

The U.S. Navy's Oldest Periodical, Volume 79, No. 5, July–August 1997

## Contents

### Features



**Naval Aviation Vision:  
New Challenges . . . Enduring Realities . . . . . 10**

**TACAMO Gets New Wings with E-6B Mercury . . . . . 27**

**Honorary Naval Aviators Named . . . . . 28**

**1996 Year in Review . . . . . 30**

### Departments

**Flightline . . . . . 1**

**Grampaw Pettibone . . . . . 2**

**Airscoop . . . . . 4**

**People—Planes—Places . . . . . 42**

**Professional Reading . . . . . 47**

**Flight Bag . . . . . 48**

**ANA Photo Contest . . . . . IBC**

**COVERS**—Front: An F/A-18 *Hornet* taxis into position aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), which was conducting carrier qualifications off the California coast in May 1997. Back: A Harpoon-toting P-3C *Orion* from Patrol Squadron 62 heads toward Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Hawaii, during a missile exercise in February 1997. Photos by Ted Carlson.

**RAdm. Dennis V. McGinn**  
Director, Air Warfare

Published by the Naval Historical Center under the auspices of the Chief of Naval Operations

**Dr. William S. Dudley**  
Director, Naval Historical Center

#### Staff

<b>Cdr. Diana T. Cangelosi</b>	Editor
<b>Sandy Russell</b>	Managing Editor
<b>Morgan I. Wilbur</b>	Art Director
<b>Wendy Karppi</b>	Associate Editor
<b>JO2 E. Blake Towler</b>	Assistant Editor

#### Associates

<b>Harold Andrews</b>	Technical Advisor
<b>Cdr. Peter Mersky, USNR (Ret.)</b>	Book Review Editor
<b>Capt. Ted Wilbur, USNR (Ret.)</b>	Contributing Artist
<b>Capt. R. Rausa, USNR (Ret.)</b>	Contributing Editor
<b>LCdr. Richard R. Burgess, USN (Ret.)</b>	Contributing Editor

### Contributions Welcome

*NA News* considers for publication unsolicited manuscripts, photo essays, artwork and general news about aircraft, organizations, history and/or human endeavors which are the core of Naval Aviation. All military contributors should forward articles about their commands only after internal security review and with the permission of the commanding officer. Please **do not send a diskette** unless requested by *NA News*. For guidelines on submissions, contact the Managing Editor at DSN 288-4407 or (202) 433-4407; FAX (202) 433-2343.

*Naval Aviation News* is on-line as part of the Naval Historical Center home page. Look for the current issue at <http://www.history.navy.mil>.

**Personal Subscriptions:** To order this periodical for one year, cite "*Naval Aviation News* (NAVN)" and mail a check or money order for \$12.00 (\$15.00 foreign) or provide VISA or MasterCard number and expiration date **directly to:** Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Telephone credit card orders can be made to (202) 512-1800 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time. Credit card orders can be faxed 24 hours a day to (202) 512-2250.

*Naval Aviation News* (USPS 323-310; ISSN 0028-1417) is published bimonthly for the Chief of Naval Operations by the Naval Air Systems Command and the Naval Historical Center. Editorial offices are located in Bldg. 157-1 Washington Navy Yard, 901 M Street SE, Washington, DC 20374-5059. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law. The use of a name of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Navy. Photographs are U.S. Navy unless otherwise credited.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Naval Aviation News*, 901 M Street SE, Bldg. 157-1, Washington, DC 20374-5059.