

Edited by JO2 E. Blake Towler

## Awards

**C**ombat Aircrew 9 of the VP-69 *Totems* won the **1996 Liberty Bell Competition**. This annual reserve P-3 tactical competition allows the most capable reserve aircrews from each of the nine Reserve Force squadrons to compete with each other in demanding real-world scenarios. Members of VP-69's Crew 9 are LCDrs. Stinson, Olin and Malarky; Lts. White and Sharp; AW1 Lenhardt; AO1 Comeaux; AT1 Osburn; AW2s Gaines and Rabideau; and AE2s George and Earll.

VT-10 earned the **1996 SECNAV Energy Award** in the aviation squadron category. The award recognizes naval commands that display outstanding energy management and conservation achievements.

NAS Miramar, Calif., received the **1996 Dick Schram Memorial Community Relations Award**. This award commemorates outstanding community relations and the inclusion of the local community in the planning and execution of local military air shows. NAS Miramar is the only repeat winner of this award.

The **Golden Anchor** and **Silver Anchor** awards are presented annually to commands that have most effectively implemented the Career Information Program Management concept. Aviation recipients of the 1996 **Golden Anchor**: *Kearsarge* (LHD 3), *George Washington* (CVN 73),

NAS Pensacola, Fla., NAS Meridian, Miss., NAS Sigonella, Italy, VP-30, VX-1, VF-41, HS-7, *Constellation* (CV 64), VFA-113, VAQ-140, NAS Lemoore, Calif., *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) and HC-5.

Aviation recipients of the 1996

**Silver Anchor**: *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), NAS Oceana, Va., NAS Key West, Fla., NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, NAVAVSCOLSCOM, Pensacola, Fla., VPU-1, HM-14, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), VAW-115, HS-4, NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, and VQ-4.



Lt. Mark W. Bergman (left), an instructor pilot with VT-21, and Lt. John Van Cleaf of Training Wing 2 return from a hop in their T-45 *Goshawk*.

Ted Carlsson





VAdm. Walter Davis (left) hands over the Gray Eagle Trophy to RAdm. Andrew Granuzzo prior to his assuming the title.

On 11 December 1996 on board *Constellation* (CV 64), the **Gray Eagle Trophy** made the rounds. First, it was passed from VAdm. Walter Davis to RAdm. Luther Schriefer. Then, due to his retirement in early 1997, RAdm. Schriefer passed the trophy on to RAdm. Andrew Granuzzo, who would officially become the senior Naval Aviator on active duty in February. Established in 1961 by Vought Aeronautics Co. (now Northrop Grumman Corp.), the award has honored 36 recipients.

## Special Records

Several units marked **safe flying milestones**:

Unit	Hours	Years
VMGR-352	175,000	23
VR-58	100,000	
HSL-42	90,000	10
VMFA-451	80,000	19
VFA-27	40,000	10
HSL-48	40,000	
VAQ-134	36,300	26
VC-8	36,000	11
VMA-513	30,000	
VS-21	25,000	8
VMAQ-4	21,657	15
HMM-165	20,000	7

## Anniversaries

The **HSL-51 Warlords** celebrated their 5th birthday in October 1996.

The **HT-18 Vigilant Eagles** celebrated their 25th year of service 13 March.

The *Devilfish* of **MALS-11** turned 75 years old in December 1996, making them the oldest

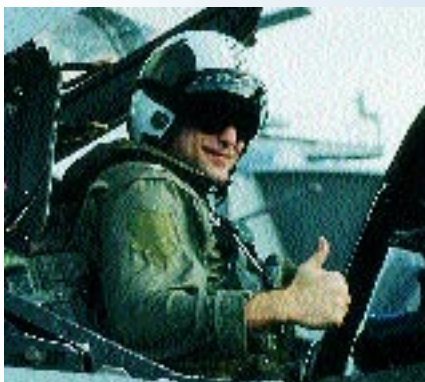
active duty squadron in the Marine Corps.

## Rescues

During a routine mission in the Bay of Bengal on 8 October 1996, **HSL-51 Det 6**, attached to *Hewitt* (DD 966), came to the rescue of an ailing sailor aboard the Liberian tanker *Hellespont Faith*. After receiving a distress call from the tanker, *Hewitt* dispatched an SH-60B *Seahawk*, flown by pilot Lt. Gary Patenaude and copilot Lt. John Taylor, with sensor operator AW2 Mark Compton, crew chief AW1 Randall Amos and corpsman HM1 Steven Lesley aboard, to find *Hellespont Faith*. After locating the Liberian ship, AW1 Amos and HM1 Lesley were lowered by hoist to her deck with medical gear. The sick crewman was a 35-year-old Filipino male who Lesley determined had a bleeding ulcer. Realizing he needed further assistance, Lesley asked that SN P. J. LaBaue, *Hewitt's* corpsman in training, be brought out to

## 1,000 Traps!

Right, Capt. Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr., Deputy Commander of CVW-14, completed his 1,000th career trap aboard *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) on 10 November 1996 in an F-14D *Tomcat*.



PH3 Scott C. Prather

Above, Cdr. Ron Plucker, CO VAQ-137, made his 1,000th career trap aboard *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) on 9 December 1996 in an EA-6B *Prowler*. Right, Cdr. Robert Stuart II (second from left), CO VAQ-141, stands with his EA-6B *Prowler* crew upon completion of his 1,000th arrested landing on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) on 6 December 1996.



PH3 Timothy Flowers

The *Seahawks* of VMAQ-4 line up in front of two of their EA-6B *Prowlers* to commemorate 15 years of class "A" mishap-free flying, and 10 years without any engine foreign object damage.



the tanker with additional medical supplies. After the *Seahawk* returned with LaBauve, the medical duo treated the ulcer and stabilized the patient. The helo crew then returned to *Hewitt*, and *Hellespont Faith* proceeded on course to Sri Lanka.

A quick-thinking Sailor from **NAS Whiting Field, Fla.**, probably saved the life of a woman who fell asleep at the wheel of her van on 3 November 1996. ABH2 John Mabry of the Whiting Field Crash Division was driving on a bridge near the air station when he noticed Karen Westenbarger's van bumping into the curb along the right lane of the bridge. Mabry moved up alongside the van to investigate and saw the woman slumped over in her seat. He pulled his custom 1972 Chevy Nova in front of the van, figured about how fast the van was going, let the van tap the back of his car, and stood on his brakes until both vehicles stopped. ABH2 Mabry, who is also a volunteer fireman, then called for police and rescue units with his hand-held radio, and tried to assist the woman, who was disoriented and incoherent. Medical units arrived and transported the victim to an area hospital. Later inquiry revealed that Westenbarger was drained of adrenaline and exhausted from a 48-hour vigil spent with her husband, who had undergone major surgery.

On 20 November 1996, **VP-9's Crew 10**, commanded by LCdr. Timber Pangonas, was on a mis-

sion in the southern Arabian Gulf when AT1 Alvin Williams, seated in an aft observer position, saw a life raft floating aimlessly. From inside the raft, people were frantically waving at the P-3C *Orion* as it passed overhead. The aircrew contacted and vectored the nearby merchant vessel *Unichart* toward the life raft, where the ship picked up eight Pakistani sailors from the sunken maritime vessel *Ali Rasi Kalifa Alabari*. After tending to the survivors, the crew of *Unichart* learned that four additional crewman were still missing, and informed the *Orion*. Crew 10 coordinated additional nearby SAR resources to search for the missing sailors, but they were never found. The eight survivors had been at sea for 36 hours before being spotted by VP-9's Crew 10.

## Scan Pattern

Reconnaissance flights were suspended over eastern Zaire after Zairian rebels fired on a **VP-16 P-3C Orion** on 20 November 1996. The planes were being used to assess the number of refugees in the region. Rebels aimed a burst of antiaircraft fire at one of the Navy planes when it flew over a rally of rebel supporters. The *Orion*, flying at 19,000 feet, was undamaged.

The *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) Battle Group, including *Carr* (FFG 52) and squadrons from CVW-3, completed air and sea exercises with Tunisian forces. The two exercises demonstrated the ability to communicate with Tunisian forces and to carry out challenging opera-

On 28 September 1996, during the annual "Prowler Ball," which commemorates excellence in the EA-6B community, the following individuals and units were recognized:

### Award

Maintenance Officer of the Year  
 Maintenance Squadron of the Year  
 Fleet Replacement Pilots of the Year  
 Fleet Replacement ECMO of the Year  
 Pilot Instructors of the Year  
 ECMO Instructor of the Year  
 "Seadog" Fodor Memorial  
 ALQ-99 Excellence  
 VAdm. John Perry  
 Electronic Combat Competition  
 Intelligence Officer of the Year  
 Prowler Tactical Excellence  
 Squadron of the Year

### Recipient

Ltjg. Norman Owen, VAQ-139  
 VAQ-141 *Shadowhawks*  
 Lt. Gregg Davis, VAQ-136  
 Capt. Alfred Woodfin, VMAQ-4  
 Ltjg. Shimon Mor, VAQ-130  
 Capt. Charles Gerst, USMC  
 Lt. Daniel Gamache  
 Lt. Brian Roemer  
 Lt. Pat Kirk, VAQ-135  
 Lt. David Silldorf, VAQ-129  
 LCdr. Thomas Payne, VAQWINGPAC  
 VAQ-141 *Shadowhawks*  
 Ltjg. Donald Jones, Jr.  
 VAQ-138 *Yellow Jackets*





Two P-3C *Orions* from VP-45, NAS Jacksonville, Fla., fire Zuni rockets off the coast of Puerto Rico.

tions. The exercises involved a search and rescue operation and air-to-air training.

Former Vice Chief of Naval Operations and retired Naval Aviator **Adm. Leon A. Edney** was named to the board of directors of Newport News Shipbuilding, Va. Adm. Edney was commissioned in 1957 and served 39 years in the Navy. His assignments included commanding officer of *Constellation* (CV 64), Chief of Naval Personnel and

Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. Naval Station, Mayport, Fla., dedicated a building on 27 November 1996 in honor of **VAdm. Robert J.**



James Whalen

**Stroh**, the first commanding officer of the decommissioned carrier *Saratoga* (CV 60). The building will be used as the Operational Training Facility, where pilots will receive simulator and classroom instruction in the SH-60B *Seahawk*.

**RAdm. Kevin Delaney** (right), CO of NB Jacksonville, Fla., cut the ribbon to the building named for **VAdm. Robert Stroh** (center), as Stroh's granddaughter, **Emily Leffler**, and daughter, **Robin**, look on.

## Change of Command

**CVW-2:** Capt. Randolph Dearth relieved Capt. Steven Kunkle, 10 Jan.

**FITWINGLANT:** Capt. Thomas F. Enright relieved Capt. Dale O. Snodgrass, 30 Jan.

**HS-2:** Cdr. Jeffrey B. Miller relieved Cdr. Brian J. McCormack, Dec 96.

**HS-7:** Cdr. Howard C. Keese relieved Cdr. Stephen C. Linnell, 20 Dec 96.

**HS-75:** Cdr. Stanley P. Hudson relieved Cdr. Terrel V. Beckham, 16 Nov 96.

**HSL-37:** Cdr. Karl E. Kolesnikoff relieved Cdr. Charles B. Key III, 15 Nov 96.

**HSL-42:** Cdr. Rob Presler relieved Cdr. Matt Schellhorn, 17 Jan.

**HSL-43:** Cdr. Earl Gay relieved Cdr. Steven Kiepe, 31 Oct 96.

**HSL-44:** Cdr. Wayne A. Tunick relieved Cdr. Dale E. Carson, 22

Nov 96.

**HSL-48:** Cdr. Brent H. Barrow relieved Cdr. Craig K. Austad, 12 Dec 96.

**NAPRA Atsugi, Japan:** Cdr. Karl E. Yeakel relieved Cdr. James A. Jones, Jr., 14 Jan.

**NAVAIRTRACOM:** RAdm. Michael L. Bowman relieved RAdm. William B. Hayden, 9 Dec 96.

**Theodore Roosevelt** (CVN 71): Capt. David Architzel relieved Capt. Ronald L. Christenson, Oct 96.

**Third Fleet:** VAdm. Herbert Browne relieved VAdm. Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., 25 Oct 96.

**VAQ-140:** Cdr. Casey Collins relieved Cdr. T. P. Phelan, 17 Jan.

**VAQ-141:** Cdr. Robert A. McNaught relieved Cdr. Robert M. Stuart II, 16 Jan.

**VAW-116:** Cdr. Mark Mills relieved Cdr. John Yurchak, 9 Jan.

**VAW-120:** Cdr. D. T. Keuhlen relieved Capt. Frank N. Clark, Dec 96.

**VF-102:** Cdr. Kurt F. Daill relieved Cdr. Stephen S. Voetsch, 26 Nov 96.

**VFA-113:** Cdr. Charles A. McCawley relieved Cdr. Douglas L. McClain, 12 Dec 96.

**VFA-125:** Cdr. Douglas L. McClain relieved Capt. Carlton Simmons, 16 Dec 96.

**VFA-136:** Cdr. Win Everett relieved Cdr. Timothy A. White, 16 Dec 96.

**VFA-196:** Cdr. Richard Taylor relieved Cdr. Ray Zack, 17 Dec 96.

**VMFA(AW)-332:** Lt. Col. Richard J. Findlay relieved Lt. Col. Roland N. Burgess, 15 Nov 96.

**VS-35:** Cdr. Larry M. Gillis relieved Cdr. Larry S. McCracken, 10 Jan.