



PHAN Mark Rebilas

Edited by J02 Dan Ball and J05N Brandy Lewis

## Awards

HT-8 won the **TRAWING-5 Partners in Training Excellence Award** for the second year in a row. The award recognizes the unit's commitment to education in the local community and work with a local middle school.

NAVAIR Detachment 0196 Minneapolis, Minn., was named the **2002 Air Systems Program Unit of the Year** for its exceptional performance and superior customer service.

VT-10 received the **CNET Naval Education and Training Excellence Award**, which recognizes exceptional training for students. The squadron also received the **SECNAV Energy Conservation Award** for aggressive awareness campaigns, innovative energy conservation measures and consistent reduction in energy consumption.

As an SH-60 Seahawk flies above, **John C. Stennis (CVN 74)** transits the San Diego channel from NAS North Island, Calif., heading to sea under a cloud of smoke from nearby wildfires.

The following members of the EA-6B community were recognized for their achievements during the annual Prowler Week at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.:

Bud White Outstanding Civilian of the Year: **Steve Hoffmire**  
 ALQ-99 Excellence: **Jose Tristian**  
 Northrop Grumman Intelligence Officer of the Year: **Ltjg. Erich J. Kausen**  
 Ground Maintenance Officer of the Year: **CWO3 Nicholas E. Rupert**  
 Landing Signal Officer: **Lt. Christopher Hunter**  
 Prowler Tactics Instructor: **Lt. David J. Rueter**  
 Prowler Tactical Excellence Squadron: **VAQ-131**  
 Maintenance Squadron of the Year (Golden Wrench): **VAQ-141**  
 2002 Fleet Replacement Pilot of the Year: **1st Lt. Alfred Geoffrion, USMC**  
 2002 Fleet Replacement ECMO of the Year: **Ltjg. Erica Butler**  
 "Seadog" Fodor Memorial Award: **Lt. William Schomer**  
 Admiral John Perry Award: **Capt. John Scheffler**

The **Texas Aviation Hall of Fame** inducted three former Naval Aviation personnel at its annual ceremony. During Archie Donahue's two WW II combat tours with the Marine Corps,

he completed 215 combat missions and shot down 14 enemy aircraft. Gordon Bethune began his Navy career at 17 working in aircraft maintenance and completed his naval



PHC Johnny Biviera

Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, applauds Cdr. Kevin J. Kovacich, former CO of Fighter Squadron 211, after presenting him the VAdm. James Bond Stockdale Award. The annual award recognizes those who symbolize the highest standards of excellence, including personal example and leadership.

service as a chief petty officer. He is a licensed commercial pilot and currently chief operating officer of Continental Airlines. Naval Aviator John W. Young became an astronaut in 1962 and was part of the first manned Gemini mission in 1965. He is the first six-time space explorer. The Texas Aviation Hall of Fame honors Texas residents who have made outstanding contributions to the development, growth or

preservation of aviation. Additional Class of 2003 inductees were Deborah Rihn-Harvey and Dr. Leo Windecker.

Tom Macdonald, the V-22 integrated test teams' chief test pilot and a retired Navy helicopter pilot,

**An F/A-18 Hornet assigned to the *Mighty Shrikes* of Strike Fighter Squadron 94 flies over the western Pacific during flight operations aboard *Nimitz* (CVN 68). Photo by PH3 Elizabeth Thompson.**

was awarded the Society of Experimental Test Pilots **Iven C. Kincheloe Award for 2003**. The award recognizes outstanding professional accomplishment in the conduct of flight testing.

**HT-18** is the 2002 winner of the **VAdm. Robert Goldwaithe Award**; **CNATRA Training Excellence Award**; **VAdm. John H. Theodore Ellyson Aviator Production Award**; **VAdm. John H. Towers Flight Safety Award**; and the **Department of the Navy Safety Excellence Award**.

## Scan Pattern

**Sea Warrior Discovery**, a tutorial on a new approach to human resource management and development, is now being featured on Navy Knowledge Online. This program allows Sailors to more effectively define their knowledge, skills and abilities, and to identify future duty assignments that fit with their needs. To view **Sea Warrior Discovery**, visit [www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil).



## FIRST NAVY CWO5 PROMOTED

On 1 October 2003, *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) Chief Warrant Officer Leon A. Cole became the first officer in the U.S. Navy to be promoted to the rank of CWO5. Cole was sworn in by his son, Ensign Christopher Cole, right.

Cole was the first of 17 to be advanced from a field of 222 candidates. The rank of CWO5 was established in October 2002 to ensure the Navy attracts and retains the very best technical leadership for a 30-year career.

For the carrier's food service officer, being the first to advance to the rank of CWO5 was a rewarding moment in his career.

Although he leads more than 200 personnel aboard *Ronald Reagan*, Cole enjoys spending quality time



PH2 Anthony W. Walker

sharing his experiences with personnel to keep them motivated and on the road to success.

"Have good work ethics, work hard, come to work on time and give it your all," said Cole. "Your hard work needs to come from the heart because if it comes from the heart, you will always give 100 percent."

**Adm. Huntington Hardisty, USN (Ret.)**, passed away on 1 October 2003 and was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery. A 1952 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Hardisty became a Naval Aviator in 1953, and his career spanned 39 years and three wars. He earned a place in the aviation record books in August 1961 by flying an F4H Phantom II at an average speed of 902 miles per hour, approximately 125 feet above the ground and dipping as low as 50 feet. This low-level speed record remained unbroken for 16 years. Hardisty also served on a number of key staff positions. During his last tour, as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, he deployed major air, sea and ground forces to the Middle East in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and played a key role in the rapid movement of supplies and ammunition to the area.

## Rescues

In early August 2003, *Rentz* (FFG 46) with embarked **HSL-45** SH-60 Seahawk and Coast Guard detachments, thwarted two drug-smuggling go-fast vessels (GFV) and one fishing vessel used for logistics support in the eastern Pacific. While on patrol, a ship's helo spotted one of the GFVs departing a refueling rendezvous with a fishing vessel. Realizing they had been spotted, the crew doused the vessel with fuel and set it on fire before abandoning ship. *Rentz* crew members recovered all five personnel from the GFV and attempted to extinguish the fire. The helo then reported that the crew of the fishing vessel was also dumping fuel overboard and dousing their boat in a possible attempt to scuttle it. As the fire on the GFV grew out of control, *Rentz* broke off its firefighting efforts and maneuvered to intercept the fishing vessel. A

Coast Guard boarding party then took command of the vessel, while other crew members searched the debris field left by the GFV and recovered 37 kilograms of cocaine. The crews of the GFV and the fishing vessel were taken into custody.

Seventy-two hours later, a maritime patrol aircraft sighted another GFV and *Rentz* launched a helicopter to aid in tracking the small vessel. The GFV was lost on radar temporarily, but airborne surveillance from a P-3 Orion provided the necessary information to keep track of the vessel. As the frigate came near, the GFV crew made preparations to abandon their boat and set it on fire but *Rentz* came alongside and used aqueous film-forming foam to prevent the fuel from igniting. FFG 46 deployed her own small boat to recover the GFV crew. Coast Guard personnel then boarded the GFV and examined its contents. Eighty-seven bales of

*continued on page 34*

## ROYAL MACES OFFICERS GET A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY



By Ltjg. Brad Converse, CVW-5  
Public Affairs

On the evening of 14 August 2003, the *Royal Maces* of VFA-27 gathered in Tokyo, Japan, to celebrate a dining out, above, that held special meaning for the squadron. For the evening's guest speaker, squadron CO Cdr. Gary Shoman took advantage of being in a foreign country and invited LCdr.

Ryoji Ohara, inset, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (Ret.), to attend. Throughout his WW II combat career Ohara flew several versions of the Mitsubishi A6M5 Zero. He was involved in over 100 attacks and 60 dogfights, for which he received an award for bravery. By the end of WW II only five fellow pilots of the original 60 in Ohara's fighter squadron, the 6th Kokutai, survived. Today, Ohara is the only surviving member.

Many *Royal Mace* aviators flew sorties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and were eager to ask Ohara about his most memorable mission. He recalled an incredible dogfight that took place on 13 May 1943 over Guadalcanal Island against a U.S. F4U Corsair. At one point in the fight his Zero sustained battle damage and caught on fire. Knowing that he would be killed if he did not react swiftly, Ohara put his aircraft into a steep dive to extinguish the flames and ultimately reengaged his opponent.



LCdr. John Enfield asked Ohara if the Zero pilots trained to specific merge game plans based on the performance of the aircraft they were engaging, or if they simply fought a specific fight based on the best characteristics of the Zero.

Ohara's response was that they tailored the fight based on the opposing aircraft. He added that Japanese pilots learned their trade from ready room discussions about tactics used during engagements. It's not surprising that similar discussions in today's ready rooms are one way that junior Hornet pilots learn keys to success against dissimilar aircraft.

Perhaps the most emotional words spoken by Ohara came when asked how he dealt with being separated from his family during the war. The Japanese officer said that he was unable to return to his homeland or see his family for nearly two years. He added a sentiment felt strongly by all in attendance, stating that those with whom you serve become your family.

The *Royal Maces* truly benefited from the words spoken that evening by LCdr. Ohara. His actions, along with his amazing life story, testify to the fact that the traits and tales of a fighter pilot transcend time and national borders.

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

**Belleau Wood (LHA 3):** Capt. Earl L. Gay relieved Capt. Craig R. Solem, 30 May.

**Essex (LHD 2):** Capt. Jan M. van Tol relieved Capt. Ronald R. Evans, 22 Aug.

**FIFTHFLT:** VAdm. David C. Nichols, Jr., relieved VAdm. Timothy J. Keating, 7 Oct.

**HS-11:** Cdr. Edward J. D'Angelo relieved Cdr. John D. Schoeneck, 12 Sep.

**Nimitz (CVN 68):** Capt. James K. Greene relieved Capt. Charles R. Wright, 4 Jul.

**Ronald Reagan (CVN 76):** Capt. James Symonds relieved Capt. Bill Goodwin, 28 Aug.

**Saipan (LHA 2):** Capt. Christopher Hase relieved Capt. Norma Hackney, 15 Aug.

**TACRON 22:** Cdr. Jeffrey C. Smith relieved Cdr. Steven G. Brockett, 21 Nov.

**TRAWING-5:** Capt. Terry Jones relieved Capt. Chuck Key, 26 Jul.

**VAQ-129:** Cdr. Sterling Gilliam relieved Capt. David Woods, 10 Oct.

**VAW-120:** Capt. Rick Pawlowski relieved Capt. Mark Chicoine, 2 Oct.

**VAW-125:** Cdr. Eric W. Gardner relieved Cdr. Glen C. Ackermann, 20 Nov.

**VF-31:** Cdr. Aaron L. Cudnohusky relieved Cdr. Paul A. Haas, 10 Oct.

**VFA-15:** Cdr. Edward Langford relieved Cdr. Andrew Lewis, 19 Sep.

**VFA-41:** Cdr. Kenneth R. Whitesell relieved Cdr. Patrick R. Cleary, 10 Aug.

**VFA-192:** Cdr. Brian Corey relieved Cdr. James Paulsen, 4 Sep.

**VS-35:** Cdr. John P. Lussier relieved Cdr. Greg Looney, 2 Jul.

**VT-10:** Lt. Col. Eric Nelson relieved Cdr. Michael Moran, 24 Oct.

**VT-22:** Cdr. James H. Hineline relieved Cdr. William G. Davis, 1 Aug.

**Wasp (LHD 1):** Capt. James Wise II relieved Capt. Edward McNamee III, 28 Aug.

cocaine, totaling almost two and a half tons, were recovered from the go-fast vessel.

On 23 May 2003, **CGAS Houston, Texas**, launched an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter to a location 60 miles southeast of Galveston after being notified that a 34-year-old female had fallen off the shrimp boat *Ikeazak*. The vessel had been anchored for the night and in the morning the crew discovered the victim was missing. The helo and an HU-25 Falcon jet from CGAS Corpus Christi, Texas, began a search in which *Typhoon* (PC 5) and several civilian vessels assisted. In the evening, the Falcon spotted an abandoned oil rig with the letters S.O.S. painted on the platform and the victim on board. At the rig, the Dolphin deployed a rescue swimmer to hoist the victim into the helo. The woman, dehydrated and in a state of shock, was transferred to a local hospital.

On 23 August 2003, another HH-65 Dolphin from **CGAS Houston,**

**Texas**, rescued a woman who was injured when two boats collided 56 miles southeast of Galveston. The victim was knocked unconscious aboard *Lucky Peter*, an 88-foot shrimp boat, when it collided with *Peter Ronna*, a 324-foot Russian freight ship. *Lucky Peter* reported to the Coast Guard that all four people on board had injuries and the boat was taking on water. CGAS Houston deployed the helicopter, CGAS Corpus Christi launched an HU-25 Falcon and Coast Guard Group Galveston sent a rescue boat to the scene. The helo was first on scene, deploying a pump to stop the flooding and an EMT-qualified rescue swimmer to examine the victim. The woman was then hoisted into the helicopter and flown to the Galveston airport where an ambulance transferred her to the University of Texas Medical Branch. The other three victims were treated on scene for minor cuts and bruises. *Lucky Peter's* sister ship, *Prosperity*, towed the disabled boat to Galveston.

## Records

**VFA-95** surpassed 90,000 Class "A" mishap-free flight hours.

**VT-7** surpassed 267,140 Class "A" mishap-free flight hours.

Coalition maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft squadrons operating in the Arabian Gulf under Commander Task Force 57 reached 10,000 flight hours in support of Operation Freedom (OIF). The two primary maritime patrol missions are supporting ground troops in Iraq and performing OIF maritime interception operations as part of the coalition's effort to stop illegal smuggling of oil.

## Anniversaries

**VMFA-323** celebrated its 60th anniversary in August 2003.

**VR-57** celebrated its 25th anniversary in September 2003 (see Nov–Dec 03).

## NANews Journalist Retires

JO1(SW) Ed Wright left the *NANews* staff in November to enter civilian life after 20 years of Navy service. Beginning his career as a radioman, Ed later switched to the journalist rating. He served in diverse locations such as Haiti; Diego Garcia; and Argentina, Newfoundland, as well as on board ships, including *Ainsworth* (FF 1090) and *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).

As an associate editor for *NANews*, Ed helped the magazine win two CHINFO Merit Awards and continued to develop the magazine's website into an accessible archive. In his duties as the magazine's senior enlisted person, he shared his vast knowledge of the Navy with incoming journalists.

Ed had a keen sense of humor. Editor Sandy Russell said, "We'll miss his 'signature' zingers. He kept our wits sharp trying to match him with clever barbs." Art Director Morgan Wilbur added, "As a member of toastmasters, Ed was adept at 'roasting' each of us in his own jocular way."

He was also the resident sports fanatic with daily encyclopedic commentary on recent sporting events. Managing Editor Wendy Leland said, "For the Washington Redskins fans in the office, his devotion to the Baltimore Ravens set the stage for some lively discussions."



JOSN Brandy Lewis

**JO1(SW) Ed Wright, right, is presented with a shadowbox by ET1 David Bird of the Naval Historical Center during his retirement ceremony.**

Editor in Chief Cdr. Jeremy Gillespie summed up, "Petty Officer Wright was a valuable member of the *NANews* staff, both personally and professionally. His presence was essential to the magazine's continuing success. The office won't be the same without him, and we wish him the best of luck in the future."

**Commander Carrier Air Wing 1 Capt. J. M. Cathey poses with his plane captain after reaching his 6,000th hour flying Navy aircraft.**



AMC(AW) John Watson