

PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

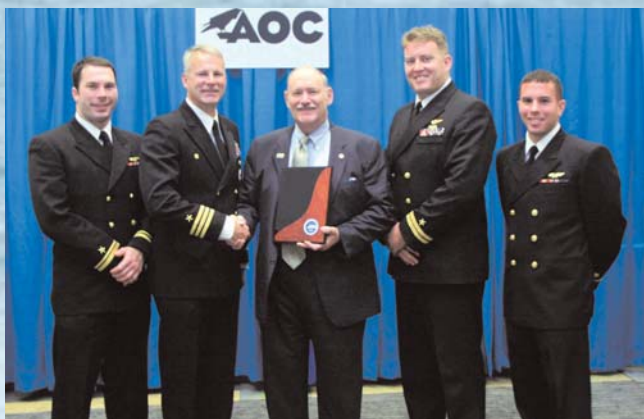
Edited by J02 Brandy Fisher

Awards

VAQ-133 received the **Outstanding Naval Air Unit of the Year Award** for 2005 from the Association of Old Crows. Right, from left to right, Ltjg. Brandon Edge, Wizard CO Cdr. W. C. Minter, AOC President Mr. Austin Thomas, Jr., Lt. Donald Costello, and Ltjg. Josh Arenstein.

VFA-103 CO Cdr. Brian D. Koehr received the annual **Navy-Marine Corps Leadership Award**.

FAIRWESTPAC and its subordinate commands received the **Meritorious Unit Commendation** for meritorious service from 11 September 2001 to 31 December 2003. The commendation recognizes their support to all Navy and Marine Corps aviation units forwarded deployed in the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, in direct support of Operations Enduring



Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and for support to other units operating in the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Kearsarge (LHD 3) received the **Combat Action Ribbon** for action while in Aquaba, Jordan, in August 2005. The ribbon is given to a ship's crew when the safety of the ship and crew is endangered by enemy attack and the crew's performance is considered satisfactory.

An F-14D Tomcat from VF-31 launches from *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) while another VF-31 aircraft taxis into position on 18 November 2005. Photo by PHAA Nathan Laird.



Records

VFA-27 surpassed 27 years and 80,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

Scan Pattern

On 9 December 2005 VS-30 was deactivated after 53 years of service with more than 26 years and 89,000 class A mishap-free flight hours.

On 5 December 2005 HSL-41 received the Navy's new MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. "The MH-60R can perform satellite communications as well as vertical replenishments, antisubmarine warfare, air-to-air combat, surface-to-air combat, and search and rescue," said AT2 (AW) Steve Murdock, HSL-41 avionics technician. The squadron's designation will change to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM-41) to reflect the aircraft's multimission capabilities.

HS-8 took part in the filming of an episode of the Fox television show *24*. One of HS-8's crew members may be seen unlocking the 50-caliber machine gun from the door and leading an actress out of the helicopter after it lands at the "U.S. president's ranch." The HS-8 crew nailed the landing in two takes and had time to take pictures with the show's cast members before returning to NAS North Island, Calif.

TACRON 11 Det 3 assigned to ESG-1 on board *Tarawa* (LHA 1) conducted a tri-site deployment within a week of the large earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October 2005. Squadron members provided air traffic control



Story and Photos by Cpl. Ruben Calderon

On 30 November 2005, Capt. Derek C. Bibby, AV-8B Harrier II pilot, above, was taxiing his Harrier and preparing for takeoff when the aircraft's brake system failed. With the aircraft accelerating and heading toward another Harrier and the edge of *Peleliu's* (LHA 5) flight deck, Bibby

repositioned the exhaust nozzles forward to stop the Harrier. Powerline mechanic Cpl. Frank A. Valenzuela, above right, assessed the situation and quickly went into action. Valenzuela ran underneath the aircraft and secured it by tying it down with chocks and chains. Both men from VMA-214 were awarded Navy Achievement Medals on 7 December 2005, for their individual actions preventing the Harrier from injuring Marines and sailors, damaging other aircraft, and departing the flight deck.



An MH-60R Seahawk assigned to HSL-41 taxis to the flightline at NAS North Island, Calif., on 5 December 2005. The MH-60R Seahawk is the Navy's newest version of the H-60 helicopter series and will replace the SH-60B and SH-60F models.

and integration of air operations for humanitarian aid/disaster relief missions in Pakistan; were assigned to the Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid, Qatar; and operated ashore in support of Marines in Iraq. While members of the detachment were supporting around-the-clock shore-based helicopter operations, the others on board *Tarawa* continued to support the remainder of ESG-1 in their traditional sea-based role. Cdr. Ed Weisbrod, Det 3's OIC, explained that "although this is the first time a TACRON detachment has served in a tri-site role, this is merely the beginning of a transformation for the community as a whole."

Rescues

A *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) crew member was rescued after falling overboard as the ship conducted maritime security operations in the Arabian Gulf on 18 December 2005. The ship and CVW-8 aircraft immediately started rescue operations. A helicopter from HS-3 returned the sailor to the carrier for medical evaluation.

After the condition of a patient on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) worsened, the HS-5 Alert crew prepared to evacuate the critically ill individual. The crewmen, AW1 Bruce Tallon and AW3 Trevor



JO2 Ryan C. McKinley

CNO Adm. Mike Mullen presents a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to AM1 Larry D. Cummins from VPU-2 for his rescue of a 15-year-old girl. Cummins pulled the unconscious girl from a vehicle that had gone off a pier. He carried her to shore where she received CPR; she eventually made a full recovery.

Schwendau, secured the patient aboard the HH-60H Seahawk and proceeded to assist the attending medical personnel throughout the flight. Lt. Nik Fialka and Ltjg. James Malvasio guided Rescue 616 to a civilian hospital where they safely delivered the patient before returning to the carrier.

BLUE ANGELS 2006 SHOW SCHEDULE

March

11 NAF El Centro, CA
18-19 Sacramento, CA
25-26 Tampa, FL

April

2-3 NAS Kingsville, TX
8 Charleston AFB, SC
22-23 Louisville, KY
29-30 NAS Atlanta, GA

May

5-6 Fort Lauderdale, FL
13-14 NAS Fort Worth, TX
21-22 Andrews AFB, MD
24 USNA Annapolis, MD
26 USNA Graduation
27-28 Jones Beach, NY

June

3-4 Davenport, IA
10-11 Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
16-17 Leeuwarden AB, The Netherlands
24-25 ANGB Westfield, MA

July

1-2 Traverse City, MI
8-9 Pittsburgh, PA
15-16 Pensacola Beach, FL
22-23 Sioux Falls, SD
29-30 Dayton, OH

August

4-6 Seattle, WA
12-13 Elmendorf AFB, Alaska
18-20 Chicago, IL

September

2-4 Cleveland, OH
9-10 NAS Oceana, VA
17-18 Kansas City, KS
23-24 Lincoln, NE
30 Nantucket, MA

October

1 Nantucket, MA
7-8 San Francisco, CA
14-15 MCAS Miramar, CA
21-29 Goodyear, AZ
28-29 NAS Jacksonville, FL

November

4-5 Little Rock AFB, AR
11-12 NAS Pensacola, FL

IN MEMORIAM

VADM. WILLIAM P. “BILL” LAWRENCE

By John Darrell Sherwood

*“She was overawed by Bill Lawrence, perhaps the ablest flier, all things considered, that Pax River was to produce.” — Excerpt from *Space* by James Michener*

In 1958, William Lawrence became the first naval aviator to fly twice the speed of sound in a Navy aircraft, the F8U-3 Crusader III. As Michener suggests, he was one of the finest aviators ever to come out of the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md. He later flew more than 100 combat missions over Vietnam and led the “hard-core” resistance group as an American POW in Hanoi.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., on 13 January 1933, William Porter Lawrence graduated first in his high school class and also lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. As a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, Lawrence continued to play three varsity sports and became class president and Brigade Commander in his final year.

Upon graduating from the academy in 1951, he attended flight training at NAS Pensacola, Fla., and pinned on his wings on 7 November 1952. As a pilot with VF-193, he participated in two deployments on *Oriskany* (CVA 43) in 1953. After attending the Naval Aviation Safety School at the University of Southern California, he became a test pilot at Pax River, where he served until 1959.

A series of staff and operational assignments followed, including service in VF-101, VF-14, and VF-121. In July 1966 he deployed to Vietnam, first as executive officer of VF-143 and then in June 1967 as that squadron’s commander. On a flak suppression mission for a major raid against Nam Dinh, North Vietnam, his aircraft received crippling fire as he pulled out of his bombing run. He ejected over the target area and ended up being a POW for the next six years.

During his internment, he emerged as one of the most effective POW leaders. At Camp Vegas, the Vietnamese caught him passing a note to another Navy prisoner, Jeremiah Denton, and placed him in solitary confinement for 60 days to break his will. During the day, the temperature in the six-foot cell, known as Calcutta, rose to over 100 degrees, and heat sores soon covered Lawrence’s body. To get through the ordeal, he composed the poem “Oh Tennessee, My Tennessee,” which later became the state’s official poem. VAdm.



James B. Stockdale, the senior ranking Navy POW, later wrote in his evaluation of Lawrence that “he repeatedly paid the price of being perceived by the enemy as a source of their troubles through his ‘high crime’ of leadership,” but “could not be intimidated and never gave up the ship.”

After his repatriation, the Navy promoted him to rear admiral in 1974 and he went on to serve as Commander Light Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He later became Director, Aviation Programs Division, and Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare).

Lawrence’s intellect was as keen as his piloting skills. At the Naval Academy, he placed 8th out of a class of 725. As a POW, he taught a popular course on American history to other prisoners, and after the war, graduated with distinction from the National War College. Recognizing his academic prowess, the Navy appointed him as Superintendent of the Naval Academy in 1978 and promoted him to vice admiral in 1980. He commanded the Third Fleet from September 1981 to September 1983. His final assignment in the Navy was Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training).

VAdm. Lawrence died on 2 December 2005. “Never flew a man so high, never suffered a man so much and never inspired a man so many in Navy blue as Vice Admiral Bill Lawrence,” stated Admiral Mike Mullen at Lawrence’s funeral. “His legacy will endure for as long as we have a Navy to put to sea.”

Mr. Sherwood is a historian in the Contemporary History Branch of the Naval Historical Center.

VADM. ARTHUR K. CEBROWSKI



On 12 November 2005 retired VAdm. Arthur K. Cebrowski passed away at age 63. Born on 13 August 1942 in Passiac, N.J., the admiral was a Naval Aviator who had combat experience in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. He commanded VFA-41, CVW-8, *Guam* (LPH 9), and *Midway* (CV 41), and the *America* battle group. He was also the director for command, control and communications on the Joint Staff and space, information warfare, and command and control in the office of the CNO. The admiral retired from the Navy in October 2001 after serving as president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. On 26 November 2001 VAdm. Cebrowski was appointed by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to lead DoD’s transformation efforts.

Outreach

Three pilots from **HSL-43** shared their experiences in providing humanitarian relief following the Southeast Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina with students at Montgomery Middle School in San Diego, Calif., on 30 November 2005.

Sailors from **Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)** raised more than \$240,000 for the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign.

Sailors from CCSG-9 aboard **Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)** collected food donations to assist local families in need and delivered them to Marysville Community Food Bank on 13 December 2005.

Bataan (LHD 5) provided an audience on 15 December 2005 for Christmas-caroling students from Norfolk, Va.’s Granby Elementary School as part of the ship’s Partnership in Education program.

On 4 November 2005 thirty sailors from **Boxer (LHD 4)** packaged more than 400 boxes of food at the San Diego, Calif., food bank.

On 10 November 2005 more than 1,200 sailors from **Carl Vinson (CVN 70)** participated in over 30 different community service projects throughout the Hampton Roads, Va., region, giving about 6,000 hours of volunteer service in one day.

George Washington (CVN 73) sailors participated in a Veteran’s Day commemoration at the Warwick Forest Senior Living Community in Newport News, Va., on 10 November 2005.



PH3 Thomas S. Henderson

Mayor of Newport News, Va., Joe S. Frank, left, presents a Resolution of Recognition Award to *George Washington* (CVN 73) chaplain Cdr. Robert Williams. The award recognizes the ship’s sailors for participating in community relations projects throughout Newport News.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Boxer (LHD 4): Capt. Bruce W. Nichols relieved Capt. Thomas J. Culora, 8 Dec 2005.

CNATTU: Cdr. David W. Peacott relieved Cdr. Mitch A. Heskett, 23 Jun 2005.

CVW-9: Col. Douglas P. Yurovich, USMC, relieved Capt. James Spence, 19 Jan.

CVW-11: Capt. David B. Woods relieved Capt. Thomas A. Cropper, 19 Dec 2005.

Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69): Capt. James D. Cloyd relieved Capt. Charles E. Smith, 1 Sep 2005.

FAIRWESTPAC: RAdm. Arthur J. Johnson relieved RAdm. Kenneth W. Deutsch, 7 Sep 2005.

HS-2: Cdr. Ritchard R. Thompson relieved Cdr. Michael D. Horan, 9 Dec 2005.

HS-6: Cdr. Gregory T. Eaton relieved Cdr. Steve A. Swittel, 30 Nov 2005.

HS-15: Cdr. Arthur F. Trahan, Jr., relieved Cdr. Andrew A. Butterfield, 23 Jun 2005.

HSL-47: Cdr. Daniel E. Boyles relieved Cdr. Frank J. Michael, 8 Dec 2005.

MAG-11: Col. James L. Stalnaker relieved Col. Earl S. Wederbrook, 14 Jul 2005.

NAS Brunswick, ME: Capt. George G. Womack relieved Capt. Robert S. Winneg, 22 Jul 2005.

NAS Meridian, Miss.: Capt. Russell P. Knight relieved Capt. Jeffrey K. Dickman, 12 Aug 2005.

NASC: Capt. Stephen H. Kirby relieved Capt. A. J. Gallardo, Jr., 16 Jun 2005.

Ronald Reagan (CVN 76): Capt. Terry B. Kraft relieved Capt. James A. Symonds, 17 Nov 2005.

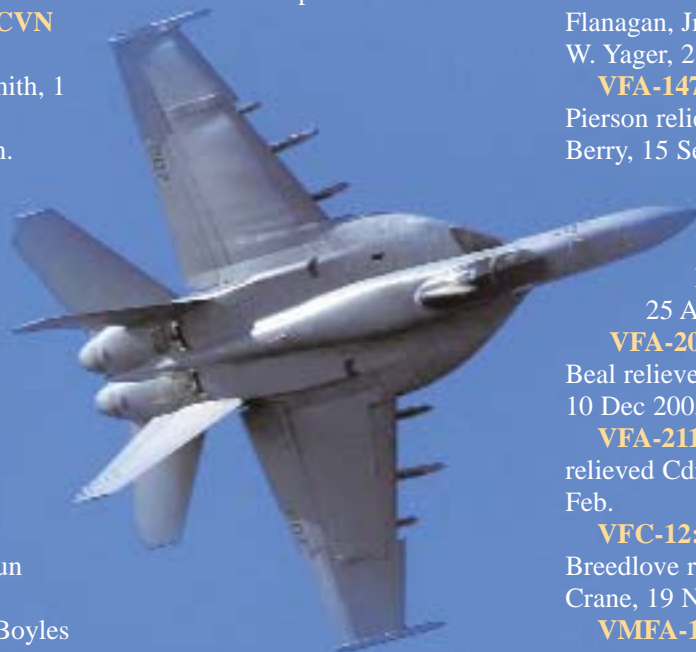
SEACONWINGLANT: Capt. Joseph S. McClain relieved Capt. Theodore P. Algire, 30 Jun 2005.

STRATCOMWING: Capt. Daniel R. Seesholtz relieved Capt. Margaret D. Klein, 14 Dec 2005.

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71): Capt. John R. Haley relieved Capt. Johnny L. Green, 9 Jun 2005.

TRAWING-1: Capt. Curt W. Goldacker relieved Capt. Daniel L. Ouimette, 22 Jul 2005.

VAQ-130: Cdr. Kimo K.K. Lee relieved Cdr. Thomas A. Slais, Jr., 22 Sep 2005.



An F/A-18E Super Hornet from VFA-137 performs a high-speed maneuver during a flight demonstration aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72). Photo by PHAN Justin R. Blake.

VAQ-133: Cdr. William C. Minter relieved Cdr. Charles M. Gibson, 15 Sep 2005.

VAQ-135: Cdr. Scott Hogan relieved Cdr. Pat Walsh, 19 Dec 2005.

VAQ-138: Cdr. Jerry K. Holden relieved Cdr. William J. Jensen, 18 Aug 2005.

VAW-113: Cdr. John Ring relieved Cdr. Peter Jefferson, 21 Nov 2005.

VAW-117: Cdr. Yancy B.

Lindsey relieved Cdr. Karl O. Thomas, 2 Jun 2005.

VFA-2: Cdr. John G. Eden relieved Cdr. David L. Burnham, 15 Dec 2005.

VFA-94: Cdr. Scott Gallagher relieved Cdr. Robert Boyer, 2 Dec 2005.

VFA-105: Cdr. Douglas Verissimo relieved Cdr. Norman Weakland, 2 Dec 2005.

VFA-137: Cdr. Hugh M. Flanagan, Jr., relieved Cdr. Craig W. Yager, 28 Jul 2005.

VFA-147: Cdr. Brett M. Pierson relieved Cdr. Don E. Berry, 15 Sep 2005.

VFA-195: Cdr. Samuel J. Paparo relieved Cdr. Michael A. Wettlaufer, 25 Aug 2005.

VFA-201: Cdr. A. Douglas Beal relieved Cdr. Edward H. Hill, 10 Dec 2005.

VFA-211: Cdr. Robert Geis relieved Cdr. Mike Whetstone, 9 Feb.

VFC-12: Cdr. Joe D. Breedlove relieved Cdr. Michael Crane, 19 Nov 2005.

VMFA-115: Lt. Col. Randy A. Nash relieved Lt. Col. Jonathan D. Covington, 29 Jul 2005.

VP-62: Cdr. Guy Jackson relieved Cdr. Mark Fava, 5 Nov 2005.

VS-32: Cdr. John Breast relieved Cdr. W. Kelly Henderson, 16 Nov 2005.

VT-3: Lt. Col. Robert M. Coleman, USAF, relieved Cdr. Lawrence K. Zelvin, 1 Sep 2005.

VT-9: Cdr. Jason B. Burke relieved Cdr. Michael J. Horsefield, 23 Sep 2005.

VT-22: Lt. Col. Gregg Deeb, USMC, relieved Cdr. Mark McLaughlin, 10 Nov 2005.

VX-9: Capt. Bruce W. Fecht relieved Capt. Wade C. Tallman, 5 Apr 2005.

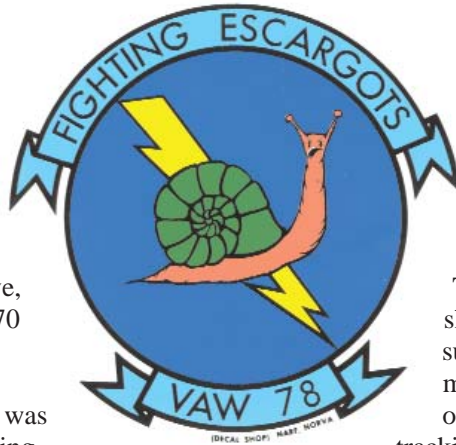
VAW-78 FIGHTING ESCARGOTS DEACTIVATED

By LCdr. Rick Burgess, USN (Ret.)

Carrier Airborne Early Warning 78 (VAW-78) was deactivated on 31 March 2005 after almost 35 years of service. Cdr. Tom Oliver was the last CO of the Fighting Escargots, a reserve squadron.

Created as part of the vast reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve, VAW-78 was established on 1 July 1970 as the early warning squadron for Reserve Antisubmarine Carrier Air Group 70 (CVSGR-70). The squadron was equipped with E-1B Tracer radar warning aircraft.

In September 1975, when the CV concept of combining antisubmarine aircraft with attack carrier air wings was being implemented, VAW-78 shifted to Reserve Carrier Air Wing 20 (CVWR-20) and replaced the disbanded VAW-207. In 1977, VAW-78 modernized with the acquisition of the E-2B Hawkeye radar warning aircraft, and in March 1983 upgraded to the E-2C version.



VAW-78 maintained its carrier qualifications and operated on board aircraft carriers on five extended periods for active-duty training. The “Slugs” participated in numerous exercises, including the UNITAS exercises with Latin American navies. The squadron coordinated missile shoots and provided search and rescue support for space shuttle launches. The most important operational contribution of the squadron was its participation the tracking and interdiction of drug-running aircraft and vessels in the Caribbean area during the last two decades. In 1999, after Hurricane Floyd struck the U.S. East Coast, VAW-78 provided air control for federal, state, and local aircraft bringing relief to 20,000 flooded residents.

Before deactivating, VAW-78 transferred some of its aircraft to VAW-77 to replace older E-2Cs in that squadron.

FLIGHTBAG

VS-33 Announces Screwbird Week

As VS-33 prepares to deactivate, the squadron is holding “Screwbird Week” at NAS North Island, Calif., 12–16 June. Activities include sporting events, simulator tours, and the final Screwbird Ball on board USS *Midway*. VS-33 invites past squadron members to join the festivities. For more information, contact Lt. Michael Parker, michael.f.parker@navy.mil, 619-545-7076/77.

Reunions

Tarawa (CV/CVA/CVS 40),
3–7 May, Albuquerque, NM.
POC: Charlie Huck, 812-682-4219; ashuck@evansville.net.

More reunions are posted at www.mlrsinc.com.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS HOME

When you send an email to your friends and family to let them know what you’ve been doing on deployment, think about sending it to nannews@navy.mil as well! We’d love to hear about your accomplishments. By sending us your news-filled emails, you’ll help us keep our finger on the pulse of today’s fleet. And we may contact you about including your story in an upcoming “Letters from the Fleet” series. So keep those emails coming our way!

