



PEOPLE PLANES PLACES

Edited by MC1 Johnie Hickmon

Awards

Winners of the **Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award** for FY05 were: VAQ-129, VP-30, HMT-302, VT-28, and VT-35. The award is presented to squadrons demonstrating the greatest production efficiency in meeting fleet requirements for pilots, aircrew, and naval flight officers.

HSL-47 won the 2006 **Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award, Small Category** on 2 August.

AME1(AW) Michael Dobson from VFA-11 was awarded the **Douglas L. Scott Memorial Award** in August. After discovering a design flaw in the F/A-18E Super Hornet servo air pressure regulator, Dobson worked with Boeing Co. technical advisors to develop a new Interactive Electronic Technical Manual test.

Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) sailor AO1(AW/SW) Frederico Lewis was named the **John W. Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year** on 15 July.

Above, a VAQ-129 Prowler prepares to land aboard *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) during carrier qualifications for fleet replacement squadrons in the Pacific Ocean on 18 May 2005. Photo by MCCS Mahlon K. Miller. Background, a landing craft assigned to Naval Beach Group Two launches from the well deck of *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) on 17 September at the beginning of her regularly scheduled deployment. Photo by MC3 John Skrzyniarz.



VF-31 was awarded the 2005 **Arleigh Burke Award** on 15 June. The award is given to the ship or squadron with the most improved battle efficiency.

Aviation winners of the 2006 **Department of the Navy Safety Excellence Awards** were:

Safety Ashore—

Non-Industrial: NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

Safety Shipboard—

Large Deck Surface Combatant: *Kearsarge* (LHD 31)

Aviation Safety—

Active Duty (Navy): VFA-192

Active Duty (Marine Corps): HMLA-369

Reserve (Navy): VR-53

Reserve (Marine Corps): HMLA-773

Training Command: VT-35

Aviation winners of the **Secretary of the Navy Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore** for FY05 were:

Medium Industrial Activity: NAES Lakehurst, N.J.

Large Non-Industrial Activity: NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

Medium Non-Industrial Activity: NAS Atlanta, Ga.

Milestones

On 25 August the **Helicopter Landing Trainer (HLT) IX-514** logged its 100,000th accident-free landing. Student pilot Ltjg. David Dostal and instructor Lt. Teresa Ferry of HS-8, NAS Whiting Field, Fla., conducted the historic flight, landing a TH-57 Sea Ranger on the trainer in Pensacola Bay, Fla., at 1008. Transformed in 1985 from a former Army yard freight utility craft, the 134-foot vessel began operating as a rotary wing training platform in April 1986, replacing





A TH-57 from Helicopter Training Squadron 8, piloted by student pilot Ltjg. David Dostal and instructor Lt. Teresa Ferry, land aboard Navy Helicopter Landing Trainer IX-514 in Pensacola Bay, Fla., on 25 August. It marked the 100,000th consecutive accident-free landing on the trainer. Photo by Gary Nichols.

Lexington (AVT 16). The HLT averages about 90 underway days a year, and now includes operations at night and with night vision devices.

Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Rein), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), surpassed 3,000 combat flight hours on 13 July as a squadron EA-6B Prowler flew a mission over Al Asad, Iraq.

On the Move

On 6 July **HS-4** returned home after a six-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf and Western Pacific Ocean while embarked on *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76).

On 6 July **VAQ-139** returned home to NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., after four months of conducting split operations in the Arabian Gulf and Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

On 9 July **Expeditionary Strike Group 3**—*Peleliu* (LHA 5), *Ogden* (LPD 5), *Port Royal* (CG 73), *Reuben James* (FFG 57), *Gonzalez* (DDG 68), and *Germantown* (LSD 42), with HSC-21 and TACRON-11—concluded operations in the 5th Fleet area of operations. The ESG returned to San Diego, Calif., on 16 August.

On 11 July *George Washington* (CVN 73) departed NS Norfolk, Va., to complete carrier qualifications.

On 14 July **HSL-46 Det 8**, embarked on *Stephen W. Groves* (FFG 29), departed NS Mayport, Fla., for a deployment to the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific.

On 18 July *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) returned to Bremerton, Wash., after a seven week underway period.



A VMGR-152 KC-130 Hercules leaves a trail of dust while conducting assault landing zone training on a small dirt runway in Australia's Northern Territory on 8 September.

VFA-192 Conducts SINKEX during Valiant Shield

By Lt. Andrew Craig, VFA-192
PAO

The Golden Dragons of VFA-192, along with the other squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 5, departed NAF Atsugi, Japan, on 9 June for the 2006 summer cruise on *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). After completing carrier qualifications, the *Kitty Hawk* Carrier Strike Group headed south to the Guam OPAREA in preparation for Exercise Valiant Shield.

During VALIANT SHIELD, the Dragons safely completed high-tempo day and night flight operations. VFA-192 demonstrated the multimission versatility of the F/A-18C Hornet during both air intercept and maritime interdiction missions. Dragon pilots honed their tactical skills during multiple air-to-ground and air-to-air weapons training missions and gained proficiency in the tactics associated with the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, AIM-9M Sidewinder, AGM-84G Harpoon, AGM-88 High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile, and GBU-16 Laser Guided Bombs.

Throughout the exercise, the Golden Dragons maintenance team continually provided top-quality, fully-mission capable aircraft and weapons systems. Supporting 16 to 18 sorties per day, the Dragons maintenance department tirelessly demonstrated their technical expertise, professionalism, and unyielding commitment to combat readiness.



The pilot of an VFA-192 Hornet waves prior to launching from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) underway in the East China Sea on 11 September. Photo by MCSN Joshua Wayne-LeGrand.

On 20 June the Golden Dragons led a joint air-to-surface weapons exercise (SINKEX) in the vicinity of Guam. During this unique training opportunity, the Dragons successfully employed a live AGM-84G Harpoon missile against a decommissioned 200 foot Coast Guard cutter. The missile, launched on a difficult off-axis, bearing-only profile utilizing a waypoint, scored a direct hit.

The SINKEX was an excellent end-to-end training opportunity, demonstrating the Golden Dragons' ability to employ advanced tactics in a real-world scenario and coordinate multiple airborne and seaborne assets "on target on time."

On 3 August **VRC-30 Det 2** returned to NAS North Island, Calif., after a five-month deployment to the Western Pacific, operating from *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) as part of Carrier Strike Group 9.

On 4 August **HSL-47** returned to NAS North Island, Calif., after a five-month deployment to the Western Pacific. The squadron, assigned to CVW-2, was embarked on *Shoup* (DDG 86) as part of the *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) Carrier Strike Group.

On 7 August **Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)** returned to San Diego, Calif., nearly two months after getting underway for the Rim of the Pacific 2006 exercise.

On 8 August **Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)** returned to her homeport of Everett, Wash., following a five-and-a-

half month deployment to the Western Pacific. While deployed, the ship participated in Operation Foal Eagle and exercises Valiant Shield and RIMPAC.

On 14 August **George Washington (CVN 73)** departed NS Norfolk, Va., to conduct training and offload all remaining ammunition during the ship's last scheduled underway period before heading to Norfolk Naval Shipyard for a docked planned incremental availability.

On 15 August **Kearsarge (LHD 3)** departed NS Norfolk, Va., to participate in Panama Exercise '06, a multinational training exercise tailored to the defense of the Panama Canal. Ships, aircraft, and personnel from 19 countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua,



Lt. Ryan Alderson views a VS-33 S-3B Viking carrying a Harpoon missile while the Screwbirds were embarked aboard *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) on 17 June 2004. Photo by MCAN Chris M. Valdez. The VS-33 Screwbirds were deactivated during a ceremony at NB Coronado, Calif., on 15 June.

Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and the U.S.—participated in the exercise.

On 28 August *Enterprise* (CVN 65) returned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, following two months of operations with 7th Fleet in the Western Pacific. *Enterprise*, with CVW-1 embarked, conducted maritime security operations in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as part of the 5th Fleet.

Scan Pattern

The VS-33 Screwbirds deactivated on 15 June, and the VS-41 Shamorcks deactivated on 30 September. Both squadrons served for more than 46 years.

On 21 July Expeditionary Strike Group 1 was deactivated in a ceremony aboard its former flagship, *Tarawa* (LHA 1), at NS San Diego, Calif. While deployed, the strike group—*Tarawa*, *Cleveland* (LPD 7), *Pearl Harbor* (LSD 52), *Chosin* (CG 65), *Gonzalez*



VS-41 CO Cdr. Gary M. Wilson addresses the audience gathered at the squadron's sundown ceremony at NAS North Island, Calif., on 27 July, preceding its official deactivation.

(DDG 66), *Ingraham* (FFG 61), and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)—participated in the Bright Star, a multinational exercise that takes place every two years in Egypt.



A Seahawk with the HS-57 Emerald Knights flies plane guard while student pilots qualify on *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) on 17 June. Photo by MC2 Miguel A. Contreras.

On 28 July the *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) **Carrier Strike Group (CSG)**—*Dwight D. Eisenhower*, with embarked CVW-7, *Anzio* (CG 68), *Ramage* (DDG 61), *Mason* (DDG 87), *Newport News* (SSN 750), and *Arctic* (T-AOE 8)—completed an eight day Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX), Operation Bold Step, off the East Coast, testing their ability to operate alongside other U.S. forces and coalition partners in a complex, hostile environment. JTFEX also provided sustainment training for units from the *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) CSG and the *Bataan* (LHD 5) Expeditionary Strike Group. CVW-7 comprised VAW-125, VFA-103, VFA-131, VFA-143, VFA-83, VAQ-140, and HS-5.

The 20th multinational **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** exercise concluded on 28 July after intensive warfare training held off the coast of Hawaii. The coalition force was comprised of 35 ships, 160 aircraft, and 19,000 personnel from Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. The month-long exercise included a variety of drills and a tactical scenario play. RIMPAC forces conducted 10 days of exercises off the coast of Oahu and Kauai, including live missile, torpedo, and gunnery fire exercises, air defense, surface warfare, undersea warfare, maritime boardings, mine warfare, and antisubmarine warfare.

On 21 August **Expeditionary Strike Group 5**—*Boxer* (LHD 4), *Dubuque* (LPD 8), *Comstock* (LSD 45), *Bunker Hill* (CG 52), *Benfold* (DDG 65), *Howard* (DDG 83), *USCG Midgett* (WHEC 726), and *HMCS Ottawa* (FFH 341)—completed its Joint Task Force Exercise

(JTFEX) off the coast of Southern California. The exercise is designed to use real-world scenarios to prepare the strike group for situations that could occur during deployment. During JTFEX, ESG-5 was evaluated on its ability to carry out forward command element operations, humanitarian aid, noncombatant evacuation operations, direct action raids, and visit, board, search and seizure exercises. On 28 July ESG-5, with embarked 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), successfully completed its Composite Training Unit Exercise off the coast of Southern California in preparation of a scheduled six-month Western Pacific deployment in late 2006.

In late July the ***Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) Expeditionary Strike Group**—*Iwo Jima*, *Nashville* (LPD 13), *Whidbey Island* (LSD 41), *Philippine Sea* (CG 58), *Bulkeley* (DDG 84), *Cole* (DDG 67), and *Albuquerque* (SSN 706)—and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), along with *Gonzales* (DDG 66), *Barry* (DDG 52), *Mount Whitney* (LCC 20), *Trenton* (LPD 14), and *Big Horn* (T-AO 198), assisted in the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Beirut, Lebanon. CH-53E Super Stallions and CH-46 Sea Knights of HMM-365 (Rein) and Air Force MH-53s were used to transport the American citizens from Lebanon to Cyprus and Mersin, Turkey. The helicopters were also used to distribute approximately 4,200 pounds of food and 1,200 pounds of water to those waiting to depart the country.

On 5 August members of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe's **CTF 67** began working with their

counterparts in the Ghanaian air force and navy in West Africa to enhance security cooperation, and help the Gulf of Guinea nation improve its maritime security capability and capacity. During the two-week information sharing evolution, a P-3 Orion of VP-10, NAS Sigonella, Sicily, performed demonstrations of the Automatic Identification Systems, which identifies and tracks vessels at sea.

On 16 August **HSL-45** concluded its Joint Task Force Exercise on board *Bunker Hill* (CG 52) in preparation for its upcoming deployment with Expeditionary Strike Group 5.

An 8 September ceremony marked the disestablishment of **NAS Keflavik, Iceland**, after 45 years of operation.

Rescues

Sailors attached to **HSC-21 Det 3** rescued four civilian mariners about 126 nautical miles southwest of Hawaii. On 4 August two ships of the *Peleliu* (LHA 5) Expeditionary Strike Group, *Peleliu* and *Port Royal* (CG 73), changed course to sail 105 nautical miles to assist the fishing vessel *Pacific Laurel*, which was heavily damaged and taking on water. An MH-60 Seahawk of HSC-21 flew ahead to serve as a search and rescue unit. After a 45-minute flight to *Pacific Laurel*, the helicopter crew lowered a radio to the crew to allow communications with the assisting units. When that aircraft's hoist jammed, a second HSC-21 helicopter arrived to pick up two of *Pacific Laurel's* crew members and transport them back to *Peleliu*. The next morning, another HSC-21 helicopter crew rescued two of the three remaining crew members from the vessel. The ship's master opted to stay on board in an attempt to keep the vessel afloat.

On 19 August **ABEAN (AW) Deon Millan** and **GM3 (AW) Dejon Rivers**, of *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), helped stop a domestic violence attack in a San Diego suburb. While driving through a Chula Vista neighborhood the sailors witnessed the attack and stopped to help. Millan intervened in the struggle as Rivers dialed 911 on his cellular telephone. After breaking up the struggle, the sailors attempted to close an iron gate keep to the suspect from fleeing in his car. However, the suspect drove through the gate, knocking it off its hinges and almost injuring the two sailors. Millan and Rivers tended to the victims' wounds and provided the license plate number and vehicle description to the police, who apprehended the suspect one block away from the incident.



Marines with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit assist a child in a stroller aboard *Trenton* (LPD 14) while underway in the Mediterranean Sea on 23 July. Marines and sailors aboard *Trenton* came to the aid of U.S. citizens seeking to escape the fighting in Lebanon. Photo by MCSN Joshua T. Rodriguez.

Outreach

On 13 July and 15 August sailors from *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) performed landscaping and other community relations projects at Saunders Elementary School and local playgrounds in Newport News, Va.

On 14 July sailors from *Tarawa* (LHA 1) procured clothing and shoes and served more than 6,000 meals during National Stand Down 2006 in San Diego, Calif. Stand Down is an annual, three-day nationwide event that provides medical and dental care, legal assistance, job information, and counseling for veterans in need.

On 28 July 23 sailors from *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and embarked *CVW-1* cut and removed trees at the Tao Fong Shan Service Unit during a port visit to Hong Kong.

Sailors from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) and *CVW-5* completed several community service projects in Perth, Australia, when the ship pulled into Fremantle on 10 August. *Kitty Hawk* and *CVW-5* sailors helped plant trees in a park; refurbished the St. Vincent de Paul Care Center; cleaned up the grounds of the Richmond Fellowship Center of Western Australia; painted the Valued Independent People Inc. Center and head office; and conducted various grounds work at the Perth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue.

On 23 August sailors from *Kearsarge* (LHD 3), **HM-14**, **HM-15**, and **HSC-26** participated in a community

CHANGE OF COMMAND

CVW-5: Capt. Garry R. Mace relieved Capt. Michael P. McNellis, 2 Sept.

Essex (LHD 2): Capt. Brian T. Donegan relieved Capt. Martin J. Keaney, 1 Aug.

HS-3: Cdr. Michael Moore relieved Cdr. Thomas Fitzgerald, 22 Jun.

HSC-85: Cdr. James Cluxton relieved Cdr. Peter Van Stee, 12 Aug.

HSL-41: Cdr. Andrew Miles relieved Cdr. Michael Hammond, 13 Jul.

HSL-60: Cdr. Chris Hyder relieved Cdr. Matt O'Keefe, 5 Aug.

MATSG-33: Col. Jonathan Covington relieved Col. Raymond Damm, Jr., 20 Jul.

PATWING-10: Capt. David M. Taylor relieved Capt. John W. Dziminowicz, 27 Jul.

TACRON-12: Cdr. Paul M. Williams relieved Cdr. Michael D. Smith, 1 Sept.

VAQ-131: Cdr. William Park relieved Cdr. Ted Williams, 10 Aug.

VAQ-134: Cdr. Randall J. Lynch relieved Cdr. Gregory J. Johnston, 3 Aug.

VAQ-141: Cdr. Craig A. Clapperton relieved Cdr. Paul McKeon, 26 Jul.

VAW-117: Cdr. James P. Laingen relieved Cdr. Yaney B. Lindsey, 2 Aug.

VFA-37: Cdr. Randy A. Ferguson relieved Cdr. Wes S. Huey, 23 Jun.

VFA-83: Cdr. Michael Neumann relieved Cdr. Joseph Evans, 29 Jul.

VFA-131: Cdr. Michael V. Harber relieved Cdr. Robert E. Rasmussen, 12 Jul.

VFA-151: Cdr. Bob Cady relieved Cdr. Jon Ross, 11 Aug.

VFA-204: Cdr. Lowen Loftin relieved Cdr. Andrew Mueller, 24 Jun.

relations project at Academia de Boxeo Ismael Laguna, a youth center that teaches boxing to children as a medium for character development, during a port visit to Colon, Panama. The sailors painted the gym, a storage room, and an office.

Nassau (LHA 4) and the Community Blood Centers of South Florida conducted a blood drive during the ship's visit to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. *Nassau* sailors donated for more than 52 units of blood.

On 29 August 15 *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) sailors volunteered at the Bremerton Foodline (BFL), in Bremerton, Wash., sorting a tractor trailer load of food onto pallets to help people in financial crisis. BFL, a nonprofit agency, provides food and referral services to those in need in the Bremerton community.



AC2 Osvaldo Campos, left, and fellow sailors from *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) unload loaves of bread donated to the Bremerton Foodline in Bremerton, Wash.

FLIGHTBAG

Corrections

Mar/Apr 06, p. 34: The birth date listed for VAdm. Bill Lawrence was incorrect. It should have read 13 January 1930.

Jul/Aug 06, p. 40: T-45C, BuNo 165087, was struck on 22 March 2005. This entry was missing from the Aircraft Stricken in 2005 chart.

Sep/Oct 06, p. 36: A typo in the photo caption mislabeled the hull number of *Kitty Hawk*. It should have been CV 63.

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!