

Reserve Patrol Squadron Call-Ups in the Post-WWII Period

Korean War: 1950–1951¹

THE INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA by the Soviet-sponsored North Korean army on 25 June 1950 caught U.S. forces by surprise. At that time, the U.S. Navy had only one cruiser, four destroyers and a few minesweepers on station in the Sea of Japan. As the war progressed, control of the sea never became an issue. The opposition, North Korea and communist China, were primarily land powers with no significant naval forces. Control of the air, while soon achieved by NATO forces, was never absolute. Throughout the war, the efforts of North Korean pilots assisted by Russian and Chinese

“advisors” presented a constant threat to the security of the patrol squadrons. Between 11 May and 22 November 1952, four attacks were made by MiGs on U.S. Navy patrol aircraft, including one reserve patrol squadron. Nine reserve patrol squadrons, six from the West Coast (Pacific Fleet) and three from the East Coast (Atlantic Fleet), were involuntarily recalled to active duty during the period 29 July 1950 to 1 March 1951. Their service during the conflict was exemplary, leading to their permanent augmentation from the reserves to active duty before the hostilities concluded in July 1953.

Pacific Fleet Squadrons

<i>Home port</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>1953 Augmentation and Redesignation</i>
San Diego, Calif.	PBM-5	VP-48 on 4 February 1953
Whidbey Island, Wash.	PB4Y-2	VP-17 on 4 February 1953
Whidbey Island, Wash.	P2V-2/3	VP-29 on 27 August 1952
Oakland, Calif.	P4Y-2	VP-19 on 4 February 1953
San Diego, Calif.	PBM-5	VP-50 on 4 February 1953
Whidbey Island, Wash.	P2V-2/3	VP-57 on 4 February 1953

Atlantic Fleet Squadrons

Norfolk, Va.	PBM-5	VP-56 on 2 March 1953
Jacksonville, Fla.	P2V-2/3	VP-16 on 4 February 1953
Jacksonville, Fla.	P2V-2/3	VP-18 on 4 February 1953

Berlin Wall: 1 October 1961–30 June 1962

THE ESCALATION OF INTERNATIONAL tensions brought on by the erection of a wall separating East Berlin from West Berlin resulted in the involuntary recall (Public Law 87-117) of several naval reserve squadrons to meet the threat of further Russian aggression. Five of these squadrons were reserve patrol squadrons, one from the West Coast and four from the East Coast. All of the squadrons were recalled on 13 September 1961 with a 1 October reporting date, for a period of duty not to exceed 12 months. A second recall was soon announced that

brought an additional 213 officers and 1,744 enlisted personnel from 13 other reserve patrol squadrons on board on 1 November 1961 to augment the original five squadrons already on duty. By May 1962 the danger had subsided without a single shot being fired. Recalled patrol squadrons engaged in a high tempo of training exercises and deployments to remote sites to maintain readiness and morale while awaiting release from active duty. On 1 August 1962 all personnel were returned to civilian status.

Pacific Fleet Squadrons

VP-872

Homeport: NARTU Alameda, Calif.

Duty Station: NAS Alameda

Aircraft: P2V-5F

CO: CDR Edward R. Roberts

Deployments: 14 March–15 July 1962, NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii (Christmas Island Atomic testing task force JTF 8.3)

Atlantic Fleet Squadrons

VP-832

Homeport: NAS New York, N.Y.

Duty Station: NAS New York, N.Y.

Aircraft: P2V-5F

CO: CDR E. S. Swanson, Jr.

Deployments: 28 March–24 April 1962, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

VP-933

Homeport: NAS Willow Grove, Pa.

Duty Station: NAS Willow Grove, Pa.

Aircraft: P2V-5F

CO: LCDR Harry M. Gindhart, Jr.

Deployments: 28 February–27 March 1962, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

VP-741

Homeport: NARTU Jacksonville, Fla.

Duty Station: NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

Aircraft: P2V-5F

CO: CDR Richard L. Oreair

Deployments: 17 December 1961–24 January 1962 and 25 April–22 May 1962, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

VP-661

Homeport: NARTU Anacostia, D.C. (NAF Andrews, D.C. after 1 August 1962)

Duty Station: NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Aircraft: P2V-5F

CO: CDR Ralph Kauffman

Deployments: Nova Scotia; Panama; 24 January–28 February 1962 and 23 May–25 June 1962, NAS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Cuban Blockade: 27 October–18 December 1962

IN THE FALL OF 1962, ONLY MONTHS after the escalation of tensions over the construction of the Berlin Wall, the Soviet Union began supplying the communist government of Fidel Castro with military weapons of both tactical and strategic significance. Of particular concern to President Kennedy and his advisors was the construction of airfields for MiG-21 fighters and hardened sites for medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles at San Cristobal and other sites in Cuba. On 22 October 1962 the president announced the U.S. Navy quarantine force would halt ships heading for Cuba with offensive weapons aboard. Although the President had received from the Congress the authority for the involuntary recall of reservists (Public Law 87-736), no recall was issued to the reserve patrol community. Instead, drilling personnel were allowed to volunteer for duty effective 27 October 1962, to be utilized by fleet commanders for priority projects. Six Atlantic Fleet reserve squadrons were selected, and over the course of the next few months flew 82 sorties totaling 591 accident-free flight hours. All personnel were released from active duty effective 18 December 1962.

VP-721

Homeport: NARTC Glenview, Ill.

Duty Station: NAS Quonset Point, R.I.

Aircraft: P-2F

VP-791

Homeport: NARTC Memphis, Tenn.

Duty Station: NAS Norfolk, Va.

Aircraft: SP-2E

VP-811

Homeport: NARTC Minneapolis, Minn.

Duty Station: NAS Brunswick, Maine

Aircraft: P-2D

VP-831

Homeport: NARTC New York, N.Y.

Duty Station: NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Aircraft: P-2E/SP-2E

VP-883

Homeport: NARTC Olathe, Kans.

Duty Station: NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

Aircraft: P-2F

VP-911

Homeport: NARTC South Weymouth, Mass.

Duty Station: NAS South Weymouth, Mass.

Aircraft: P-2E/P-2F

Desert Storm: 1 January–30 March 1991

ON THE DAWN OF THE MORNING of 2 August 1990, the United States was again caught by surprise when a hostile force occupied the territory of an ally and trading partner. Iraqi battle groups had crossed the borders of neighboring Kuwait and quickly captured the capital, Kuwait City. Within three days the *Independence* battle group was in the Gulf of Oman to institute a blockade of Iraq. Additional battle groups including *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, *John F. Kennedy* and *Saratoga* were rerouted to the hotspot for support. VP-91 was tasked with providing crews for voluntary recall to duty with COMPATWINGSPAC forces in the gulf as a part of operation Desert Storm, the air war phase of operations that began on 17 January 1991. The crews augmented active duty patrol squadrons 4, 8, 19, 40 and 46 in patrolling the war zone waters. On

7 February 1991, a reserve crew flying a VP-46 ISAR equipped P-3C UIII Orion located two Iraqi gunboats and vectored an A-6 aircraft in to attack and sink the vessels.

VP-91

Homeport: NAS Moffett Field, Calif.

Duty Station: NAS Moffett Field, Calif.

Aircraft: P-3C UIII

CO: CDR D. J. Bellows (20 January 1990–18 January 1991); CDR R. M. Epperson (19 January 1991–25 July 1992)

Deployments: Gulf of Oman, Desert Shield/Desert Storm

¹ See squadron histories for details and lineage.