

AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT CARRIERS AND MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRONS (REIN), 2003

Nassau (LHA 4)

HMM-263(Rein) (Tail Code: EG)
Med/IO
26 Aug 02–29 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-231 Det	AV-8B
HMM-263	CH-46E
HMH-772 Det	CH-53E
HMLA-269 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W
HC-6 Det-7 (HW)*	CH-46
VMGR-234 Det†††	KC-130
VMGR-452 Det†††	KC-130

Tarawa (LHA 1)

HMM-161(Rein) (Tail Code: YR)
WestPac/IO
06 Jan 03–13 Jul 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-311 Det	AV-8B
HMM-161	CH-46E
HMH-361 Det	CH-53E
HMLA-267 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W
HC-11 Det 7 (VR)*	CH-46

*Saipan (LHA 2)***

Med/IO
10 Jan 03–26 Jun 03

Squadron	Aircraft
HMM-162 (YS)	CH-46E
HMLA-269(-) (HF)	UH-1N/AH-1W
HMLA-167 Det (HF)***	UH-1N/ AH-1W
HC-6 Det 2 (HW)	CH-46

*Kearsarge (LHD 3)**†*

Med/IO
11 Jan 03–30 Jun 03

Squadron	Aircraft
HMM-365 (YM)	CH-46E
HMH-464 (EN)	CH-53E
HMLA-269 Det (HF)††	AH-1W
HC-8 Det 6 (BR)	CH-46

*Bataan (LHD 5)**†*

Med/IO
11 Jan 03–25 Jun 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-223(-) (WP)	AV-8B
VMA-542 (WH)	AV-8B
HC-6 Det 3 (HW)	CH-46

*Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)***

WestPac/IO
17 Jan 03–26 Jul 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-211(-) (CF)	AV-8B
VMA-311(-) (WL)	AV-8B
HMH-465 Det	CH-53
HC-11 Det 4 (VR)	CH-46

*Boxer (LHD 4)***

WestPac/IO
17 Jan 03–26 Jul 03

Squadron	Aircraft
HMM-165 (SN)	CH-46E
HMH-465 (YN)	CH-53E
HC-11 Det 6 (VR)	CH-46

Iwo Jima (LHD 7)

HMM-264(Rein) (Tail Code: EH)
Med/SoLant
04 Mar–24 Oct 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-223 Det	AV-8B
HMM-264	CH-46E
HMH-461 Det	CH-53E
HMLA-167 Det	UH-1N/AH-1W
HC-8 Det 8 (BR)*	CH-46

Peleliu (LHA 5)

HMM-163(Rein) (Tail Code: YP)
WestPac/IO
22 Aug 03–9 Mar 04

Squadron	Aircraft
VMA-513 Det	AV-8B
HMM-163	CH-46E
HMH-465 Det	CH-53E
HMLA-? Det	UH-1N/AH-1W
HC-11 Det 9 (VR)*	MH-60S

*While on deployment, HC squadron detachments are assigned to the amphibious assault carrier rather than to the embarked marine helicopter squadron (reinforced); therefore detachment helicopters retain their own squadron tail codes.

***Saipan* (LHA 2), *Bataan* (LHD 5) and *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) were organized as part of Amphibious Task Force East carrying elements of the 2nd Marine Amphibious Brigade. *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) and

Boxer (LHD 4) were organized as part of Amphibious Task Force West carrying elements of the 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade. These carriers embarked the listed task-organized Marine Corps air squadrons for employment in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

***A detachment of HMLA-167 helicopters was chopped to HMLA-269 to make up for aircraft assigned to the already deployed HMLA-269 Det attached to HMM-263(R) aboard *Nassau*.

†*Bataan* deployed with a portion of HMH-464 embarked and *Kearsarge* with VMA-223(-) aboard. After arrival in the Arabian Gulf in February, HMH-464 was consolidated aboard *Kearsarge* and VMA-223(-) joined VMA-542 aboard *Bataan*.

††The HMLA-269 Det crossdecked from *Saipan* to *Kearsarge* at the end of May and returned to the U.S. with *Kearsarge*.

†††The KC-130s of the VMGR Dets did not fly from *Nassau*, but were assigned under HMM-263.



The amphibious assault ship *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) conducts combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf in March 2003.

PH3 Angel Roman-Otero



LCpl. Nicholous Radloff

grounding of much coalition air power, VFA-113 persevered through the heavy overcast and hit the Iraqis repeatedly, halting the thrust.

27 While on a jamming mission, an EA-6B Prowler from VAQ-131 got word of three aircraft strikes against three surface-to-air missile sites that needed High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) support. Enduring heavy anti-aircraft artillery, the Prowler coordinated with the strike aircraft—which were from another command—and successfully launched the HARM against the Iraqis.

27 McDonnell Douglas Corp., St. Louis, Mo., was awarded a \$27.6 million basic ordering agreement to analyze the requirements for the transition of the EA-6B jamming and wideband radar receiving and communication capability into the F/A-18F Super Hornet platform.

27 The Navy ordered its seventh C-40A Clipper to improve its transportation capability to meet increased worldwide commitments.

Above, weapons are loaded onto an AH-1W Super Cobra at a forward arming refueling point near Tikrit, Iraq. Right, CH-53E pilot Maj. Richard Focht prepares his flight gear on board Kearsarge (LHD 3) for a combat resupply mission into southern Iraq.



PHAN Kenny Swartout

The original plan was to purchase only six Clippers.

28 President George W. Bush signed an amendment to Executive Order 10448 of 22 April 1953, authorizing eligibility for the National Defense Service Medal to members in good standing in the Selected Reserve. The beginning date for eligibility was 11 September 2001 through a termination date to be determined.

28 During the Battle of An Nasiriyah, naval aircraft helped Marines in the city defeat a fierce

attack by Iraqi irregulars supported by armored personnel carriers, rockets and anti-aircraft artillery.

28 At about 1500, two F/A-18C Hornets knocked out three Iraqi Al Samoud surface-to-surface launchers, approximately 25 miles northwest of Al Basrah.

30 Two F/A-18E Super Hornets from VFA-14, flown by LCdrs. Hal Schmitt and Jason Norris, and two F/A-18Fs from VFA-41, piloted by LCdrs. Brian Garrison and Mark Weisgerber and Lts. Tom Poulter and Tom Bodine, were temporarily

Carrier and Air Wing Deployments, 2003

Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)

CVW-14 (Tail Code: NK)
WestPac/IO
24 Jul 02–6 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-31*	F-14D
VFA-25	F/A-18C
VFA-113	F/A-18C
VFA-115	F/A-18E
VAW-113	E-2C
VAQ-139	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 1	C-2A
VS-35	S-3B
HS-4	SH-60F/HH-60H

Kitty Hawk (CV 63)

CVW-5 (Tail Code: NF)
IO/Arabian Gulf
23 Jan 03–6 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-154*	F-14A
VFA-14	F/A-18C
VFA-27	F/A-18C
VFA-195	F/A-18C
VAW-115	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 5	C-2A
VS-21	S-3B
HS-14	SH-60F/HH-60H

Nimitz (CVN 68)

CVW-11 (Tail Code: NH)
WestPac/IO/Arabian Gulf
3 Mar 03–5 Nov 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VFA-14	F/A-18E
VFA-41	F/A-18F
VFA-94	F/A-18C
VFA-97	F/A-18A
VAW-117	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 3	C-2A
VS-29	S-3B
HS-6	SH-60F/HH-60H

Constellation (CV 64)

CVW-2 (Tail Code: NE)
WestPac/IO
2 Nov 02–2 Jun 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-2*	F-14D
VFA-137	F/A-18C
VFA-151	F/A-18C
VMFA-323 (WS)**	F/A-18C
VAW-116	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 2	C-2A
VS-38	S-3B
HS-2	SH-60F/HH-60H
HSL-47 Det 4	SH-60B

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)

CVW-8 (Tail Code: AJ)
Mediterranean
4 Feb 03–29 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-213*	F-14D
VFA-15	F/A-18C
VFA-87	F/A-18C
VFA-201***	F/A-18A
VAW-124	E-2C
VAQ-141	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 5	C-2A
VS-24	S-3B
HS-3	SH-60F/HH-60H

Enterprise (CVN 65)

CVW-1 (Tail Code: AB)
IO/Arabian Gulf
1 Oct 03–29 Feb 04

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-211*	F-14A
VFA-82	F/A-18C
VFA-86	F/A-18C
VMFA-312 (DR)**	F/A-18A
VAW-123	E-2C
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 2	C-2A
VS-32	S-3B
HS-11	SH-60F/HH-60H

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)

CVW-3 (Tail Code: AC)
Mediterranean/IO
5 Dec 02–23 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-32*	F-14B
VFA-37	F/A-18C
VFA-105	F/A-18C
VMFA-115 (VE)**	F/A-18A
VAW-126	E-2C
VAQ-130	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 1	C-2A
VS-22	S-3B
HS-7	SH-60F/HH-60H

Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

CVW-9 (Tail Code: NG)
WestPac
7 Feb 03–19 Sep 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VFA-22	F/A-18C
VFA-146	F/A-18C
VFA-147	F/A-18C
VMFA-314 (VW)**	F/A-18C
VAW-112	E-2C
VAQ-138	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 4	C-2A
VS-33	S-3B
HS-8	SH-60F/HH-60H

*All deployed F-14 squadrons are equipped with the Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System and Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night.

**While on deployment, VMFA squadrons take on the tail code of the air wing. Their original tail codes are noted in parentheses.

***Deployed reserve squadron.

shifted from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) to *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) to provide the latter ship with an improved mix of fighter/tanker capabilities. The transfer involved a 1,700-mile flight; the detachment returned to *Nimitz* on 6 April after the carrier arrived on station in the

Arabian Gulf.

31 The Bell/Boeing Joint Program Office, Patuxent River, Md., was awarded a \$192 million modification to a previous contract for continuing phase I of the MV-22 Osprey block upgrade program, comprising additional integration

and testing through aircraft 34 for block A, and further review of block B.

31 When Iraqi troops advanced upon soldiers of the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade in northern Iraq, pilots from CVW-8 flew nearly 50 sorties against the Iraqis, stopping

their counterattack by blasting artillery installations, a barracks and a surface-to-air missile site.

April

1 Army Pfc. Jessica D. Lynch, 19, captured by the Iraqis when her convoy was ambushed on 23 March, was rescued from Saddam Hospital, An Nasiriyah. The daring operation by Task Force (TF) 20, including CH-46E Sea Knights from HMM-165 embarked on board *Boxer* (LHD 4), CH-53E Super Stallions and Navy SEALs, began at midnight and was supported by Marines from TF Charlie, who staged a diversionary attack to draw away Iraqi irregulars.

2 The Navy took delivery of the first low-rate initial production Shared Reconnaissance Pod system at Raytheon Technical Services Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

2 Coalition aircraft bombed a heavily secured Iraqi storage facility in the Al Karkh district of Baghdad with 40 Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The facility was utilized by the regime's Special Security Organization, one of several internal security operations and the one responsible for committing numerous atrocities against the Iraqi people.

3 F/A-18Fs embarked on board *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) made the first operational flight of the Super Hornet Fast Tactical Imagery photoreconnaissance module during a strike over Iraq.

4 Two aircraft struck the Al Basrah residence of Iraqi leader Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali" for using chemical weapons against Kurds, with laser-guided bombs.

4 The frigate *Estocin* (FFG 15), named in honor of Navy Capt. Michael J. Estocin, was decommissioned at NS Mayport, Fla. On 26 April 1967, VA-192's LCdr. Estocin was on a mission from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) to destroy fuel depots at Haiphong, North Vietnam, when his A-4E,

BuNo 151073, was hit by a surface-to-air missile. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to captain.

6 Elements of an Iraqi brigade surrounded outnumbered U.S. special operations forces and Kurdish militia (*peshmerga*) in a pass between Mosul and Kirkuk. During the Battle of Debecka Pass, naval aircraft guided by Air Force combat controllers knocked out at least 8 Iraqi T-55 tanks and 16 armored personnel carriers.

6 Air superiority was declared over all of Iraq.

12 The destroyer *Mason* (DDG 87) was commissioned at Port Canaveral, Fla., named in honor of John Y. Mason, a Secretary of the Navy in the 19th century, and for Ens. Newton H. Mason of VF-3, posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions against the Japanese during the Battle of the Coral Sea on 8–9 May 1942. She is the second ship to bear the name; the first was DE 529 during WW II, which was manned by a predominantly African American crew.

15 Northrop Grumman Corp., El Segundo, Calif., unveiled its operational system concept for a naval unmanned combat air vehicle designed to fly surveillance, strike and suppression of enemy air defense missions from aircraft carriers.

20 *Bataan* (LHD 5), *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6), *Boxer* (LHD 4), *Kearsarge* (LHD 3), *Saipan* (LHA 2) and *Tarawa* (LHA 1) operated with the other 26 ships of Task Force 51 in the northern Arabian Gulf—comprising the largest concentration of amphibious power since the Korean War.

22 At about 1430, the X-31 completed the world's first fully automated, thrust-vectoring landing, piloted by German naval reserve Cdr. Ruediger Knoepfel at NAS Patuxent River, Md. On the 29th it flew its last flight of the program when Marine Maj. Cody Allee completed an automated landing,

also at Patuxent River.

30 VC-8's last TA-4J Skyhawk, side number 01, departed NS Roosevelt Roads, P.R., to be displayed at the Glenn Martin Museum, Baltimore, Md.

May

Reserve squadron VP-69's P-3C combat aircrew 2 teamed with the Coast Guard cutter *Munro* (WHEC 724) to intercept a camouflaged 40-foot go-fast vessel in the eastern Pacific. All five Columbian smugglers and more than 2,000 pounds of cocaine were seized, while another 2,000 pounds was believed dumped overboard by the smugglers.

The first operationally deployed detachment of MH-60S Seahawks returned from the fleet. At this point there were 40 "Sierras" operational with HCs-3, 5 and 6, and deliveries had begun to HCs 8 and 11.

While transiting home from the carrier's 21st and final deployment, the *Constellation* (CV 64) battle group rescued 27 people from an Indonesian ferry that suffered a power failure and was adrift in the Banda Sea. The destroyer *Milius* (DDG 65) then towed the vessel to Pulau-Sanana, the nearest island.

The first of 15 E-6B Mercury aircraft, BuNo 161919, was sent to the Boeing Aerospace Support Center, Cecil Field, Fla., to be modified with a new cockpit and an advanced communications package. All 15 were expected to be completed by December 2005.

1 The Navy transferred all real property on Vieques, P.R., to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

1 President George W. Bush arrived on board *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) in an S-3B Viking, side number 700, BuNo 159387, piloted by VS-35 XO Cdr. John Lussier, to declare an end to major combat operations in Iraq. Designated "Navy 1" in honor of the president, the Viking was donated to the



PH2 John Beeman

National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla., and transferred on 15 July from NAS North Island, Calif.

6 The UH-1Y/Z upgrade program surpassed its 1,000th flight hour.

7 An M-42 howitzer-fragmentation submunition exploded in *Saipan's* (LHA 2) troop berthing, wounding 11 Marines. The ship's crew repaired the damage and continued operations.

8 The Coast Guard announced the award of a contract worth approximately \$130 million to Integrated Coast Guard Systems for the design and delivery of two Maritime Patrol Aircraft, the first aircraft acquisition in the Integrated Deepwater System.

27 The Department of Defense announced that the remains of nine crewmen missing in action from the Vietnam War had been identified and returned for burial: Cdr. Delbert A. Olson; Ltjgs. Denis L. Anderson, Arthur C. Buck and Philip P. Stevens; AE2 Richard M. Mancini; AO2 Michael L. Roberts; ADJ2 Donald N. Thoresen; PH2 Kenneth H. Widon; and ATN2 Gale R. Siow. On 11 January 1968, their VO-67 OP-2E Neptune, BuNo 131436, departed Nakhon Phanom

A VF-32 F-14 Tomcat launches from Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) during replenishment at sea under combat conditions with USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8), foreground, and USNS Mount Baker (T-AE 34).

Royal Thai AB on a mission over Laos as part of Operation Muscle Shoals, to drop sensors to detect enemy movements on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The aircraft disappeared during severe weather.

30 The MV-22 Osprey reached 500 flight hours since flight operations resumed in May 2002. Osprey number 7 broke the milestone while conducting a test flight over Edwards AFB, Calif.

June

4 Earl Industries LLC, Portsmouth, Va., was awarded an \$8.2 million contract for the planned incremental availability of *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), to be completed by January 2004.

12–19 *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) was diverted to Liberian waters for Operation Shining Express, the potential evacuation of Americans stranded by fighting there.

19 ATK Missile Systems Co.

LLC, Woodland Hills, Calif., was awarded a \$222.6 million contract for the system development and design of the AGM-88E advanced antiradiation guided missile.

20 The Navy accepted delivery of PCU *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).

24 All 27 crew members of the Egyptian-flagged cargo vessel *Green Glory* were rescued by a coalition effort in the Arabian Sea, approximately 350 miles off the coast of Oman. The ship had caught fire the previous evening. The search and rescue, performed by a P-3C Orion, an MH-60 from *Concord* (T-AFS 5) and British landing ship RFA *Sir Tristram* (L 3505), was hampered by heavy seas. The last survivor was hoisted aloft as the ship's decks were awash.

30 The first class of naval flight officer students to train in the T-6A Texan II—four Navy, one Marine and one Air Force—commenced at VT-10, NAS Pensacola, Fla. The T-6A replaces the T-34C Turbo-Mentor.

July

1 VF-2 was redesignated VFA-2 and relocated from NAS Oceana,

ELECTRONIC ATTACK (VAQ) EXPEDITIONARY SQUADRON DEPLOYMENTS, 2003



Ltg. Victor Dymond

The *Rooks* of Electronic Attack Squadron 137 deployed a detachment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in December 2003 to support OEF.

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

VAQ-133 Sep 02–Jan 03
VAQ-134 Jan 03–Apr 03

Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia

VAQ-142 Nov 02–Feb 03
VMAQ-1 Feb 03–Apr 03
VAQ-134 Apr 03–May 03

NAS Sigonella, Italy

VAQ-142 Feb 03–Mar 03

MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

VMAQ-3 Jan 03–Jul 03
VAQ-133 Jul 03–Oct 03
VAQ-128 Oct 03–Jan 04

Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

VAQ-137 Det Dec 03–Jan 04
VAQ-142 Dec 03–Apr 04

lifted off the deck during the morning and inserted 200 Marines, together with SEALs and explosive ordnance disposal personnel, into Roberts International Airport. After securing the port, they established a perimeter linking the two sites, into which United Nations humanitarian relief supplies were distributed to victims of the war.

28 VMX-22, a MV-22 Osprey operational test and evaluation squadron, was activated at MCAS New River, N.C.

29 Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson signed the agreement donating *Midway* (CV 41) to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, Calif.

September

Maritime patrol aircraft, the destroyer *Stump* (DD 978) and the Coast Guard cutter *Decisive* (WMEC 629) intercepted and destroyed a drug-smuggling vessel in the Caribbean. When spotted, the smugglers jettisoned their cargo and attempted to escape, but a Coast

Guard MH-68A Stingray embarked on board *Stump* disabled the go-fast vessel's engines with gunfire. All four smugglers were detained and 82 bales of cocaine, weighing more than 4,000 pounds worth an estimated \$50 million, were recovered.

3 The first fully formed Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) deployed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. ESG-1 was based on the former *Peleliu* (LHA 5) amphibious ready group and combined with surface and submarine assets that provided a more flexible response force for global power projection.

10 The Navy announced its record of decision concerning the basing of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet: eight squadrons (96 aircraft) and one fleet readiness squadron (24 aircraft) at NAS Oceana, Va., two squadrons (24 aircraft) at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., and construction of an outlying landing field in Washington County, N.C. Introduction of the squadrons was projected to begin in 2004, to be completed by 2010.

16 Commander Second Fleet ordered ships based in Hampton Roads, Va., to sortie to avoid Hurricane Isabel. Forty vessels, including *George Washington* (CVN 73), *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), *Bataan* (LHD 5) and *Wasp* (LHD 1), rode out the storm while underway. Aircraft ashore were secured in hangars or flown to other airfields. Following Isabel, which caused extensive damage across the eastern U.S., crews from many of these commands assisted with recovery efforts among communities devastated by flooding.

24 VF-154, forward-deployed to NAF Atsugi, Japan, was relocated to NAS Lemoore, Calif., in preparation for its redesignation to VFA-154 on 1 October, and transition from the F-14A Tomcat to the F/A-18F Super Hornet.

26 Congress sent the \$368.2 billion Defense Appropriations Bill for FY 04 to President George W. Bush for his signature. Among the items for procurement were \$2.9 billion for 42 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, \$1.5 billion for 11 MV-22 Ospreys, \$724 million for Navy and Air Force Joint Direct Attack Munitions and \$1.5 billion for CVN 21, together with \$4.3 billion for research and development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

29 The Navy announced that it had selected *Makin Island* (LHD 8) as the name for the eighth *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship. The name honored the sailors and Marines who conducted a daring raid on Japanese-held Makin Island, in the Gilbert Islands, on 17–18 August 1942.

30 The Marine Corps received its last remanufactured AV-8B Harrier II, BuNo. 166288, which was assigned to VMA-231 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

October

The Marine Corps began its operational evaluation of the KC-130J Hercules. Two VX-1 aircraft underwent three months of testing at

NAS Patuxent River, Md.

1 Adm. Huntington Hardisty, 74, died in Hartford, Conn. A 1952 graduate of the Naval Academy, Adm. Hardisty served in three wars, and became a Naval Aviator in 1953. Among his many accomplishments was the setting of a low-altitude world speed record on 28 August 1961. Together with his radar intercept officer, Lt. Earl H. DeEsch, their F4H Phantom II flew the three-kilometer course at Holloman AFB, N.M., at an average speed of 902.769 mph, Mach 1.2. Adm. Hardisty's final assignment was as Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, during which he directed exemplary support to Operations Desert Shield and Storm in 1990–1991. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one gold star and the Silver Star.

9 UH-1Y "Huey" aircraft number 1, made its first flight as a fully configured and functional H-1 upgrade, at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

23 The Defense Acquisition Board approved the H-1 upgrades program to begin low-rate initial production. Six UH-1N "Hueys" and three AH-1W Super Cobras were the first aircraft to be remanufactured to the UH-1Y and AH-1Z standard during FY 04, at an approximate cost of \$202 million.

28 The Navy released a request for proposal for the Multimission Maritime Aircraft toward eventual development and acquisition for the replacement of the P-3 Orion.

31 The Naval Service Training Command, NS Great Lakes, Ill., was established, aligning all Navy enlisted and officer training accessions programs, consisting of more than 50,000 trainees annually. Naval Aviation commands included Officer Candidate School, Limited Duty Officer and Warrant Officer School, and Direct Commission Officer School and Officer Training Command.

AVIATION COMMAND CHANGES, 2003

Established

VMX-22	28 Aug
Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2	15 Oct

Commissioned

<i>Ronald Reagan</i> (CVN 76)	12 Jul
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Decommissioned

<i>Constellation</i> (CV 64)	6 Aug
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Deactivated

VC-8	1 Oct
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Redesignated

VF-2 to VFA-2	1 Jul
VF-154 to VFA-154	1 Oct
NAF Key West to NAS Key West, FL	1 Apr
Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific to Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific	15 Oct
Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Atlantic to Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Atlantic	1 Dec

November

The Navy and Air Force agreed to merge their separate programs for the acquisition of improved radio systems, facilitating development of the Joint Tactical Radio System.

13 The first four F/A-18F Super Hornets to be permanently forward deployed outside the U.S., assigned to VFA-102, arrived at NAF Atsugi, Japan.

13–14 During a high-speed chase of a go-fast vessel 350 miles north-northwest of Columbia, an MH-68A Stingray embarked on board the Coast Guard cutter *Diligence* (WMEC 616) disabled the vessel with gunfire, which enabled crew members of the cutter and the frigate *John L. Hall* (FFG 32) to intercept and apprehend all four smugglers. A total of 66 bales of cocaine weighing more than 4,000 pounds were recovered.

20 The remains of seven crewmen missing in action from WW II and recovered from the Kamchatka peninsula, Russia, were buried in Arlington National

Cemetery, Va.: Lt. Walter S. Whitman, Jr.; Ltjg. John W. Hanlon, Jr.; AMM2 Clarence C. Fridley; AM2 Donald G. Lewallen; AERM2 Jack J. Parlier; ARM3 Samuel L. Crown, Jr.; and AOM3 James S. Palko. On 25 March 1944, their VB-139 PV-1 Ventura, BuNo 34641, was part of a five-plane flight from Attu Island, Alaska, tasked to bomb Japanese forces in the Kurile Islands. However, they encountered heavy weather throughout the mission, and six hours into the strike all contact ceased with the crew.

21 The UH-1Y "Huey" completed testing at MCB Quantico, Va., of its Special Warfare Kit, designed to insert Marines into hostile environments.

22 An upgraded E-2C Hawkeye, piloted by LCdr. Michael Santomauro, landed on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), recording the first carrier landing with the eight-bladed propeller version of the Hawkeye.

23 The MV-22 Osprey completed flight deck stability testing, its final testing before planned production,

continued on page 38

LAMPS MK III SHIP DEPLOYMENTS, 2003

HSLWINGPAC

Battle/Carrier Strike Group Deployments

Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)

24 Jul 02–6 May 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-37 Det 2 *Fletcher* (DD 992) (2 Aug 02–26 Jan 03)**
 HSL-45 Det 6 *Fletcher* (DD 992) (13 Jan 03–16 Apr 03)**
 HSL 37 Det 4 *Reuben James* (FFG 57) (2 Aug 02–20 May 03)
 HSL-43 Det 1 *Mobile Bay* (CG 53)
 HSL-49 Det 6 *Shiloh* (CG 67)

Constellation (CV 64)

2 Nov 02–2 Jun 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-43 Det 2 *Thach* (FFG 43)
 HSL-45 Det 5 *Bunker Hill* (CG 52)
 HSL-47 Det 4 *Constellation* (CV 64)
 HSL-49 Det 5 *Valley Forge* (CG 50)

Kitty Hawk (CV 63)

23 Jan 03–6 May 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-51 Det 2 *Cowpens* (CG 63)

Nimitz (CVN 68)

3 Mar 03–5 Nov 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-47 Det 5 *Princeton* (CG 59)
 HSL-37 Det 6 *Chosin* (CG 65) (19 Mar 03–2 Nov 03)
 HSL-49 Det 2 *Rodney M. Davis* (FFG 60)

Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

7 Feb 03–19 Sep 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-43 Det 4 *Antietam* (CG 54)
 HSL-45 Det 7 *Ingraham* (FFG 61)
 HSL-47 Det 6 *Lassen* (DDG 82) (16 Jan–21 Oct 03)

Expeditionary Strike Group Deployment

Peleliu (LHA 5)

29 Aug 03–9 Mar 04

Squadron Ship

HSL-37 Det 1 *Port Royal* (CG 73) (3 Sep 03–11 Mar 04)
 HSL-49 Det 4 *Fletcher* (DD 992) (5 Dec 03–present)**
 HSL-49 Det 3 *Jarrett* (FFG 33)

Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates	Ship
HSL-37 Det 5	22 Oct 02–25 Apr 03	<i>Crommelin</i> (FFG 37)
HSL-51 Det 1	27 Jan 03–25 Jul 03	<i>Vandegrift</i> (FFG 48)
HSL-51 Det 5	29 Jan 03–26 Jul 03	<i>Gary</i> (FFG 51)
HSL-51 Det 11	20 Mar 03–12 May 03	<i>Blue Ridge</i> (LCC 19)
HSL-45 Det 6	16 Apr 03–08 Jul 03	<i>Fletcher</i> (DD 992)**
HSL-43 Det 5	19 Apr 03–25 Jun 03	<i>McCampbell</i> (DDG 85)
HSL-51 Det 6	25 May 03–13 Aug 03	<i>Vincennes</i> (CG 49)
HSL-45 Det 3	16 Jun 03–16 Dec 03	<i>Rentz</i> (FFG 46)

HSL-45 Det 2	24 Jun 03–23 Dec 03	<i>Fletcher</i> (DD 992)**
HSL 47 Det 2	30 Aug 03–14 Nov 03	<i>Shoup</i> (DDG 86)
HSL-43 Det 5	3 Nov 03–18 Dec 03	<i>McCampbell</i> (DDG 85)
HSL-51 Det 1	3 Nov 03–3 Dec 03	<i>Vandegrift</i> (FFG 48)
HSL-43 Det 6	3 Dec 03–present	<i>McClusky</i> (FFG 41)

HSLWINGLANT

Battle/Carrier Strike Group Deployments

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)

5 Dec 02–23 May 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-42 Det 3 *Deyo* (DD 989)
 HSL-42 Det 8 *Hawes* (FFG 53)
 HSL-44 Det 1 *Briscoe* (DD 977)
 HSL-46 Det 2 *Oscar Austin* (DDG 79)
 HSL-48 Det 6 *San Jacinto* (CG 56)

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)

4 Feb 03–29 May 03

Squadron Ship

HSL-48 Det 8 *Anzio* (CG 68) (2 Feb 03–3 Jul 03)
 HSL-44 Det 6 *Cape St. George* (CG 71) (1 Feb 03–29 Jun 03)
 HSL-46 Det 1 *Winston Churchill* (DDG 81)
 HSL-46 Det 3 *Carr* (FFG 52)

Enterprise (CVN 65)

1 Oct 03–29 Feb 04

Squadron Ship

HSL-44 Det 3 *Philippine Sea* (CG 58)
 HSL-42 Det 7 *Gettysburg* (CG 64)
 HSL-48 Det 10 *Thorn* (DD 988) (28 Nov–present)*
 HSL-46 Det 4 *Nicholas* (FFG 47) (13 Jun 03–16 Dec 03)

Individual Deployments

Squadron	Dates	Ship
HSL-42 Det 2	1 Oct 02–1 April 03	<i>Boone</i> (FFG 28)
HSL-48 Det 2	10 Oct 02–17 March 03	<i>John L. Hall</i> (FFG 32)
HSL-44 Det 4	10 Jan 03–21 Jul 03	<i>Halyburton</i> (FFG 40)
HSL-46 Det 5	20 Jan 03–18 Jul 03	<i>O'Bannon</i> (DD 987)
HSL-48 Det 4	3 Feb 03–1 Aug 03	<i>McInerney</i> (FFG 8)
HSL-48 Det 9	2 Apr 03–4 Jun 03	<i>Hayler</i> (DD 997)
HSL-42 Det 9	23 May 03–1 Jul 03	<i>Vella Gulf</i> (CG 72)
HSL-46 Det 6	2 Jun 03–26 Nov 03	<i>Robert G. Bradley</i> (FFG 49)
HSL-42 Det 5	12 Jun 03–24 Nov 03	<i>Stump</i> (DD 978)
HSL-48 Det 1	28 July 03–31 Dec 03	<i>Doyle</i> (FFG 39)
HSL-44 Det 2	29 Aug 03–17 Oct 03	<i>Underwood</i> (FFG 36)
HSL-42 Det 10	25 Sep 03–22 Mar 04	<i>Stephen W. Groves</i> (FFG 29)
HSL-44 Det 7	25 Sep 03–19 Mar 04	<i>Samuel B. Roberts</i> (FFG 58)

*Late deployer

***Fletcher* (DD 992) is one of the ships participating in the Sea Swap Program and has been continually deployed in the Fifth Fleet AOR since 2002.

AIRCRAFT ACCEPTED IN 2003

Bureau Number	Qty	Type	Name	Contractor
165444	1	MV-22B	Osprey	Bell/Boeing
165594-165597	4	AV-8B	Harrier II	Boeing
165616-165626	11	T-45C	Goshawk	Boeing
165778	1	MH-60S	Seahawk	Sikorsky
165814-165818	5	E-2C	Hawkeye	Northrop Grumman
165837-165838	2	MV-22B	Osprey	Bell/Boeing
165848	1	MV-22B	Osprey	Bell/Boeing
165902-165909	8	F/A-18E	Super Hornet	Boeing
165922-165934	13	F/A-18F	Super Hornet	Boeing
165961-165686	26	T-6A	Texan II	Raytheon/Beech
166295-166311	17	MH-60S	Seahawk	Sikorsky
166381-166382	2	KC-130J	Hercules	Lockheed Martin
166417	1	E-2C	Hawkeye	Northrop Grumman
166420-166427	8	F/A-18E	Super Hornet	Boeing
166429-16433	5	F/A-18E	Super Hornet	Boeing
166449-166457	9	F/A-18F	Super Hornet	Boeing
166472	1	KC-130J	Hercules	Lockheed Martin
166474	1	UC-35D	Encore	Cessna
166475-166476	2	UH-1Y	Iroquois	Bell Helicopter
166477-166479	3	AH-1Z	Super Cobra	Bell Helicopter
900942-900943	2	F-16A	Fighting Falcon	General Dynamics

Webster Field, NAS Patuxent River, Md.

18 The EA-18G airborne electronic attack aircraft received Milestone B approval to proceed into system design and development.

29 Boeing Co. received a multiyear contract worth approximately \$8.5 billion for 210 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, 42 aircraft each year for FYs 2005–2009. Also included in the contract was the system design and development of the EA-18G.

29 The Navy awarded Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Owego, N.Y., a \$423 million multiyear contract for the procurement and delivery of common cockpits for

on board *Bataan* (LHD 5).

24 The last CH-53E Super Stallion to be delivered to the Marine Corps, BuNo 165243, arrived at HMH-461 at MCAS New River, N.C.

December

5 HSL-49 Det 4 departed to participate in the second “sea swap” on board *Fletcher* (DD 992), replacing HSL-45 Det 6.

13 During Operation Red Dawn, Saddam Hussein was captured at a remote farm near Tikrit, Iraq, by soldiers of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division at approximately 2000.

15 The Navy and Northrop Grumman Newport News, Va., renegotiated a modification to the refueling and complex overhaul contract for *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), extending the work end date 11 weeks to 6 November 2004, in part due to the damage caused by Hurricane Isabel.

15 The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy

Center, National Air and Space Museum Annex in Virginia, celebrated its opening to the public.

15–20 A maritime interception operation by Expeditionary Strike Group 1 and coalition allies in the Arabian Gulf seized three dhows and their 33 crewmen smuggling methamphetamines, hashish and heroin, in three separate interceptions. Among the aircraft involved was a VP-47 P-3C Orion, whose video footage was instrumental to the operation’s success. Profits from the drugs were suspected of financing al Qaeda terrorists.

16 Raytheon Company’s Space and Airborne Systems received a contract valued at \$298.2 million for full-rate production of 88 AN/ASQ-228 Advanced Targeting Forward-Looking Infrared sensor pods for the F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet.

17 An RQ-8A Fire Scout vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle completed the program’s 100th flight, at

MH-60R/S helicopters.

Curtis Utz and Mark Evans are historians in the Naval Historical Center’s Naval Warfare Division.



LCdr. Scott Snow boards a VF-31 F-14D Tomcat on *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) for a training exercise.

PH3 Tyler Osburn

MARINE CORPS AERONAUTICAL ORGANIZATION UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AVIATION

Marine Air Wings

First MAW	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
Second MAW	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
Third MAW	MCAS Miramar, CA
Fourth MAW	NAS JRB New Orleans, LA

Headquarters/Headquarters Squadrons

HHS-17	Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan
HHS-18	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
HHS-27	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
HHS-28	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
HHS-37	MCAS Miramar, CA
HHS-38	MCAS Miramar, CA
HHS-Beaufort	MCAS Beaufort, SC
HHS-Futenma	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
HHS-Iwakuni	MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
HHS-Kaneohe	MCAF Kaneohe Bay, HI
HHS-Miramar	MCAS Miramar, CA
HHS-New River	MCAS New River, NC
HHS-Yuma	MCAS Yuma, AZ

Marine Wing Headquarters Squadrons

MWHS-1	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
MWHS-2	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MWHS-3	MCAS Miramar, CA

Marine Wing Support Groups

MWSG-17	Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan
MWSG-27	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MWSG-37	MCAS Miramar, CA
MWSG-47	Selfridge ANGB, MI

Marine Wing Communications Squadrons

MWCS-18	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
MWCS-28	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MWCS-38	MCAS Miramar, CA
MWCS-48	NTC Great Lakes, IL

Marine Wing Support Squadrons

MWSS-171	MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
MWSS-172	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
MWSS-271	MCALF Bogue, NC
MWSS-272	MCAS New River, NC
MWSS-273	MCAS Beaufort, SC
MWSS-274	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MWSS-371	MCAS Yuma, AZ
MWSS-372	MCAS Camp Pendleton, CA
MWSS-373	MCAS Miramar, CA
MWSS-374	MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, CA
MWSS-471	NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX
MWSS-472	NAS JRB Atlanta, GA

Marines board a CH-53E Super Stallion for transit from Boxer (LHD 4) to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003.



SKC Denise Deppo

MWSS-473
MWSS-474

MCAS Miramar, CA
NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA

Marine Aircraft Groups

MAG-11	MCAS Miramar, CA
MAG-12	MCAS Iwakuni, Japan
MAG-13	MCAS Yuma, AZ
MAG-14	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MAG-16	MCAS Miramar, CA
MAG-24	MCAF Kaneohe Bay, HI
MAG-26	MCAS New River, NC
MAG-29	MCAS New River, NC
MAG-31	MCAS Beaufort, SC
MAG-36	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
MAG-39	MCAS Camp Pendleton, CA
MAG-41	NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX
MAG-42	NAS JRB Atlanta, GA
MAG-46	MCAS Miramar, CA
MAG-49	NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA

Marine Air Control Groups

MACG-18	MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan
MACG-28	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
MACG-38	MCAS Miramar, CA
MACG-48	NTC Great Lakes, IL

Attack Squadrons

VMA-211	MCAS Yuma, AZ
VMA-214	MCAS Yuma, AZ
VMA-223	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
VMA-231	MCAS Cherry Point, NC
VMA-311	MCAS Yuma, AZ
VMA-513	MCAS Yuma, AZ
VMA-542	MCAS Cherry Point, NC