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Awards

The **1999 Commanders Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Efficiency Awards** go to the commands achieving the highest overall scores of readiness.

Commands are judged in several categories including operations, maintenance, safety and administration. In addition to the award, members of the command with the highest overall scores earn the right to wear the Battle "E" ribbon. The Battle "E" winners for 1999 are as follows:

COMNAVAIRLANT:

Eisenhower (CVN 69), HC-6, HM-15, HS-3, HSL-46, VAW-123, VAQ-141, VC-6, VF-14, VFA-15, VP-10, VPU-1, VRC-40, VQ-2 and VS-31.

COMNAVAIRPAC:

Constellation (CV 64), VF-2, VAQs 131 and 134, VFA-151, VS-21, VAW-115, VP-40, HS-14, HSL-51, HC-5 and VPU-2.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Master Chief Steven Alhouse gives Sailors a safety brief before starting flight operations aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73).

1999 Sailors of the Year (SOY):

MM1 (SS) Manuel Francisco Meneses, Jr., **Atlantic Fleet Sea SOY.**

AO1 (AW/SW) Jerry C. Moore, **Pacific Fleet Sea SOY.**

AW1 (NAC/AW) Paul Stewart Dewitt Hood, **Naval Reserve SOY.**

BM1 (EOD/SW) Gregory W. Johnson, **Shore SOY.**

The National Aeronautic Association awarded the **1999 Robert J. Collier Trophy** to the F/A-18E/F *Super Hornet* program for being the top aeronautical achievement in the United States. The award recognizes the U.S. Navy, Boeing and the Hornet Industry Team for designing, manu-

facturing, testing and introducing into service the F/A-18E/F multi-mission strike fighter aircraft.

Marine Corps SSgt. Donald J. Belcher of AMS-1, NAS Pensacola, Fla., was awarded the **Margaret Flowers Civic Award** at the annual Pensacola Council of the Navy League luncheon on 24 February. This award recognizes military personnel for outstanding off-duty volunteer involvement in the community.

The Association of Naval Aviation (ANA) named AME1 (AW) Michael J. Hardin from VP-45 the **ANA Enlisted Maintainer of the Year for 1999**. This award

recognizes outstanding work in the Navy's maintenance departments.

Rescues

The **NAS Paxuxent River, Md., Search and Rescue** team assisted the crew of the commercial fishing vessel *Dani Jo* after it ran aground and began taking on water in the Choptank River on 9 February. The H-3 *Sea King* crew hoisted the personnel from *Dani Jo* and took them ashore, where Talbot County emergency medical services crew checked for hypothermia and injuries. The ship's crew did not require further medical assistance.

The **MCAS Yuma, Ariz., Search**

and Rescue team rescued a female hiker in the Chocolate Mountains north of Yuma on 22 January. The SAR crew of the UH-1N "Huey" lowered a corpsman and litter approximately 150 feet to where the hiker had fallen. After the hiker and corpsman were recovered, the patient was taken to Yuma Regional Medical Center.

Transcripts Available Online

Individual Sailor and Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcripts (SMARTs) are now available to every member of

the Navy and Marine Corps on the internet via the Navy College Program (NCP) web site at www.navycollege.navy.mil. Online access to individual SMARTs is the most recent step the NCP has taken to help Sailors and Marines with advanced voluntary education.

SMART documents recommend college credit for an individual's military training and occupational experience. Included with the SMART is information on any tests taken for college credit (e.g., College Level Examination Program), and a list of Navy-funded college courses taken while on active duty.

Sailors and Marines may request copies of their SMARTs, or have transcripts sent directly to an academic institution, through the Navy College Center by calling 1-877-253-7122 or DSN 922-1828; via email at ncc@smtp.cnet.navy.mil; or through their local Navy College Office.

Scan Pattern

The *Screaming Eagles* of VP-1, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., and the squadron mascot, **Cdr. Banana**, have "adopted" Hillcrest elementary in Oak Harbor, Wash. As part of the Adopt-A-School program CO Cdr. James Heffernan presented Hillcrest schoolchildren a slide show of the various countries VP-1 visited during its six-month deployment. VP-1 members and Cdr. Banana attended the assembly where children asked many questions about the Middle East. The children were excited to see the return of Cdr. Banana, who had been relaying information to students via email during the deployment. Through the mascot's emails, the children were able to track his travels on a large map in a school passageway. It was interesting for students to interact with a member of VP-1 who was so far away. The *Screaming Eagles* also provide help with the school recycling program, assist with individual classroom needs and have implemented the "Eagle Buddy" program as part of their commitment.

Fishing for Midshipmen

A member of SEAL Team 8, Norfolk, Va., leaps from the "mouth" of a CH-46E *Sea Knight* as part of a demonstration for midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Demonstrations like these help academy students decide which warfare community to join upon graduation.



Ken Mierzejewski.



Two VR-52 Sailors helped the Navy usher in the new millennium as they simultaneously took oaths of reenlistment at midnight on New Year's Eve. The ceremony for AE3 Elizabeth A. DeRosa and AMS3 Delton Benny Alston, above, took place on Wake Island, in the first time zone past the International Date Line, making them the first two Sailors to reenlist in the year 2000.

Change of Command

HC-2: Cdr. Gilmore N. Birklund relieved Cdr. Scott A. White, 4 Feb.

HM-14: Cdr. Harry L. Myers relieved Cdr. Barry F. Dagnall, 26 Feb.

HM-15: Cdr. Robert F. Riehl relieved Cdr. Robert D. Howell, 16 Mar.

HS-5: Cdr. Vincent L. Lamolinara relieved Cdr. Frederic P. Flight, 10 Feb.

HS-11: Cdr. John W. Smith relieved Cdr. James T. Vazquez, 31 Mar.

HSWINGLANT: Capt. Mark K. Adrick relieved Capt. Hartmann J. Kircher IV, 6 Jan.

NADEP Cherry Point, N.C.: Col. Gilda A. Jackson relieved Col. Robert N. Leavitt, 28 Jan.

NAS Norfolk, Va.: Capt. Joseph F. Bouchard relieved Capt. Robert R. Gangewere, 4 Feb.

NRD New England: Cdr. J. Michael Quigley relieved Cdr.

Christopher W. Urban, 2 Mar.

SFWSLANT: Cdr. James O. Stutz, Jr., relieved Cdr. David J. Conaway, 22 Feb.

TACRON-21: Cdr. Michael J. Barea relieved Cdr. Craig D. Leshner, 25 Feb.

VAQ-136: Cdr. Harold F. Bishop relieved Cdr. Ed L. Martin, 24 Mar.

VP-26: Cdr. R. J. Adrion relieved Cdr. D.G. Lynch, 10 Mar.

VP-69: Cdr. Douglas J. Asbjornsen relieved Cdr. Larry A. Peck, 5 Feb.

VS-24: Cdr. Michael C. Urquhart relieved Cdr. Randall B. Cohn, 20 Jan.

VT-3: Cdr. Michael W. Douglass relieved Lt. Col. Jeffrey D. S. Guinn, 3 Mar.

VT-27: Cdr. Bruce K. Butler relieved Cdr. Richard J. Ryan, 17 Mar.

USNTPS: Cdr. Bob Stoney relieved Lt. Col. Vic Thombs, 18

His Raison D'etre

In April, *Naval Aviation News* (NANews) and the Naval Historical Center bid farewell to JO1 Joshua M. Hudson. He transferred to Fleet Combat Camera, Atlantic, Norfolk, Va., where his skills in photography and video will meet new challenges.

Petty Officer Hudson brought many capabilities to the staff. His former career as a photographer's mate enabled him to produce professional quality photos for the magazine and the Center. As the NANews webmaster, he improved the quality of the online version of the magazine. Managing Editor Sandy Russell remarked, "His background was apparent from his outstanding photography, but perhaps Josh's greatest contribution to the staff was as the webmaster. His energetic and creative efforts in redesigning our website resulted in a new 'look' as well as adding many innovations and valuable information. He made it one of the most current references on Naval Aviation on the internet."

As Associate Editor, he developed and wrote feature stories and news articles, as well as the "People-Places-Planes" column. At NANews, his first job as a

journalist, Hudson's self-described "broadcast" style of journalism had to be tempered for longer feature writing, but his flair for writing was always present. He was dubbed the unofficial "poet laureate" of *Naval Aviation News*.

Art Director Morgan Wilbur commented, "Josh is a true Renaissance man. When he reported for duty we knew he was a photographer and a journalist, but we didn't know his talents extended into other areas. He also draws and paints exceedingly well, usually choosing people as his subject matter." However, his greatest mark on the magazine probably was his penchant for speaking his mind. "A great spinner of yarns, he combines his experiences of the human condition with a unique sense of the unspeakable to make him a great humorous orator."

Good luck, Josh, and happy landings.



PH3 Brian Fleske



Flight Deck Action aboard George Washington

Three photos depict the dangerous “dances” Sailors aboard *George Washington* must perform while conducting carrier qualifications in the Atlantic Ocean. Above, a bow safety observer braces against jet blast

after launching an EA-6B *Prowler*. Below left, a yellow-shirt works amidst steam above a catapult track. Below right, Sailors assigned to the VFA-83 *Rampagers* give the “thumbs up” for an F/A-18 *Hornet* to launch.

PH3 Brian Fleske



PH3 Nick Magdaleno