

PEOPLE PLANES PLACES



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Awards

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) was the winner of the **2003 Battenberg Cup**. The award recognizes the best overall warship in the Atlantic Fleet. The ship also received the **Dorie P. Miller Award for Food Service.**, which honors excellence in wardroom service aboard aircraft carriers.

VFA-94 pilot LCdr. Scott Bonz was named **Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Pilot of the Year** and LCdr. Daniel Sullivan of VF-31 became **Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Naval Flight Officer of the Year** for 2003.

Nimitz (CVN 68) and Carrier Air Wing 11 were the winners of the **2003 Admiral Flatley Memorial**

An F/A-18C Hornet launches from *George Washington* (CVN 73) while deployed in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2004.

Award for maintaining outstanding aviation safety.

Winners of the **2003 Cdr. Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award** were: HM-14 and Mine Countermeasures Weapons Systems Training School, HS-10, HMMT-164, VT-10 and HT-18. The award is presented to the squadrons demonstrating the greatest production efficiency in meeting the fleet training requirements for pilots, naval flight officers and aircrewmen within the approved syllabus time.

Winners of the **2004 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards** in the Naval Aviation community were: *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), VFA-87 and VAW-117.

Boxer (LHD 4) won the Pacific Fleet's **2003 Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award** in recognition of superior performance in intra-type battle efficiency.

LCdr. John J. Patterson IV of VF-31 received the **Association of Naval Aviation Tactical Aviation Award**.

AE1(AW) Lisa Patrocky was named the **Commander Naval Forces Europe 2003 Sailor of the Year**.

ABH2(AW) Geoffrey Watt became the **Atlantic Fleet Junior Aviation Boatswain's Mate of the Year**.

NAS Pensacola, Fla., received the **USS Bainbridge Award** for its outstanding community service.

The 2004 inductees into the **Hall of Honor** at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla., were Adm. James L. Holloway III, USN (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Robert E. Galer, USMC (Ret.), Capt. James A. Lovell, USN (Ret.) and Cdr. Stewart R. Graham, USCG (Ret.).

Cdr. Doug Denny, below right, and LCdr. Kurt Frankenberger of VFA-2 were both awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat V for heroism during aerial flight. On 21 March 2003, their VF-2 F-14 Tomcat penetrated the heavily defended Baghdad missile engagement zone at the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and they evaded virtually continuous surface-to-air missile launches and antiaircraft artillery bursts as they delivered ordnance on targets in the city. Right, the F-14D Tomcats assigned to the VF-2 *Bounty Hunters* wore special markings to commemorate their final Tomcat deployment.

The **2004 Navy League Award** winners representing Naval Aviation were:
John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership (USN Officer): Cdr. John M. Geragotelis, VAQ-131.
Captain Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership (Enlisted): SSgt. Paula D. Bruckman, VMA-223.

General Holland M. Smith Award for Operational Competence: Maj. Kenneth M. Woodward, VMA-223.
Admiral Ben Morral Award for Logistics Competence (Officer): LCdr. Nathan P. Borchers, *Enterprise* (CVN 65).
Naval Intelligence Foundation Award: Cdr. Eric A. Taylor, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).



PH3 Katrina Walter

Records

Cdr. David Landess, **VF-103** CO, reached his 1,000th trap while flying an F-14 Tomcat on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) on 14 June.

Navy flight instructor Lt. Dave Kirk, **3rd Flying Training Squadron**, Moody AFB, Ga., surpassed 1,000 flight hours in the T-6A Texan II on 27 May.

VFA-131 surpassed 70,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

Rescues

An SH-60B Seahawk from **Bulkeley (DDG 84)** evacuated an Iraqi national with heart attack symptoms from the passenger ferry *Jebel Ali* in the Arabian Gulf on 21 June. A corpsman on board the helo provided initial treatment as the

victim was transported to a medical facility in Bahrain.

On 21 May a UH-3H Sea King from the **NAS Pensacola, Fla., Helicopter Support Unit** participated in the rescue of a U.S.

COMMARFORPAC: HMH-363, HMH-462, HMH-465, HMLA-369, HMM-161, HMMT-164, HMT-303 and VMA-311, VMFA-314, VMFA (AW)-332, VMGR-152 and VMGR-352.

COMNAVAIRFORES: HS-75, VAW-77, VFA-201, VP-94, VR-49, VR-53 and VR-58.

CG FOURTH MAW: HMH-772, HMLA-773, VMFA-142 and VMGR-234.

CNATRA: HT-8, VT-6, VT-7, VT-10, VT-21, VT-28 and VT-31.

COMNAVAIRSYSCOM: VX-23 and VX-31.

Air Force F-15C Eagle pilot who had ejected from his aircraft near St. George Island, about 20 miles off the coast of the Florida panhandle. Along with a Coast Guard HU-25 Falcon and C-130 Hercules, the Sea King reported to the scene where a

RONALD REAGAN DEPLOYS TO NEW HOME

By JO2 Shane Tuck, *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) Public Affairs

The Ronald Reagan strike group, consisting of Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group 1, *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and CVW-11, departed NS Norfolk, Va., on 27 May for a two-month transit around South America en route to the carrier's new home port at NAB Coronado, Calif.

"This is a proud moment in the ship's history, and a goal we've been working toward since the ship's commissioning just over 10 months ago," said *Ronald Reagan* CO Capt. James Symonds.

The carrier embarked aircraft from six squadrons including, F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, E-2C Hawkeyes, SH-60F Seahawks and C-2A Greyhounds. "The transit provides a tremendous opportunity for the ship and crew to test our abilities while conducting flight operations over an extended period of time at sea," Symonds added.

During the transit the strike group conducted bilateral training and air engagement exercises with Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru. These exercises



PHAN Konstandinos Goumeridis

An Argentine navy Dassault Super Etendard performs a "touch and go" on *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) during bilateral exercises.

increase readiness, create greater understanding of tactics and culture and promote stability worldwide.

"By training with South American counterparts, the ship secures cooperation in the region and reassures friendly nations of the United States' commitment to peace," said CMDCM(SW/AW) Kathleen Hansen, *Ronald Reagan* command master chief. "The strike group sailed around South America because the aircraft carrier is too large to pass through the Panama Canal. While this long journey is necessary, it's also an opportunity to promote our nation's goodwill and friendship throughout the southern hemisphere."

San Diego military and local businesses greeted the carrier with a homecoming ceremony in late July.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission patrol boat rescued the pilot from the water and brought him ashore. The helo picked him up, performed a medical evaluation and transported him to Tyndall AFB, Fla. On 27 May the helicopter support unit was called by the New Orleans Rescue Communications Center to assist in transporting a sailor from *Pelican* (MHC 53) who had sustained a .50 caliber gunshot wound in the left leg after a gun had misfired. Upon arrival the helo lowered a corpsman to evaluate the victim's injury. The corpsman was able to stop the bleeding and regain a pulse in the victim's foot. The injured sailor was stabilized, hoisted on board the helo and transported to a local hospital.

The North Cascades National Park Service contacted **NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.**, on 19 May for assistance with a rescue on the summit of Mount Shuksan where a climber had been critically injured after a fall. A UH-3H Sea King deployed and stopped en route at Bellingham, Wash., to embark four mountain climbers from the Bellingham Mountain Council. Knowing the helo would have to lose some weight before performing

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Vern Clark became Honorary Naval Aviator Number 26 on 12 June during the Association of Naval Aviation convention in Washington, D.C. Commander Naval Air Forces VAdm. Mike Malone, presented the award to Adm. Clark.



a rescue at 8,500 feet, the pilot landed at a low altitude landing zone and offloaded unnecessary equipment and personnel. At the rescue site, a corpsman was lowered to assist a National Park Service Ranger who was already with the victim. Medical evaluation revealed that the victim had suffered several lacerations and multiple fractures, including a broken back. With daylight fading, the victim was hoisted on board the helo and transported to a local hospital.

Scan Pattern

Almost a year ago, 10 *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) sailors from

the Combat Systems Department received a check for \$5,000 for a beneficial suggestion. On 16 June they received another \$5,000 check to split among themselves. The sailors received the awards for overhauling the AM-3729/SR amplifiers, LS-474/U speakers, Type G telephones, AN/BQH bathythermographs and electrical workbenches aboard *Eisenhower*, rather than sending them to contractors for overhaul or purchasing new equipment. The project saved the Navy hundreds of thousands of dollars. The first check was awarded by command authority, then the beneficial suggestion award recommendation was routed through the Naval Sea Systems Command, which determined the sailors would receive an additional \$5,000 reward. The Department of the Navy Military Cash Award Program is designed to recognize employees or groups of employees for ideas that benefit the Navy or Marine Corps through cost avoidance or cost savings. Any employee or private citizen is eligible to submit a suggestion. An item submitted for review must outline a plan to correct a specific problem, improve upon the quality, or create a new approach or method.

NAES Lakehurst, N.J., became home to approximately 40 Army National Guard helicopters as their crews trained at adjacent Fort Dix



In 1980 Ltjg. David Jensen of VP-40, left, was the pilot on a medical evacuation in P-3 Orion BuNo 159323. Twenty-five years later his son, Ltjg. Dennis Jensen, also of VP-40, flew the Orion's sister aircraft, BuNo 159324, to the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Nev., for retirement.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Boxer (LHD 4): Capt. Thomas J. Culora relieved Capt. Thomas D. Crowley, 21 Jun.

Carl Vinson (CVN 70): Capt. Kevin M. Donegan relieved Capt. Richard B. Wren, 14 May.

COMTACGRU 1: Capt. Dennis A. Schulz relieved Capt. David L. Buckley, 4 Jun.

CSCW-1: Capt. Margaret Klein relieved Capt. A. J. Sereno, 23 Jun.

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

HS-75: Cdr. Zack Taylor relieved Cdr. Mike Branco, 12 Jun.

HSL-48: Cdr. Donald R.

Cuddington relieved Cdr. Stephen H. Blaisdell, 3 Jun.

NAS Sigonella, Italy: Capt. Joe Stuyvesant relieved Capt. T. L. Davison, 28 Jun.

SFWSLANT: Cdr. Daniel J. Redgate relieved Cdr. John C. Butler, 24 Jun.

TACRON 1: Capt. Dennis A. Schulz relieved Capt. David L. Buckey, 4 Jun.

TRAWING 6: Capt. Lee H. C. Little relieved Capt. Chaunce Mitchell, 13 May.

VAQ-138: Cdr. William J. Jensen relieved Cdr. Stephen W.

Beckvonpeccoz, 6 May.

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

VFA-113: Cdr. John Dixon relieved Cdr. William J. Dooris, 28 Jun.

VFA-136: Cdr. Patrick Lefere relieved Cdr. Scott Conn, 7 May.

VFC-13: Cdr. Daniel T. Masterson relieved Capt. John E. Cole, 27 Mar.

VP-4: Cdr. David G. Smith relieved Cdr. Robert W. Racoosin, 15 Apr.

VT-4: Cdr. P. Steven Posey relieved Cdr. Peter P. Hunt, 24 Jun.

prior to their deployment to Iraq in late September. About 700 soldiers and support contractors from the 42nd Infantry Division's Aviation Brigade reported to Lakehurst in June. This is one example of cooperative efforts among the Navy, Army and Air Force due to the unique joint agreement that exists among three central New Jersey military bases—Lakehurst, Fort Dix and McGuire AFB.



Two of the last VH-3A executive transport helicopters were retired early this year. On 21 January BuNo 150613, above, made its final landing at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, NAS Pensacola, Fla. On 19 March BuNo 150611 landed for the last time at the Ronald Reagan Foundation and Library in Simi Valley, Calif.

SEARCHING FOR SUNKEN WARBIRDS

By National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Public Affairs

On 29 May, under guidance of an underwater archaeologist from the Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C., a Navy explosive ordnance disposal team from Fort Story, Va., began a week-long search of the southern portion of Lake Michigan for sunken WW II aircraft. Funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the team employed side-scan sonar to determine the likely positions of aircraft lost during aviator training from the in-land aircraft carriers *Wolverine* (IX 64) and *Sable* (IX 81).

The majority of carrier qualifications during WW II occurred on the decks of *Sable* and *Wolverine*, and a large number of landing signal officers and flight deck crew learned their trades in the two ships. Losses due to accidents were expected

during this demanding training. Between 1942 and 1945, there were 122 aircraft losses and more than 200 separate flight deck accidents. Although the majority of these incidents resulted in only minor injuries, eight Naval Aviators lost their lives. Approximately 120,000 successful landings took place, and an estimated 17,000 Naval Aviators were qualified.

The Naval Historical Center's Underwater Archaeology Branch has management responsibility for the Navy's historic ship and aircraft wrecks. The aircraft lost in Lake Michigan have long been of interest, and this survey was the Center's first opportunity to search for the wrecks. Information obtained will help in the development of a management plan for all underwater wrecks in Lake Michigan. For more information, visit www.noaa.gov or www.history.navy.mil.