

F7F Tigercat

It's always enjoyable to read *NANews*, particularly when it includes an article of personal interest. In the Jul–Aug 98 issue, Hal Andrews wrote a nice piece on one of my most beloved aircraft, the Grumman F7F *Tigercat*. It sharpened some very fond memories, but I'd like to correct a discrepancy.

The first F7F-2Ns to deploy overseas were not from VMF(N)-531. They were part of a designated "F7F-N Cadre," of which I was OinC. MAG-53 at MCAS Eagle Mountain Lake, Texas, was gearing up the F7Fs for combat. VMF(N)-531 had served in the Solomon Islands earlier in the war, but in 1945 was a part of MAG-53 involved in training F7F-2(N) pilots, radar operators and technicians. I was CO from 10 April to 9 June when personnel to man the cadre were ordered to the West Coast, preparing for departure to the Pacific to cover the scheduled invasion of

Japan. We sortied aboard *Attu* (CVE 102) on 23 July. VMF(N)-531 still operated at Eagle Mountain Lake. The cadre, with its 15 aircraft and the nucleus of a newer generation VMF(N) squadron, flew from Guam through Iwo Jima. Arriving at Okinawa in mid-August we were assigned to VMF(N)-533. I became CO and it was transformed from an F6F(N) into a *Tigercat* outfit—all these events in a month's time.

Lt. Gen. Robert P. Keller,
USMC (Ret.)
1055 Harbourview Circle
Pensacola, FL 32507

FASRON-8

Does anyone know the origin of the Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron (FASRON) 8 patch, which depicts two giraffes with their necks crossed? Former squadron members are planning a reunion in 1999 and would appreciate any information about the

insignia. Please call me at 703-765-1726 or write:

LCdr. R. Don Miller, USN (Ret.)
6906 Stoneybrooke Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Corrections to Jul–Aug 98

Page 4: Ships' photo by PH1 James Williams.

Page 13: Jim Jenkins vice Randy Hepp took the photo of Adm. Johnson and Cdr. Tom Gurney.

Page 20: The decommissioning of *New Orleans* (LPH 11) on 31 October should have been listed under "Aviation Command Changes, 1997."

Page 43: The title of the Navy League award presented to Capt. Richard C. Knott, USN (Ret.), should have read: 1998 Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement.



Reunions

AOC/NAVCAD/MARCAD Class 29-65 planned reunion. POC: Louis Seldon, 8937 NW 3rd Pl., Coral Springs, FL 33071, 954-735-5647.

VR-24, 1–4 OCT, Reno, NV. POC: Pete Owen, 21136 San Miguel, Mission Viejo, CA 92692, 714-462-3696.

NAS Trinidad, 1–4 OCT, Tampa, FL. POC: Phillip Haas, 12939 Prestwick Dr., Riverview, FL 33569, 813-677-8448.

Coral Sea (CVB/CV/CVA 43), 2–4 OCT, Peoria, IL. POC: Herman Doernbach, 3144 S. 98th St., Milwaukee, WI 53227-4210, 414-321-0098.

Philippine Sea (CV/CVA/CVS 47), 5–9 OCT, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: USS Philippine Sea Assn., POB 8020, Port Charlotte, FL 33949-8020, 941-743-6827; philsea@afcon.net.

Saipan (CVL 48), 8–11 OCT, Las Vegas, NV. POC: B. D. Stine, 10 Judy Terr., West Warwick, RI 02893, 800-476-4979.

Lake Champlain (CV/CVA/CVS 39), 9–10 OCT, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: Phillip Nazak, POB 34, Vestal, NY 13851-0034, 800-484-7298.

Naval Air Transport Service, 11–17 OCT, Pensacola, FL. POC: Corrine Mathison, 12716 E. 147th St., Kansas City, MO 64149-1116, 816-331-6610.

VJ/VUs 12/13/14, 12–14 OCT, Reno, NV. POC: Bryant Fleming, 7560-1 Cathedral Oaks, Goleta, CA 93117, 805-968-7994; vj-1@webtv.net.

Sicily (CVE 118), 13–15 OCT, Las Vegas, NV. POC: James Padgett, 1716 Green Valley Dr., Kingsport, TN 37664, 423-247-7983; kalane@usit.net.

Langley (CVL 27), 13–17 OCT, Pensacola, FL. POC: Wm. Thompson, 8021 Gleneagle Dr., Port Richey, FL 34668, 813-862-0997; balihai@gate.net.

VP-40, 13–17 OCT, San Diego, CA. POC: F. W. Humphries, 3746 Cameo Ct., San Diego, CA 92111, 619-292-4974.

Cabot (CVL 28), 14–18 OCT,

Providence, RI. POC: Barrett Frink, Box 11, East Woodstock, CT 06244, 860-928-7437.

Bogue (CVE 9), 18–21 OCT, Williamsburg, VA. POC: Jack Bookbinder, 969 Drivers Ln., Newport News, VA 23602, 757-872-7369.

VF-54, 22–25 OCT, San Diego, CA. POC: Glenn Ward, 2240 N. Trenton St., Arlington, VA 22207-4039, 703-527-7315.

VPB-18, 28–30 OCT, Orlando, FL. POC: Mel Burgess, 6322 Rockaway St., Orlando, FL 32807, 800-615-5808.

VP-45, 29 OCT–1 NOV, Pensacola, FL. POC: C. B. Caldwell, 1061 Arnold Way, Alpine, CA 91901-2721, 619-445-5072.

VF-53, 9–12 NOV, Branson, MO. POC: Charles Darrow, 1455 Rice Rd., Fallon, NV 89406-9449, 702-423-6137; cbdarr@aiinc.com.

VXE-6 reunion and disestablishment, 27 MAR 99, NAWS Point Mugu, CA. POC: LCdr. Mike Neckerman, 805-989-8199; vxe6decom@aol.com.

