

Edited by JO2 E. Blake Towler



PH3 James W. Olive

Two F-14D *Tomcats* assigned to VF-2 are framed by a rainbow while crossing the central Pacific aboard *Constellation* (CV 64). The ship is in the middle of a six-month western Pacific deployment.

## Awards

**T**he 1996 Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Sailors of the Year were named: AW1 (AW/NAC) Robert Betts, Sea Sailor and AD1(AW/SW/NAC) Leander Sackey, Shore Sailor.

AO1(AW) Thomas R. Currie earned the title of **Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailor of 1996.**

The *Blue Diamonds* of VFA-146 won the **1996 COMNAVAIRLANT Boola Boola Award**, which recognizes excellence in air-to-air missile loading and employment.

The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation presented two prestigious awards during a banquet on 9 May. The **1997 R. G. Smith Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation Art** was given to James J. Dietz, an inter-

nationally renowned artist whose works can be seen in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. and the San Diego Air and Space Museum in California. The **1997 Adm. Arthur W. Radford Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation History and Literature** went to John B. Lundstrom, who is the assistant curator of history at the Milwaukee Public Museum in Wisconsin and author of several

books devoted to Naval Aviation.

*Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), *Peleliu* (LHA 5) and HSLWINGLANT all garnered top aviation safety awards. *Vinson* and *Peleliu* are winners of the **1996 Adm. Flatley Memorial Award**, which recognizes the aircraft carrier and amphibious warfare ship that surpass all competitors in overall contributions to aviation safety. Runners up were *George*

*Washington* (CVN 73) and *Saipan* (LHA 2). HSLWINGLANT won both the **1996 CNO Readiness Through Safety Award** and the Daedalians **Adm. James Russell Naval Aviation Flight Safety Award.**



Photos by Nancy Lichtman



James J. Dietz, left, and John B. Lundstrom, right.

The following units won **1996 CNO Aviation Safety Awards** [numbers in brackets denote consecutive years]:

**AIRLANT:** VFs 102 [2] and 31; VFAs 37 and 81; HC-4; VP-10; VS-31 [3]; VAW-125; HS-5; VX-1 [3] and HSL-44.

**AIRPAC:** VA-196; VFA-195 [3]; VAQs 132, 134 and 139; VSs 29 and 41; VAW-117; HS-2 [2]; HSL-43; HC-5; VQ-4 [2]; VX-9 and VP-4.

**MARFORLANT:** HMMs 162, 264 [2] and 365; VMFA-312; HMLA-167 [2]; VMGR-252 [3]; VMAT-203 and SOES Cherry Point [2].

**MARFORPAC:** HMMs 163, 265 [3] and 268 [3]; VMFA(AW)-242; HMLAs 267, 367 [2] and 369 [2]; HMH-463; VMFA-212 and VMGR-352.

**AIRRESFOR:** HSL-94 [2]; HC-85 [3]; HCS-4; VPs 66 and 91; VRs 54 and 61; VF-201 and VAW-77.

**CG Fourth MAW:** VMGR-452 and HMLA-775.

**CNATRA:** VTs 2 [4], 7 [4], 10 [2], 21 [2] and 27 [3] and HT-18.

**NAVAIRSYSCOM:** NADEP Cherry Point, NC.

The following squadrons/units were winners of the coveted **1996 Battle "E" Award**, recognizing superior readiness and performance:

**NAVAIRPAC:** *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70); VF-11; VA-196; VAQs 134 and 139; VFA-97; VS-21; VAW-113; VP-4; HS-2; HSL-51; VXE-6 and VRC-30.

**NAVAIRLANT:** *George Washington* (CVN 73); VF-143; VFA-83; VAQ-130; VAW-125; HS-5; VS-31; HC-8; HSL-44; VP-26; VA-75; VQs 2 and 6 and VC-8.

The **1996 Grampaw Pettibone Award**, which recognizes the individual or unit

**D**uring an awards ceremony held 24 May in San Diego, Calif., the following units/individuals were recognized:

### CNO Fleet Squadron Awards

<b>Award</b>	<b>Unit</b>
RAdm. Joseph C. Clifton	VF-11
RAdm. C. Wade McClusky	VA-75
Adm. J. S. "Jimmy" Thatch	VS-21
Adm. Arthur W. Radford	VAQ-139
Capt. Michael Estocin	VFA-83
AEW Excellence	VAW-125
LCdr. Michael Hoff Leadership	PAC: LCdr. Daniel Dixon, VFA-97
	LANT: LCdr. Scott D. Conn, VFA-15
Capt. Arnold J. Isbell Trophy	PAC: VP-40, HS-6, HSL-49, VS-21
	LANT: VP-16, HS-5, HSL-46, VS-30
Pilot of the Year	PAC: LCdr. Ronald R. Carlson, VS-22
	LANT: LCdr. Andrew Lewis, VFA-192
NFO of the Year	PAC: LCdr. Robert Papadakis, VA-196
	LANT: Lt. Michael Peterson, VF-103
LSO of the Year	PAC: LCdr. Albert Oesterle, CVW-5
	LANT: LCdr Harold T. Fink, CVW-17

### ANA Outstanding Achievement Awards

Tactical Aviation	LCdr. John K. Einhorn, VP-31
Fleet Support/Special Mission	Lt. Mark F. Light, VRC Det 5
Maritime Patrol	Cdr. Andrew J. Cuca, VP-91
Helicopter Aviation	Crew of Coast Guard NR 6014: LCdr. Andrew J. Berghorn, pilot Lt. Michael A. Shirk, copilot ASMC Donald Murray, rescue swimmer AD2 Kevin J. Monroe, flight mechanic
Enlisted Aviation Maintenance	SSgt. Darryl McQueary, USMC, HMM-268
Aviation Chief Petty Officer	AMCS Michael Pasternak, C-130T Program
Navigator of the Year	Ltjg. Joseph W. Nelson, VQ-4



Cdr. Chuck Sammons, USN (Ret.)

The last CO of the VA-75 *Sunday Punchers*, Cdr. Jim Gigliotti, accepts the RAdm. C. Wade McClusky Award for most outstanding attack squadron for 1996 during an Association of Naval Aviation luncheon. Pictured are (l-r) Adm. Stan Arthur, ANA chairman; VAdm. Brent Bennett, COMNAVAIRPAC; Mr. Brian Boyer of Northrop-Grumman (industry sponsor); Cdr. Gigliotti; CNO Adm. Jay Johnson; VAdm. John Mazach, COMNAVAIRLANT; and RAdm. Dennis McGinn, Director, Air Warfare. Seated in background is California Congressman Hon. "Duke" Cunningham.

that has contributed the most toward aviation safety awareness through publications, was presented to **Lt. Billy R. Carter**, HSL-42 (individual) and **HSL-42** (unit).

## Special Records

Several units marked **safe flying milestones**:

Unit	Hours	Years
VP-5	106,000	19
VMFA-322	70,000	17
VAW-113	60,000	30
VFA-195	60,000	15
HS-8	52,000	16
HC-85	50,000	23
VFA-82	40,000	
NAS JRB Fort Worth (formerly NAS Dallas)	34,500	27

On 12 April, **Cdr. Bill Gortney**, CO of VFA-106, bagged his 1,000th carrier trap, aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) while flying an F/A-18C *Hornet*.

On 5 May, HC-4 skipper **Cdr. Chris Real** passed 5,000 career flight hours.

## Rescues

Personnel from **HC-5** were safely rescued following the crash of a CH-46 *Sea Knight* from the replenishment ship USNS *Niagara Falls* (TAFS 3) on 19 April. The crash occurred approximately 2,000 miles southwest of Hawaii during vertical replenishment operations with *Constellation* (CV 64). The four HC-5 crew members, home-ported in Guam, were rescued by the quick reaction of other CH-46 helicopters on scene at the time of the incident. Assisting in the rescue was a motor whale boat from *Niagara Falls*, also home-ported in Guam. The survivors, all of whom escaped injury, were transported to *Constellation* for medical observation and released.

A helicopter rescue crew from the **NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., Search and Rescue (SAR)** unit per-



PH1 James M. Williams

**Cdr. Glenn Merchant**, senior medical officer aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), escorts Canadian shipwreck survivor Gary Hovey to the ship's medical department following his rescue.

formed an emergency medical evacuation from the stern of Carnival Cruise Lines' cruise ship *Tropical* on 13 May. A 54-year-old woman passenger suffered a stroke while aboard *Tropical* and was treated by the ship's medical staff. When her condition worsened, the captain of the luxury ship notified CGS Port Angeles, Wash., and requested a medevac. While in flight, however, the Coast Guard helicopter suffered a mechanical malfunction, requiring the crew to turn back. NAS Whidbey Island's SAR team was then notified and launched soon after. Because the emergency required a doctor, pilot Lt. Henry Velarde first flew to CGS Port Angeles to pick up Coast Guard Cdr. David Canton, M.D., then flew out to intercept *Tropical* 20 nautical miles off the coast of Washington. Once on scene, the UH-3H *Sea King* crew lowered HMC Michael Johnson and HM2 Michael Reigler to the deck of *Tropical*. They prepared the patient for transport, then hoisted her and a companion back to the helo and transported them to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. The other members of the *Sea King* crew included copilot Lt. Peter Davi and crew chief ATC(AW/NAC) Mark Harvey.

While conducting routine operations in the western Atlantic on 5 June, Sailors from Norfolk, Va.-based *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) rescued three Canadian crew members from a capsized boat. The survivors, two men and a woman, were aboard their 33-foot motor sailer *The Gull* when it lost its mast in a storm. *Stennis* was about 80 miles away when communicators at NAS Oceana, Va., notified the ship that a distress signal had been received. As the carrier turned towards the signal's location, a Coast Guard *Falcon*



Lt. Kevin R. Hogg

**AO1 Joe Villanueva** of HC-85 assists a student from Birney Elementary School in University Heights, Calif. HC-85 members treated several classes to a career-week demonstration of flight gear, to educate students in naval helicopter aviation.

jet located a raft bobbing in 30-foot seas. An HH-60 *Seahawk* from HS-5 transported the rescue team from *Stennis* to the victims, where OT3 Kevin Baker was lowered into the storm-whipped seas and helped the survivors into the helo's hoist. The trio was taken aboard *Stennis* and treated for shock and hypothermia.

The **NAS Lemoore, Calif., SAR** team was called out on 24 April to rescue a 13-year-old male who had fallen and suffered head injuries while hiking in Yosemite National

Park. Ten minutes after receiving the call, the crew—Lts. Steve Ostrander and Ron Segerstrom, AMH2 Mike Roberts, AD2 Jason Holmes and HM3 Keith Koerber—was airborne and heading for the park, where they arrived within an hour. Park rangers had placed the victim in a litter and prepared him for transport. They had also moved him to the middle of a bridge near a heavily wooded area to make him more accessible to the rescue helo. The crew positioned the helo over the bridge where Koerber was low-

ered to the scene approximately 150 feet below. Upon arrival, the corpsman assessed the patient, then they were both hoisted back up to the waiting helo. Ostrander piloted the helo to nearby Ahwanee Meadow, where an awaiting medevac helicopter transported the victim to a hospital in Fresno, Calif.

## Scan Pattern

Quick action by two sailors from **VAQ-141** averted a potential accident on the flight deck of *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) on 11 March. AME2 Timothy Taber and AMEAN Marc Andrews were notified by an aircrewman that their EA-6B *Prowler* had an apparent liquid oxygen (LOX) gauge malfunction. Andrews and Taber inspected the LOX system and discovered that one of the nonventing bottles was swelling and frosting over. Knowing that such symptoms meant that the bottle would soon explode, Taber quickly directed Andrews to call a crash cart crew to help dispose of the bottle. While the crew was on the way, Taber pulled the LOX bottle out of the aircraft and dropped it into an emergency bomb disposal chute on the ship's starboard side. For his actions, Taber was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

## Gray Owl Title Passed

On 9 May, during the 1997 Naval Aviation Symposium in Pensacola, Fla., the prestigious title of Gray Owl was passed from retiring RAdm. Jon Coleman to VAdm. Herbert Browne, Commander Third Fleet.

The award traces its origins to 1978, when Naval Aviator Capt. Kenn Haas decided that there should be an award for the Naval Flight Officer (NFO) community that equaled the Gray Eagle Trophy, which honors the Naval Aviator with the earliest designation date. Capt. Haas asked Grumman Aerospace Corporation to sponsor the award, the proposal was accepted and the first formal presentation of the Gray Owl trophy was held in June 1979. The name of each recipient and the date the title was assumed are engraved on the trophy.

The Gray Owl trophy goes to the active duty NFO who has held that designation for the longest period of commissioned service. When the incumbent retires, the award is passed to the next earliest designated NFO on active duty. To date, there have been eight Gray Owls:

Capt. George LaRocque	June 1979
Capt. R. L. Rhodes	June 1982
Capt. Kenn Haas	June 1983
Commodore Thomas Johnson	June 1984
VAdm. Richard M. Dunleavy	June 1990
VAdm. Stephen E. Loftus	July 1992
RAdm. Jon S. Coleman	May 1994
VAdm. Herbert Browne	February 1997



The Gray Owl Award; inset, current Gray Owl VAdm. Herb Browne with Capt. Kenn Haas, USN (Ret.), originator of the award and its third recipient.



JOCs Russell D. Egnor, USNR (Ret.)

**JOCs Russell D. Egnor, USNR (Ret.)**, who worked for 11 years as Director of the Navy Office of Information (CHINFO) News Photo

Division, died 17 June in Falls Church, Va., at the age of 60. Mr. Egnor, who had accumulated over 34 years of active and reserve naval service since he enlisted in 1954, played an integral part in the recent transition of the Navy's photo program into the era of digital imagery. This capability has allowed wide and near-instantaneous photo coverage of Navy operations throughout the world.

**Capt. Quentin C. Crommelin, USN (Ret.)**, the last surviving member of a family of WW II combat veterans, died of cancer 28 April in

Montgomery, Ala. He was 78. He and his four brothers served in the Navy during the war. In 1981, the frigate *Crommelin* was christened in their honor. Capt. Crommelin, a 1941 graduate of the Naval Academy, saw combat duty at Guadalcanal in the Pacific during WW II, and was CO of *Enterprise* (CV 6).

One of the most decorated Naval Aviators in WW II history died 15 June at the age of 82. **Capt. Elbert S. McCuskey, USN (Ret.)**, who earned his aviator wings in 1939, was credited with shooting down 14

Japanese aircraft during the Battle of Midway. In addition, he fought in the Battle of Coral Sea and the liberation of the Philippines.

Sailors from the *Independence* (CV 62) Battle Group and four Royal Australian Navy ships changed places while the two groups operated together between 21 and 28 May. Training during the cross-deck sessions focused on integrated battle group exercises in a number of tactical scenarios and individual skill exercises in communications, signaling and shiphandling.

## Change of Command

**AEWWINGLANT:** Capt. Vernon C. Huber relieved Capt. Terry L. Jobe, Apr.

**George Washington** (CVN 73): Capt. Lindell G. Rutherford relieved Capt. Malcolm P. Branch, 7 May.

**Guam** (LPH 9): Capt. William J. Luti relieved Capt. William D. Molloy, Jr., Jun.

**HC-3:** Cdr. Tom Barns relieved Capt. David Mawhinney, 23 May.

**HMH-436:** Lt. Col. Paul Croisetiére relieved Lt. Col. Robert G. Garrison, 27 Mar.

**HMM-166:** Lt. Col. Douglas Williams relieved Lt. Col. S. R. McMeans, 22 May.

**HS-4:** Cdr. Stephen Honan relieved Cdr. Timothy Davison, 3 Apr.

**HSL-45:** Cdr. Daniel Gomrick relieved Cdr. Theodore Wasylkiw, 30 May.

**HSL-49:** Cdr. Gary Cooper relieved Cdr. Gary Leaman, 5 Jun.

**HSL-51:** Cdr. Martin J. Keaney relieved Cdr. Jon F. Berg-Johnson, 12 Jun.

**HT-18:** Lt. Col. Bethel Q. Evans III relieved Cdr. John G. Gallagher, 5 Jun.

**MAG-13:** Col. Duane Thiessen relieved Col. Russell Currer, 6 Jun.

**MAG-16:** Col. John A. LeMoine relieved Col. John F. Pettine, 16 May.

**NAES Lakehurst:** Capt. Michael

J. Dougherty relieved Capt. Leroy Farr, 23 May.

**NAMTRAGRU:** Capt. Bruce L. Hawk relieved Capt. Bert U. Coffman, 30 May.

**NAS Miramar:** Capt. David Jacobson relieved Capt. Bryan Rollins, 17 Apr.

**Nassau** (LHA 4): Capt. John Waickwicz relieved Capt. Allan Wall, 5 Jun.

**SEACONWINGLANT:** Capt. Mark Kikta relieved Capt. James Renninger, 25 Apr.

**STRKFITWINGLANT:** Capt. John Leenhouts relieved Capt. John Fleming, 4 Apr.

**TRAWING 1:** Capt. Gene Smith relieved Capt. John Stevenson, 9 Apr.

**VAQ-137:** Cdr. Craig Geron relieved Cdr. Ron Plucker, 12 May.

**VAW-112:** Cdr. Robert Young relieved Cdr. Joel Fellows, 22 May.

**VF-31:** Cdr. Michael Manazir relieved Cdr. David Cully, 5 Jun.

**VFA-94:** Cdr. Jeffery B. Bates relieved Cdr. Matthew J. Boyne, 27 Jun.

**VFA-105:** Cdr. Patrick Driscoll relieved Cdr. Cliff Skelton, 2 May.

**VFA-151:** Cdr. David L. Philman relieved Cdr. Victor A. Steinman, 23 Apr.

**VMFA(AW)-225:** Lt. Col. Harmon A. Stockwell relieved Lt. Col. Michael A. Marriott, 20 Mar.

**VMFA(AW)-533:** Lt. Col. W. G.

Butler relieved Lt. Col. J. A. Papay, Jr., 30 May.

**VP-1:** Cdr. Robert Winneg relieved Cdr. Ronald R. Evans, 21 May.

**VP-4:** Cdr. Dean M. Kiyohara relieved Cdr. Stephen B. Latta, 15 Apr.

**VP-46:** Cdr. Tommy D. Klepper relieved Cdr. Brian C. Prindle, 25 Apr.

**VP-47:** Cdr. Michael D. Morgan relieved Cdr. Arthur J. Johnson, 18 Jun.

**VQ-1:** Cdr. Kevin C. Ketchmark relieved Cdr. Glenn G. Stockton, 6 Jun.

**VQ-6:** Cdr. Robert D. Wilson relieved Cdr. Daniel R. Gahagan, 12 Jun.

**VS-22:** Cdr. Paul J. Hoban relieved Cdr. Scott Albertson, Apr.

**VS-24:** Cdr. Raymond Ivie relieved Cdr. Steven Dailey, 22 Mar.

**VT-2:** Cdr. Howard W. Thorp, Jr., relieved Cdr. William E. Yaeger, 6 Jun.

**VX-9:** Capt. Craig F. Weideman relieved Capt. John V. Stivers, 15 May.

**VXE-6:** Cdr. William F. Warlick relieved Cdr. William B. Stedman, 6 Jun.

**Wasp** (LHD-1): Capt. Thomas J. Anderson relieved Capt. Stanton C. Greenawalt, 9 May.