

# PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

*Edited by JOSN Brandy Lewis*



## Awards

*Naval Aviation News* was honored in the **2003 Chief of Information Merit Awards** competition, receiving 1st Place in the category Publications for a Specific Audience (Magazine Format). In addition, Managing Editor Wendy Leland received 2nd Place for Photojournalism, and Grampaw Pettibone illustrator Ted Wilbur won 2nd Place for Art/Graphics in Support of a Publication.

An aviation boatswain's mate stretches a fuel hose across the deck of *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) during flight operations. Photo by PH3 Mark J. Rebilas.

The Women Officers Professional Association selected two members of VR-53 for the **2004 Captain Joy Bright Hancock Award**. Cdr. Karin Kulinski earned the award in the senior officer category and MCPO Christine Blinn received an honorary mention in the senior enlisted category. The award recognizes military women who are outstanding

leaders and make significant contributions to the service.

LCdr. Marcel LeBlanc received the **2003 LCdr. Michael G. Hoff Attack Aviator of the Year Award**. The award recognizes exceptional dedication, professionalism and tactical expertise in the strike community.

*Kearsarge* (LHD 3) received the **2003 CNO Safety Afloat Award** for outstanding contributions to fleet readiness, increased morale,



efficiency and economic use of resources through safety.

Adm. Wesley L. McDonald received the **Cliff Henderson Award** from the National Aeronautic Association. The award recognizes an individual or group whose vision, leadership or skill has made a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation or space activity.

Lt. Carter Moreland of VFA-87 received the **CNO Captain Charles**

**J. Nechvatal Award**, which recognizes the aviation ground maintenance officer who has made the most beneficial impact on command readiness and mission accomplishment during the previous year.

VFA-34 received the **CVW-17 Top Hook Award** for the first line period of its combat deployment in 2004. VFA-195 received the **CVW-5 Top Hook Award** during the second half of its 2004 spring deployment. VFA-82 won the

overall **CVW-1 Top Hook Award** during its 2003–2004 deployment. The award is given to the fixed wing squadron in the air wing with the highest landing grades per line period.

NAVDEP Jacksonville, Fla. received three safety awards: the **2003 CNO Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore** in the large industrial activity category; **SECNAV Safety and Occupational Health Shore Safety Award** in the large industrial category for the

overall quality of its occupational safety and health programs; and the **2003 CNO/NAVAIR Aviation Safety Award** based on 37 years and over 27,000 hours of Class A/B mishap-free flying.

The aviation community winners of the **RAdm. William Thompson Awards** for excellence in public affairs were: community relations, afloat, large, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67); emergency activities, shore, large, NAS Sigonella, Italy; international communications, afloat, large, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67); and special events, observances and special publics, afloat, large, *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).

The winners of the **2004 Department of the Navy Safety Excellence Awards** in the aviation community were:

Safety Ashore—NAVDEP Jacksonville, Fla., (industrial) and NAS Keflavik, Iceland (nonindustrial).

Shipboard Safety—*Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) (large deck surface combatant).

Marine Corps Ground Safety—2d Marine Aircraft Wing, II MEF (Group I) and HMM-266 (Group IV).

Aviation Safety—HC-11 (active duty Navy); HMH-464 (active duty Marine Corps); VR-53 (reserve Navy); VMGR-234 (reserve Marine Corps); and HT-8 (training command).

The **2003 SECNAV Energy Conservation Award** winners in the aviation community were MCAS Yuma, Ariz.; *Peleliu* (LHA 5); and VFA-4.

## Records

**HC-3** surpassed 30 years and 170,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

**HMM-161** surpassed 40,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

TRAWING-2 CO **Capt. Tom Hills** reached his 1,000th trap while

flying a T-45A Goshawk aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) on 23 June.



LCdr. Grant Mager

The *Fighting Omars* of VFC-12, above, took their F/A-18 Hornets to the skies over NAS Fallon, Nev., in April with a new mission. Fighting their way into the various target complexes and delivering weapons on target, the *Omars* executed their first air-to-ground detachment.

The Hornet (CV/CVA/ CVS 12) Museum commemorated the 35th anniversary of the flight of Apollo 11. *Hornet* (CV 12) was the prime recovery ship for the Apollo 11 and 12 missions in July 1969. The ship is now a public museum in

Alameda, Calif. During the celebration, Splashdown 2004, museum personnel invited the key recovery team members to a public reunion. The two remaining Apollo 12 astronauts, Dick Gordon and Alan Bean, were guest speakers.



Ltjg. Josh Schimpff

**VAW-115 crew members pose with the memorial they dedicated to squadronmate Lt. Thomas Adams.**

The *Liberty Bells* of VAW-115 dedicated a memorial to a fallen Navy pilot, Lt. Thomas Adams, in the Officers Club at NAF Atsugi, Japan, on 16 July. Designed by fellow pilot Lt. Jeremy Rich, the memorial is a propeller blade

## COWBOYS DEPLOY



Cpl. Joshua A. Tate

**M**arines assigned to VMFA-112 at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas, deployed to the western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism. It is the first Marine reserve fighter squadron to be mobilized since WW II. The squadron, above, operates 12 F/A-18 Hornets.



LCpl. Martin R. Harris

**Above, VMFA-112 pilot Lt. Col. William T. Collins greets a ground crewman.**



A small detachment of 7 officers and 64 enlisted personnel from VFA-14 on board *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) arrives at the ship's new home port of San Diego, Calif.

bearing the inscription, "Never in the field of human conflicts was so much owed by so many to so few." Adams was flying an SH-3 Sea King during a fatal collision with another

helicopter in the Arabian Gulf on 22 March 2003.

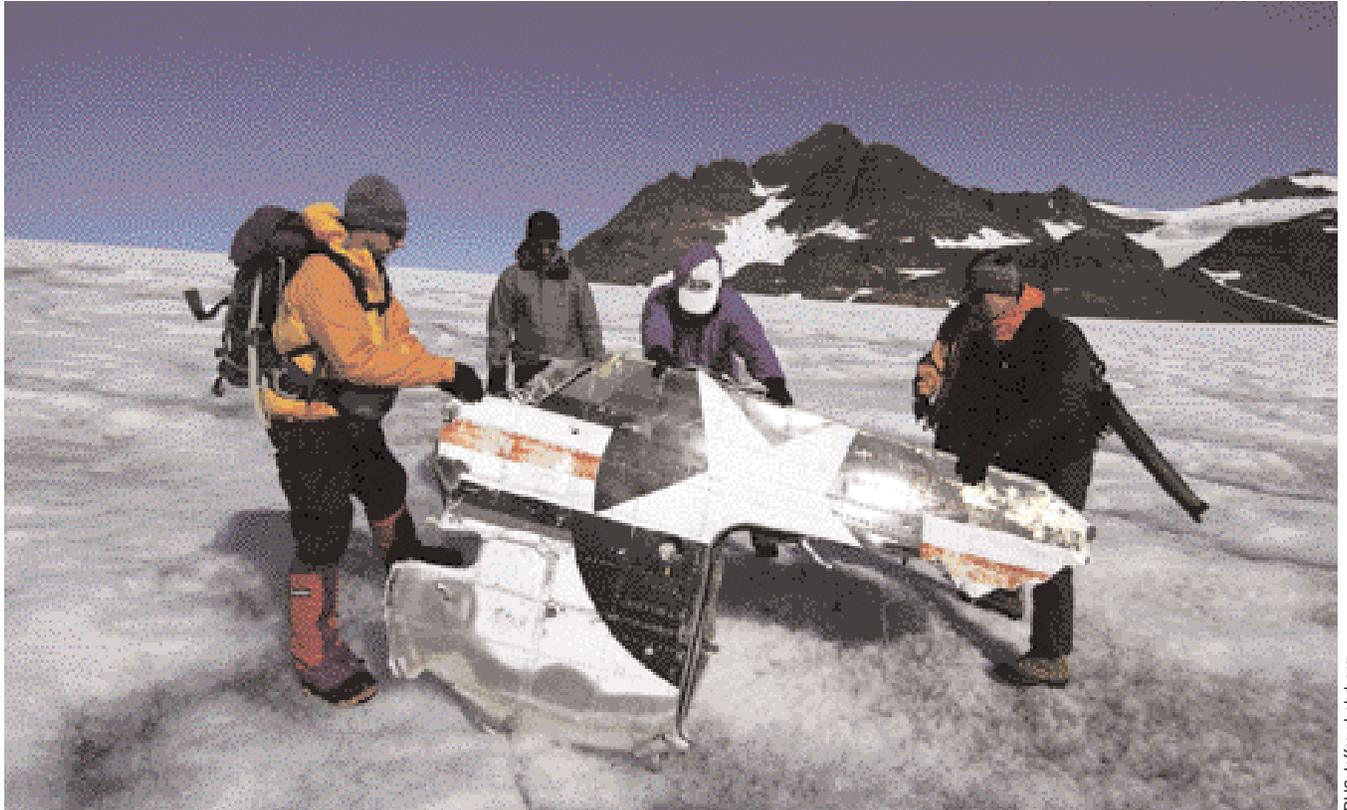
RAdm. David M. Architzel, Commander Operational Test and



Evaluation Force, above, visited Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron 22 at MCAS New River, N.C., in July and piloted an MV-22 Osprey.

## Rescues

A UH-3H Sea King helicopter from the **Pacific Missile Range Facility** at Barking Sands, Hawaii, airlifted two injured men from the cruise ship *Pride Aloha* five miles off the Kauai coast on 20 July. After receiving a request for assistance from the Coast Guard, the helicopter hovered over the ship while AT3 Christopher Szabo was lowered onto



PH2 Jeffrey Lehtberg

Recovery personnel examine the wreckage of a P2V Neptune that crashed in Greenland in 1962. The remains of 7 of the 12 crew members had been found during a recovery effort in 1966. The August 2004 expedition recovered additional remains and returned them to the United States.

## TOPHATTERS PARTICIPATE IN ALASKAN EXERCISE

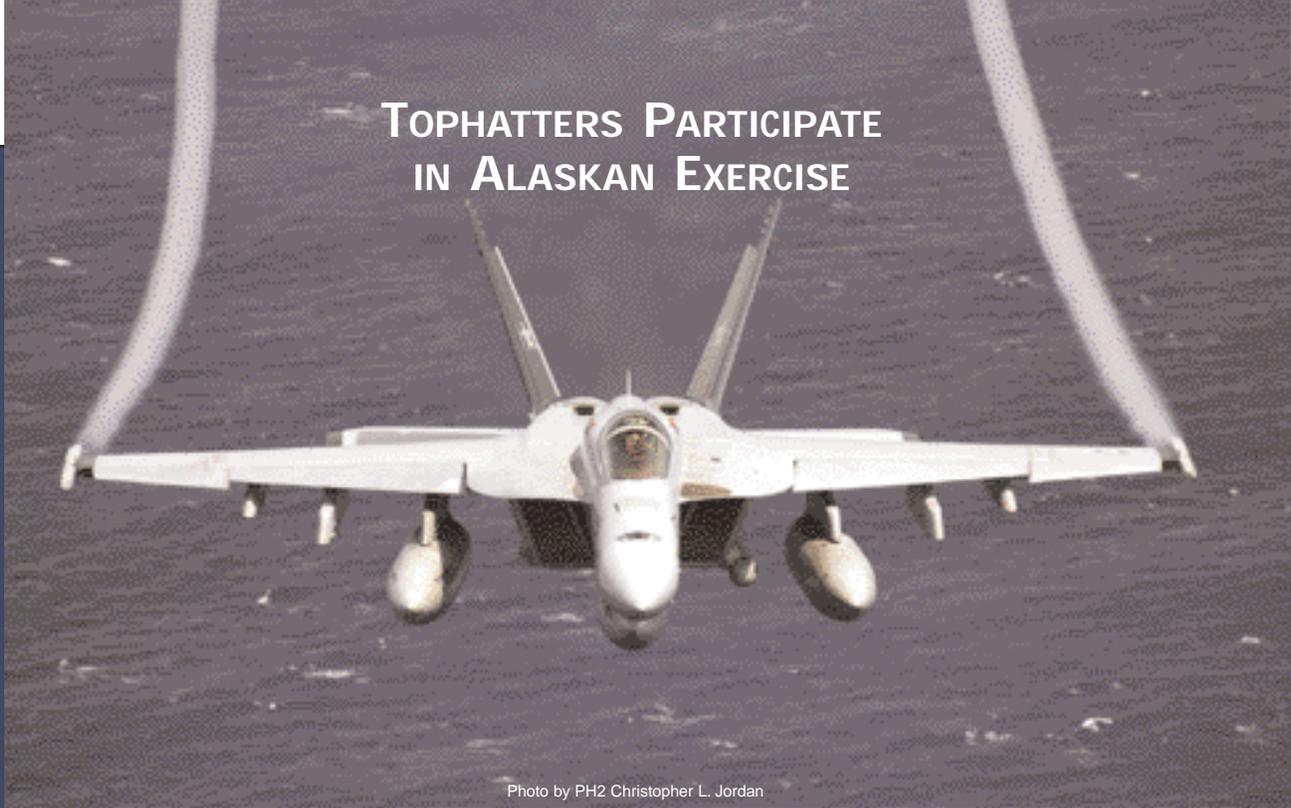


Photo by PH2 Christopher L. Jordan

By Lt. Erick Kammeyer, VFA-14 PAO

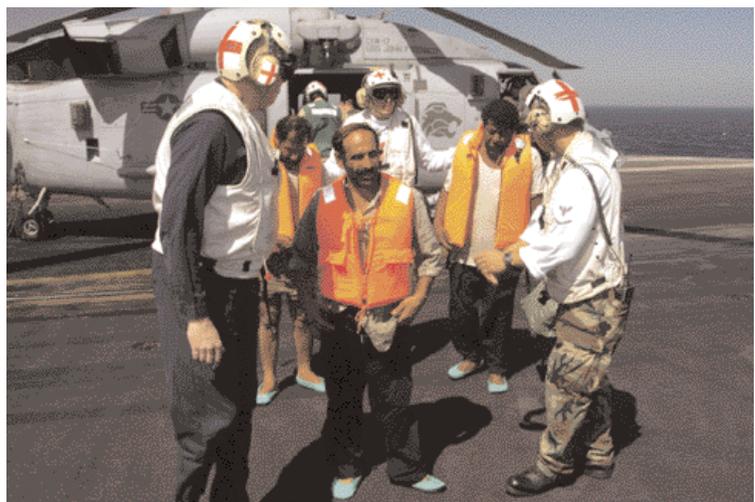
The *Tophatters* of VFA-14, above, completed a detachment to Anchorage, Alaska. Seven VFA-14 Super Hornets had left NAS Lemoore, Calif., following two Air Force KC-135s on the five-hour flight to the land of the midnight sun. The missions flown included an assortment of dissimilar aircraft training, simulated air-to-ground attacks and participation in large strike packages with Air Force assets. The USAF F-15 Eagles were outfitted with

the APG-63(V)2 Active Electronic Scanned Array, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System and high off-boresight AIM-9X missiles. The *Tophatter's* Super Hornets, with no external tanks or pylons, each bagged many F-15s. In four days of flying, the *Tophatters* were able to simulate air-to-ground attacks and complete 45 sorties, amassing 110 flight hours with no sorties missed.

the deck and prepared the survivors for hoisting. AT2 Damon Boggs operated the hoist and secured the victims on board the helicopter. The men were flown to Lihue Airport, where an ambulance transported them to Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

The crew of *John F. Kennedy (CV 67)* rescued six crew members of an Iranian cargo dhow on 14 August, after learning that the vessel was taking on water. An SH-60F and HH-60H of HS-15 were dispatched to the scene, while a P-3C Orion of VP-9 monitored the dhow and coordinated helicopter rescue operations. All of the victims were rescued and later treated by *Kennedy's* medical staff.

A helicopter crew from CGAS New Orleans, La., rescued the captain of a 96-



PH3 Joshua Karsten



Left, an SH-60F Seahawk hovers over an Iranian dhow during a rescue operation on 14 August. Above, *John F. Kennedy (CV 67)* crew members assist the rescued Iranian mariners off an HH-60H Seahawk.

foot shrimp vessel, *Alexander G*, 150 miles southwest of New Orleans. The air station was notified that the boat captain had caught his hand in the vessel's winch, resulting in a severe injury. Once on the scene, the helicopter crew lowered a rescue swimmer to assess the situation. The victim was then hoisted aboard the HH-65 Dolphin and transported to Lakewood Hospital in Morgan City, La.

The Combined Air Operations Center's (CAOC) Combat Operation Cell, partially comprised of *Nimitz* (CVN 68) strike group personnel, assisted an injured U.S. Coast Guardsman attached to *Rush* (WHEC 723), who was suffering a life-threatening medical injury. The CAOC directed a helo crew from the Chilean ship *Lynch* to conduct a helo transfer, but the crew's efforts were unsuccessful. *Rush* then transported the victim to the Canadian destroyer HMCS

## SCHOOLS COMMAND HAS A NEW SHOWBIRD

Story and Photo by Lt. Karen Eifert

The Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) replaced the A-6 Intruder that has graced its front lawn for the past six years with a newly retired F/A-18 Hornet from VFA-203. According to CO Capt. A. J. Gallardo, Jr., the aircraft was changed to update the appearance of the school facility and to keep the incoming Naval Aviators motivated throughout their initial phase of pipeline training.

NAS Lemoore, Calif.-based VFA-14 *Tophatters* AM3 Justin Asprer and AM1s Jamie Murillo and Sergio Montoya transformed the aircraft from a tactical color scheme to its current appearance, above. The *Tophatter* crew, with the help of NASC and Naval Air Technical Training Center student volunteers, gave the retired F/A-18 an entirely new look in seven days.

The newly painted Hornet is on display in front of Building 633 at NAS Pensacola, Fla.



## CLEAN HUNTER 2004

The Navy's only reserve Prowler squadron, VAQ-209 based at NAF Washington, D.C., completed a detachment to Aalborg, Denmark, in June. The *Star Warriors* took their jets and personnel across the Atlantic to fly in Clean Hunter, a NATO air combat exercise. The intent of Clean Hunter is to provide an opportunity for the coalition to work together and practice strikes throughout the European theater. For the exercise, VAQ-209 moved its planes and equipment over 3,000 miles and provided jamming support for more than 10 NATO partners.

*Algonquin* (DDG 283) using a rigid-hull inflatable boat. Once on board, *Algonquin's* helicopter transferred the patient to *Tarawa* (LHA 1) whose helo delivered him to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., Search and Rescue (SAR) team received a call for search and rescue support to pick up an injured climber atop Coleman Glacier, just below the northern summit of Mount Baker. The SAR crew and two Bellingham Mountain Rescue Council (BMRC) members were alerted to prepare for the mission. An SH-3 Sea King flew over the peak of Mount Baker, where the crew quickly located the injured climber. After observing multiple avalanches in the area, they elected to drop BMRC climbers 1,000 feet below



PH3 Joseph M. Bullavac

**TH-57 Sea Ranger helicopters sit on the tarmac at Millington, Tenn., Municipal Airport. Training Air Wing 5 pilots flew approximately 300 training aircraft from NAS Whiting Field, Fla., to Millington to keep them safe from Hurricane Ivan in September 2004.**

the climber. A SAR crew member conducted pre-hoist checks from the ground and radioed the helicopter when ready for pickup. The injured hiker was recovered, and the SAR crew stabilized the climber for the

20-minute transfer to Saint Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, Wash.

## DAMBUSTERS REVISIT DAM

On 1 May 1951 during the Korean War, VA-195 pilots flying AD-4 Skyraiders delivered aerial torpedoes on the heavily defended and strategically positioned Hwachon Dam, right. Their mission was simple: destroy the flood gates and raise the level of the river to form a natural barrier against the enemy's advance. By employing low-level tactics designed to sink ships, the *Dambusters* earned their name that day.

Fifty-three years later and flying F/A-18 Hornets, below, the VFA-195 *Dambusters* returned to the Hwachon Dam. This time the weapons were simulated and the runs on the target were unopposed as Cdr. Michael Wettlaufer and LCdr. Brian Bronk



LCdr. Gavin Gassen

trained with Republic of Korea forward air controllers. "Only after we simulated the release of our weapons and we were breaking away to the south did I look back and imagine what it must have been like for those aviators maneuvering their Skyraiders into position to release torpedoes," said LCdr. Bronk. "Without a doubt, the combination of the torpedoes and the skill of the Naval Aviators delivering their weapons with precision flying made that mission in 1951 a total success."

# STENNIS REMEMBERS FOUR AVIATORS

By Lt. Corey Barker, *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) Public Affairs

In August, S-3B Vikings flew in the missing-man formation over *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) as a 21-gun salute sounded across the flight deck during a memorial service for four Naval Aviators. More than 1,000 officers and enlisted personnel assembled on the flight deck, right, to remember four shipmates who were lost when their S-3B Viking crashed in the western Pacific.

LCdr. Scott Allen Zellem, Lts. Patrick Sean Myrick and James Joseph Pupplo and AT2 Joshua Brent Showalter were assigned to Sea Control Squadron 35, NAS North Island, Calif., when their aircraft impacted Kita Iwo Jima, an uninhabited island located approximately 39 nautical miles north of Iwo Jima, on 10 August.

"We remember these four men as men of virtue, pride and commitment. We remember them as larger than life, yet as humble as they were brave. I remember them as one team who chose to offer themselves for a simple, but noble purpose: to serve," said RAdm. Patrick Walsh, commander of the *Stennis* carrier strike group, during the ceremony. "I offer my profound gratitude to the families who shared their sons, their husbands, their brothers and their fathers with us." The ceremony concluded with sailors playing "Taps" over the ship's silent deck.



PH3 Tyler Orsburn

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

**AIRLANT:** RAdm Denby Starling II relieved RAdm. James M. Zortman, 28 Jul.

**Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6):** Capt. Jeffrey Scott Jones relieved Capt. Jon Berg-Johnsen, 5 Aug.

**CARGRU 3:** RAdm. Evan M. Chanik relieved RAdm. Bruce W. Clingan, 26 Jun.

**Cleveland (LPD 7):** Capt. Michael B. Chase relieved Capt. Robert W. Brown, 11 Aug.

**CVW-3:** Capt. Patrick F. Rainey relieved Capt. Mark A. Vance, 22 Jun.

**CVW-7:** Capt. Robert A. Ffield relieved Capt. Kenneth E. Floyd, 5 Jul.

**CARGRU 8:** RAdm. William J. McCarthy relieved RAdm. H. Denby Starling II, 5 Jul.

**CVW-9:** Capt. James M. Spence relieved Capt. Victor A. Steinman, 6 Aug.

**CVW-14:** Capt. Scott T. Craig relieved Capt. Scott H. Swift, 5 Jul.

**Harry S. Truman (CVN 75):** Capt. James P. Gigliotti relieved Capt.

Michael R. Grootousen, 29 Jul.

**HS-14:** Cdr. Timothy McMahon relieved Cdr. Baxter Goodly, 5 Aug.

**HSL-37:** Cdr. Patrick A. Molenda relieved Cdr. David T. Fisher, 9 Sep.

**Iwo Jima (LHD 7):** Capt. Richard S. Callas relieved Capt. John W. Snedeker, Jr., 6 Aug.

**NAPRA:** Cdr. Louis M. Borno III relieved Cdr. Richard J. Dorn, 8 Jul.

**NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX:** Capt. John J. McCormack, Jr., relieved Capt. Paul F. Paine, 10 Jul.

**NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA:** Capt. Harry L. Myers relieved Capt. S. Layne Smith, 17 Jul.

**NAS Kingsville, TX:** Capt. James A. Crabbe relieved Capt. Jerry L. McWithey, 6 Aug.

**NAS Patuxent River, MD:** Capt. Zachary Henry relieved Capt. Dane Swanson, 9 Jul.

**NAVAIRES Norfolk, VA:** Capt. Mark Spencer relieved Capt. Edmond Watson, 24 Jul.

**Naval Air Forces/AIRPAC:** VAdm. James M. Zortman relieved

VAdm. Michael D. Malone, 17 Aug.

**VAQ-130:** Cdr. Tom Slais relieved Cdr. Bill Lawler, 4 Sep.

**VF-143:** Cdr. Stephen Koehler relieved Cdr. C. J. Murray, 5 Jul.

**VF-213:** Cdr. Brian M. Kocher relieved Cdr. John A. Hefti, 1 Jul.

**VFA-105:** Cdr. Norman E. Weakland relieved Cdr. Bret C. Batchelder, 28 Aug.

**VFA-195:** Cdr. Michael A. Wettlaufer relieved Cdr. Robert M. Vance, 23 Sep.

**VR-51:** Cdr. Patrick J. Barrett relieved Cdr. David N. Valente, 21 Aug.

**VR-53:** Cdr. Tim Fox relieved Cdr. Chris Ryan, 7 Aug.

**VS-30:** Cdr. James Ryman Shoaf relieved Cdr. Michael J. Ginter, 19 April.

**VT-3:** Cdr. Lawrence K. Zelvin relieved Cdr. Robert W. Ernst, 18 Jun.

**VT-9:** Cdr. Michael J. Horsefield relieved Cdr. Paul D. Shankland, 3 Sep.