165650	4	E-2C	<i>Hawkeye</i>	Grumman

Numbers below were assigned by CNO during 1997 for aircraft transferred from other military services:

Numbers	Qty	Type	Name	Contractor
686958	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
696160	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
696189	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
710376	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
900528	1	C-26B		Fairchild
900530–90531	2	C-26B		Fairchild
910502	1	C-26B		Fairchild
910512	1	C-26B		Fairchild
910514	1	C-26B		Fairchild
920378	1	C-26B		Fairchild
966673*	1	UH-60L	<i>Blackhawk</i>	Sikorsky

Aircraft Accepted in 1997

Bureau Number	Qty	Type	Name	Contractor
165069–165077	9	T-45A	<i>Goshawk</i>	McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace
165080–165081	2	T-45C	<i>Goshawk</i>	McDonnell Douglas/British Aerospace
165167	1	F/A-18E	<i>Super Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165206	1	F/A-18C	<i>Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165208–165230	23	F/A-18C	<i>Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165254	1	CH-53E	<i>Super Stallion</i>	Sikorsky
165293–165294	2	E-2C	<i>Hawkeye</i>	Northrop Grumman
165311	1	AV-8B	<i>Harrier II</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165344–165346	3	CH-53E	<i>Super Stallion</i>	Sikorsky
165362–165369	7	AH-1W	<i>Super Cobra</i>	Bell
165380–165383	4	AV-8B	<i>Harrier II</i>	McDonnell Douglas
165392–165393	2	AH-1W	<i>Super Cobra</i>	Bell
165399–165402	4	F/A-18C	<i>Hornet</i>	McDonnell Douglas

Aircraft accepted during 1997 from other military services:

686958	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
696160	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
696189	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
710376	1	OH-58C	<i>Kiowa</i>	Bell
966673*	1	YCH-60	<i>Blackhawk</i>	Sikorsky

*This BuNo was assigned to a UH-60L transferred from the Army into the naval inventory and designated YCH-60.