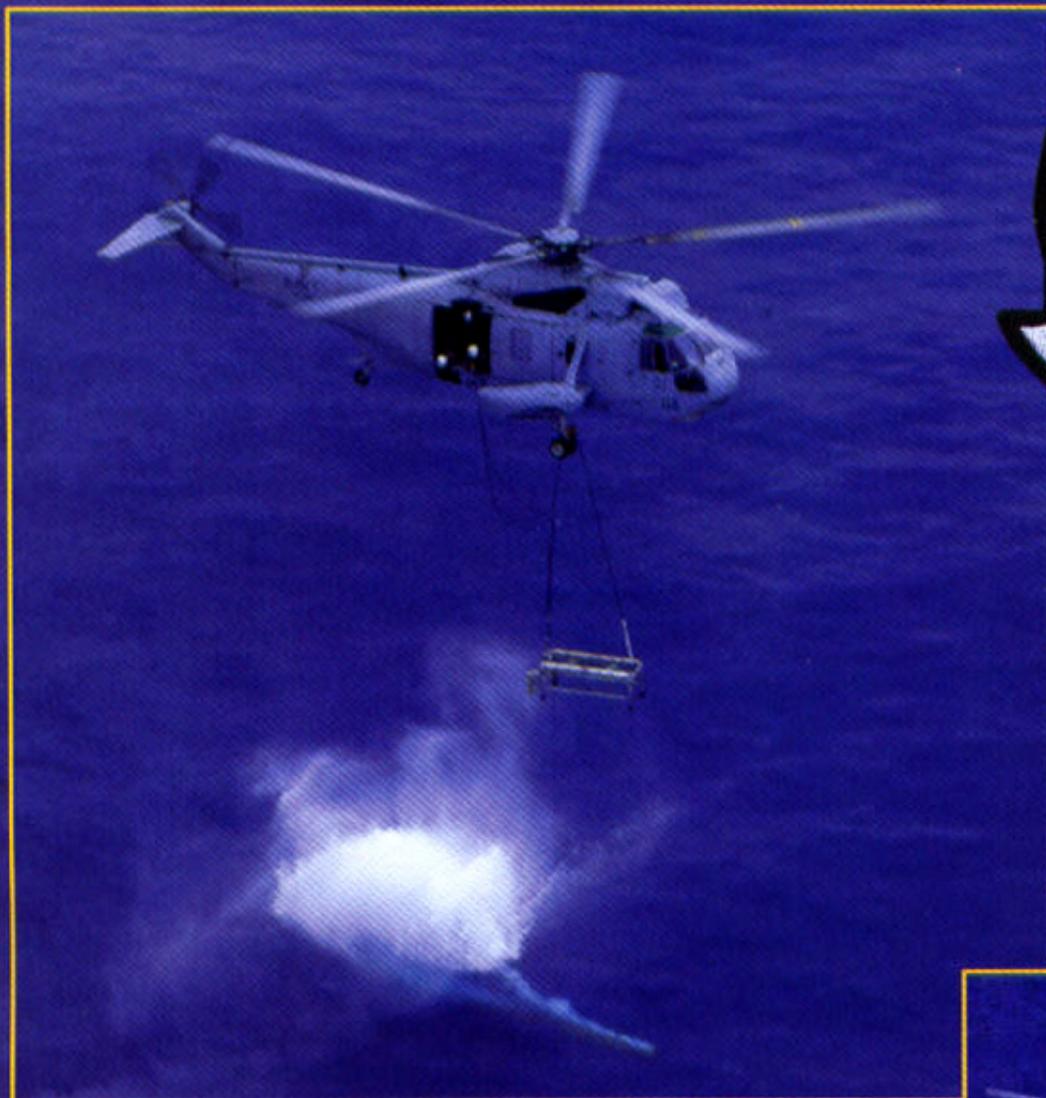


# The Golden Gaters



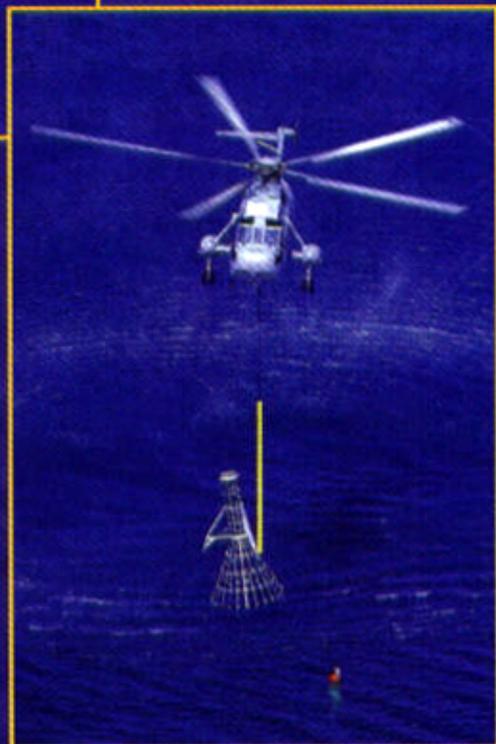
Left, a *Gater* UH-3H *Sea King* drops an underwater target into the Pacific. Below, after the target completes its run, it floats to the surface where it is snared with a specially designed retrieval cage and flown back to base. Below left, standing left to right are aircrewmen AT2 John DeBoer, AW2 Darrell Weiss and AE2 Mike Boman.

**H**elicopter Combat Support Squadron (HC) 85 is a Naval Air Reserve Force squadron tasked with aerial support of Commander, Third Fleet Southern California Offshore Range (SCORE) operations at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, Calif.

HC-85's primary mission is to launch and recover MK 30 mobile underwater targets and MK 46, MK 48 and MK 50 torpedoes in support of antisubmarine warfare training on the SCORE range, as well as to support the fleet through vertical replenishment. The *Golden Gaters* have also saved many lives through their prompt search and rescue responses to distress calls.

HC-85 is under the operational control of Commander, Helicopter Wing Reserve. Permanently based at NAS North Island, Calif., the *Golden Gaters* proudly fly the Sikorsky UH-3H *Sea King*.

Established as Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 85 on 1 July 1970, HS-85 was redesignated HC-85 on 1 October 1994.



Photos by Ted Carlson