



Through the Lens of David Peters

It was a fleeting moment aboard *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70). A combination of elements: relative wind, humidity, steam temperature, air temperature and lighting. A right-place, right-time, right-conditions kinda thing. The EA-6B *Prowler* of VAQ-135 (above) was just hooking up to the cat when it was enveloped by a thick cloud of steam. The slight vortex created by the air being sucked into the intakes caused the cloud to spiral around the bird, popping the nose out into the afternoon sun.

Vulture's Row, seven flights up on the control island, is a place the public affairs officer likes to park visitors where they are safe and out of the way—and still fully entertained. It's a great vantage point to watch flight ops when you can't be down in the thick of it. I was up there during RIMPAC '98 when I noticed directly below me on the flight deck that crewmen in all the colors of the deck were forming into two lines in front of the admiral's hatch. This formation is known as the "Rainbow Sideboys" (right), an honor guard of sorts. Just as I got this shot, the sideboys snapped to attention and saluted as Adm. A. R. Clemins, CINCPACFLT, exited the hatch. He returned their salute as he walked to the end of the row, turned and shook each crewman's hand, and marched off to his waiting helicopter.





AW3 Jamie A. Manssour (left) has been a search and rescue swimmer since September 1998; HS-6's unofficial "poster person" stands beside an SH-60 *Seahawk* while in the Arabian Gulf in March 1999. Above, silhouetted against the setting sun, a weight board operator confirms the plane's weight with the pilot as the aircraft director prepares it for launch. Below, one of the best places to "hang" is out the bullnose, the forward-most area of the forecastle just below the flight deck. 🌟

Aviation buff David Peters is a professional photographer and illustrator in Venice, Calif.

