

Edited by JO2 E. Blake Towler



Cdr. David Baranek

Awards

1996 People of the Year

ATKWINGPAC: AO1(AW) Brent McDonald—**Sea Sailor** and AK1(AW) M. Roderos—**Shore Sailor**.

CARGRU-7: BM1(SW/AW) John Perry—**Sailor**.

Constellation (CV 64): HM1(SW) Frank Graham—**Sailor**.

Enterprise (CVN 65): AC1(AW/SW) Ricky Lee—**Senior Sailor** and EM2(SW/AW) Adam Tafel—**Junior Sailor**.

HC-11: AE1(NAC) Joe Ondarza—**Aircrewman**.

HSL-84: AE1 Donald R. Hall—**TAR Sailor** and PR1 Manfred W. Loechner—**SELRES Sailor**.

HT-8: AMH1 Gary E. Greer, Jr.—**Sailor**.

Kitty Hawk (CV 63): DS1(AW) Kevin L. Harris—**Senior Sailor** and HM3 Olen Hartman—**Junior Sailor**.

NADEP Jacksonville: AMH1(AW) Gregory A. Wooten—**Sailor**.

NAF Adak: YN1(AW/SW) William P. Parks—**Sailor**.

NAMTRAGRUDET North Island: AS1(AW/SW) Larry Patton—**Sailor** and AS1(AW/SW) Arnel Atienza—**Instructor**.

NAS Cecil Field: AMS1(AW) John Wilson—**Shore**

LCdr. Mark Singletary and Lt. Steven Hejmanowski of VF-211 are directed toward catapult #1 on *Nimitz* (CVN 68) for an evening flight off the coast of southern California on 11 February.

Sailor, AO1 Mike Rock—**Sea Sailor** and AS3 Lejuan Clay—**Junior Sailor**.

NAS Jacksonville: AK1 William Anthony—**Sailor**.

NAS Kingsville: AC1(AW) Michael Therrien—**Senior Sailor** and AC3(AW) Joseph Wright—**Junior Sailor**.

NAS Meridian: NC1 Calvin Coleman—**Senior Sailor** and BU3 Robert Reyes—**Junior Sailor**.

NAS Patuxent River AIMD: Lt. Robin Donaldson—**Maintenance Officer**.

NAS Pensacola: SK1(SW) Jorge Malavet—**Sailor**.

NAS Whiting Field: MA1 Larry D. Bowen—**Sailor**.

NAVAIRPAC: ET1 Kevin Cahill—**Air Traffic Controller Technician** and PN1(AW) James W. MacIsaac III—**Staff Sailor**.

PATWING-10: AME1 Harry E. McGee—**Sea Sailor** and AW1 Richard D. Owens—**Shore Sailor**.

PATWINGSPAC: YN1(AW) Mignonette Angeles Agustino Prondzinski—**Senior Sailor** and DP1(SW) Robert D. Smith—**Junior Sailor**.

SEACONWINGLANT: YN1(AW) Anthony Brooks—**Sailor**.

STRIKFITWINGLANT: AZ1(AW) Phillip Babcock—**Sailor**.
 STRIKFITWPNSCOL: AMS1(AW) Raymond Parham—**Sailor**.
 TRAWING-5/HT-18: AMS1 Ricky Paschall—**Sailor**.
 VA-115: AT1 K. Neubecker—**Sailor**.
 VA-165: AE1(AW) M. Wanless—**Sailor**.
 VAQ-130: AME1(AW) Robert Burns—**Sailor**.
 VAQ-133: AZ1(AW) Kyle Palmer—**Sailor**.
 VAQ-134: AO1(AW/SW) Rodney Biggs—**Sailor**.
 VAQ-140: AMS1(AW) Anthony W. Lauersdorf—**Sailor**.
 VAQWINGPAC: AZ1(AW) Erin McElhenie—**Sailor**.
 VFA-15: AME1(AW) Gregory Taylor—**Sailor**.
 VFA-34: AE1(AW/SW) Edward Confer—**Sailor**.
 VFA-37: AME1(AW) Dallas Payne—**Sailor**.
 VFA-81: AMS1(AW) Curtis Miller—**Sailor**.
 VFA-82: Lt. F. Luchtman—**Pilot**, Ens. Steven Maxwell—**Ground Officer**, ADC(AW) Vance Vanderbeek—**Chief** and AME1(AW) Jackie Lee—**Sailor**.
 VFA-83: PN1(AW/SW) Wesley Dupuis—**Sailor**.
 VFA-86: AO1(AW) John Moore—**Sailor**.
 VFA-87: AD1(AW) Kevin Ramsdell—**Sailor**.
 VFA-105: AE1(AW) James Koonce—**Sailor**.
 VFA-106: AO1(AW) Arthur Irwin—**Sailor**.
 VFA-131: AD1(AW) Clifford Millard—**Sailor**.
 VFA-136: AZ1(AW) Kenneth Daniels—**Sailor**.
 VQ-1: AMS1(AW) Guy T. Plummer—**Sea Sailor** and AT1(AW) Danny L. Nuckols—**Aircrewman**.
 VQ-6: AT1(AW) Timothy Clay—**Sea Sailor** and AT1(NAC) Daniel Hocker—**Shore Sailor**.
 VS-21: AMSC Timothy Moore—**Flight Deck Chief**.
 VS-22: AD1(AW) Armando Barrozo—**Sailor**.
 VS-24: AD1(AW) Vencent Logan—**Sailor**.
 VS-30: AT1(AW) Michael Rasmussen—**Sailor**.
 VS-31: AMS1(AW) Joseph Spencer-Moore—**Sailor**.
 VS-32: AO1(AW) Anthony Stewart—**Sailor**.
 VT-2: YN1(SW) Mark Stoughton—**Sailor**.
 VT-6: ABF1(AW) Garry Large—**Sailor**.
 VT-7: YN3 Daryl Paluch—**Sailor**.

VT-19: OS2(SW) Robert Floyd—**Sailor**.
 VT-22: Capt. Kevin Watkinson, USMC—**Instructor** and YN2 John Curtis—**Sailor**.
 VT-23: YN1(SW) James Waller—**Sailor**.
 VXE-6: AMH1(AW) Richard Burns—**Sailor**.
 Wasp (LHD 1): ABF1(AW/SW) Kevin Dunnings—**Sailor**.

The aviation unit winners of the **1997 Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Award** for outstanding food service were *Constellation* (CV 64)—aircraft carrier; and NAS North Island, Calif.—large ashore unit.

The Pensacola, Fla., **Navy League** recognized the following local aviation personnel for **outstanding community service**: AK1(AW) William J. McDonald, VT-10; YN3 Jason S. Whittle, NAS Whiting Field; AK1 Joseph S. Bastien, VT-3; AMH1(AW) Gary E. Greer, HT-8; AMH1 Stephen L. Levers, HT-18; AK1 Clifford D. Hester, TRAWING-5; YN2 Donald L. Battle, VT-6; AE1(AW) Robert A. Hendrickson, Naval Aviation Schools Command; and AC1(AW) Marilyn H. Sinohui, NAS Pensacola.

Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP), Jacksonville, Fla., received the **FY-1996 Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore (Industrial Category)**. Sponsor VAdm. John Lockard, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, praised the NADEP's ability to maintain an aggressive safety and health program after acquiring the workload of NADEP Norfolk, Va., when it was disestablished.

NADEP Jacksonville was also honored for its participation in the Duval County Vital Link Program. Unlike in other internship programs, students do not learn a trade, but the value of an education. After exposure to a wide variety of aviation technical equipment and processes, students leave the program with the realization that the skills taught in school make them more marketable in the real world.

Special Records

Several units marked **safe flying milestones**:

Unit	Hours	Years
VP-46	230,800	33
VP-4	170,050	25
HSL-47	57,000	9
VX-1	49,126	12
HSL-43	40,000	6
HSL-84	40,000	
HMM-263	39,000	10
VFA-94	22,000	5

VFA-86 CO **Cdr. Terry Rains** completed his 3,000th flight hour in the F/A-18 *Hornet*.

LCdr. Steve Hayes of VAQ-137

reached his 2,000th EA-6B *Prowler* flight hour, a milestone achieved over 12 years.



On 28 February, **1st Lt. Keri L. Schubert** received her wings of gold and made history by becoming the

first woman Marine Corps Naval Flight Officer (NFO) to be selected for the F/A-18D *Hornet*. She was one of 44 NFOs who received their wings in one of the largest gradu-

1st Lt. Keri L. Schubert is the first woman Marine Corps NFO to be assigned as a back-seater in the F/A-18D Hornet.



Ted Carlson

Above, an HSL-84 SH-2G *Super Seasprite* crewed by Cdr. Bob Burrus, LCdr. Mark Pidcock and AW1 Dean Savage deploys an ASQ-81 magnetic anomaly detector. Right, sensor operator AW2 Jim Peters keeps a watchful eye on a surface contact.

ating NFO classes aboard NAS Pensacola, Fla. Coincidentally, her husband, Ltjg. Chris Schubert, USCG, got his Naval Aviator wings the same day. The high-flying couple received orders to California—Keri to a fleet readiness squadron at El Toro and Chris to a tour of duty flying helicopters in San Diego.

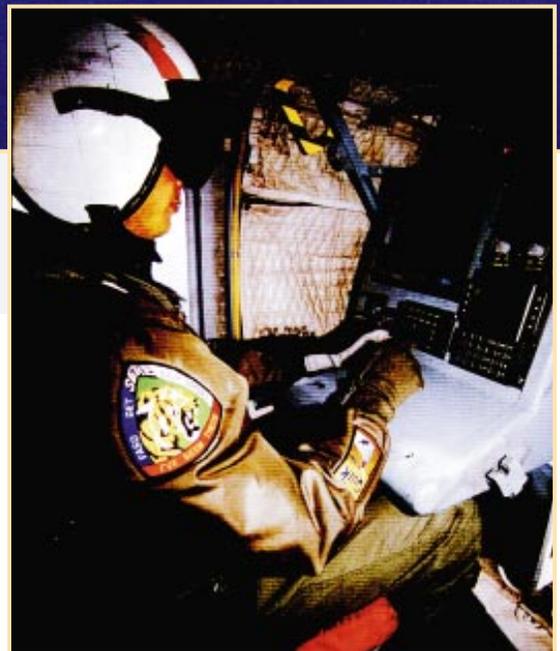
Cdr. Jeff Cathey, VFA-195's skipper, joined an exclusive group of aviators on 18 February when he and his F/A-18 *Hornet* rolled into the groove behind *Independence* (CV 62) and proceeded to bag his 1,000th carrier arrested landing. During his 18-year career, Cdr. Cathey has accumulated over 4,500 flight hours—3,200 in the *Hornet*.

Anniversaries

Two Florida-based training squadrons celebrated their 25th anniversaries: the **HT-18 Vigilant Eagles**, NAS Whiting Field, in March and the **VT-86 Sabrehawks**, NAS Pensacola, in June. Future helicopter pilots train at HT-18, while VT-86 provides the advanced Naval Flight Officer curriculum.

Rescues

On 6 February the **NAS Key West, Fla., Search and Rescue** (SAR) team coordinated with the Florida Marine Patrol (FMP) to retrieve the pilot of a downed



Ted Carlson

Cessna 172 from the waters off Key West. The UH-3H *Sea King* crew—pilot Lt. Steven Stempinski, copilot Lt. Mark Howell, AD2 Bradley Thompson, HM3 Terry McIntosh and AO3 Edward Hart—arrived minutes after the civilian plane hit the water. Rescue swimmer Hart assessed the pilot's injuries and assisted him from the aircraft into an FMP boat for transport to shore.

February continued to be a busy month for the Key West SAR team as they conducted three medical evacuations from commercial fishing trawlers. On 11 February, the *Sea King* crew—pilot Lt. Robert Wallis, copilot LCdr. Mark Regelmann, Lt. Mark Pennington, AD2 Thompson and HM2 Donald McNeil—airlifted a crew member who had suffered a seizure aboard *Kelly Ann*. On 24 February, the SAR team was dispatched again, this time with pilot Lt. Andrew Ricciutti, copilot LCdr. Regelmann, AT2 Daniel Day, HM2 McNeil and flight surgeon Cdr. William Whitehead to pick up a sailor on *Honey Bee* who was suffering from a knife wound to the stomach. Four days later, the UH-3H—with pilot Lt. Wallis, copilot LCdr. Regelmann, Lt. Pennington, AO3 Hart and AME2 Jonathan Ferguson—evacuated a *Sierra West* crew member who had suffered a stroke. Each of these victims was transported to nearby Lower Florida Keys Medical Center for treatment.

VF-101, HS-5 and VS-41, embarked on *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), all contributed to the successful medevac of a Sailor suffering a heart attack aboard *De Wert* (FFG 45) on 21 January. Acting Naval Air Force, Atlantic detachment medical officer LCdr. Mark Hoffman, assigned to VF-101, was flown to the frigate by an HS-5 HH-60H *Seahawk* crewed by LCdr. Jamie

Woman Aviator Pioneer Retires




PH2 Jason Carter

PH2 Jason Carter

Capt. Jane Skiles O'Dea, the Navy's senior woman aviator, is "piped over the side" at her 11 April retirement ceremony. One of the initial group of six women to complete Navy flight training, O'Dea received her wings in April 1974. She was the first to achieve command (Navy Recruiting District, Indianapolis) and to be selected for the rank of captain. Assisting as one of the ceremonial sideboys was flight school classmate Capt. Rosemary Conatser Mariner, above right. At right, the two as ensigns 23 years earlier undergoing training at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. In her career, Capt. O'Dea has logged over 3,000 hours in C-130, C-1A, T-34 and EC-130Q aircraft while assigned to VR-24, VT-2, *Lexington* (AVT-6) and VQ-4.



PHAN J. A. Coore

Hopkins, Lt. Alex Brinker, AW2 Allen Lapkovitch and AW3 Wesley Vinson. A VS-41 S-3 *Viking* accompanied the over-water flight in case assistance was needed. The patient was airlifted to the NAS Jacksonville, Fla., naval hospital for treatment.

Scan Pattern

Cdr. Nora Tyson became commanding officer of VQ-4 on 11 April. She is the first woman Naval Flight Officer to command an operational squadron. Following designation as an NFO



Four graduating Naval Academy Midshipmen slated for aviation duty met with and got some personal pointers from two Eagles at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM). Retired Luftwaffe Gen. Gunther Rall and wartime pilot Lt. Walter Shuck, two of the highest scoring German WW II fighter pilots (275 and 198 victories, respectively), recounted their experiences at a special benefit lecture sponsored by the National Air and Space Society supporting construction of NASM's Dulles Center in Virginia. Shown with Gen. Rall (left) and Lt. Shuck are, from left to right, Midshipmen First Class Art Hodge, Jason Cashman, Mark Burns and Victor Chistiakov.

in 1984, she served with VQ-4, Naval Air Maintenance Training Group Det 1079 as officer in charge, aboard *Lexington* (AVT 16) as assistant operations officer, and then returned to VQ-4 for a department head tour. After attending the Naval War College and the Armed Forces Staff College, Cdr. Tyson became XO of VQ-4 in 1996, prior to assuming command.



JOC Brown

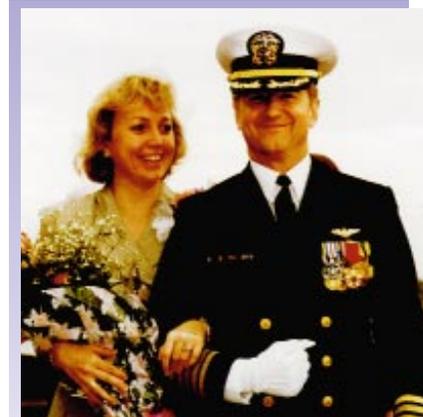
Retired Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Jr., shown above with his wife, Dottie, received a singular honor when he was named honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Queen Elizabeth presented the award at Buckingham Palace on 5 March in recognition of the admiral's role in directing the multinational peace implementation force in Bosnia.

Sailors in the Spotlight

Two NAS Dallas, Texas, air traffic controllers teamed to guide an American Eagle commuter flight to a safe landing at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on 12 February after a lightning strike disabled its navigational systems. **AC1 Thomas B. Chapman**, a 14-year Navy veteran, and **AC3 Marco**

A. Smith, with 18 months of service and less than a year as an air traffic controller, served as the commuter pilot's eyes, directing the plane's heading and rate of descent until the pilot could see the airport.

SK3 Linda Larson, a Selected Reservist at Naval Air Reserve Activity, Selfridge, Mich., dedicated herself to being a foster mother seven years ago. To date she has cared for nine girls, all of whom had been the victims of serious trauma, such as physical or sexual abuse. On 29 March, SK3 Larson received the Military Volunteer Service Medal for her continuing dedication.



Naval Aviator and astronaut Capt. Frank L. Culbertson, shown above with his wife, Rebecca, retired from active duty on 8 March. Capt. Culbertson will continue working with NASA as an astronaut, and as program director of the first phase of the international space station.

Nimitz Makes a Wish Come True



Photos by PH3 Christopher Mobley

The crew of *Nimitz* (CVN 68) teamed with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which organizes special events for children with fatal diseases, to give ten-year-old Courtney Sue Arciaga the trip of a lifetime on 10 February. The crew provided a grand welcome on the flight deck, and CO Capt. Issac Richardson III instructed her in helmsmanship before naming her an honorary master helmsman. The ship's mess prepared a special cake for Courtney Sue, who was recognized as an honorary crew member, and she received a bos'n pipe as a reminder of her wish come true.

