

The 600-Ship Navy

1980–1989

A build-up of naval aviation, the rise of global acts of terrorism, and the U.S. response to global crises characterized the eighth decade of naval aviation. As the decade began, aircraft carriers sailed ready to project U.S. power against extremists who held Americans hostage in Tehrān, Iran. These ships had increasingly deployed to the Indian Ocean during the latter part of the 1970s, and strengthened the trend into the 1980s as a result of ongoing and growing problems in the Middle East, East Africa, and Asia.

Eastern Bloc naval expansion threatened Western control of the sea, and the United States countered by developing a maritime strategy that focused on the three pillars of deterrence, forward defense, and alliance solidarity. To accomplish this plan, the Navy developed a maritime component in which carriers were to thrust toward strategic points encircling the Eastern Bloc and contain the Soviet fleet to enable U.S. warships to patrol the open oceans and reinforce allies.

Naval aviation experienced resurgence in strength and capabilities through building programs and new technology research. A number of naval aircraft joined the fleet, including F/A-18 Hornets, SH-60B LAMPS (Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System) Mk III Seahawks and their derivatives, MH-53E Sea Dragons, and AV-8B Harrier IIs. The rollout of fixed-wing, tilt-rotor V-22 Ospreys capable of vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) and high-speed horizontal flight introduced new aircraft concepts.

Missile development kept pace with aircraft progress. New introductions included AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM), AGM-114 Hellfire precision strike air-to-ground missiles, and R/UGM-109 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAM, originally known as cruise missiles) capable of attacking ships and targets ashore. The platforms for these missiles also kept pace. Additional *Nimitz* (CVN 68)-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers

and *Wasp* (LHD 1)-class multipurpose amphibious assault ships were commissioned, and Congress authorized more of these ships for construction. Naval aviation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1986, and throughout the year the Navy lauded the men and women who had contributed to the force.

Involvement in confrontations during the decade began with the Iranian hostage crisis from 1979 to 1981. Clashes with the Libyans demonstrated naval aviation's air-to-air and strike capabilities, and Operation Urgent Fury reestablished democracy on the Caribbean island of Grenada. Operations in and around Lebanon kept naval aviation occupied during the mid-1980s, and responding to terrorist crimes and hijackings around the Mediterranean basin became an ongoing requirement for most of the decade.

The Persian Gulf War between Iran and Iraq escalated and the fleet became involved in short but fierce battles in that area. Escorting reflagged oil tankers and monitoring the fighting kept naval aviation on the line in the region from the mid-1980s. As the decade ended, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and the UN imposed an economic blockade on Iraq to force its withdrawal.

In 1982 the Navy began working with U.S. Customs and the Coast Guard to curb the influx of drugs into the United States, and E-2C Hawkeyes became permanent participants in the detection of drug smuggling aircraft. Other activities included continued involvement in the manned space program and assistance during natural disasters. As the 1980s ended, the détente between the Americans and Soviets continued. During these years, naval aviation demonstrated diverse capabilities.



KN 298933

CNO Adm. Thomas B. Hayward delivers remarks at the launching of *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), 15 March 1980. The third *Nimitz*-class carrier was named after the long serving Georgia congressman.

1980

1 JANUARY • VP-23 deployed from Keflavik, Iceland, to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. The squadron made its first operational flight from the atoll within ten days of its receipt of orders.

2 JANUARY • A detachment of P-3B Orions from VP-10 deployed to NS Rota, Spain, flew photoreconnaissance missions to locate areas damaged by an earthquake that struck the Azores the previous day, killing 50 people and injuring about 500 others.

4 JANUARY • *Nimitz* (CVN 68) rendezvoused with her nuclear-powered escort ships in the Mediterranean

and made for the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope to relieve *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) during contingency operations in the Indian Ocean. The departure of *Nimitz* left *Forrestal* (CV 59) as the only U.S. carrier operating in the Mediterranean.

4 JANUARY • The test flight of the first TA-7C Corsair II assigned to the Pacific Missile Test Center occurred at Point Mugu, Calif.

7 JANUARY • Reconnaissance Attack Wing One was disestablished. The wing had consisted of nine fleet squadrons, one training squadron, and a support command that provided tactical reconnaissance for deployed carriers. The phase out coincided with the disestablishment of the last RVAH squadron on 28 September 1979, in preparation for the final retirement from the fleet of all RA-5C Vigilantes on 20 November 1979.

22 JANUARY • *Nimitz* (CVN 68) rendezvoused with *Midway* (CV 41) and *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) in the Arabian Sea.

5 FEBRUARY • *Coral Sea* (CV 43) relieved *Midway* (CV 41) in the Arabian Sea.

29 FEBRUARY • VMO-1 at New River, N.C., began flying OV-10D Broncos equipped with forward looking infrared and laser rangefinder designator systems.

1 MARCH • The Navy confirmed that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Thomas B. Hayward had proposed to Secretary of Defense Harold Brown a plan to reactivate *Oriskany* (CV 34) and several other mothballed ships, to help fulfill the Navy's missions in the Indian Ocean and other areas.

6 MARCH • Amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4) began a month-long cruise to the Caribbean to demonstrate U.S. capabilities to defend the Panama Canal in accordance with the 1979 Panama treaty.

16 APRIL • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) sailed from the East Coast to relieve *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in the Indian Ocean. Two days later, *Constellation* (CV 64) departed Subic Bay, Philippines, to relieve *Coral Sea* (CV 43) in the Indian Ocean.

24 APRIL • The United States launched Operation Blue Light (Eagle Claw) to rescue the 53 Americans held hostage by Iranian militants in Tehrān, Iran. Eight RH-53D Sea Stallions lifted off from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in the Arabian Sea to rendezvous with Special Forces troops and with six USAF C-130 Hercules flying from al Masirah Island, Oman. A *haboob*—a huge dust cloud—forced helicopters No. 2 and 5 to land short of their objective, and mechanical problems compelled No. 6 to put down at a secret refueling site within Iran designated Desert One. Planning called for a minimum of six operational helicopters to rescue the hostages, and with only five capable of continuing, commanders aborted the mission. During the withdrawal of a helicopter, it collided with a Hercules when they repositioned to refuel, killing eight men. The remaining Hercules evacuated the survivors.

25 APRIL • A P-3B of VP-4 deployed to NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, spotted a vessel carrying Vietnamese refugees 300 miles northeast of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam. The Orion directed oiler *Sealift Antarctic* (T-AOT 176) to the rescue of 59 people.

30 APRIL • *Constellation* (CV 64) relieved *Coral Sea* (CV 43) in the Indian Ocean.

30 APRIL • President James E. Carter Jr. ordered the Navy to divert ships scheduled for exercise Solid Shield 80 in the Atlantic and Caribbean to assist the Coast Guard in the rescue of Cuban refugees, who fled their country en masse in dangerously overcrowded boats through the Florida Strait for the United States. Amphibious assault ship *Saipan* (LHA 2), and amphibious transport docks *Ponce* (LPD 15) and *Shreveport* (LPD 12) led a combination of amphibious vessels and minesweepers that supported the Coast Guard, and P-3 Orions flew patrols primarily from NAS Key West, Fla. Eleven Navy ships ultimately took part in what became known as the Mariel boatlift. On 8 July, the Navy terminated its support. More than 125,000 Cuban refugees fled to the United States by 12 June, when the tempo of Solid Shield 80 diminished.

8 MAY • Following a voyage from the United States via the Cape of Good Hope, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) relieved *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in the Arabian Sea.

27 MAY • *Coral Sea* (CV 43) was diverted to operate south of Cheju-do in the Korea Strait in response to South Korean civil unrest. *Midway* (CV 41) relieved *Coral Sea* on 30 May.

28 MAY • The Naval Academy Class of 1980 graduated the first group of students to include women—55 of the 770 graduates.

3 JUNE • A Marine A-4M launched the first AGM-65E Maverick air-to-ground missile from a Skyhawk during tests at Eglin AFB, Fla. Hughes Aircraft Company had developed the laser-guided version of the Maverick with a heavier warhead for use by the Marines in close air support.

6 JUNE • Ens. Brenda E. Robinson, USNR, became the first African American female naval aviator at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. Robinson was the 59th woman to enter naval flight training and the 42nd to earn her wings. On 23 March 1979, she graduated from Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, Fla. Robinson later flew C-1A Traders of VRC-40 at NAS Norfolk, Va.

10 JUNE • A P-3 Orion discovered a vessel carrying 28 Vietnamese in the South China Sea and directed U.S. merchant ship *Point Margo* to the area to rescue the refugees.

23 JUNE • The Navy granted approval for service use for two advanced sonobuoys, the AN/SSQ-2 Directional Command Active Sonobuoy System and the AN/SSQ-77 Vertical Line Array DIFAR, which represented the first major improvements in the sonobuoy field since the introduction of the AN/SSQ-53 DIFAR in 1968.

15 JULY • A P-3 flying from NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, spotted a vessel carrying 43 Vietnamese refugees adrift in the South China Sea about 115 miles northwest of Lingayen Gulf. The Orion directed cruiser *Joseph Strauss* (DDG 16) to the area to rescue the refugees, and the cruiser disembarked the survivors at Subic Bay.

18 JULY • NASA astronaut Charles Conrad Jr. became the 12th naval aviator enshrined at the National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio.

30 JULY • The Navy announced that SEAPAC, developed by Vought Corporation, had seawater-activated switches that automatically released a parachute harness when a pilot entered the water.

31 JULY • A T-2C Buckeye launched successfully from a 3-degree angle ski jump at NATC Patuxent River, Md. The launch was the first of feasibility demonstrations to evaluate the use of ramps for takeoffs by conventional aircraft.

31 JULY • A limited duty officer aviator program for second class, first class, and chief petty officers, pay grades E-5 through E-7, was established with the first 35 enlisted sailors selected and scheduled to report in April 1981 to NAS Pensacola, Fla. After completion of aviation officer indoctrination, primary flight, and maritime (propeller) training, the new officers served an initial three-year tour as primary flight instructors. The major objectives of the program included the improvement of use and retention of aviators, provision of further upward mobility for enlisted personnel, improvement of the flight instructor program, and provision for replacement of aviators in selected shipboard billets.

31 JULY • The number of refugees fleeing Southeast Asia rose during this period, and in July, VP-1 P-3C Orions spotted nine vessels and directed rescuers to assist. On 15 August, a tenth vessel was spotted and British tanker *Staffordshire* was directed to the rescue of the 205 refugees on board. From 20 May to 10 November, VP-1 participated in the rescue of more than 4,000 people.

17 AUGUST • *Midway* (CV 41) relieved *Constellation* (CV 64) and supported *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) as both carriers performed contingency operations in the Arabian Sea.

21 AUGUST • Soviet *Echo I*-class nuclear-powered submarine *K-122* suffered a fire that killed at least nine sailors, about 85 miles east of Okinawa. During the subsequent three days, P-3C Orions from VP-26 flew around the clock surveillance of the boat as she made for Soviet waters.

22 AUGUST • A VP-1 P-3B Orion and a VP-26 P-3C guided oiler *Passumpsic* (T-AO 107) to the rescue of 28 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea.

8 SEPTEMBER • Four Navy ships and three patrol boats received orders to assist the Coast Guard in a patrol to blockade Cuban refugee boats from reaching the United States.

22 SEPTEMBER • Iraq invaded Iran. *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and *Midway* (CV 41) continued their contingency operations in the north Arabian Sea.

30 SEPTEMBER • *Saratoga* (CV 60) became the initial carrier to undergo the Aircraft Carrier Service Life Extension Program (CV SLEP).

1 OCTOBER • The Office of Anti-Submarine Warfare and Ocean Surveillance Programs was redesignated Office of Naval Warfare.

4 OCTOBER • An engine room fire erupted on board Dutch cruise ship *Prinsendam* and the crew abandoned ship in the Gulf of Alaska, 120 miles south of Yakutat, Alaska. A Coast Guard HH-3F Pelikan and an HC-130B Hercules from CGASs Kodiak and Sitka; Coast Guard cutters *Boutwell* (WHEC 719), *Mellon* (WHEC 717), and *Woodrush* (WLB 407); Air Force aircraft flying from Elmendorf AFB; and Canadian Coast Guardsmen—a total of 13 U.S. and Canadian aircraft—along with three merchantmen responded. Tanker *Williamsburg* took 175 people on board from lifeboats via the Pelikan. The next morning, *Boutwell* spotted a flare from a lifeboat containing the final 20 passengers and two Air Force technicians, completing the rescue of all 519 crewmembers and passengers.

6 OCTOBER • Command ship *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), and her embarked SH-3A Sea King of HC-1 Detachment 6, rescued 91 Vietnamese refugees in the western Pacific.

12 OCTOBER • Ships of the Amphibious Force, Sixth Fleet, including amphibious assault ship *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7), assisted the victims of a massive earthquake that devastated Al Asnam, Algeria.

6 NOVEMBER • *Ranger* (CV 61) relieved *Midway* (CV 41) in the northern Arabian Sea.

8 NOVEMBER • Frigate *Francis Hammond* (FF 1067), and her embarked SH-2F Seasprite, rescued 85 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea, 200 miles southeast of Vietnam.

11 NOVEMBER • For the first time, a LAMPS SH-60B Seahawk worked with the recovery assist, securing and traversing system (RAST) on board an underway ship. Frigate *McInerney* (FFG 8) conducted the shipboard aspect of the exercise, which included primarily electronic communications and not an actual landing, from the Bath Iron Works yard, Maine.

13 NOVEMBER • VFA-125 at NAS Lemoore, Calif., was established as the first squadron to train sailors and Marines to fly and maintain F/A-18 Hornets.

22 NOVEMBER • Aircraft carrier suitability tests of the Tomahawk II medium range air-to-surface missile concluded successfully.

25 NOVEMBER • RH-53D Sea Stallions from VR-24, together with Army and Air Force elements, began disaster relief assistance to victims of an earthquake that killed more than 3,000 people on 23 November at Avellino, Italy. Commander Fleet Air Mediterranean directed the U.S. military support efforts.

8 DECEMBER • *Independence* (CV 62) relieved *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), which had been involved in Iranian contingency operations since 8 May. Cruisers *South Carolina* (CGN 37) and *Virginia* (CGN 38) also departed after their operations with *Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

22 DECEMBER • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) returned to NS Norfolk, Va., after a 251-day deployment, including an underway period of 152 continuous days.

1981

1 JANUARY • The Naval Aviation Museum announced the first group of selectees for the newly inaugurated Naval Aviation Hall of Honor, NAS Pensacola, Fla. On 10 July 1980, the Chief of Naval Operations approved 12 men for the honor: Adm. John H. Towers; Vice Adm. Patrick N. L. Bellinger; Rear Adms. Richard E. Byrd Jr., William A. Moffett, and Albert C. Read; Capt. Holden C. Richardson, CC; Lt. Col. Alfred A. Cunningham, USMC; Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson; Lt. Cmdr. Godfrey de C. Chevalier; Machinist Warrant Officer Floyd Bennett; and civilians Glenn H. Curtiss and Eugene B. Ely.

6 JANUARY • The LAMPS Mk III antisubmarine warfare system went to sea for the first time. An SH-60B Seahawk landed on board *McInerney* (FFG 8) by using recovery assist, securing and traversing system (RAST) gear as the frigate sailed off the northeastern coast of Florida. Designers intended RAST to recover helicopters in seas with ship movements of up to 28-degree rolls, 5 degrees of pitch, and heaves of 15 feet per second.

10 JANUARY • Aircraft from NS Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and NS Roosevelt Roads, P.R., responded to a request by the Jamaican government for assistance to fight a fuel oil storage tank fire in the Montego Bay area. The aircraft transported firefighters, equipment, and water.

14 JANUARY • Ens. Brenda E. Robinson, USNR, of VRC-40 became the first African American female naval aviator to be carrier qualified, when she trapped in a C-1A Trader on board *America* (CV 66) in the Atlantic.

15 JANUARY • Submerged submarine *Guitarro* (SSN 665) launched a BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile from off the California coast. The missile struck its target at a range of more than 100 miles. The Navy repeated the test six days later with the same results. In a third test conducted on 20 March, a missile hit its target at a range of more than 200 miles. These trials demonstrated the Tomahawk's capability to search for, locate, and attack targets at sea.

20 JANUARY • Iranian students and militants released 52 Americans who had been held hostage since the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehrān on 4 November 1979. Twelve of the hostages served as active duty members of the Navy and Marine Corps including naval flight officer Cmdr. Don A. Sharer, a naval advisor at the time of the embassy takeover. Sharer became the senior leader of the naval hostages.

31 JANUARY • The era of enlisted naval aviators came to a close when the last enlisted pilot, ACCM Robert K. Jones, retired after 38 years of service. Enlisted pilots had performed their duties for more than 61 years as naval aviators on combat missions, as transport pilots, and instructors. The enlisted naval aviator program had ended in 1947.



The last U.S. Navy enlisted pilot, ACCM Robert K. Jones (right) conducts a pre-flight of a US-2B Tracker. Jones retired 31 January 1981 with more than 11,000 flight hours and qualification in over 25 different aircraft.

FEBRUARY • Despite the conclusion of the Iranian hostage crisis, the strategic importance of the region influenced the U.S. decision to maintain two carriers deployed to the Indian Ocean.

5 FEBRUARY • John F. Lehman Jr., a Reserve naval flight officer, took office as the Secretary of the Navy.

19 FEBRUARY • VFA-125 became the first squadron to receive the F/A-18A for fleet operations. Hornets had undergone extensive operational tests and evaluations at Patuxent River, Md., and additional testing by VX-4 at Point Mugu, Calif. VFA-125 trained technicians and pilots for future Hornet squadrons.

8 MARCH • A P-3 Orion and a Coast Guard HC-130H Hercules rescued 11 survivors from Israeli merchant ship *Masada* when she sank in a gale 96 miles southeast of

Bermuda. *Forrestal* (CV 59), destroyer *Edson* (DD 945), and frigates *Miller* (FF 1091) and *Paul* (FF 1080) assisted.

10 MARCH • During Merlion exercises with the Singaporeans, an A-6E Intruder from VA-115, embarked on board *Midway* (CV 41), sighted a downed Gulf Oil Co. helicopter and three life rafts afloat in the South China Sea, 27 miles northeast of Singapore. *Midway* dispatched an SH-3G Sea King manned by pilot Lt. Cmdr. Ludwig K. Tande, copilot Lt. j.g. Lawrence D. Mizak, and, at times, aircrewmembers AM1 D. C. Piper, AE2 R. N. Dains, AM2 W. Reynolds, AM3 M. A. Velazquez, and AMAN M. J. Sanguigni of HC1 Detachment 2, that rescued all 17 people on board the downed helicopter. Sailors also plucked the chartered helicopter from the water to *Midway's* flight deck. Two days later *Midway* returned the survivors to Singapore.



An F/A-18A Hornet undergoes climatic testing at the Air Force's 3246th Test Wing at the McKinley Climatic Laboratory, Eglin AFB, Fla. The tests, begun in March 1981, evaluated the aircraft's ability to withstand wide temperature ranges and climatic conditions.

23 MARCH • F/A-18As began testing by the Air Force's 3246th Test Wing at the McKinley Climatic Laboratory, Eglin AFB, Fla. The tests evaluated the ability of Hornet airframes to withstand wide ranges of temperatures and climatic conditions.

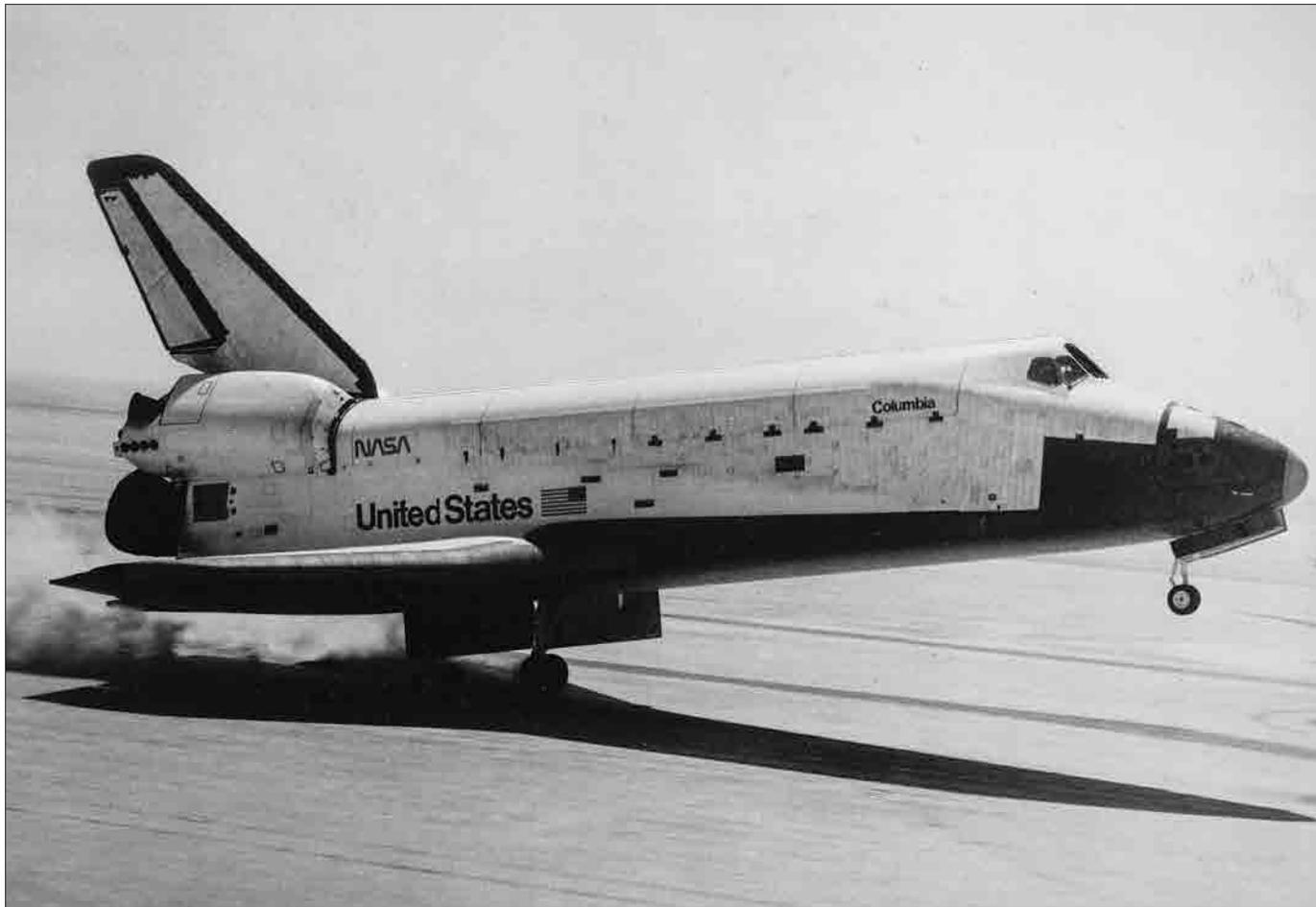
12 APRIL • Space shuttle mission STS-1, orbiter *Columbia*, launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., crewed by naval aviators Capt. John W. Young, USN (Ret.), and Capt. Robert L. Crippen. After 36 orbits, *Columbia* touched down on 14 April at Edwards AFB, Calif. On 19 May, President Ronald W. Reagan presented medals to Young and Crippen at the White House. Young received the Space Medal of Honor, the seventh person so honored, and the fifth of Navy or Marine Corps recipients.

13 APRIL • AV-8A Harriers deployed as a group with an LHA for the first time when Marine Aircraft Group 32,

composed of VMA-231 and -542, sailed to the Mediterranean on board amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4).

15 APRIL • Adm. John S. Thach, one of the Navy's early fighter tacticians, died. The commanding officer of VF-3 when World War II began, Thach developed a two-plane fighter tactic, which proved to be effective against highly maneuverable Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighters. American pilots quickly adopted the innovation, which became known as the "Thach Weave."

3 MAY • Following Israeli reprisals against Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries in southern Lebanon, *Forrestal* (CV 59) received orders to sail to the eastern Mediterranean. The ship steamed for 53 consecutive days.



The all-Navy crew of John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen lands space shuttle *Columbia* at Edwards AFB Calif., after its two-day maiden space voyage, 14 April 1981.

4 MAY • *America* (CV 66) transited the Suez Canal as the first U.S. carrier to travel through the channel since *Intrepid* (CVS 11) had navigated the waterway on 1 June 1967.

20 MAY • TACGRU 1 and its subordinate commands TACRONS 11 and 12 were established. These three commands performed functions relating to tactical control of aircraft in support of amphibious operations.

26 MAY • Pilot Capt. Elwood M. Armstrong Jr., USMC, along with 1st Lt. Lawrence D. Cragun and 1st Lt. Steve E. White, USMC, of VMAQ-2 Detachment Y, crashed in an EA-6B Prowler, BuNo 159910, on board *Nimitz* (CVN 68) off eastern Florida. In addition to the three Marines, AB3 Robert W. Iser, F3 Dennis R. Driscoll, AAs Thomas E. Barnhart and Frank J. Swider Jr., and ARs Peter R. Iannetti and Jackie L. Gothard from the ship's company, together with AO3 Lewis J. McLaurin of VF-41, ANs Alberto Colon

and Arturo Hinojosa Jr. of VF-84, and AN Patrick D. Louis and AEAN Ronald L. Wildermuth of VF-41, died. The tragedy also injured 48 sailors and Marines. On 30 May, *Nimitz* returned to operations at sea after two days of repairs at Norfolk, Va.

26 MAY • *Independence* (CV 62) left contingency operations in the eastern Mediterranean after passing through the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean in response to a Middle East crisis.

1 JUNE • Patrol Wing 10 was established at NAS Moffett Field, Calif. The operational wing was to serve as the link between patrol squadrons and Commander Patrol Wings Pacific. The action marked the third use of the Patrol Wing 10 designation. It had originally been established in December 1940, disestablished in June 1947, reestablished in June 1963, and disestablished in 1973.



A Marine AV-8A Harrier vertical/short takeoff and landing attack plane hovers over amphibious assault ship *Tarawa* (LHA 1).

15 JUNE • The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) celebrated its 35th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1946, the squadron had flown F6F-5 Hellcats, F8F-1 Bearcats, F9F-2 and -5 Panthers, F9F-6 and -8 Cougars, F11F-1 Tigers, F-4J Phantom IIs, and A-4F Skyhawks.

16 JUNE • The first fleet operational CH-53E arrived at Marine Aircraft Group 26 for assignment to HMH-464. E-version modifications included the addition of a third engine, a larger main rotor system, and changes to the tail rotors, which allowed the Super Stallions to carry three times the payload of their predecessor RH-53D Sea Stallions. The CH-53E could transport cargoes of more than 16 tons or ferry 55 fully equipped Marines.

29 JUNE • Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger approved full production of the F/A-18 Hornet.

1 JULY • VS-0294 was established at NAS North Island, Calif. The Reserve command's mission was to train and qualify pilots, naval flight officers, aircrewmembers, and technicians to augment fleet carrier antisubmarine squadrons. The squadron, with the exception of maintainers, was to train on simulators or realistic mockups of S-3A Vikings to reduce the cost of using operational aircraft.

7 JULY • A strike by the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization led President Ronald W. Reagan to assign 116 Navy and Marine air traffic controllers to man civilian airport towers across the nation. Some servicemembers continued their tasks through the summer.

8 JULY • A newly modified Learjet 24 arrived for use as part of the Naval Test Pilot School's fleet of flying teaching aids at NAS Patuxent River, Md.



The CH-53E Super Stallion is the largest and heaviest U.S. military helicopter. Designed specifically for the Marines, the first one flew in 1974.

9 JULY • During ceremonies at NAS Pensacola, Fla., American and West German representatives—including the chief of Naval Air Training and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief German Fleet—marked the 25th anniversary of the program established in 1956 for training German naval pilots, flight officers, and flight surgeons at U.S. naval aviation facilities.

16 JULY • An S-3A of Carrier Air Wing 11, embarked on board *America* (CV 66), spotted burning merchant ship *Irene Sincerity* about 180 miles southwest of Karachi, Pakistan. The Viking directed *California* (CGN 36) to the rescue of its 39 crewmembers.

23 JULY • VMFA-312 received a camouflaged F-4S sporting a new paint scheme tested by NAVAIR. The new camouflage consisted of a scientifically designed, countershaded gray tactical paint scheme to help Phantom IIs escape visual detection.

19 AUGUST • Cmdr. Henry M. Kleeman and Lt. David J. Venlet and Lts. Lawrence M. Muczynski and James

Anderson of VF-41 manned two F-14As that shot down two Libyan Sukhoi Su-22 Fitter-Js with AIM-9L Sidewinder air-to-air missiles over international waters. The Tomcats flew a reconnaissance mission for a missile-firing exercise during freedom of navigation operations from *Nimitz* (CVN 68), sailing with *Forrestal* (CV 59), when the Libyans opened fire.

18 SEPTEMBER • The first night flight of a conventional AGM-109L Medium Range Air-to-Surface Missile (MRASM) occurred over White Sands Missile Range, N.M. A Navy A-6 equipped with the weapon took off from the Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, Calif., and flew to White Sands. The Intruder used the Tomahawk's terrain contour matching updates for guidance. Once inside the range, the jet launched the missile, which flew a complex night land attack mission.

20 SEPTEMBER • During Typhoon Clara, Philippine frigate *Datu Kalantiaw* (PF 76) ran aground while at anchor near Clayan Island, 340 miles north of Manila. The next day, helicopters from NAS Cubi Point assisted ammunition ship *Mount Hood* (AE 29) in the rescue of 18 survivors and the recovery of 40 bodies.

5 OCTOBER • An A-7E Corsair II from the Pacific Missile Test Center Point Mugu, Calif., fired an AGM-88A High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile against destroyer *Savage* (DER 368) during the first live warhead launch of one of the missiles.

14 OCTOBER • The dedication of the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor and enshrinement of the first 12 selectees took place at the Naval Aviation Museum, NAS Pensacola, Fla.

21 OCTOBER • With enhanced security measures, *America* (CV 66) transited the Suez Canal northbound in the wake of the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar As-Sadat.

28 OCTOBER • Walter K. Hinton, the last surviving participant in the historic NC-4 flight of May 1919, died.

31 OCTOBER • The Navy announced the name for carrier CVN-71 as *Theodore Roosevelt* and her keel was laid at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Va. Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger delivered the address.

5 NOVEMBER • An AV-8B flew for the first time. The U.S.-developed Harrier IIs with British Aerospace participation as advanced versions of the Hawker-Siddeley AV-8A Harriers in Marine service. The AV-8B design provided twice the performance of their predecessors and, with more than 25 percent of their structural weight composed of carbon epoxy composite material, they offered twice the payload and combat radius.

7 NOVEMBER • VMAQ-4 was established at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., as the first Marine Reserve squadron to fly EA-6A Intruders.

12 NOVEMBER • Space shuttle *Columbia* on mission STS-2 launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. On 14 November, it returned to Edwards AFB, Calif. The two astronauts, Capt. Richard H. Truly, who had been designated a naval aviator in October 1960, and Col. Joe H. Engle, USAF, became the first men to fly into and return from space in a previously used spacecraft.

13 NOVEMBER • Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr. announced the forthcoming retirement of Director of the Division of Naval Reactors Adm. Hyman G. Rickover. The Navy had recognized Rickover for his tireless efforts to develop nuclear-powered ships including carriers and submarines by awarding him honorary wings on 21 July 1970.

17 NOVEMBER • Destroyer *Fletcher* (DD 992) fired the first Harpoon Block 1B missile from a ship. The air-launched version of Harpoons had made their initial carrier deployment in October 1981 with VA-65 on board *Constellation* (CV 64).

2 DECEMBER • Capt. Cecil E. Harris, (Ret.), died. The Navy's second-highest scoring ace during World War II, he had received credit for downing 24 enemy aircraft.

1982

8 JANUARY • An F/A-18 made a Hornet's first fully automatic landing on a simulated carrier deck at NATC Patuxent River, Md.

28 JANUARY • CY Douglas L. McGowan Jr. and AW1 Michael A. Gray inaugurated the Limited Duty Officer Aviator Program, which enabled enlisted sailors to receive flight training and commissions. McGowan and Gray were the first noncommissioned officers to complete flight training since the end of the NAVCAD program in 1968.

3 FEBRUARY • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) transited the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, en route to the Indian Ocean for an extended deployment. She was the largest carrier to pass through the canal to date.

13 FEBRUARY • VF-84 returned from the Mediterranean on board *Nimitz* (CVN 68) to NS Norfolk, Va. The squadron completed the first operational deployment of the tactical air reconnaissance system fitted on F-14 Tomcats for low- to medium-altitude photoreconnaissance missions.

5 MARCH • The Navy assumed command of the government plant representative office at McDonnell Douglas Corporation's facilities, St. Louis, Mo. The Navy thereby replaced the Air Force plant representative office, which had been responsible for contract administration there for the previous 11 years.

16 MARCH • Vice President George H. W. Bush announced that the Navy was to work actively with customs officials and the Coast Guard to curb the influx of illicit narcotics into the United States. E-2C Hawkeyes subsequently began ongoing participation in the detection of drug smugglers.

18 APRIL • The Navy celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Doolittle raid on the Japanese home islands during World War II. On 14 April, four rebuilt North American B-25 Mitchells had flown over Washington, D.C., and Gen. James H. Doolittle, USAF (Ret.), greeted the pilots when they landed.

2 JUNE • An AV-8B made the first Harrier II flight of its Navy preliminary evaluation.

7 JUNE • The Navy began receiving advanced Block 1B versions of the Harpoon missile, which had been in service since 1977. These had improved radar-guidance systems and were capable of flying at lower altitudes than the initial versions.



One of four AV-8B full-scale development Harrier IIs is used for heavy load tests c. 1983 prior to the first flight of a production model. The test craft first flew in November 1981.

24 JUNE • Lebanon had collapsed into civil war among Muslims, Christians, and Jews. On this date, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69), dock landing ship *Hermitage* (LSD 34), and amphibious transport dock *Nashville* (LPD 13), began the extended evacuation of U.S. Embassy staff and civilians from Beirut. The forces involved included HC-4 CH-53E Sea Stallions, which carried more than 1,200 people and 380,000-pounds of cargo to ships offshore. Meanwhile, a multinational peacekeeping force including U.S. Marines worked to maintain an uneasy truce among Lebanon's warring factions.

25 JUNE • The history of the Navy's C-121 Constellations—whose previous designations included PO, R7O, R7V, and

WV—ended after 33 years when the last Warning Star retired from active service with VAQ-33.

25 JUNE • The Lebanese crisis prompted reinforced deployments as *Forrestal* (CV 59) and *Independence* (CV 62) rendezvoused with *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) and *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) in the Mediterranean Sea. After steaming together in the eastern Mediterranean for several days, *Forrestal* and *Independence* relieved *Dwight D. Eisenhower* and *John F. Kennedy*, enabling those ships to sail home to NS Norfolk, Va.

30 JUNE • VFP-63 was disestablished as the last active duty photographic squadron. This also brought to a close the era of active duty F-8 Crusader squadrons in the Navy. The only F-8



Lt. j.g. Barbara A. Allen, the first woman to be designated as a naval aviator, receives part of her equipment at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, May 1974.

and photographic squadrons still in existence, VFP-206 and -306, defaulted to Reserve squadrons at NAF Washington, D.C.

30 JUNE • Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Thomas B. Hayward, the Navy's number one aviator, retired. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1947, Hayward had been designated a naval aviator on 26 July 1950, and became the 21st Chief of Naval Operations on 1 July 1978.

7 JULY • Walter Wagner became NAVAIR's first civilian project manager when he relieved Capt. John E. Hock Jr. as project manager for the E-2/C-2 airborne tactical data system.

13 JULY • Instructor Lt. Cmdr. Barbara A. Rainey and student Ens. Donald B. Knowlton of VT-3 crashed in a T-34C

Turbommentor while avoiding another aircraft during touch-and-go landings at NAS Whiting Field, Fla., killing both crewmembers. On 22 February 1974, Rainey (then Allen) had become the first woman to be designated a naval aviator.

30 JULY • Ens. Jannine Weiss became the first enlisted woman to receive her wings and to receive a commission under the new Limited Duty Officer Aviator Program.

31 JULY • GMU-41 was disestablished as the last guided missile unit after 29 years of service. It had been established on 11 May 1953, with a varied mission of providing missile training and technical support to ships and squadrons and supporting commands that tested and evaluated missiles and associated equipment in the fleet environment.

2 AUGUST • Navy test pilot Lt. Cmdr. John Ball and Bell Helicopter Textron test pilot Dorman Cannon flew the first at-sea shipboard landings and takeoffs of the Bell XV-15 on board amphibious assault ship *Tripoli* (LPH 10). The experimental vertical lift tilt-rotor aircraft had a conventional fixed wing, with engines and rotors mounted on the wingtips capable of swiveling to provide either vertical or horizontal flight.

5 AUGUST • The Naval Air Test Center successfully completed evaluations on the first aircraft tire made entirely of guayule natural rubber. The Goodyear tire was mounted on the right main landing gear of an F-4J Phantom II and underwent a series of maximum gross weight—56,000 pounds—takeoffs and landings.

8 AUGUST • The Chief of Naval Operations established the first naval plant representative office outside the United States in Melbourne, Australia. The office was to administer U.S. contracts with Australian companies involved in building F/A-18 Hornets for the Royal Australian Air Force.

14 SEPTEMBER • A bomb killed Lebanon's Christian President Bashir Gemayel, and on 22 September, his Phalangist followers retaliated by killing Muslim Palestinian refugees at camps at Sabra and Shatila, Lebanon. From 27 September through 21 January 1983, an average of two carriers at a time sailed in the eastern Mediterranean to support Marines deployed ashore during the crisis.

24 SEPTEMBER • The Navy awarded a pre-full-scale development contract for the fixed-wing experimental training aircraft training system (VTXTS) to McDonnell Douglas, which was teamed with British Aerospace and Sperry. The program was designed around the British Aerospace Hawk, with appropriate simulators, academics, training management system, and support equipment.

30 SEPTEMBER • NAVAIR acted as executive agent for a tri-service program that signed a \$400,000 contract with the Gila River Apache Native American community at Sacaton, Ariz., to research, develop, and establish a prototype guayule rubber industry in the United States. The program was intended to reduce U.S. dependence on imported natural rubber. Potential military applications for guayule rubber included aircraft tires, jet engine mounts, hydrophone arrays, truck tires, tank treads, submarine acoustic tiles, and medical supplies.

1 OCTOBER • AVCM Billy C. Sanders assumed the duties of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Sanders became the second man with an aviation background that filled the billet following its establishment on 1 March 1967—CM Thomas S. Crow had been the first.

1 OCTOBER • Helicopter Tactical Wing 1 was established at NAS Norfolk, Va., Capt. John W. Osberg commanding. The wing consisted of HC-6 and -16, and HM-12, -14, and -16, and assumed responsibility for the administrative and operational activities of these helicopter squadrons with regard to training, material support, and overall readiness.

7 OCTOBER • ARAPAH0—a research and development project to demonstrate the feasibility of equipping merchant ships with emergency aviation support in wartime, and of operating antisubmarine helicopters and other combatant aircraft—at-sea testing concluded when 18,000-ton container ship *Export Leader* returned to Norfolk International Terminal, Va. The ship had been configured with a portable modular aviation facility and logged 178 day and 45 night helicopter landings.

16 OCTOBER • *Saratoga* (CV 60) completed the final phase of SLEP (service life extension program) when she conducted her first sea trials since entering the shipyard as the initial carrier to undergo the program.

28 OCTOBER • Naval aviation celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first flight of the A-3 Skywarrior. The versatile aircraft had served in the fleet since 1956 in heavy attack, radar bomber training, electronics reconnaissance, tanker, electronics jamming, photoreconnaissance, dedicated electronics jamming, airborne weapons testing, and VIP transport roles.

11 NOVEMBER • Astronauts Vance D. Brand, Robert F. Overmyer, Joe P. Allen, and William B. Lenoir manned space shuttle *Columbia* during the launch of mission STS-5 from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Brand and Overmyer were former Navy and Marine Corps aviators, respectively, and Lenoir and Allen were civilians. This was the first operational flight of *Columbia* and the first time four astronauts crewed a mission. Previous flights carried only two astronauts.

3 DECEMBER • *Nimitz* (CVN 68) and cruisers *Mississippi* (CGN 40) and *Arkansas* (CGN 41) assisted the sinking Greek cargo vessel *Andalusia*. A P-3C from VP-49 vectored *Mississippi* to *Andalusia* where the cruiser rescued all 19 crewmembers. Two Sea Kings of HS-9 from *Nimitz*—an SH-3H with pilot Lt. Michael G. Mulcahy, copilot Lt. j.g. Randall K. Ewald, and aircrewmen AW2 Robert S. Chronister and AWAN Henry J. Miller; and an SH-3G with pilot Lt. Cmdr. David B. Small Jr., copilot Lt. Cmdr. Larry W. Zimmer, and aircrewmen AW2 Richard M. Lane and AWAN Allen L. Estel—transferred survivors from *Mississippi* to the carrier.

15 DECEMBER • *Naval Aviation News* celebrated its 65th year of publication as the Navy's oldest periodical in continuous print and one of the oldest aviation magazines in the country. It began as a weekly bulletin published by the Office of Chief of Naval Operations.

1983

1 JANUARY • From this date to 26 June 1989, aircraft and ships of the Pacific Fleet rescued a total of 1,380 Vietnamese refugees in the western Pacific.

7 JANUARY • The first F/A-18s—excluding those in operational training squadrons—entered operational service and replaced F-4s in VMFA-314. This transition marked the beginning of the replacement of Phantom IIs and A-7 Corsair IIs with Hornets.

21 JANUARY • HSL-41 was established, Cmdr. Michael B. O'Connor Jr. commanding. Equipped with SH-60Bs as the LAMPS Mk III fleet readiness squadron, HSL-41 trained aircrew and maintainers for Seahawk fleet squadrons.

11 MARCH • The first fleet CH-53E Super Stallion arrived at HM-12.

21 MARCH • An all-female flight crew from VRC-30 consisting of pilot Lt. Elizabeth M. Toedt, copilot Lt. j.g. Cheryl A. Martin, and aircrewmen AMM3 Gina Greterman and AMMAN Robin Banks conducted an operational mission in a C-1A Trader that concluded with an arrested landing on board *Ranger* (CV 61).

25 MARCH • Fighter attack squadrons were redesignated strike fighter squadrons during their transition to F/A-18 Hornets. The VFA designation was retained.

1 APRIL • Naval Air Reserve Units (NARUs) were redesignated Naval Air Reserve (NAR) Alameda, Calif.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Memphis, Tenn.; Norfolk, Va.; North Island, Calif.; Point Mugu, Calif.; and Whidbey Island, Wash.

7 APRIL • Reserve squadrons VF-201 and -202 participated in National Week '83 exercises with the Sixth Fleet. Their F-4N Phantom IIs deployed from NAS Dallas, Texas, to NAS Sigonella, Sicily, via NAS Oceana, Va.; Gander, Newfoundland; Lajes, Azores; and NS Rota, Spain.

1 MAY • RVAW-110 and -120 were redesignated VAW-110 and -120, respectively. Responsible for training sailors in early warning services for future assignment to fleet units, VAW-110 was based at Norfolk, Va., and VAW-120 at NAS Miramar, Calif.

2 MAY • Naval aviator Lt. Leslie E. Provow of VRC-40 became the first woman to be designated a landing signal officer.

6 MAY • HC-4 was established at NAS Sigonella, Sicily. The squadron operated CH-53E Super Stallions and provided vertical on-board delivery for the Sixth Fleet.

23 MAY • An S-3A Viking made the first launch of an EX-50 advanced lightweight torpedo at NATC Patuxent River, Md.

10 JUNE • Lt. Colleen Nevius became the first female naval aviator to graduate from the Naval Test Pilot School, NAS Patuxent River, Md., and be designated a Navy test pilot.

23 JUNE • A British-built airship, Skyship 500, arrived for test and evaluation at NATC Patuxent River, Md. Navy and Coast Guard officials had considered the airship for possible maritime patrol, search and rescue, and geo-survey missions.

1 JULY • Civilian technician Dr. Angelo J. DiMascio was appointed to the newly established position of deputy commander, bringing a new alignment to NAVAIR headquarters.



In 1983, Lt. Colleen Nevius becomes the first female naval aviator to graduate from the Naval Test Pilot School and be designated a Navy test pilot. She began her naval aviation career in 1977 and retired as a captain.

6 JULY • A Marine CH-53E flew coast-to-coast in a 15-hour flight from Patuxent River, Md., to MCAS Tustin, Calif. Marine KC-130s refueled the Super Stallion four times.

18 JULY • U.S. concerns over the threat posed by expansion of the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua led to the diversion of *Ranger* (CV 61) from her intended deployment to the Indian Ocean to the vicinity of Central America through 12 August. On 16 August, *Coral Sea* (CV 43) arrived in the area, followed ten days later by battleship *New Jersey* (BB 62). In mid-September, these vessels departed the region.

20 JULY • Through 28 July, P-3 Orions directed merchant ships to the rescue of 80 Vietnamese refugees in the western Pacific, while cruiser *Sterett* (CG 31) and destroyer *Callaghan* (DDG 994) rescued 262 and 284 others, respectively.

23 JULY • The National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, enshrined the Navy's only World War I ace, David S.

Ingalls. He was honored for his service during that war, in the Naval Air Transport Service during World War II, and for his postwar role in commercial aviation.

1 AUGUST • A Marine OV-10A landed on board the flight deck of amphibious assault ship *Nassau* (LHA 4). The event marked the first time that a Bronco landed on an LHA, and the recovery opened up the possibility of a future role for OV-10As in amphibious operations.

1 AUGUST • Following Libyan aggression against Chad, aircraft from *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) operated over the Gulf of Sidra. In addition, the Navy delayed the departure of *Coral Sea* (CV 43) from the Mediterranean because of uncertainty over the situation.

25 AUGUST • The Navy accepted a production prototype of the P3-C Update III. The Orion was flown for test and evaluation by VX-1 to NATC Patuxent River, Md. Planners anticipated that it would be twice as effective in submarine detection as the Update II because of the increased effectiveness of its acoustic processing system owing to state-of-the-art computer integration equipment, an improved infrared detection system, Harpoon air-to-surface missile capabilities, and its ability to carry a variety of other weapons.

26 AUGUST • In reaction to increased terrorist attacks against Marines deployed as peacekeepers in Lebanon, the Navy dispatched *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) to render assistance. Those trapped within the devastated city could see the ship as she arrived off Beirut, bringing respite to the Marines and civilians ashore. During the following days, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* aircraft flew 39 reconnaissance missions over Lebanon to identify frequently shifting artillery batteries that fired sporadically at peacekeepers.

29 AUGUST • The first flight of a production model AV-8B Harrier II was made at the McDonnell Douglas plant, St. Louis, Mo.

30 AUGUST • Space shuttle *Challenger* launched on mission STS-8 from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., and returned on 5 September to Edwards AFB, Calif. One of the crewmembers, Lt. Cmdr. Dale A. Gardner, served in naval aviation and became the first naval flight officer in space.

31 AUGUST • A Soviet Sukhoi Su-15 Flagon shot down Korean Air Lines 007, a Boeing 747-230B, west of Sakhalin Island, killing all 269 crewmembers and passengers, including 61 Americans, when the airliner allegedly strayed into Soviet air space. Despite acrimonious allegations between the rival superpowers and repeated Soviet interference with the searchers, P-3C Orions of VP-40 deployed to northern Japan searched for survivors, while the Air Force maintained operational control of the search and rescue.

1 SEPTEMBER • An MH-53E Sea Dragon production prototype made its first flight. The MH version of the CH-53E heavylift helicopter was developed to meet the Navy's needs for airborne mine countermeasures missions that provided tow tension capabilities, longer on-station times, and new digital automatic flight control systems. The Sea Dragons would also augment vertical on-board delivery requirements.

20 SEPTEMBER • An A-7E Corsair II launched the Navy's first AGM-65F IR Maverick air-to-ground missile. The weapon was designed to enhance antiship capabilities and made a direct hit on a destroyer target in its first use.

26 SEPTEMBER • The first takeoffs of F/A-18 Hornets from a ski-jump ramp occurred at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The tests were part of an evaluation of conventional jet aircraft, employing an upward curved ramp to shorten takeoff rolls.

28 SEPTEMBER • HSL-41 received its first production SH-60B Seahawk.

1 OCTOBER • A reorganization of Commander Naval Reserve Force (formerly Chief of Naval Reserve) included a change in which Commander Naval Air Reserve Force reported to Commander Naval Reserve Force instead of to the Chief of Naval Operations. The restructuring was intended to improve command and control of the Reserves and enhance readiness.

1 OCTOBER • The Naval Space Command was established, former astronaut Capt. Richard H. Truly commanding. The new authority consolidated the Navy's space-related activities under one organization, including the Naval Space Surveillance System, Naval Astronautics Group, and activities supporting the Fleet Satellite Communications System.

3 OCTOBER • Ens. Don E. Slone received his wings as a naval flight officer, becoming the first former enlisted man to complete the Enlisted Commissioning Program and the Aviation Officer Candidate School.

4 OCTOBER • *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) received authorization to leave Lebanese waters.

9 OCTOBER • Assassins detonated a bomb amid a South Korean delegation led by President Chun D. Hwan as they prepared to visit the Martyr's Mausoleum, Rangoon, Burma, killing 21 and injuring 48 others. The president escaped, but the bombing caused widespread geopolitical repercussions, and *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) delayed her departure from Korean waters off Pusan (Busan) to perform contingency operations as a demonstration of U.S. support for the South Korean regime.

10 OCTOBER • After an 18 September Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf, *Ranger* (CV 61) had been diverted from Australian port calls and, on this date, arrived in the northern Arabian Sea. *Ranger* fulfilled 122 days of extended tasking in that area as a result of a gap in power projection because of multiple crises.

23 OCTOBER • A suicide bomber identified with the Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement, a group affiliated with Hizballah, drove a truck packed with explosives into a barracks at Beirut International Airport, and detonated its cargo killing 241 servicemembers, mostly Marines from the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit. A second bomber drove a vehicle into the nearby French barracks and killed 56 French paratroopers. On 26 October, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) sailed from Naples, Italy, for the eastern Mediterranean. At various times during the following weeks, *Independence* (CV 62) and *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) rendezvoused with *Dwight D. Eisenhower* for operations off Lebanon. *Independence* had originally been scheduled to relieve *Dwight D. Eisenhower* but responded initially to the onset of Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada.

25 OCTOBER • The United States began Operation Urgent Fury—an invasion of Grenada to reestablish democracy on the embattled Caribbean island. Maurice Bishop, the island's leader, was killed in a power struggle, and Cubans had infiltrated the ensuing power vacuum, arming Marxist



Lieutenant Robert O. Goodman of VA-85, shot down over Beirut, Lebanon, on 4 December 1983, speaks to journalists after his release from Syrian captivity a month later.

rebels. Aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 6 embarked on board *Independence* (CV 62) and amphibious assault ships *Guam* (LPH 9) and *Saipan* (LHA 2) supported the U.S. landings, and a number of shore-based squadrons flew surveillance and support missions.

1 NOVEMBER • A fire broke out in the engine room of *Ranger* (CV 61) as she operated in the Arabian Sea, killing 6 men and injuring 35.

23 NOVEMBER • A modified CH-46 Sea Knight lifted off for its first flight from Boeing Vertol's ramp at Philadelphia, Pa. The helicopter had been fitted with improvements that,

when incorporated in all Navy and Marine Sea Knights, would extend their service lives through the end of the century.

3 DECEMBER • The Syrians fired at two F-14A Tomcats of VF-31, embarked on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), while they flew a reconnaissance mission for peacekeepers over Lebanon. The next day, after additional reconnaissance flights to identify Syrian positions, 16 aircraft from *Independence* (CV 62) and 10 from *John F. Kennedy* bombed artillery and air defense sites east of Beirut despite what VA-85 described as "heavy opposition." A surface-to-air missile shot down Cmdr. Edward K. Andrews of VA-15, embarked on board *Independence*, in an A-7E Corsair II, but he survived. The Syrians also downed Lts. Mark A. Lange and Robert O. Goodman of VA-85, embarked on board *John F. Kennedy*, in an A-6E Intruder, BuNo 152915. Lange died, and the Syrians captured Goodman and took him to Damascus. These actions marked the first Navy fixed-wing aircraft lost to hostile fire since the Vietnam War.

27 DECEMBER • The Secretary of the Navy announced the assignment of the name *Wasp* to LHD-1. *Wasp* was the first of a class of multipurpose amphibious assault ships designed to deploy and land elements of a Marine air and ground task force during an assault, by employing aircraft, air cushion and conventional landing craft, and amphibious vehicles.

1984

4 JANUARY • Lt. Robert O. Goodman of VA-85 was returned to the United States after a month of captivity as a POW in Syria. His A-6E Intruder had been one of the two jets shot down by the Syrians on 4 December 1983, while participating in a retaliatory strike into Lebanon.

10 JANUARY • HC-1 received its first two CH-53Es, becoming the only Navy West Coast squadron to fly Super Stallions. The squadron also continued to operate SH-3G Sea Kings.

12 JANUARY • VMAT-203 received its first AV-8B Harrier II at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.



Capt. Bruce McCandless II becomes the first person to walk untethered in space, as an astronaut of space shuttle *Challenger*, February 1984. His father and grandfather were Medal of Honor recipients.

3 FEBRUARY • Space shuttle *Challenger* launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on mission STS-41B, and on 11 February, landed back at the center—a first for any shuttle. It flew with a crew of five that included naval aviators: its commander, Vance D. Brand, had been a Marine Corps flier for five years, and two Navy officers, Capt. Bruce McCandless II and Cmdr. Robert L. Gibson, also comprised the crew.

13 FEBRUARY • Ens. Michael L. Gierhart of VT-27 made the last instructional flight of a T-28 Trojan, ending the 31-year career of the aircraft as a naval aviator trainer.

12 MARCH • A Beech Aircraft AQM-37 variant target drone attained a speed of Mach 4.2 (2,775 mph) at an altitude of 102,000 feet over the Pacific Missile Test Center Point Mugu, Calif.



The display of the last T-28B Trojan in the Training Command, BuNo 137796, at NAS Anacostia marks the end of an era. Now a memorial near the main gate, it was retired in March 1984.

13 MARCH • In late January, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger had authorized an increase in operations off Central America from 1 February to 31 July to demonstrate U.S. support for El Salvadoran elections, and to deter expansion of the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua. On this date, *America* (CV 66) sailed for several weeks of operations in those waters.

14 MARCH • The last T-28 Trojan in the Training Command, BuNo 137796 of VT-27, departed for display at NAS Anacostia, D.C.

20 MARCH • Lt. Catherine H. Osman piloted an HH-46A Sea Knight on board *Iowa* (BB 61), making her the first female pilot to land a helicopter on a battleship.

21 MARCH • While *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) conducted night operations during Exercise Team Spirit 84-1, she collided with a Soviet Victor I-class sub, tentatively identified as K-314 (610), in the Sea of Japan, 150 miles east of Pohang,

South Korea. The submarine broached the surface ahead of the carrier and failed to display navigation lights. Two SH-3H Sea Kings of HS-2 inspected the unlit submarine through AN/PVS-5A night vision goggles and with sonobuoys without noting serious damage. *Kitty Hawk* sustained minor damage and attempted by flashing light to contact Soviet task force flagship cruiser *Petropavlovsk*, but she did not respond. The Soviet boat received damage that required her to be taken under tow to Vladivostok, Soviet Union.

26 APRIL • The Navy received the first EA-6B Improved Capability (ICAP) II Prowler, BuNo 161776. The service intended to upgrade 15 Expanded Capability (EXCAP) models already serving with the fleet.

28 APRIL • The first master augmentation unit (MAU) was established at NAS Brunswick, Maine. Similar in composition to a Reserve VP squadron, MAUs trained reservists in the same type of aircraft operated by active duty

patrol squadrons, so Reserve crews could rapidly augment those squadrons in emergencies. Squadron augment units, MAU predecessors, were scheduled to consolidate into the MAUs when they established.

8 MAY • During the 73rd annual Aviation Ball, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) Vice Adm. Robert F. Schoultz presented the first aviation supply wings to Vice Adm. Eugene A. Grinstead Jr., SC; Rear Adm. Andrew A. Giordano, SC (Ret.); and Commodore John H. Ruehlin, SC, commanding officer Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, Pa. The establishment of a naval aviation supply officer program and the authorization of a breast insignia for qualifying officers had been planned since 1982.

2 JULY • Reserve Carrier Air Wing (CVWR) 20 concluded its first deployment at sea since 1978, after a week on board *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). This also marked the first time in four years that CVWR-20 had operated as a complete wing as well as the first deployment of A-7E Corsair IIs with a Reserve squadron, VA-203.

21 JULY • The National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, enshrined four individuals including World War II Marine ace Joseph J. Foss. From 9 October 1942 to 25 January 1943 Foss downed 26 Japanese aircraft.

25 JULY • ComPatWingsPac Commodore Oakley E. Osborn accepted the first P-3C Update III from Lockheed at NAS Moffett Field, Calif. VP-31 was to train aviators in the operation of the updated Orions beginning with VP-40, the first fleet operational squadron scheduled to receive the planes.

3 AUGUST • The United States began Operation Intense Look—minesweeping the Gulf of Suez—after a series of mysterious underwater explosions struck 19 ships there and, on 31 July, Islamic terrorists linked to Iran claimed to have laid 190 mines in the gulf and Bab el-Mandeb. Egypt requested international assistance. On 6 August, four RH-53D Sea Stallions of HM-14 embarked on board amphibious transport dock *Shreveport* (LPD 12) for deployment to the Gulf of Suez. Other aircraft from the squadron's detachment and a Super Stallion of HM-12 later augmented the deployment. On 17 August, HM-14 began 22 consecutive days of minehunting operations. The British, French, Italians, and Soviets also participated.

13 SEPTEMBER • A newly configured S-3B made its first flight at Lockheed facilities in Palmdale, Calif. The latest version of the Viking featured improved avionics and weapons systems, including AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missiles.

20 SEPTEMBER • Terrorists detonated a truck bomb at the U.S. Embassy Annex at Awkar near Beirut, Lebanon, killing 20 people including two U.S. servicemembers, and wounding more than 75. Amphibious transport dock *Shreveport* (LPD 12), destroyer *Semmes* (DDG 18), and frigate *John L. Hall* (FFG 32) sailed to the eastern Mediterranean to render assistance. Four RH-53D Sea Stallions of HM-14, embarked on board *Shreveport*, and a CH-53E Super Stallion flew logistical, medical, and embassy staff evacuation missions.

26 SEPTEMBER • The XV-15 tiltrotor aircraft demonstrator completed two weeks of concept tests at NATC, Patuxent River, Md.

2 OCTOBER • The Navy signed a contract to initiate full-scale development of the T-45TS Goshawk jet flight training system by McDonnell Douglas. The system's aircraft—T-45—were to replace the T-2C Buckeye and TA-4J Skyhawk used by the Chief of Naval Air Training in the intermediate and advanced phases of jet flight training.

12 OCTOBER • VF-301's acceptance of its first F-14 marked the introduction of Tomcats into the Naval Air Reserve Force as part of the service's total force defense concept.

28 NOVEMBER • Four months after McDonnell Douglas had announced that it would bear the costs of modifications to correct a fatigue-related problem in the tail area of F/A-18s, Hornet deliveries resumed.

30 NOVEMBER • U.S. Navy chartered oceanographic research ship *Seaward Explorer* broke down and drifted into Cuban waters en route from Haiti to Miami, Fla. The Cubans denied Coast Guard cutter *Reliance* (WMEC 615) permission to enter Cuban territorial waters to tow *Seaward Explorer*, but a Cuban patrol boat would tow her to international waters. A fire erupted on board the research ship that released the towing hawser, which fouled the patrol boat's propellers. *Reliance* rushed in, put out the fire, and towed *Seaward Explorer* to Miami. *Nimitz* (CVN 68) received an emergency

sortie notice while at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I., but the situation was concluded before her arrival.

8 DECEMBER • VA-105 returned from a six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. The squadron's assignment to MAG-12 in the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing initiated the Navy's participation in the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program, and marked the first time that a Navy squadron had served under Marine operational control since World War II.

28 DECEMBER • During the relocation of the field camp of scientific field team S-079, a VXE-6 LC-130 Hercules crashed in the vicinity of Nimrod Glacier, Antarctica, stranding survivors in a crevasse on Starshot Glacier. Within 16 hours, another squadron Hercules rescued the victims under extreme environmental conditions. Sailors later repaired the crashed LC-130 and, on 12 January, flew the plane from the site.

31 DECEMBER • Under a five-year agreement with Cessna Aircraft Company that encompassed a total training concept, the first T-47A for naval flight officer navigation training arrived at the Naval Air Training Command.

1985

7 JANUARY • The Navy selected the F-16N as aggressor surrogate to simulate Soviet tactical aircraft during air-to-air combat training. The purchase of an initial 14 Fighting Falcons from General Dynamics included support material and services.

24 JANUARY • Lt. Cmdr. John Parker of VA-83 piloted an A-7E Corsair II at NWC China Lake, Calif., during the first successful fleet operational squadron firing of an AGM-88A High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile.

30 JANUARY • The AV-8B Harrier II began operational service with VMA-331 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

21 FEBRUARY • F/A-18A Hornets and SH-60B LAMPS helicopters deployed overseas for the first time, with Battle Group Delta headed by *Constellation* (CV 64), to the Seventh Fleet in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean. The

Hornets replaced A-7E Corsair IIs operated by VFA-25 and -113 of Carrier Air Wing 14, making *Constellation* the first carrier to have F/A-18s assigned to her air wing. The Seahawks deployed on board frigate *Crommelin* (FFG 37).

1 MARCH • The undergraduate naval flight officer (NFO) training system upgrade began with the first class training in Cessna T-47A Citations at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

6 MARCH • NAVAIR and United Technologies' Sikorsky Aircraft signed a contract for full-scale development and production options for a carrier-borne version of the SH-60B Seahawk. Designated SH-60F, the variant was to replace the SH-3H Sea King for protection from enemy submarines within a carrier battle group's perimeter.

7 MARCH • After terrorist threats against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) sortied from Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and made for the eastern Mediterranean. Helicopters subsequently evacuated personnel from Beirut to Cyprus.

29 MARCH • The Navy awarded a contract to McDonnell Douglas for development of F/A-18 night attack capabilities. About 750 Hornets were to receive navigational forward-looking infrared pods, television-like heads-up displays, and night-vision goggles for pilots.

1 APRIL • VP-68 completed its move from NAS Patuxent River, Md., to NAF Washington, D.C. (at Andrews AFB). Relocation of the Reserve squadron, which operated P-3B Orions, made room for the JVX test program at Patuxent River and also helped balance base loading at Washington. Planners scheduled the V-22 Osprey—formerly JVX—for testing at the Naval Air Test Center starting in 1988.

12 APRIL • VAQ-133 returned the last fleet EA-6B Expanded Capability (EXCAP) Prowler, BuNo 159585, for Improved Capability (ICAP) II modification at Grumman Aircraft Corp., Long Island, N.Y. VAQ-133 had begun transitioning to ICAP II Prowlers in January 1985.

26 APRIL • David S. Ingalls (Naval Aviator No. 85), the Navy's only World War I ace, died at his home in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, following a stroke. A member of the First Yale Unit before being ordered to the British Royal Flying Corps, he



Twenty-two F-16N Fighting Falcons—modified Air Force F-16s—delivered between 1987 and 1988, were used by Navy adversary squadrons, but all had been retired by 1995.



An F/A-18A of VFA-113 prepares to launch from *Constellation* (CV 64) during the first deployment of Hornets, with CVW-14 to the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, 21 February to 24 August 1985.

served with the Royal Air Force's No. 213 Squadron, located in Bergues, France. Ingalls shot down four enemy planes and one balloon. He later served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aeronautics during the Hoover administration.

30 MAY • The keel was laid for amphibious assault ship *Wasp* (LHD 1) at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss.

14 JUNE • Two Lebanese Shi'a Muslim gunmen hijacked Trans World Airlines Flight 847 from Athens, Greece, and flew the airliner to Beirut, Lebanon. The terrorists murdered SW2 Robert D. Stethem of Navy Underwater Construction Team 1 and held 37 other Americans hostage. *Nimitz* (CVN 68) cancelled a visit to Livorno, Italy, and steamed at flank speed to the eastern Mediterranean, where she conducted contingency operations off the Lebanese coast. On 30 June, the hijackers released the last of the hostages, and on 1 August, after 68 consecutive days at sea, *Nimitz* departed for Egyptian waters.

19 JUNE • The Navy announced the selection of Goshawk as the popular name for T-45A trainers, a part of the T-45 training system (formerly VTXTS) scheduled to replace the T-2C Buckeye and TA-4J Skyhawk operated by the Training Command. Curtiss Aircraft had previously applied the name Goshawk to its F11C-2 and BF2C-1 beginning in 1933.

19 JUNE • A modified C-2A with more powerful engines than those of fleet Greyhounds arrived for three months of flight testing at NATC Patuxent River, Md.

8 JULY • VAW-120—traditionally an E-2C Hawkeye training squadron—received its first upgraded C-2A Greyhounds for the training of replacement sailors. The plane's initial operational capability was achieved on time, after the delivery in October of five Greyhounds to VR-24 at NAS Sigonella, Sicily.



An F/A-18A Hornet, BuNo 161705, fires an AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile over the Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, Calif. The missile entered fleet service in 1993.

15 JULY • The Pacific Missile Test Center successfully demonstrated the maintainability phase of AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) at Point Mugu, Calif. The evaluation for the Navy and Air Force was under the auspices of the Air Force Systems Command, Joint Systems Program Office at Eglin AFB, Fla. The demonstration, repeated several times a day through 17 July, proved it possible to load four AMRAAMs onto the wings of F/A-18 Hornets in less than 15 minutes. The unloading procedures, designed not to exceed four minutes, were completed in an average of two minutes.

29 AUGUST • The Secretary of the Navy announced the decision to homeport *Nimitz* (CVN 68) at Everett, Wash., which was envisioned as a base for up to 15 vessels.

2 SEPTEMBER • Reserve squadron HSL-84 completed a deployment of two detachments on board Reserve frigates, marking the first time that a Reserve LAMPS detachment

remained embarked. While at sea for two weeks beginning on 16 August, Detachment 1 assigned to frigate *Grey* (FF 1054), and Detachment 2 on board *Lang* (FF 1060), operated as part of a five-ship all-Reserve squadron.

3 OCTOBER • Space shuttle *Atlantis* launched on its maiden voyage, mission STS-51J, from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., and on 7 October landed at Edwards AFB, Calif. The crew included naval flight officer Col. David C. Hilmers, USMC (Ret.), during this second shuttle mission dedicated to Department of Defense tasking.

7 OCTOBER • Palestinian terrorists hijacked Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. They alternately threatened and negotiated with Western diplomats and journalists, but subsequently murdered U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer. On 10 October, four of the terrorists attempted to escape on board an Egypt Air Boeing 737 airliner, but four of seven F-14As of VF-74 and -103 launched from *Saratoga* (CV 60) intercepted the aircraft



The prototype S-3B Viking, BuNo 159742, and full scale engineering flight test aircraft, undergoes testing at NATC Patuxent River, Md. It made its first flight on 13 September 1984.

over international waters and directed it to NAS Sigonella, Sicily. KA-6D tankers refueled the Tomcats. Other aircraft that assisted in the interception included E2-C Hawkeyes of VAW-125, EA-6B Prowlers, and an Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker.

13 OCTOBER • *Coral Sea* (CV 43), Capt. Robert H. Ferguson commanding, returned to the Mediterranean for her first Sixth Fleet deployment since 1957. This cruise marked the first deployment of Hornets to the Mediterranean, with VFA-131 and -132.

15 OCTOBER • Research ship *Norton Sound* (AVM 1) fired an RGM/UGM-109B Tomahawk antiship missile from the Pacific Missile Test Center's Sea Test Range off the California coast. The test successfully demonstrated the missile's vertical launch system, as well as its ability to search for, find, and strike a target at sea.

19 OCTOBER • VFA-303, the first Reserve squadron to transition to the F/A-18, received its initial Hornet during ceremonies at NAS Lemoore, Calif. Delivery of the eight jets ended two years of preparation at NAS Alameda, Calif., where the squadron had homeported until its move to Lemoore in 1983 for Hornet training. On 31 October, Lt. Bram B. Arnold of VFA-303 landed on board *Ranger* (CV 61) to become the first Reserve pilot to land a Hornet on board a carrier.

28 OCTOBER • The first prototype model S-3B Viking arrived for developmental test and evaluation at NATC Patuxent River, Md. The operational capability upgraded B configurations included state-of-the-art avionics, a new acoustic processor, electronic support measures system, target imaging radar, AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missiles, and an electronic countermeasures system to counter the threat of sophisticated Soviet submarines, and to enhance the Vikings' multi-mission capabilities.

31 OCTOBER • Chief of Naval Operations Adm. James D. Watkins ordered cuts in deployment schedules to eliminate excessive at-sea periods for ships and aircraft squadrons. The decision was intended to enhance efficient use of the expanded Navy and, at the same time, allow crews more time at home with their families. He announced major turnaround ratios of 2:1 or better, assuring sailors that battle groups would spend a maximum of six months at sea.

9 NOVEMBER • A detachment from VP-66 operating from NS Roosevelt Roads, P.R., participated through 17 November in Operation Hat Trick II—a coordinated operation with the Coast Guard involving general area surveillance and location of vessels suspected of illegal drug trafficking.

23 NOVEMBER • Three Palestinian terrorists of the Abu Nidal Organization hijacked Egypt Air Flight 648, a Boeing 737-266, en route from Athens, Greece, to Cairo, Egypt, and flew it to Malta. *Coral Sea* (CV 43) sailed to the area for contingency purposes. On 25 November, Egyptian commandoes stormed the jet, and 60 of the 98 people on board perished in addition to the terrorists. *Coral Sea* subsequently departed.

13 DECEMBER • VC-10 was tasked to fly cover for a U.S. warship exercising rights of navigation in international waters off the southern coast of Cuba. The squadron's regular mission included air service for Atlantic Fleet ships and aircraft and air defense of Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.



DN-ST-86-08601

The Navy and Marines leased 25 Israeli F-21A Kfirs for adversarial training from 1985 to 1989.

1986

8 JANUARY • Capt. Frederick L. Lewis relieved Capt. Daniel L. Rainey Jr., as Commander Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8 at NAS Oceana, Va. CVW-8 became the first to incorporate the wing commander/deputy commander concept (Super CAG), which provided an improved focus on power projection and enhanced tactical development and strike planning. The system restructured the chain of command and made wing commanders directly responsible to battle group commanders ashore and afloat, and additionally to carrier commanding officers when embarked. As part of the restructuring, CVW-8 was redesignated a major sea command and reported to Commander Carrier Group 8 and additionally to commanding officer *Nimitz* (CVN 68) when embarked.

13 JANUARY • After 20 years and 300,000 hours of service within the naval flight officer program, the T-39 Sabreliner ended its utility as a Navy training aircraft when VT-86 retired its last T-39D, BuNo 150983, at NAS Pensacola, Fla. This aircraft and five of the eight remaining Sabreliners

were sent to Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz. The last two were scheduled for use as VIP transports at other Navy and Marine air stations.

15 JANUARY • VA-27 became the first recipient of the Grampaw Pettibone Trophy during a ceremony at the Officer's Club, Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Commanding officer Cmdr. Joseph P. Sciabarra of the NAS Lemoore, California-based squadron, accepted the award from Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr. Paul Warner, son of the originator of Grampaw Pettibone, had commissioned the trophy for an annual award to the individual or organization that contributed the most toward aviation safety awareness through written communications.

22 JANUARY • Vice President George H. W. Bush was the key participant at the inaugural marking the year-long observance of the 75th anniversary of naval aviation held at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C. Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr. also attended.



Aviation ordnancemen roll Rockeye cluster bombs across the flight deck of *Coral Sea* (CV 43) for use against Libyan targets in the spring of 1986.



A Libyan *Nanuchka II*-class corvette burns after a hit by an AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missile fired by an A-6E Intruder of VA-85, 24 March 1986.

28 JANUARY • At 1138, space shuttle *Challenger* launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on mission STS-51L. Its payload included NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite B and the Spartan 203 satellite. A solid rocket booster seal failed allowing burning gasses to cut into the shuttle's external liquid fuel/oxidizer tank that, 73 seconds after launch, triggered a massive explosion. *Challenger* was destroyed and all seven astronauts on board died: Lt. Col. Francis R. Scobee, USAF, shuttle commander; pilot naval

aviator Cmdr. Michael J. Smith; mission specialists Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka, USAF; Judith A. Resnik; Ronald E. McNair; and payload specialists Capt. Gregory B. Jarvis, USAF; and S. Christa McAuliffe. Smith had graduated from the Naval Academy.

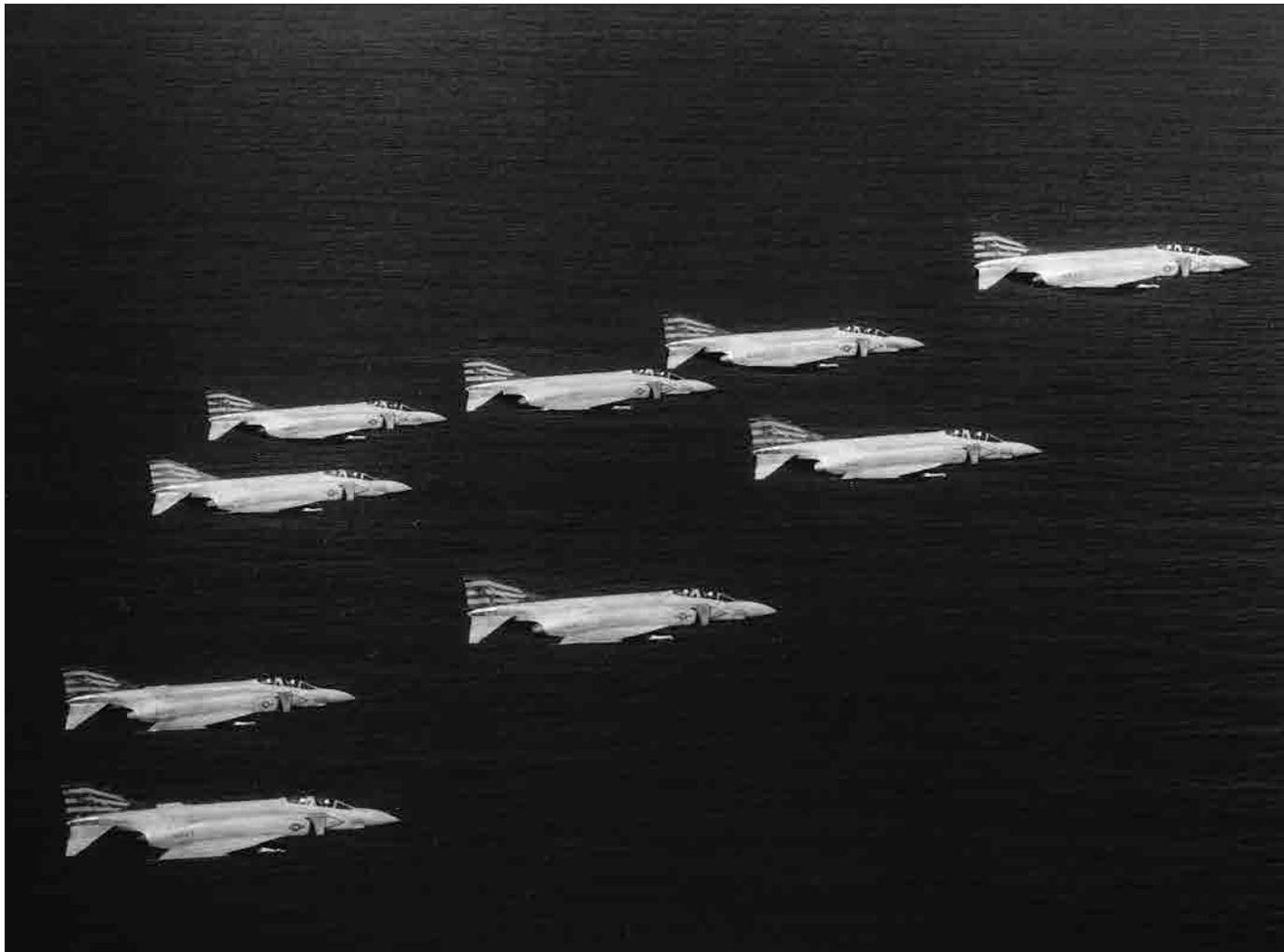
20 FEBRUARY • Rear Adm. Richard H. Truly was appointed the associate administrator of space flight within NASA. Truly had led the Naval Space Command since its establishment in 1983.

10 MARCH • *America* (CV 66) deployed to the Mediterranean. When she returned on 10 September, her voyage marked the first time that a carrier spent not longer than six months overseas as part of an initiative to reduce deployments. *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) later relieved *America*.

18 MARCH • VMFT-401 was established at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., as the second squadron equipped with F-21A Kfirs and the first assigned to the Marine Corps. The squadron provided adversary training support to the Fleet Marine Force and other commands. In March 1985, VF-43 at NAS Oceana, Va., had been the first Navy squadron to receive the Israeli-built fighters.

24 MARCH • After Libyan strongman Col. Muammar al-Qadhafi announced a "line of death" that stretched across the Gulf of Sidra at 32°30'N, the United

States initiated a series of freedom of navigation exercises in the gulf below the line. On this date, Operation Attain Document III (Prairie Fire) began—an armed response to Libyan-sponsored acts of terrorism. Into the following day, Commander Sixth Fleet Vice Adm. Frank B. Kelso II deployed elements of Task Force 60 including *Coral Sea* (CV 43), *Saratoga* (CV 60), and *America* (CV 66), with upward of 250 aircraft and 26 ships and submarines across the line and triggered Libyan action.



The F-4S Phantom IIs of VF-151 cross the eastern Pacific from *Midway* (CVA 41) toward NAS North Island, Calif., during the retirement of the last Phantoms in the fleet, from VF-151 and -161, 24 March 1986.

Libyan SA-2 Guideline and -5 Gammon surface-to-air missiles at Surt fired ineffectively at the Americans. A-6E Intruders of VA-34 and -85 sank La Combattante II G-class missile boat *Waheed* with two AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missiles and Mk 20 Rockeye cluster bombs, marking the first operational use of Harpoons in combat. Additional strikes from VA-85 damaged Nanuchka II-class corvette *Ean Mara* with a Harpoon and Rockeyes, and compelled her to return to Benghazi. Two Intruders of VA-55 attacked but missed a second Nanuchka II-class corvette with Rockeyes, and an Intruder from VA-85 sank it with a Harpoon. Aircraft also damaged a corvette. VAQ-137 co-authored a plan to attack an SA-5 battery at Surt. EA-6B Prowlers flying from the carriers executed the plan using principally electronic warfare capabilities, and VA-81 A-7E Corsair IIs acted as decoys for VA-83 Corsair IIs that

knocked out the battery with AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile. P-3C Orions of VP-56 hunted for Libyan submarines, and amphibious assault ship *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7) acted as the primary casualty receiving/treatment ship. Naval aircraft completed 1,546 sorties, 375 of them south of the line.

25 MARCH • Lts. Alan S. Colegrove and Gregory Blankenship of VF-151 made the final carrier launch of a fleet Phantom II in an F-4S, BuNo 153879, from *Midway* (CV 41) in the East China Sea.

28 MARCH • VFA-106, the Atlantic Fleet Hornet readiness squadron, graduated its first class of replacement pilots. Nine of the ten graduates then served with VFA-137.



An A-6E Intruder, BuNo 155712, of VA-55 returns to *Coral Sea* (CV 43) after a mission over Libya, 29 January 1986. Intruders from VA-34 off *America* (CV 66) joined the fight.

29 MARCH • Lt. Cmdr. Donnie L. Cochran, the first African American member of the Flight Demonstration Squadron, completed his initial performance during the team's air show at Luke AFB, Ariz. Cochran had been selected in September 1985 for the Blue Angels number three position.

14 APRIL • After additional terrorist attacks sponsored by Libyan dictator Col. Muammar al-Qadhafi, the United States launched Operation El Dorado Canyon—attacks against Libyan military targets. Overnight into 15 April, U.S. aircraft struck three target areas near Tripoli: a frogman school at Murat Sidi Bilal, a military zone at Tripoli International Airport, and a command and control building at Bab al-Azziziyah barracks. Jets also bombed the al-Jamahiriyyah barracks and Benina Airfield, both near Benghazi.

F/A-18A Hornets from *Coral Sea* (CV 43) and A-7E Corsair IIs from *America* (CV 66) suppressed Libyan radars electronically and with AGM-88 High-speed Anti-

Radiation Missiles and AGM-45 Shrike air-to-ground missiles. F-14A Tomcats from *America* and Hornets from *Coral Sea* flew fighter support, and A-6E Intruders from VA-34 and -55 conducted low-level bombing. Eighteen USAF F-111F Aardvarks of the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing and four EF-111A Ravens of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing flew a round trip of nearly 6,000 miles from England because of French and Spanish air restrictions.

The attacks struck at least three Ilyushin Il-76 Candids, 14 MiG-23 Floggers, one Fokker F-27 Friendship transport, and two Mil Mi-8 Hip helicopters on the ground, and killed 37 Libyans and wounded 93 more, including some civilians. One bomb also hit the French Embassy. The Libyans shot down one Aardvark killing both crewmembers. Qadhafi ineffectually launched two SS-1 Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles at a Coast Guard long-range navigation station on the island of Lampedusa.



DN-SC-87-03198

A restored PBX-6A Catalina—registered N4NC—takes part in the 75th anniversary of naval aviation with a reenactment flight of the 1919 NC-4 crossing of the Atlantic, May 1986. The aircraft's color scheme is reminiscent of that of the original NC-4 and carries its silhouette on the fin and rudder.

28 APRIL • *Enterprise* (CVN 65) became the first nuclear-powered carrier to pass through the Suez Canal when she steamed from the Red Sea to relieve *Coral Sea* (CV 43) in the Mediterranean.

2 MAY • A Navy board determined the feasibility of blimps for active duty, and later presented recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy for funding. Studies had been completed earlier in 1985 concerning the usefulness of Navy airships to provide airborne early warning capabilities for non-carrier battle groups, with the secondary missions of antisubmarine warfare and search and rescue.

2 MAY • The Navy initiated a contract for co-developers of joint services V-22 Ospreys with Bell Helicopter Textron, Fort Worth, Texas, and Boeing-Vertol Co. Philadelphia, Pa.

5 MAY • Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr. designated 1986 as the Diamond Anniversary of naval

aviation. The planning for the celebration during this year included the recognition of significant historical naval aviation achievements.

5 MAY • As one of the naval aviation 75th anniversary commemorative events, two privately owned PBX Catalinas, one painted with NC-4 colors, made a reenactment flight of the NC-4's 1919 transatlantic crossing. The flight originated from NAS Pensacola, Fla., and followed the original route from NAS Rockaway Beach, N.Y., to Lisbon, Portugal.

27 MAY • After testing with UH-1N Iroquois, SH-3H Sea Kings, SH-60B Seahawks, and TH-57 Sea Rangers, the Navy approved helicopter landing trainer *IX-514* for use by student naval aviators. The craft provided a platform to qualify student helicopter pilots on board a ship before they joined the fleet.



The helicopter landing trainer, *IX-514*, begins operations in April 1986. The former Army yard freight utility craft, *YFU-79*, provided an FFG-7–size landing deck and relieved *Lexington* (AVT 16) of rotary-wing training responsibilities.

1 JUNE • Medium Attack Weapons School Pacific (MAWSPAC), previously composed of sailors from VA-128, was designated as a separate shore command. Fifteen days later, Cmdr. Richard P. Dodd became the first commanding officer of the combat readiness training school at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. The school operated under the operational and administrative control of Commander Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing Pacific Fleet.

6 JUNE • The first naval aviation cadet in 17 years began active duty when Sean D. Farrar was sworn in by his father, Deputy Commander Navy Recruiting Command Capt. Bobby C. Farrar. The program, which allowed people to enter aviation officer candidate school and eventually flight training without a college degree, had been suspended in 1969.

28 JUNE • As a tribute to the 75th anniversary of naval aviation and Glenn H. Curtiss, a week of festivities began at Hammondsport, N.Y. Events included a reenactment of the Navy's first flight of the A-1, and a permanently mounted scale model of the aircraft, which was unveiled on the shore of Keuka Lake on 29 June.

1 JULY • The Helistat, a Piasecki Aircraft Company lighter-than-air craft flight demonstrator designed for use by the Forestry Service, crashed during flight tests at NAEC Lakehurst, N.J. The aircraft was a composite of

fuselages, engines, and main rotors of four SH-34J Seahorses attached to a ZPG-2 airship envelope.

1 JULY • Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman Jr. approved a formal naval airship development program.

5 AUGUST • Cmdr. William F. Headridge, Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth P. Parks, and Lts. Robert E. Smith and Michael J. Quinlan of VAQ-131 performed the first fleet launch of an AGM-88A High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile from an EA-6B Prowler at NWC China Lake, Calif.

18 AUGUST • A modified F/A-18 fired an AIM-120 AMRAAM (Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile) that shot down a QF-86 target flying at low altitude in a high-clutter radar environment. The Hornet flew 890 feet above sea level over the Pacific at Mach .49, and the drone at Mach .68 was 625 feet above the water.

19 AUGUST • *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), with Carrier Air Wing 15 embarked exercised in the Bering Sea, making her the first carrier since World War II to operate in that part of the world. On 5 February 1987, *Carl Vinson* returned to NAS Alameda, Calif.

19 AUGUST • Tests of the close-in approach indicator (CAI) Mod 2, an optical system for landing operations by AV-8B Harrier IIs on board LHAs, began on board amphibious assault ship *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3). The tests ran through 29 August, and again from 6 to 23 October.

1 SEPTEMBER • The initiation of the *Coral Sea* concept—approved by the Secretary of the Navy to provide *Coral Sea* (CV 43) and *Midway* (CV 41) with two squadrons of eight A-6E Intruders each—commenced with VA-65's assignment from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 to CVW-13 on board *Coral Sea*.

5 SEPTEMBER • At Karachi, Pakistan, four Abu Nidal terrorists hijacked Pam Am Flight 73, a Boeing 747-121, en route from Bombay (Mumbai), India, to New York City.



An AV-8B Harrier II demonstrates the type's unique abilities by operating from a road within a heavily wooded area.

Some of the flight crew escaped and the hijackers demanded the release of Palestinian terrorists. *Forrestal* (CV 59) sortied from Naples, Italy, and made for the Tyrrhenian Sea. Pakistani commandoes stormed the airliner and 22 people died in addition to the hijackers and another 150 sustained injuries. *Forrestal* then returned to her original operations.

29 SEPTEMBER • Grumman test pilot Joe Burke completed the maiden flight of an F-14A Plus during engine compatibility and flutter tests. He flew the Tomcat to Mach 1.1 at 25,000 feet and a maximum altitude of 35,000 feet. The improved Tomcat's new F110-GE-400 turbofan engines provided approximately 35 percent more thrust than the TF30s in fleet use.

1 OCTOBER • VRF-31 was disestablished at NAS Norfolk, Va., as the Navy's last aircraft ferry squadron. It had been established as VRF-1 and was redesignated in 1957. In 1972, it became the fleet's only ferry squadron with the disestablishment of VRF-32 on the West Coast.

17 OCTOBER • On board *America* (CV 66), Lt. Cmdr. Barry D. Gabler of VFP-206, the Navy's last photoreconnaissance squadron, made the final catapult takeoff and carrier landing of an F-8 Crusader.

20 OCTOBER • ALNAV message 202001Z Oct authorized naval aviation sailors and Marines to wear brown shoes and khaki socks with summer khaki uniforms, effective 1 April 1987. A part of naval aviators' uniforms since 1913, brown shoes had been removed from the uniform regulation on 1 July 1976.

3 NOVEMBER • A VR-57 C-9B Skytrain II flew into Quingdao, China, becoming the first naval aircraft to do so since the Chinese closed the port to the United States in 1949. The flight preceded by two days the visit of three naval ships. Cmdr. A. W. Boyce led the Reserve squadron, which was based at NAS North Island, Calif.

31 DECEMBER • A fire engulfed the Dupont Plaza Hotel and Casino, San Juan, P.R., killing an estimated 98 people and injuring at least 140. Three SH-3G Sea Kings of VC-8 launched on short notice and saved 75 persons stranded on the hotel roof in twilight and darkness, and rescued 24 more when the fire reignited after dusk.

1987

5 JANUARY • The first extended deployment for AV-8B Harrier IIs began when VMA-331 deployed on board *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) for a six-month western Pacific cruise.

6 JANUARY • Reserve Carrier Air Wings 77 and 78 loaned E-2C Hawkeyes to the Customs Service and Coast Guard to bolster their drug enforcement efforts.

12 JANUARY • The airfield at MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., was designated Munn Field in honor of Lt. Gen. John C. Munn, a former assistant commandant of the Marine Corps and the first Marine aviator to command Camp Pendleton.

29 JANUARY • *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) anchored for a four-day visit off Malaga, Spain. Growing tension concerning hostages held by terrorists in Lebanon compelled the Sixth Fleet to cut the carrier's visit short and to dispatch her on a high-speed transit to the eastern Mediterranean. On 2 February, the ship arrived off Lebanon, beginning intermittent dual operations with *Nimitz* (CVN 68). On 17 February, *John F. Kennedy* left the area.

13 FEBRUARY • Ens. Kamin A. Bell of HT-8 at NAS Whiting Field, Fla., became the Navy's first female African American helicopter pilot.

19 FEBRUARY • The Navy's E-6A prototype flew for the first time. The *Hermes*, a militarized version of Boeing's 707-320B, was scheduled to replace the EC-130Q TACAMO in VQ-3 with the Pacific Fleet and VQ-4 with the Atlantic Fleet. These aircraft provided airborne communications links between ballistic missile subs and national command authorities. Flight testing of the new aircraft began on 1 June.

18 MARCH • VF-301 took part in an AIM-54A air-to-air missile launch at the Pacific Missile Test Range Point Mugu, Calif. This marked the first time that a Reserve squadron had used a Phoenix.

19 MARCH • An SH-60F carrier inner zone helicopter made its first flight.

29 MARCH • VFP-206 was disestablished at NAF Washington, D.C., as the Navy's last light photographic



The first E-6A Hermes, BuNo 162782, enters flight testing at Boeing Field in Seattle, Wash. in 1988. The type, later renamed Mercury, entered Navy service in August 1989.

squadron. The action signaled the end of F-8 Crusaders in naval aviation. Some VFP-206 RF-8Gs went into storage at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., one was transferred to the National Air and Space Museum, and the final two provided test support for NAVAIR.

30 MARCH • The Navy conducted the first flight of a BQM-126A target drone at Pacific Missile Test Center Point Mugu, Calif. Designed as lower cost, state-of-the-art replacement targets, the BQM-126As could fly from sea level up to 40,000 feet.

31 MARCH • As part of a reorganization for centralized support of fleet aviation maintenance approved by the Under Secretary of the Navy, NARFs were redesignated naval aviation depots (NADEP), the Naval Aviation Logistics Center became the Naval Aviation Depot Operations Center, and the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Support Office assumed the new title Naval Aviation Maintenance Office.

1 APRIL • HM-12 became the first fleet squadron to receive an MH-53E Sea Dragon.

6 APRIL • The Navy received the first of 26 F-16N Fighting Falcon aggressor jets.

25 APRIL • The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron held its first air show using F/A-18 Hornets.

17 MAY • An Iraqi Dassault F.1EQ-5-200 Mirage fired two AM.39 Exocet air-to-ground missiles into frigate *Stark* (FFG 31) near 26°47'N, 51°55'E, killing 36 sailors plus one missing, and wounding 21. The Iraqis claimed that the attack resulted from mistaken identity. Vessels that aided *Stark* included command ship—former amphibious transport dock—*La Salle* (AGF 3), destroyers *Coontz* (DDG 40), *Conyngham* (DDG 17), and *Waddell* (DDG 24), and frigate *Reid* (FFG 30). An SH-3G Sea King of HC-2 Detachment 2 flew flight surgeon Lt. Cmdr. Terry A. Miller and supplies



A C-20G Gulfstream IV, BuNo 165094, assigned to VR-48 flies from Naval Air Facility, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

to the stricken ship from NSA Bahrain, and then searched unsuccessfully for survivors in the water. *Conyngham* towed *Stark* to Bahrain.

18 MAY • Oscar 13—a satellite designed to function as part of the Navy’s Transit Satellite Navigation System—became the oldest active U.S. satellite when it celebrated its 20th year of service.

22 MAY • Marine Corps Aviation celebrated its 75th anniversary. On 22 May 1912, 1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham, USMC, had reported for “duty in connection with aviation” to an aviation camp at Annapolis, Md.

JUNE • NASA selected Lt. Cmdr. Bruce E. Melnick, USCG, as the first Coast Guard astronaut. He subsequently completed two space shuttle flights.

5 JUNE • The Navy awarded a contract to Westinghouse Airship Industries to build a prototype airship as an airborne early warning and communications platform. The Navy had terminated its lighter-than-air program in 1961 and ceased operation of its last airship the next year.

22 JUNE • Fleet Logistics Support Wing Detachment, NAF Washington, D.C., received its first C-20D Gulfstream IV.

26 JUNE • A night attack equipped AV-8B Harrier II conducted its maiden flight at the McDonnell Douglas St. Louis, Mo., facility. Operational tests and evaluation of the aircraft continued later that summer. The upgrade greatly expanded the operational envelope of Harrier IIs by using state-of-the-art navigation equipment and night-vision devices.

30 JUNE • The Navy received its first SH-60F carrier inner zone helicopter. Operational tests and evaluation of the aircraft began in December.

30 JUNE • A VX-5 A-6E conducted the first successful firing of an AGM-88A High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile from an Intruder. This marked the first in a series of missile launches planned to test the A-6E System Weapons Integration Program configuration. This also allowed Intruders to carry AGM-65 Maverick and AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missiles, which increased the stockpile of standoff weapons for carrier air wings.



The RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle is based on the Israeli-designed Mastiff drone. The American version served with both the Navy and Marines.

6 JULY • SH-2F Seasprites and SH-60B Seahawks deployed for special Middle East Force duties were modified with additional defensive equipment such as M-60 machine guns, special countermeasures, and infrared electronic devices.

10 JULY • The Navy awarded a contract to Boeing to upgrade a P-3 Orion to an Update IV version, which was to include an advanced avionics suite to address the problems that newer, quieter submarines posed.

14 JULY • VAQ-131 on board *Ranger* (CV 61) began the first Pacific Fleet deployment of EA-6B Prowlers equipped with AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missiles.

15 JULY • Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet initiated extensive modifications to LAMPS Mk I and Mk III helicopters to increase their survivability and surface surveillance capabilities during Persian Gulf operations.

25 JULY • The National Aviation Hall of Fame, Dayton, Ohio, enshrined naval aviator Adm. Thomas H. Moorer.

27 JULY • For some time, the Iranians had laid mines that imperiled international shipping in the Persian Gulf. To

combat this, on this date, HM-14 received tasking for rapid deployment to the region and three days later departed with eight RH-53D Sea Stallions. Eight USAF Lockheed C-5A Galaxies and two Lockheed C-141A Starlifters from Travis AFB, Calif., carried some men and gear to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. The sailors reassembled and embarked on board amphibious assault ship *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7), which had sailed with the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit. HM-14 conducted minesweeping and hunting operations in the Persian Gulf until six minesweepers relieved the squadron.

1 AUGUST • To counter the emerging threat that lasers presented, the Pacific Fleet began to distribute laser eye protection devices to its aviation commands.

1 AUGUST • Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet began support of an average of five to seven LAMPS helicopter detachments operating on convoy duty in the Persian Gulf.

10 AUGUST • The first of four new P-3 Orion weapons systems trainers (2F140) arrived at NAS Moffett Field, Calif. These provided state-of-the-art capabilities for antisubmarine warfare crew training.



The Marine's AH-1-4BW Supercobra begins testing its new four-bladed rotor with VX-5 in January 1989. Originally an AH-1T Sea Cobra that became the prototype AH-1W, BuNo 161022 later also became the prototype AH-1Z.

21 AUGUST • Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet Vice Adm. James E. Service retired, relinquishing his Gray Eagle title to Commanding General Marine Corps Development and Education Command Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen at Quantico, Va. Petersen, the first African American aviator in the Marine Corps, had been designated a naval aviator in October 1952. He was the first African American to receive the Gray Eagle.

10 SEPTEMBER • VC-6 Detachment 1, Lt. Cmdr. Wayne T. Moore officer in charge, deployed on board *Iowa* (BB 61) with an RQ-2A Pioneer RPV (remotely piloted vehicle). This began battleship-operated RPVs (later redesignated unmanned aerial vehicle or UAV) that provided independent reconnaissance and naval gunfire support capabilities. During operations ranging from the area off Puerto Rico to the Norwegian Sea, Mediterranean, north Arabian Sea, and Persian Gulf, the Pioneer identified ships, enhanced threat assessments, and greatly reduced the number of rounds that the battleship required to destroy simulated targets. In 1987, the Pioneer made 54 flights, continuing operations into the New Year. On 10 March 1988, *Iowa* returned to NS Norfolk, Va.

19 SEPTEMBER • *Wasp* (LHD 1) was christened.

21 SEPTEMBER • The Navy received its first F/A-18C. The upgraded Hornets included AIM-120 AMRAAM (advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles) and infrared imaging AGM-65 Maverick air-to-ground missiles.

29 SEPTEMBER • *Coral Sea* (CV 43) sailed for a Mediterranean cruise while operating under a new plan called the *Coral Sea* concept. The two attack squadrons on board relied on a shared maintenance concept to streamline the process.

30 SEPTEMBER • *Nassau* (LHA 4) sailed from NS Norfolk, Va. The AV-8Bs from VMA-231 embarked on board the amphibious assault ship, thus beginning the deployment of the first Harrier IIs to the Mediterranean.

8 OCTOBER • HMLA-169 became the first Marine squadron to deploy operationally with the AH-1W when the squadron sailed to the Persian Gulf on board amphibious assault ship *Okinawa* (LPH 3). Super Cobras employed AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-ground and BGM-71 tube-launched, optically tracked, wire command-link (TOW)



The 558th F-14 Tomcat—and the first purpose-built F-14B—BuNo 162910, awaits delivery to the Navy at Grumman's Calverton, N.Y. flight test facility in November 1987. The B-models, originally designated F-14A (Plus), received much needed uprated engines.

anti-tank missiles, AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, and new heads-up displays and bigger engines to increase their ground support capabilities.

16 OCTOBER • The Iranians launched a Chinese HY-2G Silkworm (CSS-C-2 Sea Eagle-2) surface-to-surface missile from the al-Fāw Peninsula that damaged reflagged Kuwaiti tanker *Sea Isle City* (renamed from *Umm al Maradex*). Two days later, the Americans began Operation Nimble Archer—retaliation against the Iranian-occupied Rashadat rig, 120 miles east of Bahrain. Gunners on the rig had previously shot at U.S. aircraft. Navy and Marine helicopters supported destroyers *Kidd* (DDG 993), *Hoel* (DDG 13), *John Young* (DD 973), and *Leftwich* (DD 984), when they blasted the platform with gunfire, and as SEALs then searched the rig. The flames started by the bombardment prevented the special operations forces from boarding the complex, but the

Iranians abandoned a third nearby rig, which SEALs boarded and searched.

18 OCTOBER • Battleship *Iowa* (BB 61) recovered an RQ-2A Pioneer remotely piloted vehicle from VC-6 Detachment 1 at night for the first time.

30 OCTOBER • The Navy established the designation C-28A for the Cessna 404 (Titan Ambassador) eight- to ten-passenger, twin-engine planes.

16 NOVEMBER • The service accepted the first production F-14A (Plus) Tomcat.

5 DECEMBER • VP-62 became the first Reserve squadron to transition to P-3C Update III Orions. At times during 1987,

the Naval Air Reserve Force consisted of 52 operational squadrons comprising more than 400 aircraft.

7 DECEMBER • The Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River, Md., received the first of three HH-65A Dolphins on loan from the Coast Guard.

10 DECEMBER • The Navy established the X-31A designation and applied it to the enhanced fighter maneuverability (EFM) technology demonstrator aircraft. The EFM was not planned for production, but to provide significant improvements in fighter aircraft agility during close-in aerial combat, as well as in transonic and supersonic engagements, and in ground-attack applications.

12 DECEMBER • Iranian speedboats sank Cypriot tanker *Pivot* in the Persian Gulf. Destroyer *Chandler* (DDG 996), with an SH-2F Seasprite of HSL-33 Detachment 5 embarked, rescued 11 people from the tanker.

15 DECEMBER • The YEZ-2A designation was established and assigned to the Navy's operational development model airship. The vehicle was to be an organic asset of surface action groups to serve as a fuel-efficient, long-endurance airborne platform for area surveillance and communications, command, and control.

17 DECEMBER • The first fleet S3A Vikings retro-fitted to S-3B configuration entered service with VS-27 at NAS Cecil Field, Fla.

21 DECEMBER • Changes to the Office of Chief of Naval Operations, required by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, resulted in redesignation of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare). On 18 August 1943 this organization had been established as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), and on 15 July 1971 was modified to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare).

21 DECEMBER • The Secretary of the Navy announced the approval of the opening of aircrew assignments to women for the Navy's two shore-based fleet air reconnaissance squadrons flying EP-3 Orions.

25 DECEMBER • An Iranian speedboat attacked South Korean tanker *Hyundai No. 7* with rocket-propelled grenades near Abū Mūsá, 20 miles southwest of Sharjar. Pilot Lt. Neil W. T. Hogg, copilot Lt. Gregory P. Curth, and aircrewmembers AW2 Charles Crissman and AWAN Robert Bauch of HSL-44 Detachment 3, manned an SH-60B operating from frigate *Elrod* (FFG 55), and rescued and flew 11 of the 20 crewmembers to British frigate *Scylla* (F 71). A Westland Lynx HAS.3 from *Scylla* recovered the remaining nine.

1988

11 JANUARY • Col. Gregory Boyington, the top Marine ace of World War II and Medal of Honor recipient, died at age 75. Boyington received credit for destroying 28 Japanese aircraft. On 3 January 1944, he was shot down over Rabaul, and held as a POW for the next 20 months.

17 MARCH • *Vanguard I*—built by the Naval Research Laboratory—the world's longest orbiting man-made satellite and the first to be solar powered, marked its 30th anniversary in space. The satellite had provided information on air density, temperatures, and micrometeorite impact during the nearly seven years its radio transmitter functioned.

11 APRIL • VF-101 at NAS Oceana, Va., accepted the first F-14A (Plus) Tomcat assigned to an operational squadron.

14 APRIL • An Iranian mine damaged frigate *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) in the Persian Gulf. The vessels that assisted included amphibious transport dock *Trenton* (LPD 14). On 18 April, the United States launched Operation Praying Mantis—retaliation against the Iranian-occupied Rakhsh, Salman (Sassan), and Sirri-D (Nassr) oil platforms.

From the north Arabian Sea, *Enterprise* (CVN 65) launched VAW-117 E-2C Hawkeyes that provided airborne early warning, and VAQ-135 EA-6B Prowlers that jammed Iranian radar and fire control systems. P-3C Orions of VP-46 flying from NSA Bahrain took part, and naval aircraft and frigate *Gary* (FFG 51) protected Mobile Sea Bases *Hercules* and *Wimbrown VII*. Four AH-1T Sea Cobras, two UH-1N Iroquois, and two CH-46E Sea Knights of Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force 2-88 supported the assaults.



The first service test T-45A Goshawk trainer, BuNo 162787, the Navy version of the British Aerospace Hawk, is delivered in 1988.

Five Iranian F-4s attempted to intercept a Hawkeye, but four F-14A Tomcats drove them off. The Americans attacked an orbiting Hercules that Iranians had modified to provide targeting data to their Chinese HY-2G Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles, but the plane escaped. Cruiser *Wainwright* (CG 28) and frigates *Bagley* (FF 1069) and *Simpson* (FFG 56) sank missile boat *Joshan* (P 225).

Wainwright fired a Standard SM-2ER surface-to-air missile that damaged an Iranian Phantom II. The Iranian *Sepah-e Pasdaran-e Enqelab-e Islami* (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) dispatched at least seven RL-120-2A Boghammar gunboats from Abū Mūsá against the Mubarak oil field southeast of the United Arab Emirates, damaging an oil rig, British tanker *York Marine*, and U.S.-flagged supply ship *Willi Tide*. Two A-6E Intruders of VA-95 sank one of the Boghammars, and the survivors beached two of the boats on Abū Mūsá. An Intruder damaged Iranian frigate *Sahand* (F 74), and a second Intruder, six A-7E Corsair IIs of VA-22 and -94, and destroyer *Joseph Strauss* (DDG 16) sank *Sahand*. An Intruder disabled frigate *Sabalan* (F 73) with a 500-pound Mk 82 laser-guided bomb.

An AH-1T, manned by pilot Capt. Kenneth W. Hill, USMC, and copilot Capt. Stephen C. Leslie, USMC, of HMLA-167, crashed from undetermined causes. Both



Col. Gregory Boyington is the top Marine ace of World War II. He died in 1988 at the age of 75.



The Americans retaliate against these platforms in Iranian territorial waters, which were used by Iran as bases during attacks on Persian Gulf shipping, during Operation Praying Mantis, 18 April 1988.

Marines posthumously received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Cmdr. Arthur N. Langston, Lt. Cmdrs. James H. Engler and Joseph E. Nortz, and Lt. Robert P. Papadakis of VA-95 also received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

16 APRIL • The maiden flight of a T-45A Goshawk took place at Douglas Aircraft Company, Long Beach, Calif.

6 MAY • A night attack prototype F/A-18D made its first flight at McDonnell Douglas, St. Louis, Mo. Equipped with a new forward looking infrared sensor, the two-seat Hornets were designed to help pilots and naval flight officers navigate and assist in locating, identifying, and attacking ground targets at night.

16 MAY • A production model E-6A Hermes communications aircraft arrived for extensive electromagnetic testing at NATC Patuxent River, Md.

23 MAY • The V-22 Osprey debuted during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter's Arlington, Texas, facility.

14 JUNE • Cmdr. John T. Meister and Lt. Cmdr. Richard D. Jaskot of VA-75, flew the latest Intruder variant, an A-6E SWIP (System Weapons Integration Program), when they launched an AGM-88 High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) and struck a target ship, becoming the first fleet A-6E to do so. Upgrades to the Intruders included the ability to launch HARM, AGM-65 Maverick, and AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missiles.

14 JUNE • During coordinated fleet operations with the Second Fleet, Reserve squadron VP-62 fired the first AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missile from a P-3C Update III Orion and hit its target. The squadron had been selected earlier as the first Reserve patrol squadron to receive the Orions as part of the horizontal integration program at NAS Jacksonville, Fla.



The first V-22 Osprey, BuNo 163911, makes its maiden flight, 19 March 1989. It was a decade before the first production model was delivered to the Marines on 25 May 1999.

2 JULY • As the United States pressed freedom of navigation rights within the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, an Iranian RL-120-2A Boghammar and two Boston Whaler-type armed speedboats fired three rockets at Danish tanker *Karama Maersk*, 20 nautical miles southwest of Abū Mūsá. Frigate *Elmer B. Montgomery* (FF 1082) fired an illumination round and the Iranians fled. The next morning, *Forrestal* (CV 59) sailed into the Gulf of Oman and launched a VAW-122 E-2C Hawkeye, escorted by F-14A Tomcats of VF-11 and -31. Tomcats also flew photoreconnaissance missions over Iranian coastal and island defense sites. *Elmer B. Montgomery* detected up to 13 Iranian speedboats that

approached a Pakistani merchantman. Cruiser *Vincennes* (CG 49) dispatched an HSL-43 SH-60B, designated Oceanlord 25, to investigate the vessels. The Americans also monitored an orbiting Iranian P-3F Orion, and a *Hengam*-class tank landing ship that acted as a mother ship for speedboats. The speedboats fired at—but missed—Oceanlord 25, and the Seahawk returned to *Vincennes*. Four speedboats exchanged fire with *Vincennes*, and in error, the cruiser fired two Standard SM-2 Block II surface-to-air missiles that shot down Iran Air Flight 655, a civilian Airbus A300B2-203, en route from Bandar-e Abbās to Dubai, killing all 290 people on board. *Vincennes* sank two speedboats and possibly damaged a third.

Two to three Iranian F-4D/E Phantom IIs operating from Bandar-e Abbās attempted to lock onto *Vincennes*, but U.S. electronic jamming compelled their retirement. A Soviet Ilyushin Il-38 May observed these operations during a flight from Aden, Yemen.

13 JULY • The Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School was established as a separate command on the same principles as Top Gun and Strike University with emphasis placed on E-2C Hawkeye aircrew warfare training.

22 JULY • VA-304 took delivery of a KA-6D, marking the introduction of Intruders to the Naval Air Reserve. By September 1988, the squadron had three KA-6Ds and two A-6Es.

2 AUGUST • Using installed halon firefighting equipment, *Constellation* (CV 64) successfully fought a severe fire in her main engineering space. This action marked the first use of the system by a carrier in fighting a fire.

5 AUGUST • Dwaine L. Lyon received his wings and was commissioned an ensign, becoming the first NAVCAD to complete the jet strike training pipeline since the reinstatement of the program in 1986. Begun in 1935, it had become an important source of naval aviators until it ended 30 years later. Under the revived NAVCAD, aviation cadets with a minimum of two years of college or its equivalent could undergo flight training as noncommissioned officers.

17 AUGUST • The HH-60H Seahawk made its maiden flight at Sikorsky Aircraft, Stratford, Conn. Derived from the SH-60F, the new variant's primary mission was strike rescue, with secondary tasks involving special warfare missions. The HH-60Hs were the first new aircraft purchased for and operated exclusively by the Naval Air Reserve.

25 AUGUST • A NASA-designed Scout rocket launched two Navy navigation satellites from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. The event marked the culmination of the planned launch program for the Transit system, also known as the Navy Navigation Satellite System, which had begun in 1962. The Navy relied on Transit for precise position information anywhere on the earth and in all weather conditions. The two satellites were launched piggyback style using the Stacked Oscars on the Scout system.

13 SEPTEMBER • *Midway* (CV 41) and *Nimitz* (CVN 68) sailed at times through 2 October off the Korean Peninsula to provide security during the Games of the XXIV Olympiad at Seoul, South Korea.

29 SEPTEMBER • Space shuttle *Discovery* on mission STS-26 launched from John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. On 3 October, it returned to Edwards AFB, Calif. Naval aviators Capt. Frederick H. Hauck and Col. David C. Hilmers, USMC, former naval aviator John M. Lounge, and Col. Richard O. Covey, USAF, and George D. Nelson comprised the crew. Their principal payload included NASA Tracking and Data Relay Satellite 3, which was propelled into orbit after being deployed from *Discovery*. Vice President George H. W. Bush greeted the astronauts upon their return.

30 SEPTEMBER • The Navy's last operational reciprocating-engine aircraft, a C-1A, BuNo 146048, retired from active service and was transferred to the Naval Aviation Museum, NAS Pensacola, Fla. The Trader had provided carrier onboard delivery support from the station for *Lexington* (AVT 16).

1 OCTOBER • HAL-5 was redesignated HCS-5 at NAS Point Mugu, Calif. Established on 1 March 1977 at Point Mugu, the Reserve squadron, commanded by Cmdr. Robert W. Womble, had fulfilled a primary mission of combat search and rescue (strike rescue) and special warfare support. The squadron operated eight HH-1K helicopters that year, which were later replaced with HH-60H Seahawks. On 31 December 2006, HCS-5 was deactivated at NAS North Island, Calif.

3 OCTOBER • The aircraft designation A-12A, denoting a new carrier-based attack aircraft with a two-man crew, was established.

14 OCTOBER • The Navy selected Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Co. to develop a replacement aircraft for P-3C Orions. The new plane—initially designated LRAACA (long-range, air antisubmarine warfare-capable aircraft) and later redesignated P-7A—was to possess new fuel-efficient, modern-technology turboprop engines to boost range and efficiency, increased payload capacity, and improved avionics suites. The program was cancelled on 20 July 1990.

3 NOVEMBER • The Navy's initial AGM-84E Standoff Land Attack Missile (SLAM) was rolled out at McDonnell Douglas' St. Charles, Mo., facility. The weapons were derived from AGM-84 Harpoons for deployment from carrier-based aircraft to allow them to attack land targets and ships from ranges in excess of 60 nautical miles.

10 NOVEMBER • Ens. Joy D. Warner became the first woman to earn her wings through the newly reinstated NAVCAD program. Warner had joined the program in June 1987 and completed her basic flight training with HT-8.

29 NOVEMBER • The Navy transferred a F-4S, BuNo 157307, to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum after its arrival at Dulles International Airport, Va. This jet had seen action in Vietnam and was a MiG killer. On 21 June 1972, pilot Cmdr. Samuel C. Flynn Jr. and radar intercept officer Lt. William H. John of VF-31, flying from *Saratoga* (CV 60), shot down a MiG-21 Fishbed. The museum planned to display the Phantom II in a future Vietnam War exhibit.

31 DECEMBER • The Aviation Officer Continuation Pay program concluded. On 1 January 1989, a new program—Aviation Continuation Pay (ACP)—began, and applied only to pilots and naval flight officers below pay grade O-5. The ACP payment reached up to \$12,000 for each year of contracts if officers agreed to remain on active duty to complete 14 years of continuous service.

1989

4 JANUARY • Two F-14As crewed by pilot Cmdr. Joseph B. Connelly and radar intercept officer (RIO) Cmdr. Leo F. Enwright Jr., and pilot Lt. Herman C. Cook III and RIO Lt. Cmdr. Steven P. Collins of VF-32, embarked with Carrier Air Wing 3 on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), shot down two Libyan MiG-23s. The carrier sailed in routine training exercises off the northeastern tip of the Libyan coast when the two Floggers launched from a field at Al Bumbah and approached the carrier. After repeated attempts to intercept the aggressive Libyans peacefully, the Tomcats fired AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, downing the MiGs over international waters in the central Mediterranean north of Tobruk, Libya.

20 JANUARY • George H. W. Bush (Naval Aviator No. C5907) was inaugurated as the 41st President of the United States.

23 FEBRUARY • The Navy's Mid-InfraRed Advanced Chemical Laser/SeaLite Beam Director (an experimental high-energy laser system) destroyed an MQM-8G Vandal supersonic missile during a test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. This marked the first time that a high-energy laser system had successfully engaged and destroyed a Vandal flying low and fast in a cruise missile profile.

19 MARCH • A V-22 made its first flight at Bell Helicopter Textron's Flight Research Center, Arlington, Texas. In Phase 1 of the flight tests, the Osprey reached a maximum speed of 20 knots and an altitude of 30 feet during a 15-minute flight in the helicopter mode.

31 MARCH • VP-62 completed transition to the P-3C Update III, marking the first time that a Reserve patrol squadron had received the latest state-of-the-art Orions.

3 APRIL • An A-6E modified with a new composite wing made its first flight at Wichita, Kans. Manufactured by Boeing from graphite/epoxy composite materials, the new wing proved stronger than the Intruder's original metal structure.

16 APRIL • VS-30 became the first fleet S-3 Viking squadron to fire an AGM-84 Harpoon air-to-ground missile when a detachment participated in exercise North Star '89 on board *America* (CV 66). The launch resulted in a direct hit on the target.

19 APRIL • While operating in the Caribbean, *Coral Sea* (CV 43) responded to a call for assistance from *Iowa* (BB 61) after an explosion in the battleship's number two gun turret killed 47 crewmembers. The explosive ordnance disposal team from *Coral Sea* removed volatile powder charges from the ship's 16-inch guns and flooded powder magazines. *Coral Sea* also dispatched a surgical team and medical supplies, and SH-3G Sea Kings of VC-8 performed medical evacuations and logistical support to *Iowa*.

15 MAY • H. Lawrence Garrett III was sworn in as the Secretary of the Navy. Garrett was commissioned as a naval

aviation cadet in 1964, and had served as a naval flight officer with VP-50 during the Vietnam War.

22 JUNE • HS-10 accepted the Navy's first SH-60F carrier inner zone helicopter at NAS North Island, Calif. In October, HS-10 became the Navy's only SH-60F Seahawk fleet readiness squadron when it transferred all SH-3 Sea King training to HC-1 and HS-1.

24 JUNE • The initial development freeflight test of an AGM-84E Standoff Land Attack Missile (SLAM) resulted in a direct hit on a simulated surface-to-air missile communication site at San Nicholas Island, Pacific Missile Test Center Range, Calif. An A-6E System Weapons Integration Program Intruder launched the missile, and an F/A-18 Hornet using the Walleye data link for man-in-the-loop control guided the SLAM during its flight.

1 JULY • Associate Administrator for Space Flight, Office of Space Flight, NASA Rear Adm. Richard H. Truly retired from the Navy and was confirmed by Congress as the administrator of NASA. A naval aviator, Truly had been selected as an astronaut in 1965, and received credit for bringing the United States back into an active space program after the space shuttle *Challenger* accident.

1 JULY • The Naval Aviation Museum at NAS Pensacola, Fla., changed its name to the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

8 JULY • HCS-5 accepted its first HH-60H Seahawk strike rescue and special warfare operations helicopters at NAS Point Mugu, Calif.

22 JULY • The National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio, enshrined Adm. Marc A. Mitscher (Naval Aviator No. 33). In 1919, Mitscher commanded flying boat NC-1 during the first airborne transatlantic crossing, and nine years later in a Vought UO-1, made the first takeoff and landing on board *Saratoga* (CV 3). His service during World War II included the commissioning and command of *Hornet* (CV 8), and command of Patrol Wing 2; Fleet Air, Noumea; and elements of the USAAF, Navy, Marine Corps, and Royal New Zealand Air Force contingents. Of particular significance was his command of Task Force 58, the fast carrier task force, during 1944 and 1945.

1 AUGUST • Arab terrorists in Beirut hanged Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, USMC, a member of the UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, and threatened to murder additional hostages they held. *America* (CV 66) departed early from a visit to Singapore and made for the Arabian Sea, and *Coral Sea* (CV 43) steamed from Alexandria, Egypt, to the eastern Mediterranean as a show of force. *Midway* (CV 41) had originally been scheduled to participate in Pacific Exercise-89, but sailed to fill a carrier commitment in the Indian Ocean, where she operated until mid-October.

3 AUGUST • An A-6E Intruder from VA-145 spotted 37 Vietnamese refugees adrift in a barge in heavy seas and monsoon rains in the South China Sea. Eight people had drifted in the barge for ten days, and 29 other refugees from a sinking boat had clambered on board. SH-3H Sea Kings from HS-14, deployed on board *Ranger* (CV 61), assisted in their rescue from the derelict boat's final position 80 miles from NAS Cubi Point, Philippines.

3 AUGUST • VQ-3 took delivery of two E-6As at Seattle, Wash. The arrival of the new strategic communications Hermes aircraft marked the entry into the fleet of the newest generation of TACAMO aircraft.

6 SEPTEMBER • Cruiser *Bunker Hill* (CG 52), with an SH-60B Seahawk of HSL-45 Detachment 7A embarked, rescued 49 Vietnamese refugees in an overcrowded boat 130 nautical miles northeast of Singapore. *Bunker Hill* sank the derelict vessel with gunfire to prevent a navigational hazard, and the following day transferred the people to ammunition ship *Kilauea* (T-AE 26) for transportation to a resettlement center.

7 SEPTEMBER • An NS-3A modified as the aerodynamic prototype of an ES-3A Shadow made its first flight. Sixteen ES-3As eventually replaced EA-3B Skywarriors in fleet air reconnaissance squadrons.

12 SEPTEMBER • The Coast Guard retired its last HH-52A. Sea Guard helicopters had served more than 26 years as the Coast Guard's primary short-range, search and rescue aircraft, and were replaced by Aerospatiale HH-65A Dolphins.

14 SEPTEMBER • The first HH-60J medium-range, search and rescue helicopters were rolled out in Stratford, Conn. The Jayhawks replaced HH-3Fs in Coast Guard service.

14 SEPTEMBER • A V-22 made its first flight in full airplane mode. The Osprey was airborne for about one hour over Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility.

14 SEPTEMBER • The Aircrew Common Ejection Seat successfully completed a 600-knot dual ejection from an F-14D Tomcat test sled at China Lake, Calif.

17 SEPTEMBER • *Enterprise* (CVN 65) deployed from NAS Alameda, Calif., for World Cruise 89–90. On 16 March 1990, the ship concluded her global circumnavigation at NS Norfolk, Va.

17 SEPTEMBER • Responding to the destruction caused in the Caribbean by Hurricane Hugo, a number of Navy and Marine Corps squadrons under the direction of Commander Fleet Air Caribbean, including HC-2 Detachment 6, VC-8, and VP-93, flew needed supplies to Puerto Rico and evacuated seriously injured people to hospitals. Commands that responded included eight CH-53E Super Stallions, two KC-130s, and dock landing ships *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), *Pensacola* (LSD 38), and *Whidbey Island* (LSD 41).

22 SEPTEMBER • VMFT-401 transferred its last F-21A Kfir, marking the retirement from U.S. naval aviation of these Israeli-built fighters that had been used as aggressor aircraft.

30 SEPTEMBER • VAK-208 was disestablished as the last Navy squadron dedicated solely to aerial refueling. Assigned to Reserve Carrier Air Wing 20, the squadron had provided aerial refueling and pathfinder support since its establishment in July 1970 as VAQ-208. On 1 October 1979, it had been redesignated VAK-208. VA-304 and -205, transitioning to A-6E and KA-6Ds, assumed Reserve carrier air wing aerial refueling responsibilities.

1 OCTOBER • Reserve squadron HAL-4, the last naval gunship squadron, was redesignated HCS-4, with an added mission of strike rescue.

3 OCTOBER • Through 5 October, frigates *Wadsworth* (FFG 9), *Duncan* (FFG 10), *Lewis B. Puller* (FFG 23), and

Mahlon S. Tisdale (FFG 27), withdrew from an exercise in the North Pacific and rescued 20 crewmembers from stricken South Korean merchantman *Pan Dynasty* south of Attu, Aleutians.

17 OCTOBER • An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale devastated northern California killing 62 people. HM-15 Detachment 3, HC-1, and HC-11 Detachment 3 conducted lifts of food, water, and relief materials to the heavily damaged areas from ammunition ship *Flint* (AE 32) and fast combat support ship *Kansas City* (AOE 3). Amphibious assault ship *Peleliu* (LHA 5) provided food and shelter to 300 homeless earthquake victims.

29 OCTOBER • A developmental prototype of the advanced capability version of the EA-6B Prowler made its first flight.

29 OCTOBER • Student aviator Ens. Steven E. Pontell of VT-19 crashed in a T-2C Buckeye onto the flight deck of *Lexington* (AVT 16) during carrier qualifications in the Gulf of Mexico. The accident killed Pontell, ABM3s Timmy L. Garrouette and Burnett Kilgore Jr., and AN Lisa L. Mayo of the ship's company, together with contractor Byron G. Courvelle, and injured 15 people.

30 OCTOBER • An F/A-18A Hornet operating from *Midway* (CV 41) accidentally dropped a 500-pound bomb on cruiser *Reeves* (CG 24), which wounded five sailors during a night bombing exercise 32 miles south of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

1 NOVEMBER • NAS Pensacola, Fla., became the last Chief of Naval Air Training command to fully convert to the use of civilian contractors for aircraft maintenance. Sailors in maintenance ratings had normally performed this work, but planners considered that civilians would be more cost-effective.

3 NOVEMBER • The Navy approved the designation VH-60N for the version of Seahawks to be used as executive transports by HMX-1.

6 NOVEMBER • VX-1 set a naval aviation record for flying the longest nonstop, air-refueled flight in an E-6A TACAMO



A Marine F/A-18 Hornet, BuNo 161248, displays an early maximum payload. In addition to four Mk 83 1,000-pound bombs, it carries two AIM-9L Sidewinder missiles, three 315-gallon fuel tanks, an ASQ-173 Laser Spot Tracker on its starboard fuselage station, and an AAS-38 forward looking infrared pod on its port.

aircraft, refueling twice in flight from Air Force Boeing KC-10A Extenders operating from March AFB, Calif.

1 DECEMBER • *Enterprise* (CVN 65) rendezvoused with *Midway* (CV 41) for Operation Classic Resolve—support of Philippine President Corazon Aquino against an attempted Philippine military coup and the potential evacuation of Americans trapped by the fighting. *Enterprise*, *Midway*, and Marine forces operated off Luzon's west coast. The carriers launched E-2C Hawkeyes to provide continuous radar coverage of the Manila Bay area, and to support Air Force F-4 Phantom IIs flying from Clark AFB to deter Filipino

aircraft from taking off and attacking Manila and its environs. After the situation was stabilized, *Midway* returned to Yokosuka, Japan, and *Enterprise* continued her deployment to the Indian Ocean.

2 DECEMBER • VAQ-309 became the first Reserve squadron to operate EA-6Bs when it received Prowlers at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.