

Edited by Wendy Karppi



PH3 Donne McKlasic

CRISIS IN EUROPE

With the collapse of diplomatic efforts to counter Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's "cleansing" of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, Serbia, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization began Operation Allied Force on 24 March. Sea-

launched missiles from U.S. and British naval vessels and air-launched missiles from Air Force bombers attacked Serbian air defense systems, beginning an around-the-clock air campaign to reduce Milosevic's ability to sustain military operations in support



PH11 Richard Rosser



PH3 Remso Amatz

The flight deck aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) is the site of constant activity in support of Operation Allied Force. Top, an F-14 *Tomcat's* afterburners light up the jet blast deflector prior to a night mission. Above, ordnancemen prepare an F/A-18 *Hornet's* sting as they load Rockeye cluster bombs on the wing. Left, a deck crew member farewells an F/A-18 launching from the bow catapult. Right, a flight deck handler signals the pilot of a *Hornet* prior to takeoff.



of the Albanian persecution. On 29 March Secretary of Defense William Cohen ordered additional aircraft, including EA-6B *Prowlers* and *Predator* unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicles, to Europe.

Carrier Shuffle

Carl Vinson (CVN 70) departed the Arabian Gulf following relief by *Enterprise* (CVN 65) in March.

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) arrived in the Mediterranean on 3 April as intended on-station relief for *Enterprise* in the Arabian Gulf, but was ordered to remain in the Med to support Operation Allied Force.

Kitty Hawk (CV 63), which departed Yokosuka, Japan, for a scheduled three-and-a-half-month deployment on 2 March, was directed to relieve *Enterprise* in the Arabian Gulf so "Big E" could return to the U.S. on schedule in May.

PH3 Renso Amariz



Shining Hope

ADAN Christopher M. Porter inspects a helicopter aboard *Inchon* (MCS 12), which is supporting Operation Shining Hope, the NATO humanitarian assistance operation attempting to bring relief to thousands of refugees created by the recent unrest in the Kosovo region.



PH1 Sean Jordan

New Hercules for Marines

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, Marietta, Ga., has begun final assembly of the first of five KC-130J tankers for the U.S.

Marine Corps. The new tanker can deliver almost double the gallons per minute of current models and can be fitted with a fuselage tank when extra capacity is needed, and the computerized system allows the tanker crew to adjust delivery pressure at the hose end as needed for different aircraft. Other improvements include increased thrust and fueling speed; head-up displays; and survivability enhancements such as a radar warning receiver, missile warning system and countermeasures capability. When delivered in 2000, these *Hercules* will replace KC-130s that have served since 1960.

Developmental Aircraft Update

The V-22 *Osprey* concluded four weeks of sea trials aboard *Saipan* (LHA 2) in February, setting the stage for final sea trials in August and formal operational evaluation this fall.

In early March, an F/A-18F conducted the *Super Hornet* program's first night carrier launch and recovery during sea trials aboard *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), and the Navy took delivery of the second and third production models (see story, p. 16).

IN THE GULF



A pair of F/A-18C Hornets assigned to the VFA-37 Raging Bulls prepare to recover aboard Enterprise following a mission over Iraq.

Lt. Jeff Cooper

While the world focused on military actions in the former Yugoslavia, Naval Aviation continued to protect the national interest in the

Arabian Gulf. In March and April, F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats—assigned to Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and her replacement, Enterprise (CVN

65)—flying in Operation Southern Watch struck Iraqi ground targets in response to repeated violations of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

PATWINGS Redesignated

In March, Commander Patrol Wings, Atlantic and subordinate wings received the new designation: Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (PATRECONFOR). The Pacific Fleet wing commander and subordinate wings are scheduled to assume the PATRECONFOR designation effective 1 June.

CVN 77

Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), Va., received a planning contract in September 1998 for CVN 77—the transition ship to CVX, the carrier of the future—and has begun conducting research and develop-

ment. In February Navy and NNS representatives met for the first time to begin jointly developing the contract for CVN 77, and during the next month a \$56 million addition to that contract was provided for the purchase of steel and other fabrication components.

Sidewinder Takes Flight

The AIM-9X Sidewinder short-range air-to-air missile successfully completed its first live fire air launch on 18 March at Naval Air Warfare Center China Lake, Calif. Testing will continue through 1999 to examine the missile's separation characteristics from the aircraft and missile controllability through

preprogrammed maneuvers in free-flight mode.

Mishaps

On 22 March an SH-60B Seahawk of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 43 Det 5, NAS North Island, Calif., crashed in the Arabian Gulf while operating from Paul L. Foster (DD 964). The four crewmen were rescued by a boat from the destroyer and treated in Bahrain.

An F/A-18C Hornet and pilot of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212, MCAS Miramar, Calif., were lost during a mission in Alaska on 10 March.

On 10 February an AH-1W Super Cobra of Marine Medium

Helicopter Squadron 365, MCAS New River, N.C., crashed in the Atlantic Ocean. The helo was lost, but the crew was rescued.

For the Record

The T-45A *Goshawk* fleet at NAS Kingsville, Texas, passed its 200,000th flight hour on 5 March.

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) arrived at Newport News Shipbuilding, Va., on 22 March for a five-month post-shakedown availability period focused on improvements to information technology

and combat systems.

Northrop Grumman, Los Angeles, Calif., was awarded a \$5.9 million contract to continue a modification program on F-14 *Tomcats*. The company will complete electrical and mechanical modifications on 55 aircraft aboard NAS Oceana, Va., to accommodate LANTIRN (low-altitude targeting and infrared for night) pods and global positioning, digital flight control, fast tactical imaging and night vision systems. Eleven of these aircraft will receive wing upgrades and four will receive new

test and evaluation equipment.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems, Marietta, Ga., was selected to continue with the second and third phases of the P-3 *Orion* service life assessment program, which involves full-scale fatigue testing of the P-3C.

Correction to Mar-Apr

Page 9, "It's a Hawkeye . . . Orion?": Mike Wilson provided the photograph; the text was written by Naval Research Laboratory personnel.

Developmental Weapons Symposium



Naval Air Systems Command

This view from the cockpit shows a joint standoff weapon (under the wing), one of the weapon systems highlighted at the Developmental Weapons Symposium.

Naval and Marine Corps tactical aviators and commands are invited to attend the third Developmental Weapons Symposium hosted by the Naval Weapons Test Squadron, China Lake, Calif., on 1-3 June. The *Dust Devils* will provide briefings, tours, static displays and demonstration flights on state-of-the-art weapon systems, such as the joint standoff weapon, joint helmet-mounted cueing system, high-speed antiradiation missile, and aircraft platforms such as the AV-8 *Harrier* and F/A-18E/F *Super Hornet*. Registrations must be received by 10 May; for information call 760-939-3529; DSN 437-3529.