



PH2 Daniel J. McLain

PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

EDITED BY JO2 DAN BALL AND
JOSN BRANDY LEWIS

Awards

VAQ-133 named a new squadron award after Cdr. William McCool, who was lost in the space shuttle Columbia accident on 1 February. The award is presented by the outgoing commanding officer to a squadron officer who is a talented aviator and natural leader, constantly performs beyond the call of duty and does not try to draw undue attention

to his or her work. The first recipient of the **McCool Award** is LCdr. Timothy Barkdoll.

Winners of the **2002 Adm. Flatley Memorial Award** are *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72)/CVW-14 and *Wasp* (LHD 1)/22nd MEU. The award recognizes the aircraft carrier and amphibious ship with an embarked air wing or Marine Air-Ground Task Force which surpass

An SH-60 Seahawk from the *Golden Falcons* of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 2 slows down to lower a rescue swimmer, while the destroyer *Milius* (DDG 69) cruises in the background.

all competitors in overall contributions to aviation safety.

VP-64 received the **2002 Commander, Reserve Patrol Wing Retention Excellence Award** for its exemplary retention rates in 2002.

NADEP North Island, Calif., is the winner of the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations **2002 awards in Environmental Quality** for an industrial installation.

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USS Ronald Reagan Commissioned



PH3 Rusty Black

Clockwise from top, *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) crew members run up the gangplank to “bring the ship to life” and man the rails during the ship’s commissioning at NS Norfolk, Va., on 13 July. CO Capt. Bill Goodwin addresses a distinguished audience, including Vice President Dick Cheney and former First Lady Nancy Reagan. Navy fighter aircraft perform a flyover concluding the commissioning ceremony of the newest aircraft carrier, named for the 40th President of the United States.



PHAN Stefanie Antosh



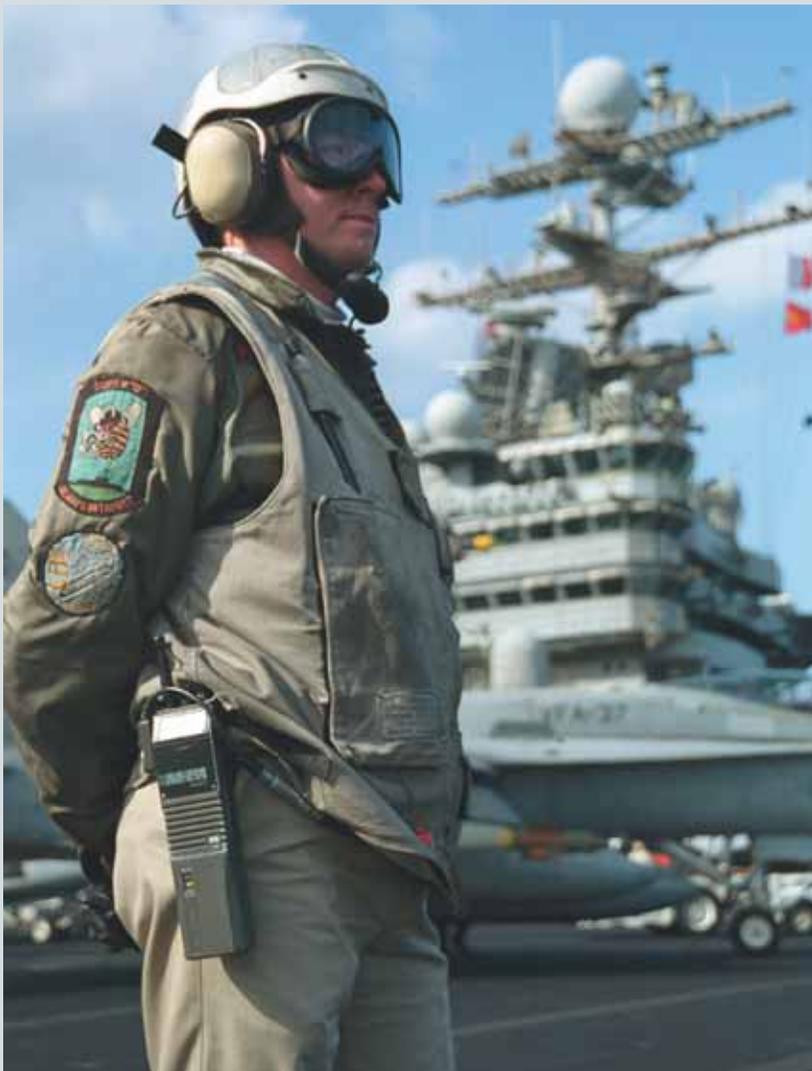
PH3 Rusty Black

PHAN Stefanie Antosh



PHAN Brad Garner

WELCOME ABOARD!



PH3 Christopher B. Stoltz

In July, *Naval Aviation News* welcomed to the staff Editor in Chief Cdr. Jeremy W. Gillespie. His previous tour was as Safety Officer on board *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), pictured above in April 2003.

An F-14A Tomcat of Fighter Squadron 211 performs a touch and go aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) on 12 November 2002. VF-211 was the winner of the 2002 VAdm. Richard Allen Precision Strike Award, which recognizes dedication to furthering strike warfare through tactics development and mission area expansion.

The Chief of Naval Air Training named Lt. Charles Bassel of VT-9 **2002 Flight Instructor of the Year** and LCdr. Brian Paul of VT-28 **2002 Reserve Flight Instructor of the Year**.

Capt. John A. McGurty, Jr., was presented the **Capt. Bruce W. Jackson Reserve Flight Surgeon Memorial Award**, which recognizes outstanding contributions to aerospace medicine by a Selected Reserves naval flight surgeon.

The winners of the **2002 Cdr. Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award** were HMMT-164, HSL-40, HT-18, VAQ-129 and VT-27. The recipients demonstrated the greatest production efficiency in meeting the fleet requirement for pilots and naval flight officers.

VT-10 and HT-8 received **2003 Naval Education and Training Command Training Excellence**

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Sailor Receives War Medals—59 Years Later

By JO2 Jennifer Spinner, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Public Affairs

More than 50 years have passed since Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Royce Hall (inset) earned three Distinguished Flying Cross medals and 13 Air Medals for his bravery and service in WW II. The 79-year-old Navy veteran finally received those awards, along with recognition for his dedication to duty, during a special ceremony held at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., on 12 May.

“America owes its freedom to men like Mr. Hall who selflessly put themselves in harm’s way to defend America in her greatest time of need,” said RAdm. Gerald Talbot, CO, Submarine Group 10. “The awards he is receiving today are only a small and brief reminder of the battles in which they were earned.”

A native of Swainsboro, Ga., Hall enlisted in the Navy in 1940 at the age of 17, and served as a torpedo plane gunner throughout the war. He left the Navy as a highly decorated veteran, earning two Presidential Unit Citations, American Combat Action Ribbon and American Campaign Medal, as well as several other awards. He only recently found out he had earned the awards which he received at this ceremony.

“I ran into a friend at a reunion and took note of his medals,” said Hall. “He commented that I should have them, too. I decided to find out more.”

Hall, a member of the Navy League of the United States, enlisted the help of his local chapter and 1st District Congressman Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) to find out if he was, indeed, authorized to wear the medals. Sixteen well-earned medals later, Hall has received the recognition he rightly deserved.

“Mr. Hall served all over the map,” said Kingston. “From the Marianas to Leyte Gulf, he was there. We owe eternal appreciation to Mr. Hall and his peers for the freedom we have today.”

In front of hundreds of Kings Bay Sailors, veterans and family members, Kingston presented

Hall the Air Medal, with gold and silver stars for the second through thirteenth awards, for his “meritorious service while participating in aerial flight, while serving as torpedo plane gunner over the Gulf of Mexico and in the South Pacific area of operations from April 3, 1942, to November 3, 1944.”

Kingston then presented Hall his second medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, with gold stars for the second and third awards, for his “unyielding

devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, while serving as torpedo plane gunner over the Gulf of Mexico and in the South Pacific during WW II.”

“I humbly accept these awards in remembrance of all of the MIAs [missing in action], KIAs [killed in action] and shipmates from all services who paid the price and gave their service during the war,” said Hall. “I am grateful to be able to share one of the proudest moments of my life with everyone here. My generation charges you to defend our freedom and legacy during your watch.”

Hall took part in several key missions during WW II, including the battles for Leyte Gulf, the Marianas Islands and



Lt. Doug Gabos

Samar, Philippines. Other awards include the American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, Navy Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

After his discharge from the Navy in 1947, Hall moved to California’s Napa Valley where he ran a successful construction business before retiring. Hall’s first wife of 48 years, Phyllis, passed away from cancer. He returned to Georgia with his second wife, Faye, in 1994 and settled in Brunswick, not far from where he grew up as a boy.

Still a humble man, Hall doesn’t see himself as a hero. After all, he says he only saw 10 days of combat. “You’d think I won WW II.”

A hero indeed.



Awards in the Training Wings category. The units were recognized for superior performance in providing training to flight students.

Members of the NAVAIR Air Vehicle Department received the **2002 Defense Manufacturing Technology Achievement Award** for innovative manufacturing technology achievement in rapid technology transition, affordability, cycle time, readiness and quality.

Records

HS-7 surpassed 15,000 Class A mishap-free hours.

VP-92 marked 79,000 Class A mishap-free hours over 25 years.

HC-3 surpassed 182,500 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

Capt. David Newland, Commander CVW-8, completed his 1,000th trap, flying a VF-213 F-14D Tomcat aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71).

Rescues

A distress call from the Iraqi fishing vessel *Captain Mohamed*, near the Iranian territorial waters of the central Arabian Gulf, tasked an **HSL-51** SH-60B Seahawk crew embarked on *Gary* (FFG 51) to

locate the vessel and provide backup for a deployed rescue boat. *Captain Mohamed* was taking on water after losing steering and propulsion in rough seas. With visibility less than two miles, the aircrew was able to spot the vessel, but the fishing gear and rigging aboard the boat made a



The Iraqi fishing vessel *Captain Mohamed* lists to port prior to sinking. An HSL-51 aircrew assisted in rescuing the crewmen.

helo rescue impossible. The Seahawk remained overhead and provided illumination while a rigid-hull inflatable boat picked up the eight crew members.

ABAN Kevin Harris potentially saved many crew members on *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) after calling “foul deck.” Harris was serving as the starboard sheave damper operator when an E-2C Hawkeye landed and lifted the tailhook too soon, resulting in 340 feet of loose wire on the deck. As the wire was recoiled, Harris noticed it had wedged between the sheave and the manifold. Further inspection revealed the cable had been severely damaged and one more trap could have caused a flight deck catastrophe. Harris was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his actions.

An emergency phone call summoned the help of AT2 Scott Pickryl and ABH2(AW) Douglas Shaffer of the **NAS Oceana, Va., Security Department** to a Navy housing unit, where they found a young boy severely bleeding after a bicycle accident. The boy’s father was at the scene applying pressure to the wound. The patrolmen took charge of the situation and kept the boy calm until emergency medical units arrived. Paramedics took the child to a local hospital, where he was treated and released in good condition. The Sailors were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals for helping the bicyclist.

CGAS Houston, Texas, dispatched an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter to rescue a burn victim from a tanker in the Gulf of Mexico. The victim, a crew member of the 360-foot chemical tanker *Ece*, was burned when a generator cover came off and sprayed him with hot oil. The helo crew recovered the man and transported him to a local burn center for treatment.



PHAN Todd Filim

Embarked Carrier Air Wing 8 aircraft fly in formation over *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) while operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment (5 January–29 May) by the numbers:

Sorties: over 6,500 (1,703 in combat). **Launches/recoveries:** 7,230. **Flight hours:** more than 15,000, with a 99.2-percent aircraft sortie completion rate. **Ordnance:** over 1 million pounds. **Jet fuel:** nearly 11 million gallons. **Mail:** more than 1.7 million pounds. **Miles steamed:** 43,225. **Meals served:** 568,689.

WEATHER FORECASTERS TRAIN FOR PERFECT PREDICTIONS

JO2 Edward Flynn, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

Grease pencils and paper charts, once common tools of the Navy's weather forecasters, are slowly becoming a memory. A new era in Navy weather forecasting training has produced state-of-the-art computerized prediction systems designed to more accurately and rapidly predict weather, a critical need for military planning and execution. Today, at the revamped C school at Keesler AFB, Miss., Navy aerographer's mates (AG) are continually raising the bar of modern weather forecasting knowledge.

The C school, responsible for advanced training and education in a rating, was completely redesigned as part of the Navy's revolution in training to reflect the latest changes in weather forecasting technology. Students now undergo an intense seven-month training program with the latest weather forecasting tools, including electronic classrooms, multimedia projectors and individual student workstations. Coursework for AGs includes advanced principles of atmospheric physics, analysis and properties of the atmosphere, tropical meteorology, severe weather analysis, satellite



PH3 Jamell Blase

Above, AG3 Timothy Dowd stands by aboard *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) to release a weather balloon carrying a radiosonde, which measures meteorological variables and transmits the information to a weather station. Left, AGAN Leonardo San Miguel measures the wind direction and speed with an anemometer wind vane at the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Facility Yokosuka, Japan.



PH3 Lamel J. Hinton

interpretation and aviation support and warfare operations. The AG school is also working with the Naval Research Laboratory to give Sailors the opportunity to use advanced satellite imagery to track weather systems anywhere in the world.

From the Civil War to the crisis with Iraq, weather forecasting has been a vital part of military operations. The Navy has made great strides in the last decades to modernize the technology and training available to Sailors in this important role. The application of 21st century technology to education is now providing better trained forecasters for the fleet.



A CH-46D Sea Knight of Helicopter Support Squadron 11 Det 8 lifts a full load from *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) to the fast combat support ship *Sacramento* (AOE 1) during an underway replenishment on 12 June.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69): Capt. E. Smith relieved Capt. Mark T. McNally, 26 Apr.

HC-11: Cdr. Greg A. Thomas relieved Cdr. James B White III, 12 Jun.

HM-15: Cdr. Paul A. Lluy relieved Cdr. Steven J. Richey, 27 Mar.

HS-6: Cdr. Bob Lineberry relieved Cdr. John C. Sheehan, 19 Jun.

HS-7: Cdr. Doug L. Cuthbert relieved Cdr. Kevin M. Kenney, 11 Jul.

HSL-48: Cdr. Steven H. Blaisdell relieved Cdr. James F. Hunter, 17 Apr.

MATSG: Col. David L. Barraclough relieved Col. Jeffrey A. White, June 26.

NAF Mildenhall, UK: Cdr. Kenan Shaffer relieved Cdr. Robert Lamont, 25 Apr.

NASC: Capt. Albert J. Gallardo, Jr., relieved Capt. Craig F. Weideman, 13 Jun.

SCW-1: Capt. August J. Sereno relieved Capt. Gerald W. Geletzke, 6 Jun.

SFWSLANT: Cdr. John C. Butler relieved Cdr. John S. Sheehan, 19 Jun.

TACTRAGRULANT: Capt. Russell T. Williams relieved Capt. Peter D. Squicciarini, 13 Jun.

USNTPS: Cdr. Paul Sohl relieved Cdr. Richard Brasel, 11 Apr.

VAQ-138: Cdr. Stephen Beckvonpeccoz relieved Cdr. Richard Postera, 3 May.

VF-154: Cdr. D. E. Waters relieved Cdr. J. H. Flatley IV, 6 Jun.

VFA-22: Cdr. David Emich relieved Cdr. Mark Adamshick, 11 Jun.

VFA-81: Cdr. James D. Webb relieved Cdr. Bryan L. Cuny, 3 Apr.

VFA-136: Cdr. Scott D. Conn relieved Cdr. Thomas M. Downing, 14 Feb.

VP-8: Cdr. Robert B. Dishman relieved Cdr. Jeffrey McKenzie, 30 May.

VP-64: Cdr. Stephen R. Speed relieved Cdr. Richard S. Cline, 17 May.

VR-48: Cdr. Mark Gibbons relieved Cdr. James F. Hunter, 17 Apr.

VR-53: Cdr. Christopher Ryan relieved Cdr. John B. Fluhart, 27 Apr.

VT-3: Cdr. Robert W. Ernest relieved Lt. Col. James S. Wolcott, 28 Mar.

VT-9: Cdr. Paul D. Shankland relieved Cdr. Charles L. Aley, 12 Jun.