



## Awards

**N**aval Aviation News won First Place in the 1998 CHINFO Merit Awards competition in the category Publications for a Specific Audience (Magazine). Art Director Morgan Wilbur and contributing artist Ted Wilbur, illustrator of "Grampaw Pettibone," respectively won Second Place and Honorable Mention in Illustrative Art.

The 1998 **Grampaw Pettibone Award**, which recognizes the individual and unit that has contributed the most toward aviation safety awareness through publications, was presented to Lt. Col. Peyton Dehart of MAG-42 and VXE-6. Runners-up were independent photographer Ted Carlson and HSL-44.

## *Semper Fi From the Sky*

Sgts. Todd Abbott and Andrew McNally man .50-caliber machine guns aboard a CH-53D *Sea Stallion* as they watch for threats while transporting the first contingent of personnel from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to a staging area in Skopje, Macedonia. Photo by CWO2 Seth Rossman, USNR.

VFA-192's maintenance department and ordnance divisions were recognized for their outstanding performance, safety and professionalism. The *Golden Dragons* were winners of the 1998 **Scott F. Kirby Award** given to the Strike Fighter Wing, Pacific squadron which best exhibits safe and proficient ordnance handling, provides reliable weapon systems and shows excellence in avionics/armament in its work centers.

The 1998 **Captain Arnold Jay Isbell Trophy** was presented on 26 March to HS-5 for antisubmarine

warfare excellence. This is the fourth time that the honor has been awarded to the *Nightdippers*.

VMA-214 received the **Meritorious Unit Citation** for its participation in Exercise Hunter Warrior conducted at Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., from September 1997 to March 1998. The squadron's six AV-8B *Harriers* and 75-plus support crew provided close air support and reconnaissance exercises during day and night operations. The war-fighting exercises were designed to train Marines to fight better with fewer resources using improved technology.



Chief of Naval Personnel VAdm. Daniel Oliver announced the **1998 Navy Community Service Program Award** winners, stating, "I salute you all, the members of the Navy who 'Serve America twice.'" Aviation winners included NAS Oceana, Va., and *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) for environmental stewardship. The carrier was also recognized for a drug free campaign.

The VP-10 *Red Lancers* accumulated more than 5,200 hours in Atlantic, European and Southern Command operating theaters in 1998. They logged 533 hours and 77 events in support of major battle group and NATO exercises. The *Red Lancers* tri-site deployment operations maintained a 93-percent sortie completion rate. It takes a lot of hours to ensure that the aircraft are up and running, so it was not a surprise when VP-10 received the **1998 Aviation Master Chief Donald M. Neal Award** for outstanding maintenance performance.



AW2 Jerome Shropshire

Aviation Systems Warfare Operator Second Class Jerome Shropshire was presented the **1998 National Helicopter Association's Aircrewman of the Year Award** for the outstanding performance of his duties. Stationed at HS-11 for nearly six years, the petty officer was selected over more senior aircrewmen Navywide. "I enjoy my work because I get to do what a lot of people can't," Shropshire said. "Hunting subs is challenging, and I am always ready for a challenge."

Lt. Jeff Heiges was selected as **Commander Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet's 1998 Pilot of the Year**. A member of the VFA-131 *Wildcats*, and recently finishing up an around-the-world cruise on board *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), he has logged over 1,000 flight hours and 348 carrier arrested landings. Lt. Heiges qualified as an airshow demo pilot, night vision goggle instructor and functional check flight pilot.

The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Pensacola, Fla., presented two prestigious awards in May.

Cdr. Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret.), won the **1999 Adm. Arthur B. Radford Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation History and Literature** in recognition of his "outstanding and significant personal contributions to the preservation of the proud heritage and rich history of Naval Aviation through the wealth of books and articles he has written." He is currently the editor of *Approach* magazine and since 1982 has served as the book review editor of *Naval Aviation News*. A highly respected Naval Aviation historian, Cdr. Mersky has been associated with *NA News* since 1971.



Cdr. Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret.)



Roy Grinnell

The **1999 R. G. Smith Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation Art** was presented to Roy Grinnell, whose forte for capturing aviation history on canvas has brought him worldwide recognition. He is the official artist for the American Fighter Aces Association and the Confederate Air Force. His camaraderie with legendary aces has allowed him to carve an impressive niche in aviation history in the form of prints and publications.

## Special Records

Capt. John Leenhouts, Commander Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic, trapped his way into the record books with his 1,627th carrier arrested landing 7 March, on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

## Presenting the Right Image

By JO1 Joshua M. Hudson

When PH2 Michael W. Pendergrass goes to work, he becomes the "eyes of the Navy." A photographer's mate assigned to *Enterprise* (CVN 65), Pendergrass brings his skills as an artist to capture "Big E" moments for the world.

He was recently recognized as the 1998 American Forces Information Service Director's Choice as one of the best overall military photographers. His photos have appeared in countless publications from the *Washington Post* and *USA Today* to the *London Times* and Serbian newspapers in Belgrade. "It does no good to shoot an image if it doesn't go anywhere," said Pendergrass, who transmits his digital images daily from the photo lab for release.

He was surprised and pleased when he was also presented the Secretary of Defense Joint Service Achievement Medal. He had come to the ceremony with his camera around his neck. "I had no clue I was getting it. I thought I was there to photograph an awards ceremony."





In April Cdr. Joseph P. Aucoin, VF-41's XO, passed a rare milestone in any aviator's career: the completion of 4,000 flight hours in the F-14 *Tomcat*. The average accumulation of career flight hours in the *Tomcat* is half of that marker.

## Rescues

While picking up a pizza at a local restaurant, MA3 Thomas Marchetti of the NAS Sigonella, Italy, security department noticed a young girl running around frantically. Realizing the girl was choking, Marchetti began to administer the Heimlich maneuver. Although it is well-known in the United States, many Italians are unfamiliar with the life-saving procedure. "When I went to turn her around, the Italians thought I was actually trying to hurt her and jumped me," Marchetti said. "They wrestled me to the ground and she was still choking. So, I started throwing elbows." After the men realized the Sailor's intentions, they let him free. In a matter of moments and after a few good Heimlich thrusts, the object was dislodged. "After that, no one wanted to hurt me anymore. They were real happy," Marchetti added. Master Chief of the Navy MMCM (SW/AW/SS) Jim Herdt awarded Marchetti the Navy Achievement Medal, the second he has received for saving a life.

After receiving a distress call from a sinking fishing vessel that was the victim of a tropical storm in the South China Sea, VP-40 launched five P-3C *Orions* to scan more than 240 square miles of ocean for survivors. Seventy-two hours after the 47-man ship went down, the P-3 aircrew spotted the first three survivors on a piece of orange debris. The crew was able to assist in saving 18 of the crew.

**NAS Fallon's Longhorns** search and rescue team answered a request from the

Alpine County, Calif., sheriff's office to locate a 24-year-old man who had been missing for 24 hours near an area called Pleasant Valley. The *Longhorns*, long-time veterans of search and rescue, found the man uninjured and delivered him to nearby medical authorities.

## Scan Pattern

It is not unheard of to have a sibling serve in the Navy at the same time that you do, but identical twins **LCdrs. Scott and Mark Kelly** have had *identical* careers. They are both Naval Aviators, test pilots and engineers (and both have four-year-old daughters). They are also both astronauts and space shuttle pilots. What has separated one from the

other is the news that Scott has been named the pilot for *Discovery's* Hubble Space Telescope repair mission in October. "They made the second best choice," Mark quipped. "It really doesn't matter to either of us. One of us was going to have to fly first." The Kellys cite their parallel careers as coincidence.

Two MCAS Beaufort, S.C., C-12 *Huron* pilots encountered unusual foreign object debris while conducting touch-and-go night training on 10 March. During a touchdown, the aircraft, piloted by Marine **Cpts. Dale R. Etscheld and Andrew Salkeld**, struck a deer that had wandered onto the flight line. This damaged the nose of the aircraft and forced an emergency landing.

## Wings of Gold Fly 56 years

By Kay A. Frank

Every student aviator of a graduating class at NAS Whiting Field is presented shiny new wings of gold, but the wings that Ensign Mark Richardson received on 2 April have flown 56 proud Navy years.

Mark's grandfather, then-Ens. C. W. Richardson, earned his wings at Corpus Christi, Texas, on 8 May 1943. He went on to fly the OS2U *Kingfisher* with Scouting Squadron 6, and then in the Naval Air Reserve accumulating about 1,000 hours of flight time.

When C. W.'s son, Lee, was 5 years old, he went with his father to work and saw an SNJ *Texan* training aircraft. He was captivated. He grew up building model aircraft and his own "simulator" by drawing aircraft instruments on a piece of board. It seems to have been destiny that led Ens. Lee Richardson to flight school after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968.

He earned his wings in 1969 flying the T-28 *Trojan* and TS-2 *Tracker* at Whiting Field. After C. W. pinned his own wings on his son, Lee was assigned to Patrol Squadron 19 to fly the P-3 *Orion*. Capt. Lee Richardson has accumulated more than 2,000 flight hours, and he is now a Navy dentist at Naval Station Bremerton, Wash.

Lee's son, Mark, grew up poring over his father's aviation magazines. He enjoyed watching his dad's collection of aircraft films and especially liked trips to air shows. When he saw the *Blue Angels* fly, he was hooked. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1997, and soared into flight training at NAS Whiting Field, Fla.

Ens. Mark Richardson was recently pinned by his father, who brought to the ceremony his legacy and the family wings of gold.



Left, Ens. C. W. Richardson sports his new wings of gold. Above, C. W. and Lee pin the same wings on Mark, the newest Richardson to fly Navy.



# CNO Safety Awards

## COMNAVAIRLANT

HM-15 HS-15 HSL-42  
VAW-121 VC-8 VF-143  
VF-154 VFA-81 VP-30  
VP-31

## COMNAVAIRPAC

HC-3 HS-6 HSL-51  
VAQ-128 VAQ-139 VAQ-132  
VAW-115 VFA-113 VP-47  
VQ-3 VRC-30 VS-21

## COMNARFORLANT

HMLA-167 HMLA-269  
HMM-162 HMM-266  
VMA-223 VMA-542  
VMFA (AW)-332 VMGR-252  
VMR-1

## COMNAVAIRESFOR

HC-85 HCS-5 HSL-94  
VAQ-209 VAW-77 VFC-12  
VP-64 VP-66 VP-69  
VP-91 VP-92 VR-48  
VR-57

## CNATRA

HT-8 VT-3 VT-9  
VT-10 VT-21 VT-27

## CG FOURTH MAW

HMLA-775 DET A  
VMFT-401

## COMNAVAIRSYSCOM

NADEP North Island, CA



Ted Carlson

LCdr. Mike Walls, flying an EA-6B Prowler, and his VAQ-128 squadron-mates earned the 1998 CNO Safety Award.

The city of Poquoson, Va., signed Resolution of Acknowledgement No. 2843 on the 72nd anniversary of the "supreme sacrifices" made by **Cdr. Noel Davis and Lt. Stanton Hall Wooster** in the service of their country on 26 April 1927. The pilots were conducting the final test flight of a Keystone *Pathfinder* aircraft christened *American Legion* from Langley Field, Va., in preparation for the first nonstop air crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. They experienced flight problems and crashed during an emergency landing, sustaining fatal injuries. (See "Those Willing to Dare," Mar-Apr 99, pp. 22-25.)

## Change of Command

**CVW-11:** Capt. William A. Pokorny, Jr., relieved Capt. J. T. Knight, 27 Mar.

**HS-75:** Cdr. J. W. Funderburk relieved Cdr. W. W. Holmes, 20 Mar.

**NAS Pensacola:** Capt. Randal L. Bahr relieved Capt. J. Michael

Denkler, 2 Apr.

**TRAWING 5:** Capt. Peter A. Cornell relieved Capt. Christopher D. Hale, 9 Apr.

**VAW-123:** Cdr. Gerald L. Hehe relieved Cdr. Robert W. Brown.

**VAW-126:** Cdr. Thomas J. Henning relieved Cdr. David A. Newland, 2 Apr.

**VFA-87:** Cdr. Patrick Hall

relieved Cdr. Martin Paulaitis, 18 Mar.

**VP-8:** Paul R. Martinez relieved Cdr. William G. Harrison, Jr., 14 May.

**VS-30:** Cdr. Edmund Turner relieved Cdr. Greg Nowak.

**VTC-11:** Cdr. Dennis A. Schulz relieved Cdr. David L. Buckley, 7 May.

## Nocturnal Knights

An HH-46 *Sea Knight* sea-air rescue helicopter on board *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) prepares to take off during night vision operations in the Adriatic Sea on 24 May 1999 supporting Operation Allied Force. Photo by CWO2 Seth Rossman, USNR.

