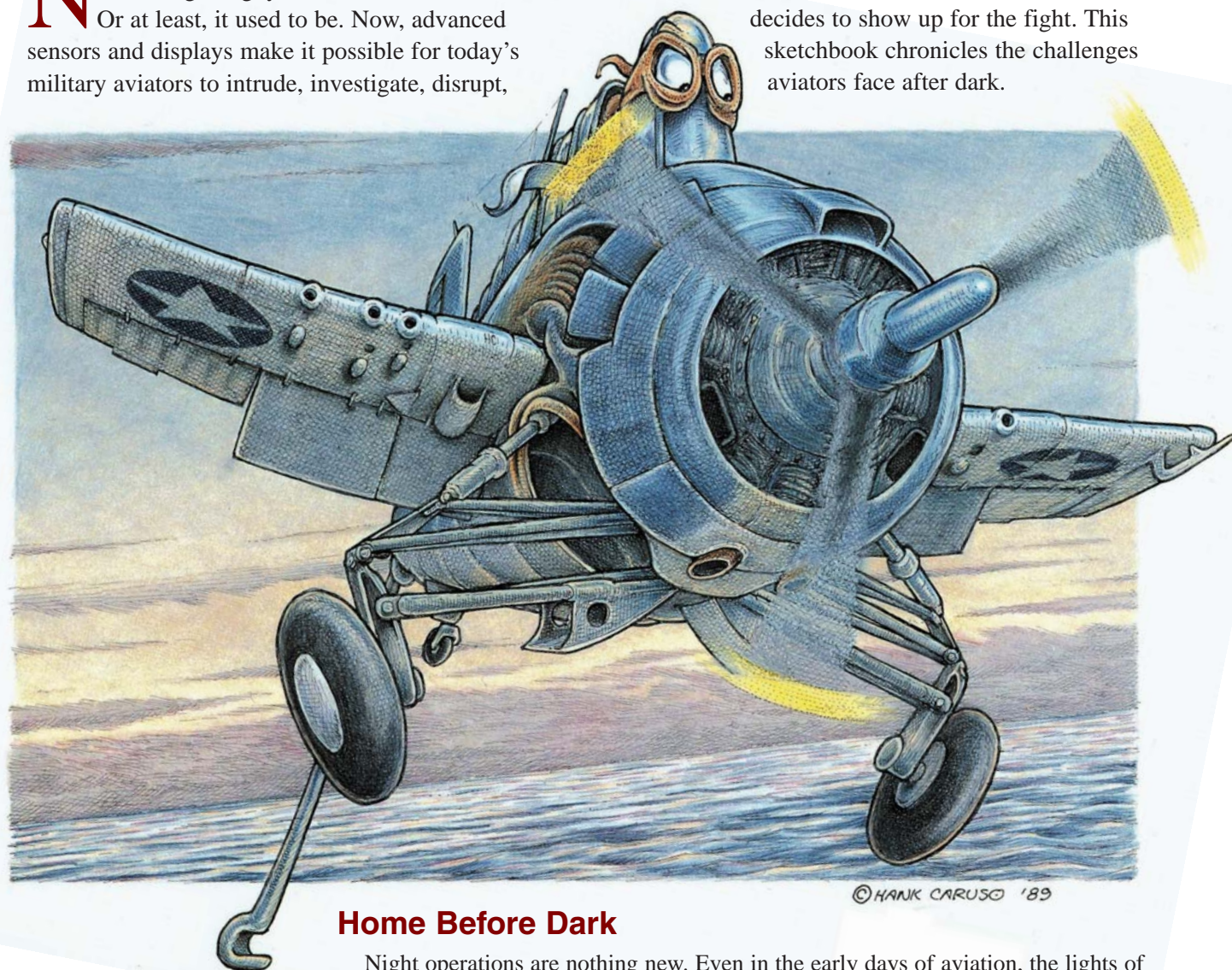


# Night Moves — Flying the Graveyard Shift

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Night is not just a time, it's a place. It is a place for both good guys and bad to hide and to rest. Or at least, it used to be. Now, advanced sensors and displays make it possible for today's military aviators to intrude, investigate, disrupt,

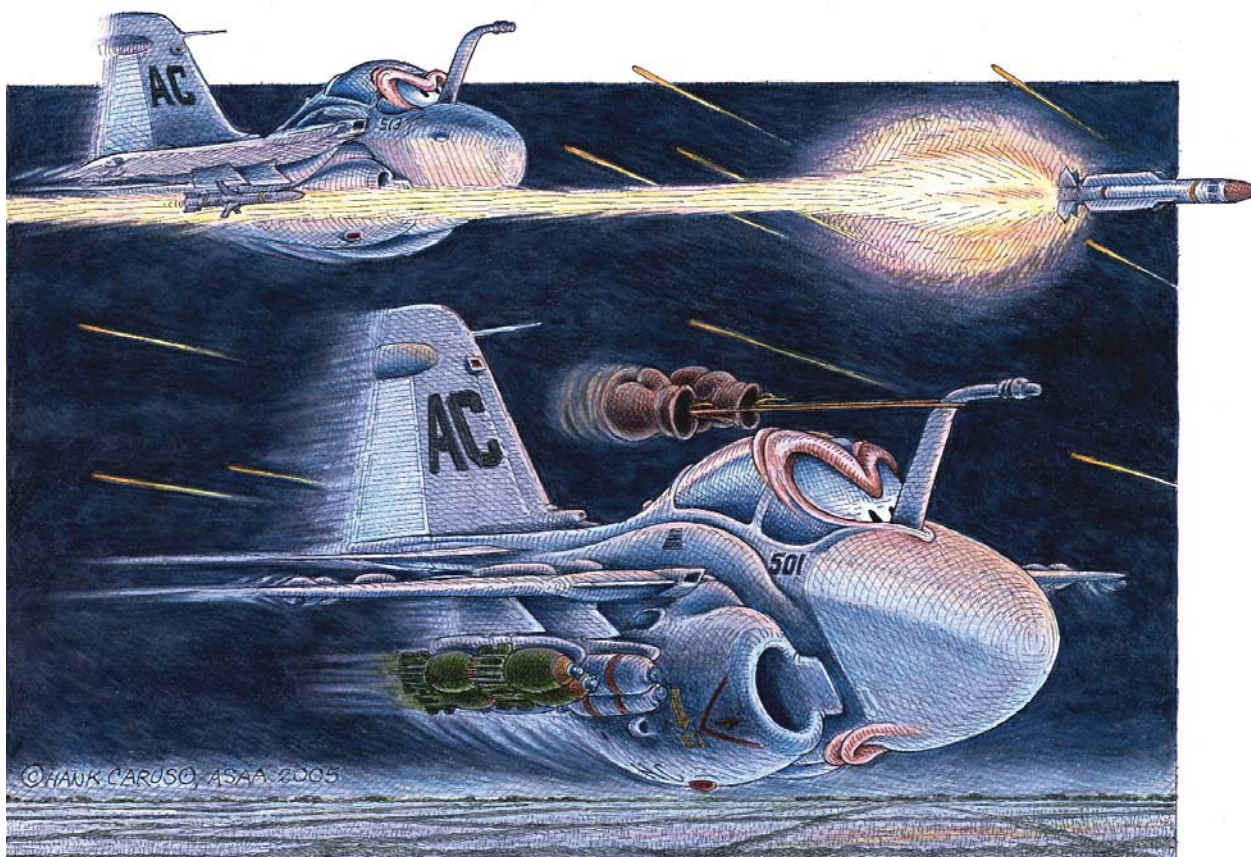
eliminate, and otherwise operate with astonishing effectiveness, regardless of whether the sun decides to show up for the fight. This sketchbook chronicles the challenges aviators face after dark.



## Home Before Dark

Night operations are nothing new. Even in the early days of aviation, the lights of civilization on the ground made nocturnal navigation possible, if not comfortable. But during WWII night operations at sea enjoyed none of these advantages. With blacked-out ships and no buildings to serve as a reference, the best that could be hoped for was a full moon or trails of bioluminescence in ships' wakes. So the goal for this F4F Wildcat and other carrier-based aircraft was to trap before sundown.





## Feet Dry, Palms Wet

The Navy's only all-weather attack aircraft in Vietnam were the A-6A, above, (bombed up, foreground) and A-6B (firing a Standard Anti-Radiation Missile) Intruder. This Aerocature™ was commissioned by VA-75 to commemorate the squadron's 1972 cruise and innumerable "feet dry" missions over Vietnam.

## Semper Utility

The Marine Corps flies the venerable UH-1N Huey, right, on a variety of missions, including close air support, forward air control, casualty evacuation, special operations, and armed escort tasks. Shown here on a night training mission, a MAWTS-1 Huey sports night vision goggles, an infrared sensor turret, rocket pods, and door gunner. This Aerocature™ was commissioned by MAWTS-1.

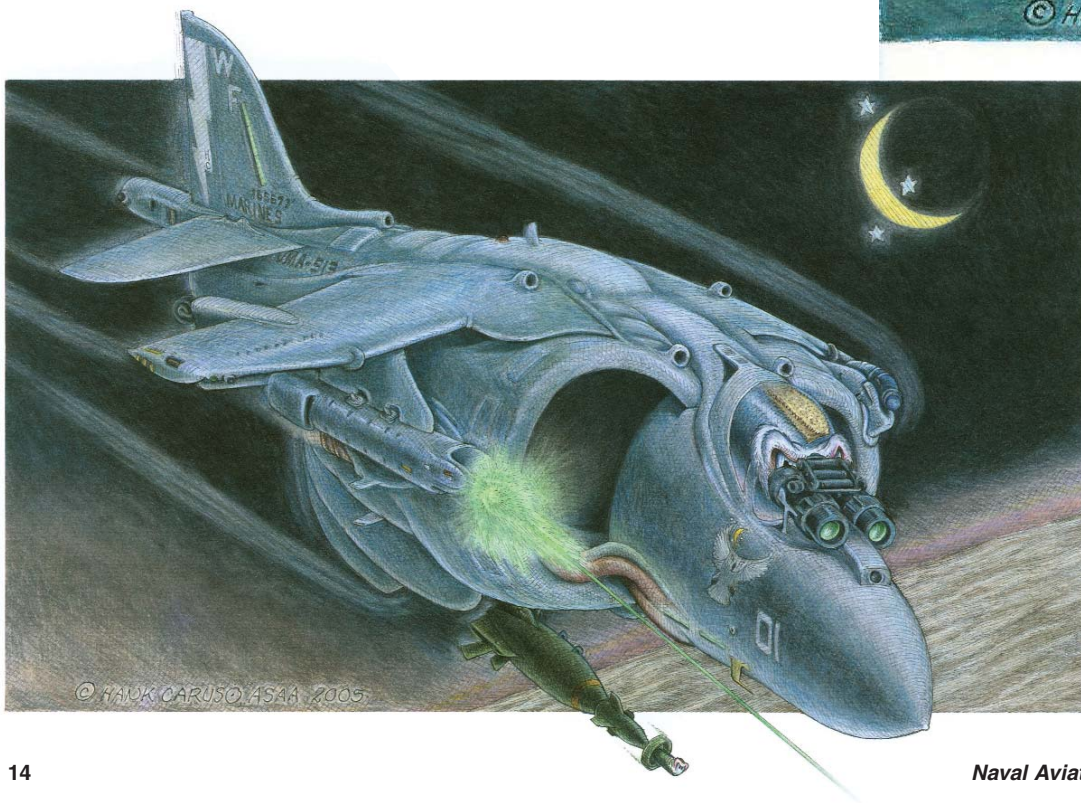
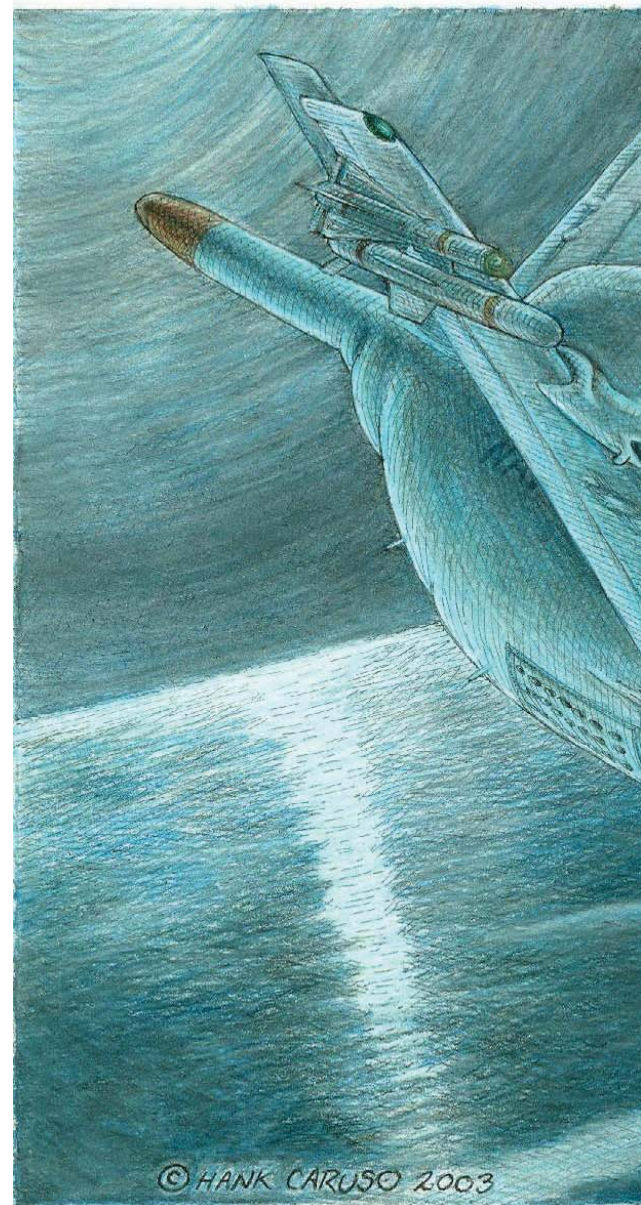




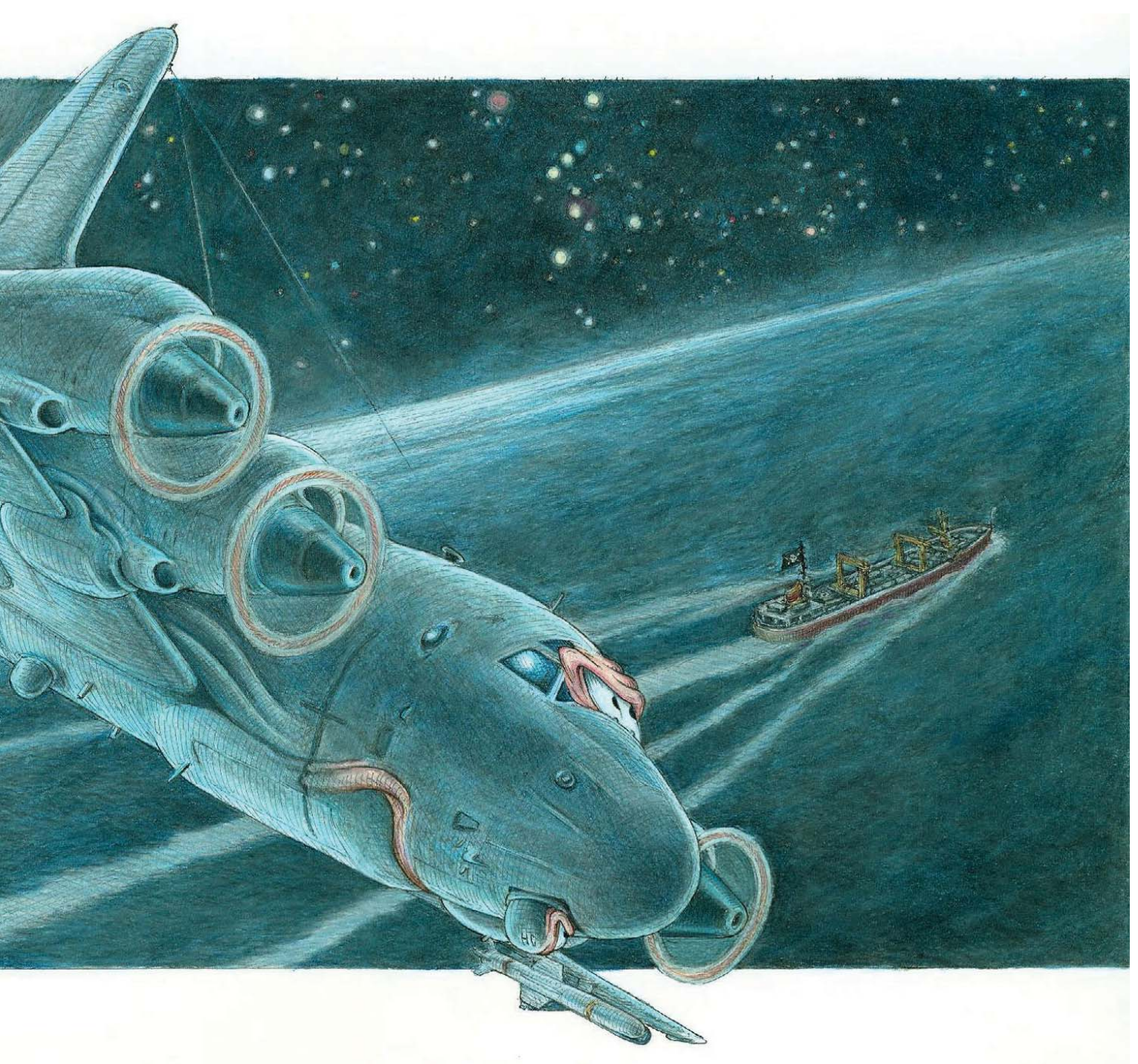


## The Aging Order of the Pterodactyl

This depiction of the Coast Guard's Pterodactyl mascot, above, was originally created to highlight the challenge of operating aging aircraft in hostile environments. Of necessity, many Coast Guard missions must be flown at night at low altitudes where the horizon is swallowed by the rising waves.







## Caught in the Rigging

The P-3C, above, was originally conceived to counter the former Soviet Union's submarine fleet during the Cold War. Since then, the Orion's operational repertoire has expanded to include intelligence gathering, reconnaissance, and maritime surveillance. The P-3 shown here is "rigging" a possible arms or drug smuggler by flying a low-level surveillance pattern around the suspect vessel.

## Bad Dreams for Bad Guys

VMA-513, left, was the first Marine Corps squadron to add the Litening II laser targeting pod to its AV-8B+ Harrier's combat capabilities. The combination of laser targeting pod and night vision goggles contributed much to the Flying Nightmares' impressive combat record during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (From the private collection of Col. Bob Deforge, USMC.)