

Hank Caruso's Aerocatures™ Sketchbook:

Nobody Flies Without These Guys!

Illustrations and Text © Hank Caruso

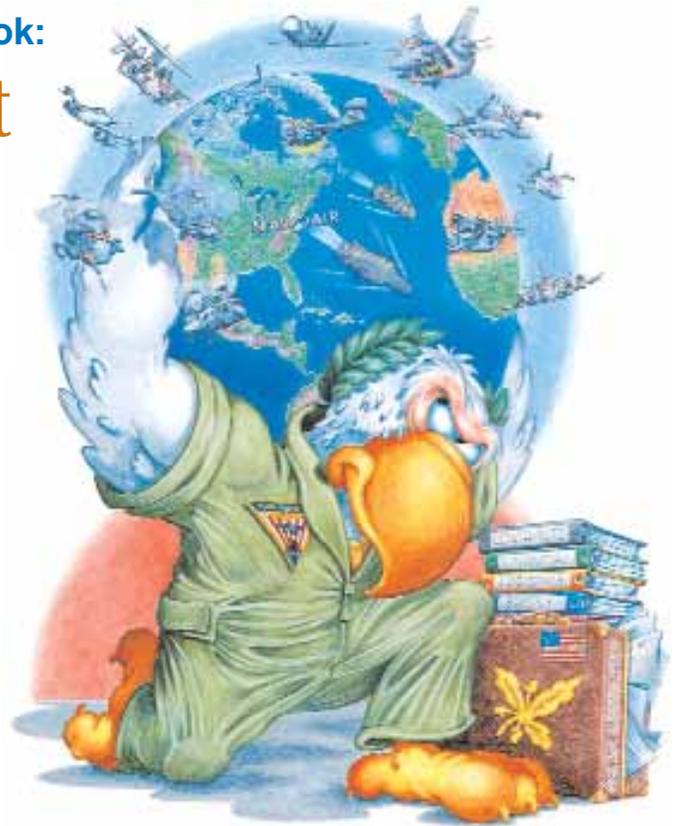
When it comes to military aviation, most of the glamour seems to go to airplanes with pointy noses, sensuous sensor bulges or high decibel-to-size ratios. This may be due to the jets' camera action image upon which the media often dwells. But the support base required for these aircraft comprises a unique blend of technical competence, undiminished enthusiasm and administrative finesse. It's a privilege and a delight to be able to turn the spotlight on some of these people and their unsung, yet vital contributions to Naval Aviation's capability.

Ready for Sea. This is the motto of the Navy's Supply Corps, whose mission for the past 209 years has been to provide combat capability to the fleet through logistics support. The scope of the Supply Corps' global responsibilities and professional competency is truly awe inspiring: in theater during

combat operations, on the waterfronts of fleet concentration areas, and supporting the fleet's far-flung shore activities. The Aerocature™ above was commissioned by the NAS Patuxent River, Md., Supply Corps Association.

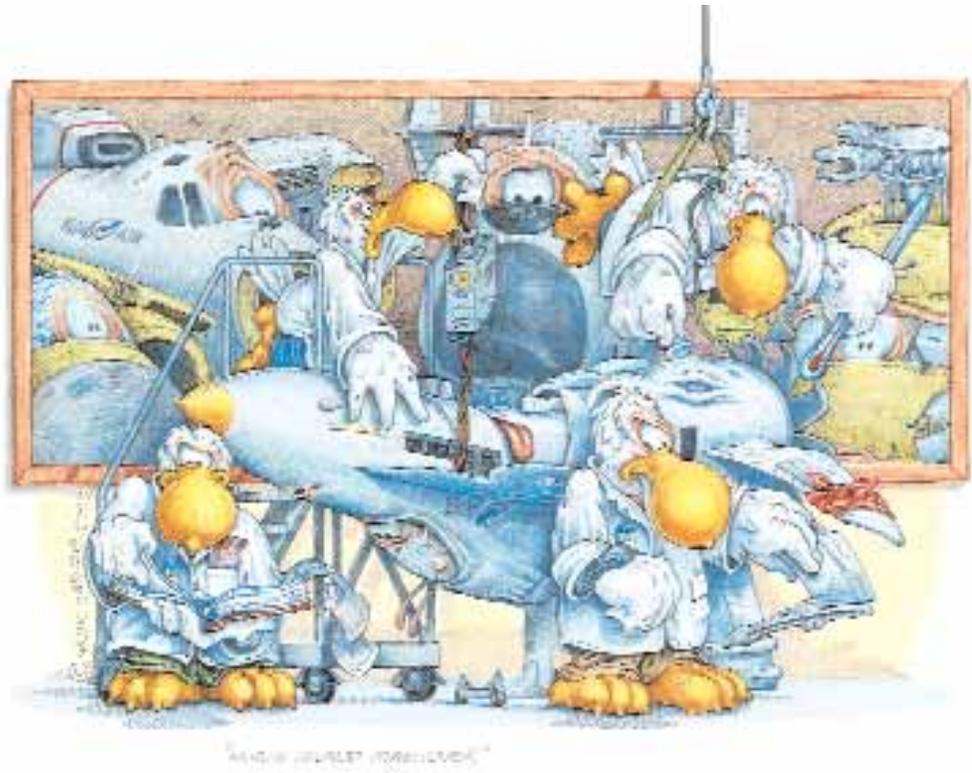


Greenshirts—The Magic Behind the Mission. Getting the supplies and spare parts to their destination is only the beginning. Using them to keep the Naval Aviation fleet ready at the tip of the sword is the challenge met every day by "Greenshirts," the Navy's and Marine Corps' aviation maintainers. This special cadre of officers and enlisted personnel has to make all of the pieces come together to keep the fleet flying safely and effectively. This specially commissioned Aerocature™ recognizes the skill and tenacity of aviation maintainers everywhere.



North Island Makeover.

Airplanes get old and sometimes they break. When new aerospace technology comes along, they need to be made over. To keep the fleet's aircraft in fighting trim, special expertise and facilities are needed to repair, renovate and modernize the Navy's winged warriors. Not all of this work can be done in the field. Much of it must be done at the air depots. Naval Air Depot North Island, Calif., commissioned this Aerocature™ to highlight the intensive repair and maintenance services its personnel perform on the F/A-18 Hornet, S-3 Viking, C-2 Greyhound, E-2 Hawkeye and SH-60 Seahawk aircraft.



Fit to Fly. It takes more than healthy aircraft to keep U.S Naval Aviation flying and fighting effectively. The health of aviators is obviously of crucial importance. Two groups of professionals make the aviators' health their first order of business: aerospace physiologists and flight surgeons.

Aerospace physiologists constantly poke and probe to learn as much as they can about an aviator's responses to the flight environment. They are the ones who devise the appropriate instruments of torture that an aviator must endure on a regular basis to retain the privilege of working in Naval Aviation.

Flight surgeons get up close and personal with aviators to help maintain their health, well-being and safety. In addition, they must keep current with all of the changes in modern medicine, new devices, threats and safety gear. They are the final gatekeepers who ultimately let Naval Aviators be where they want to be most—in the air.