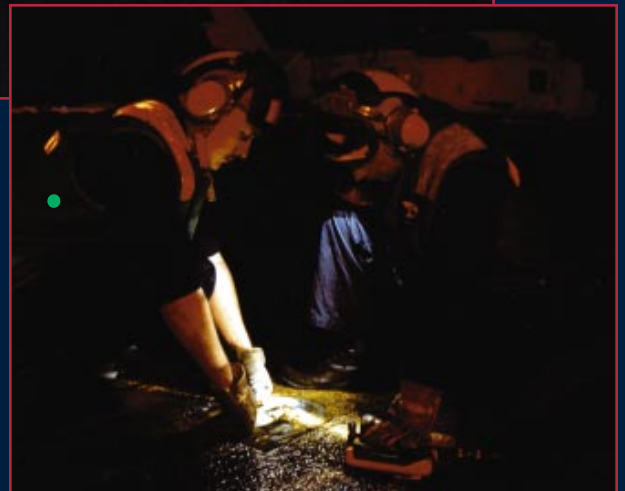


Into the night . . .

As the sun sinks below the horizon leaving behind a wake of darkness, carrier flight operations continue deep into the night. Landing aboard ship during the daytime is difficult enough, but at night it becomes an entirely new challenge, as depicted in Dwight Shepler's painting "Night Landing Signals" (above), rendered during the 1940s. Right, just as flight operations continue around the clock, so does aircraft and shipboard maintenance.



EM2 Michael Ginas and EM3 James Bergenske burn the midnight flashlight batteries while repairing an aircraft landing light aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73) in April 1996 in the Arabian Gulf. Below, the denizens of night carrier operations observe as an F-14 *Tomcat* lights up the flight deck with full afterburners aboard *Forrestal* (CV 59) in 1989.

