



PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

Edited by J03 Brandy Lewis

wards

The Naval Air Systems Command received the **Chief of Naval Operations Readiness Through Safety Award** and the **Admiral James S. Russell Naval Aviation Flight Safety Award** for 2004. The awards are presented annually to the organization that contributes the most toward

readiness and economy of operation through safety. The command selected must have an outstanding safety record, aggressive safety program, and an improving three-year safety trend.

Nimitz (CVN 68) earned the FY 2004 **Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award**. *Nimitz* earned the award by being on

Commander Pacific Fleet's first and second quarter honor roll for retention numbers.

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), and *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) received the 2004 **Ship's Store Retail and Excellence Award**. The Navy Exchange Service Command award recognizes outstanding professionalism and



PHAN Ryan O'Connor

Left, a VF-32 F-14B Tomcat launches from *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) during operations in the Arabian Gulf on 9 February.

Point, N.C.

Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation—NAF Atsugi, Japan
Pollution Prevention, Non-Industrial Installation—NAS Lemoore, Calif., and NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

Pollution Prevention, Individual or Team—NAS Whidbey Island Wash., Pollution Prevention Team

VFA-82 was awarded the overall **CVW-2 Top Hook Award** for having the air wing's best landing grades during the 2004–2005 WESTPAC deployment.

The 2005 **Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards** for outstanding food service in the aviation community were:

Large Afloat—first place, *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7), and runner-up, *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3).

Aircraft Carrier—first place, *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) and runner-up, *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

The winners of the 2004 **Chief of Naval Operations Safety Ashore Awards** for significant contributions to safety and occupational health in the aviation community were:

CONUS Industrial—NADEP Jacksonville, Fla. (large) and NAES



PHAN Joshua Rodriguez

CS3 Dawn Gaugh prepares a meal aboard *Iwo Jima*, the 2004 Ney Award (Large Afloat) winner.

contributions made by ship's store, barber shop, and laundry personnel in improving the quality of life aboard ship.

The aviation winners of the 2004 **Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards** were:

Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation—NAS Fallon, Nev.
Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation—NADEP Depot Cherry

Lakehurst, N.J. (medium).

CONUS Nonindustrial—NAS Atlanta, Ga. (medium).

Individual Awards—Miguel H. Delrosal, NADEP San Diego, Calif.; Haukur Orn Johannesson, NAS Keflavik, Iceland; and James E. Taylor, NAS Meridian, Miss.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 352 received the **Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award** for 2003. The award is given annually to Navy and Marine Corps flying units demonstrating exceptional safety performance and



VMFA-314 CO Lt. Col. Russell Emons, center left, and VMGR-352 CO Lt. Col. Albert Conord, center right, accept CNO Aviation Safety Awards from MAG-11 Commanding Officer Col. Earl Wederbrook, left, and 3d MAW Commanding General Maj. Gen. Keith Stalder.

professionalism throughout the year.

Records

HSL-43 surpassed 10,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

HSL-44 surpassed 137,082 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

Rescues

An MH-60S helicopter from **HC-8 Det 4**, deployed aboard *Seattle* (AOE 3), assisted in the rescue of 12 Iraqi mariners from their sinking boat, *Edha II*, in the southern Arabian Gulf on 9 August 2004. After receiving a distress call, *Seattle* set emergency flight quarters and launched Bayraider 52. With the



Two Helicopter Combat Support Squadrons rescued the crew members of an MH-53 that crashed in January. Left (l-r), HC-8 crew Ltjg. Eric Lowry, Ltjg. Matt Meyers, AMCS Karl Rokosz, and AE3 Royce Burroughs. Below (clockwise from front), HC-6 crew AT3 William Stark, AO3 Michael Jones, Lt. Jose Arana, LCdr. Scott Bell, and AD2 Andrew Ward.

Ltjg. Christopher Bowman

assistance of night vision devices, the helicopter crew found the vessel, and AE1 James Hopkins was lowered to the deck to prepare the survivors for hoisting. AD2 Joseph Broderick operated the hoist and secured the victims on board the helicopter. The helicopter remained airborne as the remaining eight survivors, already in a life raft, were brought aboard *Seattle* by boat. All survivors were treated by *Seattle's* medical department and transported back to Iraq.

On 25 January, two MH-60S helicopters attached to **HC-6** and **HC-8** stationed at NAS Norfolk, Va., rescued all crewmembers from an MH-53 of HM-14 that crashed thirty miles off the coast of NAS



Oceana. After hearing the call for a rescue on Guard, the two MH-60Ss immediately flew to the scene, effecting the rescue while a Coast Guard C-130 monitored overhead. Both rescue aircraft deployed their swimmers in thirty-six degree water to assist the survivors. After being hoisted aboard the two aircraft, the crew members were

taken to Portsmouth Naval Hospital for treatment.

A 36-foot sailing vessel lost power and its navigational equipment 200 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 15 January. Despite storm conditions, the Coast Guard sent two C-130s to maintain contact with the three-man crew until help arrived. *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) responded to the distress call by deploying an SH-60F Seahawk and an HH-60H Seahawk from **HS-3** and an E2-C Hawkeye from **VAW-124**. Both helicopters had a four-man crew including rescue swimmers. In spite of 20-foot swells, the helicopters maintained a constant hover 50 feet over the water while the swimmers began rescue operations. All three men were successfully hoisted into the helicopters and taken back to *Theodore Roosevelt* where they were



PH3 Randall Damm

Above, the HS-3 crew members celebrate their success with the three mariners they rescued in January.

given medical evaluations, clothes, and food.

On 13 January, *Bunker Hill* (CG 52) responded to a distress call from *Apollo Sun*, a Japanese-owned tanker steaming from Chiba, Japan, to the United Arab Emirates. One of the ship's crew members was unconscious and suffering from a life threatening illness. An **HSL-49 Det 2** SH-60B Seahawk took off from *Bunker Hill* and approached the tanker to coordinate the rescue. The Japanese mariner was brought to the small flight pad on *Apollo Sun*, secured into the rescue litter, and



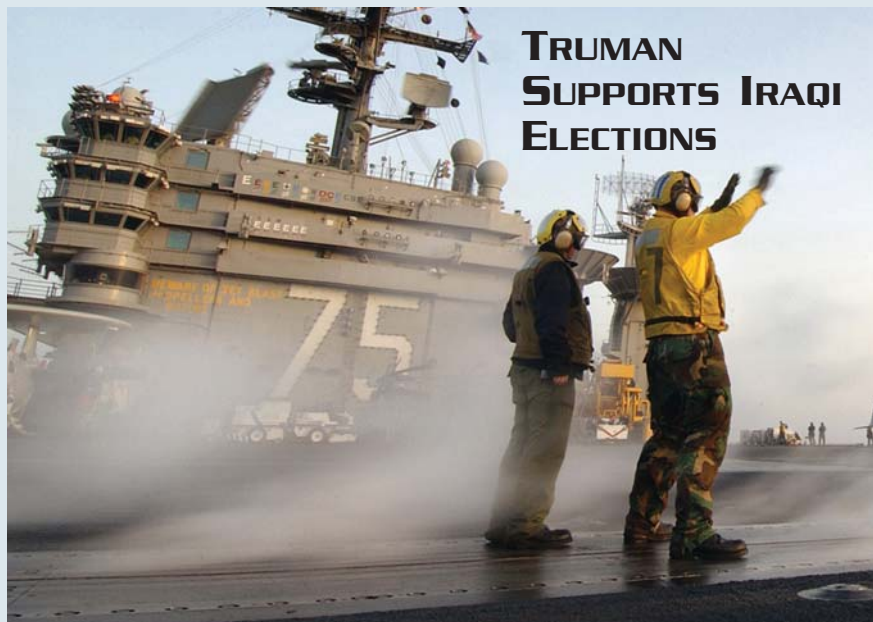
Two MH-60S helicopters of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 6 transport supplies to Port au Prince, Haiti, from Saipan (LHA 2) in support of a humanitarian assistance exercise on 5 February.

hoisted into the Seahawk. The helo crew proceeded to Seeb International Airport, near Muscat, Oman, and an ambulance took the mariner to a medical facility.

On 29 January, two rescue swimmers from **HS-14** rescued two VFA-102 Naval Aviators who ejected from their F/A-18F Super Hornet during an arrested landing aboard **Kitty Hawk** (CV 63). AW2 (NAC) Jerard Cook rescued pilot Ltjg. Jon Vanbragt, and AW2 (NAC) Bennie Romiti rescued weapons systems officer LCdr. Markus Gudmundsson.

Scan Pattern

In fall 2004, a C-9 Skytrain from **VR-52**, NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa., was the platform for a simulation to train members of the Federal Air Marshal service. As the aircraft and its crew conducted normal flight operations at 30,000 feet, the air marshals were faced with a variety of scenarios they may encounter during a civilian flight, such as restraining a passenger, locating a suspicious device, and dealing with belligerent or frightened passengers. Conducting



PHAN Ryan O'Connor

By JO1 (SW) Athena Blain, Harry S. Truman Public Affairs

Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and embarked Carrier Air Wing 3 helped provide on-call air support for coalition and Iraqi forces during the historic Iraqi elections on 30 January. That support came mostly through air presence provided by pilots of CVW-3. Truman sailors and Marines launched and recovered 32 sorties ranging from surveillance to strike fighter aircraft on election day. Truman's aircraft flew 176 flight hours and conducted roughly 16 straight hours of flight deck operations, all without the need to expend ordnance.

the training in flight allowed the marshals to experience actual flight procedures and protocols, and to practice coordinating with the

aircraft's crew members during emergency situations. Cdr. Tony Fernandes and LCdr. Derek Wessman piloted the

JOLLY ROGERS FAREWELL THE TOMCAT

Right, the paint job of this Fighter Squadron 103 Tomcat commemorates the squadron's final cruise with the F-14, aboard *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67). On 26 January the last two Jolly Rogers Tomcats touched down at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., joining five others at the boneyard. In addition, two squadron F-14s were passed to VF-11 for use in an upcoming surge period, and one remains at NAS Oceana, Va., as a parts plane. Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron 103 on 1 March to reflect its transition to the Super Hornet, the squadron will begin flying the F/A-18F following training with fleet readiness squadron Strike Fighter Squadron 106.



BURIAL AT SEA



Above, sideboys render honors as AW1 Travis W. Seek of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 46 carries the ashes of AW3 Joel E. Evans to be buried at sea. In a fitting ceremony for a member of the Naval Aviation community, AW3 Evans' ashes were scattered over the water off Mayport, Fla., from an HSL-46 SH-60B Seahawk on 9 March. Photos by PH2 Lynn A. Friant.

C H A N G E O F C O M M A N D

CVW-11: Capt. Thomas A. Cropper relieved Capt. James K. Greene, 19 Oct 04.

EAWs: Cdr. Patrick J. Bowman relieved Cdr. John D. Bamonte, 4 Mar.

HS-5: Cdr. Brett W. Calkins relieved Cdr. Robert E. Conway, 21 Jan.

Nassau (LHA 4): Capt. Michael W. Brannon relieved Capt. John L. Green, 5 Nov.

NETC: VAdm. J. Kevin Moran relieved VAdm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., 3 Dec 04.

Peleliu (LHA 5): Capt. William S. Personius relieved Capt. Pam A. Markiewicz, 10 Feb.

TACRON 22: Cdr. Thomas L. Peck relieved Cdr. Jeffrey C. Smith, 4 Mar.

VAQ-137: Cdr. Kevin Meenaghan relieved Cdr. Jeffrey Ruth, 11 Feb.

VAW-116: Cdr. Peter A. Tomczak relieved Cdr. John A. Sears III, 1 Oct 04.

VAW-120: Cdr. Hamlin Ortiz-Marty relieved Capt. Rick Pawlowski, 10 Feb.

VF-31: Cdr. Richard A. LaBranche relieved Cdr. Aaron L. Cudnohufsky, 4 Feb.

VF-103: Cdr. Brian D. Koehr relieved Cdr. David J. Landess, 16 Feb.

VFA-14: Cdr. Keith T. Taylor relieved Cdr. James R. Knapp, 5 Jan.

VFA-94: Cdr. Robert D. Boyer relieved Cdr. Todd A. Laessig, 7 Jan.

VFA-115: Cdr. Steven M. James relieved Cdr. Dale E. Horan, 18 Nov 04.

VFA-82: Cdr. Devon Jones relieved Cdr. Thomas V. Haley Jr., 26 Aug 04.

VFA-94: Cdr. Robert D. Boyer relieved Cdr. Todd A. Laessig, 7 Jan.

VMA-311: Lt. Col. Robert C. Kuckuk relieved Col. Clyde M. Woltman, 28 Feb.

VR-56: Cdr. William Gillcrist relieved Cdr. Jeffrey C. Horneff, 12 Feb.

VS-31: Cdr. Jeff Davila relieved Cdr. Ed Baron, 3 Mar.

VT-22: Cdr. Mark A. McLaughlin relieved Cdr. James Hinehine, 12 Nov 04.