



# PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

*Edited by JO3 Brandy Lewis*

## Awards

Three former members of the Naval Aviation community received the **2004 Elder Statesman Aviation Award** from the National Aeronautic Association. Stanley J. Green, a former Naval Flight Officer; Jackie Jackson, a Naval Aviator in the Vietnam War; and Andrew Pitas, a WW II Navy air traffic controller, were recognized for their contributions to aeronautics.

The **2004 U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award** recipients include two Naval Aviators, VAdm. Gerald E. Miller '42 (Ret.) and RAdm. Ronald F. Marryott '57 (Ret.). This

**On 15 September 2004, a VMFA-232 F/A-18C Hornet launches from Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) followed by a flash of fire caused by unburned jet fuel. Photo by PH2 (AW/PJ) Philip A. McDaniel.**

award recognizes alumni who have provided a lifetime of service to the nation or armed forces, made significant and distinguished public service contributions to the nation, and demonstrated strong support of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Naval Academy.

ETCS(SW) Rulon Rose of *Nimitz* (CVN 68) earned the **Bronze Star** for his help in building and training the Iraqi army during a six-month tour with the Coalition Provisional

Authority. The Bronze Star is awarded for heroic or meritorious service, not involving aerial flight, in connection with operations against an opposing armed force.

Lt. Col. Kevin Gross was awarded the Marine Corps Aviation Association's **2004 James Maguire Award**. The annual award recognizes the most significant professional contribution made to enhance Marine aviation by either an individual or a squadron.

Three members of VAW-123 received awards for outstanding leadership and performance during the Hawkeye-Greyhound Ball. Lt. Scott Wastak was selected as the COMAEWWINGLANT **Hawkeye**

**NFO of the Year (Sea)** for outstanding efforts in the tactical development and evaluation program. CWO3 Willie Dallas received the wing's **Lloyd Barker Memorial Award** as the maintenance officer who made the most significant contribution to aircraft readiness through innovation and leadership in maintenance management. Cdr. Ken Klothe, CO of VAW-123, received the **COMNAVAIRLANT Navy and Marine Corps Association Award** for inspirational leadership.

The **2003 SECNAV Energy Conservation Award** aviation winners in the large ship category are *Peleliu* (LHA 5) and *Essex* (LHD 2). The award recognizes outstanding execution of energy conservation measures and consistent reduction in energy consumption.

## Records

An HC-2 UH-3H Sea King (BuNo 149702) surpassed 17,000 flight hours with over 42 years of service in August 2004.

## Scan Pattern

HC-85, NAS North Island, Calif., performed an aerial firefighting demonstration in August 2004 as part of a cooperative effort between the Navy and the California Department of Forestry and Firefighting (CDF). After a series of destructive wildfires in 2003, city, state, and federal agencies began working to coordinate southern California's firefighting assets. HC-85 trained with the CDF to ensure that they are able to work

# SCREWTOPS EXTEND NAVAL AVIATION'S REACH

Story by LCdr. Kavon Hakimzadeh

**D**uring a deployment aboard *Enterprise* (CVN 65), VAW-123 played a unique role in the Global War on Terrorism. The *Screwtops* were tasked to support ground combat operations while operating from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The squadron supported special forces elements, logistics evolutions, Army light attack helicopter movements, airborne early warning, tanker coordination, and close air support. The requirement to perform these missions over 800 miles away from the flight deck of *Enterprise* presented a new challenge for the squadron. The squadron used Bagram as a refueling point for its E-2C Hawkeyes. To minimize time in the combat zone, the E-2Cs were only on the ground long enough to refuel, swap crews, and have minor maintenance performed. Each day the aircraft returned to *Enterprise* where any major maintenance could be performed. VAW-123 also

sent maintenance personnel to Bagram to support refueling operations. These sailors and aviators got a taste of life in the field—living in tents, sitting through small arms fire, and dealing with minefields. While this type of detachment may not ever represent a routine way of operating the E-2C, it showcased the far-reaching capabilities of Naval Aviation in the Global War on Terrorism.

**Right, members of the VAW-123 Screwtops at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.**



alongside their civilian counterparts in a firefighting emergency. When HC-85's assistance is required, Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve, will allow Navy Region Southwest to direct the squadron in the firefighting, control, containment, and extinguishment mission.

The VP-16 *War Eagles* supported four drug seizures totaling more than \$2 billion in late 2004. Several VP-16 P-3C Orion crews and a reserve crew from VP-65 are credited with detecting and monitoring several suspicious fishing vessels near the Galapagos Islands. After several days of aerial surveillance, *Curts* (FFG 38) intercepted one of the boats, and the frigate's embarked Coast Guard boarding team found about 14.5 tons of cocaine. The following week, a VP-16 P-3C vectored *Crommelin* (FFG 37) to intercept another fishing boat, where a Coast Guard team found 13 tons of cocaine aboard. Shortly after that, a U.S. Customs Department aircraft spotted a third boat southwest of Manta, Ecuador. A VP-16 P-3C Orion crew relieved the Customs plane and maintained contact until the Coast Guard arrived. The Coast Guard boarded and found more than 14 tons of cocaine. A *War Eagles* crew also witnessed the crew of a go-fast vessel throwing contraband overboard, and marked the area with smoke markers until the Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis* (WHEC 725) arrived to recover 80 bales of cocaine worth more than \$40 million.

## Marines Deploy to Afghanistan

By SSgt. Russell Baker, MAG-41 Public Affairs

Marines from the Marine Wing Support Squadron 473 *Gargoyles* were deployed to Afghanistan in September 2004 for a seven-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The *Gargoyles'* primary mission is to provide refueling support for Marine helicopter squadrons such as HMLA-773 and HMH-769. The forward unit can also serve as joint service refuelers with Army helicopters and Navy squadrons, and provide motor transportation, communications, logistics, and heavy equipment support.

The majority of MWSS-473's Marines are reservists activated in 2003 to support Operation Enduring Freedom and the Weapons Tactics and Instructors Course in Yuma, Ariz. Their work at the course allowed them to perform in a field environment for a three-month period and gain invaluable on-the-job training that aided their ability to activate and mobilize in a short period of time.



SSgt. Monica Garreau USA

**GySgt. John Ellis, a crew chief with HMH-769, keeps an eye out for potential threats during a flight to Foward Operating Base Asadabad, Afghanistan.**

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

**COMNAVRESFOR:** Capt. Jeffrey A. Lemmons relieved RAdm. Daniel L. Koeppel, 2 Oct 04.

**George Washington (CVN 73):** Capt. Gary R. White relieved Capt. Martin J. Erdosey III, 30 Sep 04.

**HS-2:** Cdr. Michael D. Horan relieved Cdr. Jeffrey D. Maclay, 14 Sep 04.

**HS-6:** Cdr. Steve A. Swittel relieved Cdr. Robert G. Lineberry, 9 Sep 04.

**HSL-47:** Cdr. Frank J. Michael relieved Cdr. Markus K. Hannan, 4 Sep 04.

**John F. Kennedy (CV 67):** Capt. John Miller relieved Capt. Stephen Squires, 27 Aug 04.

**MACS-24:** Lt. Col. Anthony P. Mack relieved Lt. Col. Brandon W. Wilson, 18 Sep 04.

**TRAWING-4:** Capt. Dale E. Little relieved Capt. Gabriel Salazar, 23 Sep 04.

**VAQ-133:** Cdr. Charles M. Gibson relieved Cdr. Greg A. Thomas, 18 Jun 04.

**VAQ-135:** Cdr. Pat M. Walsh relieved Cdr. Bruce W. Schneider, 17 Sep 04.

**VAQ-140:** Cdr. Chris Shay relieved Cdr. Brad Russell, 1 Oct 04.

**VAQ-209:** Cdr. Charles L. Mignonet relieved Cdr. James P. Kennedy, 9 Oct 04.

**VFA-41:** Cdr. David M. Fravor

relieved Cdr. Kenneth R. Whitesell, 15 Oct 04.

**VFA-86:** Cdr. Gordon R. Oliver II relieved Cdr. Dennis M. Brooks, 28 Oct 04.

**VP-64:** Cdr. Mark R. Greenwood relieved Cdr. Stephen R. Speed, 18 Sep 04.

**VR-46:** Cdr. Shawn P. Cassidy relieved Cdr. James P. Winkler, 12 Jun 04.

**VS-35:** Cdr. Gary Wilson relieved Cdr. John Lussier, 5 Sep 04.

**VT-7:** Cdr. Robert T. Trafton, Jr. relieved Cdr. John C. P. Fristachi, 29 Oct 04.

Malaysian Royal Air Force MiG-29s, right, flew against CVW-14 F/A-18C Hornets, F/A-18E Super Hornets and F-14D Tomcats during joint air-to-air combat exercises over the South China Sea in September 2004. VFA-115 F/A-18E Super Hornets and VFA-25 F/A-18C Hornets flew one-on-one engagements against the MiG-29s, practicing within-visual-range air-to-air combat exercises. In addition, VFA-113 F/A-18C Hornets and VF-31 F-14D Tomcats conducted mock engagements in a beyond-visual-range exercise.



## PROWLER WEEK AWARDS

The 2004 EA-6B Prowler Week celebration at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., recognized the following achievements in the Prowler community.

### Civilian Award

**Bud White Outstanding Civilian of the Year:**  
Michael Johannsen

### Enlisted Awards

**Administration:** PN1(AW) Edward Garcia, VAQ-137  
**Aircrew Equipment Branch:** PR1(AW/SW) Scott A. House, VAQ-139  
**Airframes Branch:** AM1(AW) Lehi M. Starr, VAQ-137  
**Armament:** AO1(AW/SW) Erin L. Kness, VAQ-131  
**Career Counselor:** NC1(AW/SW) Robert Joesph G. Pagtakhan, VAQ-136  
**Corrosion Control:** AM2(AW) Isidro F. Herrera, VAQ-139  
**CPO/Staff NCO Leadership:** ATC(AW/SW) Terry W. Boese, VAQ-130  
**Electrical/Instrument:** AE1(AW) Lawrence C. Fetty, VAQ-132  
**Electronics Branch:** AT1(AW) Joseph R. St. Julien, VAQ-130  
**Enlisted Maintenance Instructor:** SSGT. Chad A. Casanova, CNATTU  
**Environmental/Egress:** AE1(AW) Lawrence C. Fetty, VAQ-132  
**Hospital Corpsman:** HM3 Karl D. Lett IV, VAQ-135  
**Information Technology:** IT2(AW/SW) William H. Suthoff Jr., VAQ-141  
**Intelligence/Cryptology:** CT1(AW) David C. Butkus, VAQ-139  
**Maintenance Administration:** SK1(AW) Michael L. Wenrich, VAQ-135  
**Maintenance CPO:** ATCS(AW) Reynold M. Sarns, VAQ-142

**Plane Captain:** AN Abram Morales, VAQ-131  
**Power Plants Branch:** AD1(AW) Ronald E. James, VAQ-128  
**Quality Assurance:** AE1(AW) Jimmy T. Ellis, VAQ-136  
**Safety Petty Officer:** AME1(AW) Richard A. Crivellone, VAQ-132  
**Selected Reserve:** AO2(AW) Demetra J. Jackson-Varner, VAQ-209  
**Troubleshooter:** AM2(AW) Jonathan L. Williams, VAQ-137

### Officer Awards

**Admiral John Perry Award (2003):** Cdr. Mark Darrah  
**ALQ-99 Excellence:** LCdr. John Sperdelozzi  
**Fleet Replacement ECMO of the Year (2003):** Ltjg. Jennifer Barnes  
**Fleet Replacement Pilot of the Year:** 1st Lt. Mark Amspacher  
**Ground Maintenance Officer of the Year:** CWO Daryl E. Hagemann  
**Landing Signal Officer of the Year:** LCdr. Robert A. Coughlin  
**Northrop-Grumman Intelligence Officer of the Year:** Ltjg. Benjamin A. Hinds  
**Pilot and Electronic Countermeasures Officer Instructors of the Year (2003):** Lts. Trevor Estes and Joe Martinez  
**Prowler Tactics Instructor of the Year:** Lt. David F. Harris  
**"Seadog" Fodor Memorial Award:** Lt. John C. Patterson

### Squadron Awards

**Maintenance Squadron of the Year:** VAQ-137  
**Prowler Tactical Excellence Squadron:** VAQ-137

## LIVE FIRE

A VFA-113 F/A-18C Hornet destroys a target with an AIM-9M Sidewinder missile during a live-fire training exercise in the Western Pacific on 20 September 2004. Photos by PH3 Mark J. Rebilas.



PH2 Dawn Morrison

AW2 Glenn E. Bigbee of VP-94 performs a preflight check on the antisubmarine acoustics system aboard a P-3 Orion.