

# NAVAL AVIATION NEWS

RAdm. Mike McCabe  
Director, Air Warfare

Published by the Naval Historical Center under the  
auspices of the Chief of Naval Operations

Dr. William S. Dudley  
Director, Naval Historical Center

## Staff

Sandy Russell  
Wendy Leland  
Morgan I. Wilbur  
JO1(SW) Ed Wright  
JO2 Dan Ball

Editor  
Managing Editor  
Art Director  
Assistant Editor  
Assistant Editor

## Associates

Hal Andrews  
Cdr. Peter Mersky, USNR (Ret.)  
Capt. R. Rausa, USNR (Ret.)  
Capt. Ted Wilbur, USNR (Ret.)

Technical Advisor  
Book Review Editor  
Contributing Editor  
Contributing Artist

## Contributions Welcome

NA*News* considers for publication unsolicited manuscripts, photo essays, artwork and general news about aircraft, organizations, history and/or human endeavors which are the core of Naval Aviation. All military contributors should forward articles about their commands only after internal security review and with the permission of the commanding officer. For guidelines on submissions, contact the Managing Editor at DSN 288-

**Please note our new email address:  
nannews@navy.mil.**

*Naval Aviation News* is online as part of the Naval Historical Center home page: [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil).

**Personal Subscriptions:** To order this periodical for one year, cite "*Naval Aviation News* (NAVN)" and mail a check or money order for \$23.00 (\$32.20 foreign) or provide VISA or MasterCard number and expiration date **directly** to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Telephone credit card orders can be made to 202-512-1800 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time. Credit card orders can be faxed 24 hours a day to 202-512-2250.

*Naval Aviation News* (USPS 323-310; ISSN 0028-1417) is published bimonthly for the Chief of Naval Operations by the Naval Historical Center and the Naval Air Systems Command. Editorial offices are located at 1242 10th Street SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5059. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices.

The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law. The use of a name of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Navy. Any opinions herein are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of *Naval Aviation News*, the Navy Department or the Department of Defense.

Photographs are U.S. Navy unless otherwise credited.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Naval Aviation News*, 1242 10th Street SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5059.

# OPERATION

**A**s we went to press, Operation Iraqi Freedom had commenced. While this issue is dedicated to USMC aviation, we salute all members of the Navy-Marine Corps team in their efforts to liberate the Iraqi people from tyranny, while defending American sovereignty.



PH3 Todd Frantom

# IRAQI FREEDOM

Right, a Marine Attack Squadron 214 *Blacksheep* pilot performs preflight checks on his AV-8B Harrier II for a night mission staging from Kuwait on 21 March in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Below, an F/A-18C Hornet loaded with a 500-pound GBU-12 guided bomb moves into position while another launches from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), operating in the Arabian Gulf with coalition forces.



Sgt. C. Nuntavong

