



Bill Dunbar

Navy "Airliner" Joins Museum

The backbone of any military force is the ability to transport personnel and cargo anywhere around the globe as quickly as

possible. Since the days of the Naval Air Transport Service (NATS) during WW II, Navy transport squadrons have met every demand placed upon them, including Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 8

setting records during the Berlin Airlift; VR-24 delivering food, clothing and medicine to Sicily in the wake of a January 1967 earthquake; and many other notable feats. At the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla., the roost for old transports is the flight line, where aircraft such as the C-47 Skytrain and C-118 Skymaster (the latter once the personal bird of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet) reside. Early this year, these stalwarts welcomed an addition to the family.

On 23 January, a C-9B Skytrain II (BuNo 163511) touched down for the final time at Forrest Sherman Field. It was the end of a lengthy journey for the old transport, which since its delivery on 24 July 1969 had logged 56,284 flight hours in the skies over 56 nations. Originally flown by Alitalia, the aircraft carried civilian

ATTENTION ALL MARINE AVIATION SQUADRONS!

Naval Aviation News plans to devote its May–June 2003 issue to Marine Corps Aviation. All USMC squadrons are invited to submit articles and photographs describing their unit's activities.

Due to problems with irradiated mail in Washington, D.C., squadrons are requested to email the articles and photos (saved as separate jpegs at 300 dpi) no later than 1 February 2003 to: sandy.russell@navy.mil. Direct questions to Sandy Russell, Editor, *Naval Aviation News*, at comm. 202-433-4407; DSN 288-4407.

Public Affairs Officers: We can't tell your story unless we hear from you! Please take advantage of the opportunity to have your unit included in this special edition.



Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint

passengers until purchased by the Navy in 1985. She marked her most notable flight when she became the first aircraft to land in New York City after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

In his remarks accepting the aircraft, museum director Capt. Bob Rasmussen, USN (Ret.), mentioned his hope that the C-9's presence in the collection would assist in dispelling the opinion that he possessed a "tailhook mentality." However, as the photograph on the opposite page indicates, it is difficult to change a

fighter pilot's mindset.

Corrections

May–Jun, p. 34, photo caption: the photo shows AO2(AW) Luke Dunlop working on the AIRPAC exhibit, not the artist, Steve Anderson, who is pictured at right.

Jul–Aug, p. 41, photo caption: the F-14 is landing aboard, *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) vice (CVN 69). Some



days, we just can't win!

Sep–Oct, p. 19: the C-2A Greyhound and E-2C Hawkeye names were reversed.

Reunions

Iwo Jima Veterans & Family Assn., 19–23 FEB 03, Wichita Falls, TX. POC: Phil Phillips, 714-990-2560; howardphil@aol.com.

VO-67 planned reunion. POC: Cdr. A. G. Alexander, 406-862-5161, alexusn@aboutmontana.net; or Kerry Bignall, 208-773-2999, ftwranch@adelphia.net.

ANA PHOTO CONTEST



JOC(SW) Robert Benson, assigned to *Mount Whitney* (LCC 20), won the bimonthly ANA photo competition. With his camera remotely mounted on the tail of an SH-3 Sea King, he captured the helicopter banking toward the flagship while off the coast of Germany during Operation Strong Resolve '02, a NATO exercise.

The Association of Naval Aviation's photo contest is open to everyone except the staffs of ANA, *Wings of Gold* magazine and *Naval Aviation News*. The subject matter MUST pertain to Naval Aviation. Submissions can be in black and white or color, slides or prints, or electronic images. Please include the photographer's name and address, and PHOTO CAPTION.

For details call 703-960-2490. Mail photos to ANA, 2550 Huntington Ave., Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22303-1499; email anahq@ix.netcom.com

Cash Awards: Bimonthly—\$100. Annual—First, \$350; Second, \$250; Third, \$150.