

Aircraft Survivability

Jim O'Bryon, Deputy Director, Operational Evaluation/Live Fire Testing in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, wrote:

"I just had the opportunity to read your November–December 1998 issue. What an excellent publication!

"I was particularly impressed by the fine article written by Dr. Bob Ball [p. 24], perhaps the nation's top authority on aircraft survivability techniques. I have had the privilege to instruct in some of his classes at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and usually learned as much as I taught.

"Congratulations on his efforts and yours as you keep this publication 'airborne.'"

Who's on First?

In a letter referring to the article in our Jan–Feb 99 issue entitled "VFA-82 Marauders Battle MiGs Over Germany," Lt. Col. Dave Riedel in the Office of the Secretary of Defense stated: "the *Marauders* may be the first NAVY



VMFA(AW)-332 F/A-18D photo by Maj. Doug Pasnik

Hornets to land at Laage Air Base, Germany, and fight MiG-29s, but they weren't the first U.S. *Hornets*. Marine F/A-18D squadrons home-based at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., and deployed to Aviano AFB, Italy, were the first U.S. aircraft ever to land at the former East German fighter base, and the first *Hornets* to fight MiG-29s on their 'home court.' The *Moonlighters* of VMFA(AW)-332 were the first squadron from MAG-31 to fight the 73rd Fighter Wing during the spring of 1995. As follow-on squadrons from MAG-31 rotated through Aviano, they jumped at the opportunity to experience the out-

standing dissimilar air combat training with the MiGs."

Reunions, etc.

VQ-5 reunion & disestablishment, 4 JUN, San Diego, CA. POC: Lt. Bob Gerstemeier, 619-545-9107; gerstemeier.robert@vq5.nasni.navy.mil

Correction to Mar–Apr

Page 32: HC-11's Lt. Craig Wilson was not the first to achieve 1,000 NVD hours. HMLA-169's Maj. Michael K. Morton surpassed the milestone in August 1996. Any other contenders?



ANA Photo Contest

PH2 Shawn Handley won the bimonthly ANA photo competition with this shot of aviation ordnancemen moving an AIM-7 medium-range air-to-air missile from an F/A-18 *Hornet* aboard *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70). The carrier was in the Arabian Gulf supporting Operation Southern Watch, enforcing the UN-mandated no-fly zone.