

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Patrol Association

2013: Issue 2



In This Issue

2013 Symposium Success - Stories & Photos

Operationally Employing P-8A Poseidon



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women in uniform and all
who have so proudly served.



PLANESIDE

In this Issue

Features:	
<i>Heritage Dinner Honors International Partners & Heroes</i>	4
<i>More than \$7,000 Raised at Annual Golf Tournament</i>	9
<i>5K Runners Raise Scholarship Funds</i>	11
<i>CFT-72: Operationally Employing the P-8A Poseidon</i>	12
Community:	
<i>'War Eagles' Complete Safe for Flight</i>	14
<i>'Pelicans' Strengthen Bonds at LIMA 2013</i>	16
<i>'Tridents' Claim Another Battle "E"</i>	18
<i>'Fighting Tigers' Help in Habitat for Humanity Project</i>	21
<i>'Broadarrows' and 'Red Lancers' Support San Salvador Orphanage</i>	22
<i>Honoring P-2V Neptune LA-9</i>	23
<i>Chapters: Hawaii MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament</i>	24
<i>Upcoming Events & Calendar</i>	27-28
What's New:	29-31



PLANESIDE is a quarterly online newsletter published by the Maritime Patrol Association, Inc. Copyright 2012-2013.



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SYMPOSIUM

Heritage Dinner Honors International Partners & Heroes

The Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) celebrated “International Partnerships” at the annual Heritage Dinner on April 18, 2013 onboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville by welcoming the United States Navy and its foreign allies in the maritime patrol and reconnaissance community to commend each others’ historic pasts and ongoing cooperative relationships.

“The United States and allied maritime aviation partnership spans the better part of the twentieth century,” said distinguished attendee speaker, Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, USN. “Beginning with the U.S. and allied efforts to defeat the German Navy during both World Wars, aviators proved the capability and future shape of the maritime patrol aviation.”

International keynote speaker, Air Commodore Ken B. McCann, the United Kingdom Air Attache in Washington DC, spoke of the close ties between the U.S. and the U.K. military forces from before World War II to present day Afghanistan.

“Throughout this time, both our great countries have been steadfast in the face of adversity, standing shoulder to shoulder and working seamlessly together to defeat our common foes,” said McCann.

In recognition of this international brotherhood, Flight Lieutenant John Cruickshank, VC of the Royal Air Force (RAF), was inducted into the MPA Hall of Honor during the dinner along with two U.S. counterparts, Commander Paul Lloyd Milius and Rear Admiral Thomas D. Davies.

“These three men and their accomplishments are without a doubt and by anyone’s standard, legendary,” said Buck.

Flight Lieutenant John Cruickshank earned the Victoria Cross, the U.K. equivalent to the U.S. Medal of Honor, for his successful action against a German U-boat while on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) patrol on July 17, 1944. As the pilot of a Catalina aircraft, Cruickshank led his crew in the sinking of the submarine while under hostile fire. During the multiple attacks, the navigator/bomb aimer was killed, the second pilot and two other members of the crew were injured and Flying Officer Cruickshank was struck in seventy-two places, receiving two serious wounds in the lungs and ten penetrating wounds in the lower limbs. Refusing medical aid, Cruickshank insisted on taking control of his badly damaged aircraft and in spite of his injuries he gave orders as necessary until the aircraft was safely landed on the water. He was so critically



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injured that he had to be given a blood transfusion before he could be removed from the plane to hospital.

Accepting the Hall of Honor award on behalf of Cruickshank, Squadron Leader Mark Faulds, a visiting RAF member training at Patrol Squadron THIRTY, extended Cruickshank's sincere thanks for the honor. Cruickshank, who trained at NAS Pensacola in the 1940s is now nearing the age of 93 and is the sole surviving recipient of the Victoria Cross from World War II.

"I spoke with John yesterday," said Faulds. "He is 93 and living independently in sheltered housing in Aberdeen, Scotland. He is still as sharp as a tack."

According to Faulds, Cruickshank speaks fondly of the U.S. Navy, and says of his training in Pensacola, "It was one of the highlights of my career, and although it was the first stage of my training, I felt it tremendous value. It made me a good aviator."

On February 27, 1968, Commander Paul Lloyd Milius departed his base at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand (NKP) piloting an OP2E Neptune on an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos for Observation Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN (VO-67). Milius was over his assigned target and delivering ordnance on the target when the aircraft was struck by suspected anti-aircraft artillery. A projectile struck the underside of the aircraft and exploded in the radar well. The avionics technician was struck



Squadron Leader Mark Faulds accepting the Hall of Honor award for Flt Lt John Cruickshank. (left to right) RDML Sean Buck, Faulds, Air Cdre Ken McCann. Photo by AWO2 Braydon Thomas.



CAPT Barney Walsh, USN (Ret.) accepting the Hall of Honor award for CDR Paul Lloyd Milius. (left to right) RDML Sean Buck, Walsh, AXC Roger Arntzen, USN (Ret.) Air Cdre Ken McCann. Photo by AWO2 Braydon Thomas.

by fragments of the projectile and began bleeding profusely. The radar well burst into flames and Milius ordered the crew to bail out and remained in the cockpit as they departed. Seven crewmembers safely exited the aircraft and were subsequently rescued by Search and Rescue forces. Milius was not rescued nor were his remains ever recovered. In 1978, Milius was awarded the Navy Cross and in 1996 the U.S. Navy commissioned the Arleigh Burke destroyer, MILIUS (DDG-69), in his honor. This ship's motto is "Alii Prae Me" which translates to "others before me."

Captain Barney Walsh, USN (Ret.) accepted the award on behalf of the Milius family and held the dinner guests captive recounting the last few moments of the 1968 encounter from his own point of view as the Milius' co-pilot aboard the Neptune.

"I looked up after my chute opened and knew CAPT Milius was at the controls keeping the bird straight and level, allowing the crew to bail out," said Walsh.

Walsh was joined on stage by AXC Roger Arntzen, USN (Ret.), also a former member of VO-67 and Milius' crew that day.

Walsh indicated that some 25 years after the 1968 incident, "We started reassembling our VO-67 personnel and started our squadron reunions which were enabled due to the internet. So that now we have about 180 of the original squadron members brought together in reunions every two years with the next one scheduled for July 2013 in San Diego."

Introducing the newest **MPRF** *honorees*



Rear Admiral
Thomas Davies
United States Navy



Commander
Paul Lloyd Milius
United States Navy



Flight Lieutenant
John Cruickshank
Royal Air Force



For more information, and submit a nomination for 2014, visit:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/hallofhonor

Past Honorees



Captain
Fernald Anderson



Mr. Jay Beasley



Commander
Scott Carpenter



Chief Petty Officer
Carl Creamer



Captain
Arnold J. Isbell



Captain
Norman "Bus" Miller



Admiral
Thomas Moorner



Vice Admiral
Edward Waller



Rear Admiral
Daniel J. Wolkensdorfer

Rear Admiral Thomas D. Davies, USN (Ret.) was a maritime Navy pilot who received the Distinguished Flying Cross during WWII for the sinking of a German U-boat in the South Atlantic. After the war, as a developmental pioneer of the P-2 Neptune he set several aviation records including the longest unrefueled flight, flying a P-2 from Perth, Australia to Columbus, Ohio, over 11,000 miles. For this flight he was given a second Distinguished Flying Cross, this time directly from President Truman. In addition, he was a commanding officer, a diplomat, and an expert and innovator in several scientific fields, including navigation and optics and was the founder and first president of The Foundation for the Promotion of the Art of Navigation. An amazing side note was that as a Midshipman in Annapolis, he recognized the problem the Navy was having with long range gun accuracy and developed an optical site that was utilized by all large caliber U.S. and eventually U.K. naval guns until their retirement from service. His optical site can still be seen on retired battleships.

Rear Admiral Michael Holmes, USN (Ret.) accepted Davies' award on behalf of his family.

More than 200 guests turned out for the Heritage Dinner which included several international contingencies, including personnel from the United Kingdom, Australia and Taiwan. In addition to the guest speakers and Hall of Honor inductions, several U.S. Maritime and Reconnaissance Force personnel were recognized for outstanding achievement in their aviation designations. MPA awards were given to: MPA Pilot of the Year, Lieutenant Jacob Lasota (Patrol Squadron SIXTEEN) and Lieutenant Lawrence Herman (Patrol Squadron NINE); MPA Naval Flight Officer of the Year, Lieutenant Michael Stefens (Patrol Squadron THIRTY) and Lieutenant Sarah Allen (Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE); MPA Enlisted Aircrewman of the Year AWW1 (NAC/AW) Corey Stevenson (Patrol Squadron THIRTY) and AWW1 (NAC/AW) Alfred Lombardo (Special Projects Patrol Squadron TWO).

In conjunction with the Heritage Dinner, MPA coordinated several additional events during the 2013 Symposium April 18-19, including the MPA general members meeting, the MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament, the MPA Scholarship 5K, and flight suit social.

Incorporated less than two years ago, MPA has grown from

wishful thinking to thriving official Florida non-profit corporation. In its first 20 months, MPA: attracted just under 1,000 active members, received over \$65,000 from corporate sponsors, raised over \$9,000 for the MPA Scholarship Fund, entertained hundreds of guests during the annual symposium week, and released several issues of the quarterly newsletter, PLANESIDE.

For more information, visit:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org.



By September Wilkerson
Executive Director, MPA



Aircrewman of the Year, AWW1(NAC/AW) Corey Stevenson (VP-30) with his daughter, Chloe. Photo by AWO2 Braydon Thomas.



Table of memorabilia from the family of AOC Carl Creamer, USN (Ret.). Creamer was a 2011 Hall of Honor inductee, and passed away this past year. He was 92. His widow, son and daughter-in-law attended the heritage dinner in his honor this year.

MPA SCHOLARSHIP

More than \$7,000 Raised at Annual Golf Tournament

At the MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 19, 2013, we were thrilled to raise more than \$7,000 for the MPA Scholarship Fund.

Nearly 200 golfers spent the day fine-tuning their golf game and enjoying the camaraderie of the MPRF community. Players participated in the hole-in-one challenge, long drive, and long putt competitions, and made donations to the scholarship fund by purchasing "mulligans" and raffle tickets.

Our generous scholarship golf sponsors donated funds to the scholarship and goods to our infamous golf "swag bags" making this the most successful fundraising event to date.

In May our first scholarship recipients will be awarded with the \$2,000 in funds raised at the 2012 golf tournament. Facilitated by the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation, MPA is proud to affiliate with other organizations offering college scholarships to dependents of military members from the US Navy's aviation community.

The Foundation is funded solely through private and corporate contributions and has increased its support of Navy families every year since its inception in 1987, \$635,000 to date.

For more information and to apply, please visit:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/scholarship.html
www.wingsoveramerica.us



Congrats to the 2013 winning foursome:
RADM Jon Coleman, CAPT Frank Bryant, CDR Robert McChesney, CDR Robert McChesney

(That is NOT a typo!) ;-)

Pictured below: Lined up and ready for the shot gun start! Fifty foursomes were signed up for the April 19th scholarship golf tournament. Participants checked in and warmed up while enjoying boxed lunches and beverages. Some foursomes showed their spirit with loud outfits and lots of personality. The social afterward included dinner, beverages, a raffle and team awards.



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Waiting to play!



VP-8 foursome (left to right): Drew Gaston, Kevin Patton, Jack Vine, and Pat Frailey.



LT Josh Lowery, LT Jamie Tilden, CAPT Eric Wiese, LT Curtis O'Neal.

MPA SCHOLARSHIP

5K Runners Raise Scholarship Funds

*M*ore than 40 runners competed in the MPA Scholarship 5K on April 19th, and they raised over \$200 for the scholarship fund!

TOP AWARDS: 1st Place Men's Division
LTJG Wesley Kang 21:31

TOP AWARDS: 1st Place Women's Division
Chris Mitchell 23:36

TOP AWARDS: 1st Place Team Division
Tyler Strickland
Carmelo Sanchez
Michael Fling
Steven Smith
(Average time: 27:34)



Team VP-10 came out in full force! (left to right): Liz Johnston, Shelley Willard, Chris Mitchell, Ann Marie Fredland, and Jessica Salmon (VP-45).



mpa SCHOLARSHIP
2013

Taking off for college?

★ **This application is for you.** ★

We're looking to propel a couple of promising students into their future with some extra funds to foot the college bill. If you are the dependent of Navy personnel who currently or formerly served in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community, we just might be your wingman.

For more details, eligibility requirements, and to apply, visit:

www.wingsoveramerica.us/scholarships/administered-scholarships/

Wings Over America (WOA) administers the Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) scholarship. Applicants who are eligible for the MPA scholarship will also be considered for available WOA scholarships. Application for the 2014 award year will open in October 2013.



CTF-72

Operationally Employing the P-8A Poseidon

As most are aware, later this year, the VP-16 War Eagles will go wheels up, set course for the Western Pacific, and begin their inaugural P-8A Poseidon deployment. Just getting to that point will be the result of a fantastic, unprecedented body of work by the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community. At that point, the CTF-72 staff will take the P-8A baton from CPRG and CPRW-11 and begin to maximize the operational employment of this great capability.

Our preparation for this deployment remains exhaustive. CTF-72 is conducting a complete renovation of our processes, making sure that everything we do with respect to P-3C and P-8A operations has a clear line towards mission accomplishment in both peacetime and in war. Command and Control (C2) is becoming more streamlined. Commander's intent and expectations are being refined. Our goal as a staff is to provide supported commanders and international partners a tactically and operationally complete onstation product that meets or exceeds expectations every single day.

Part of this preparation is ensuring we have the right facilities in place to support P-8A's arrival. Because P-8A will not be a form-fit replacement of P-3C capabilities, it's important that both aircraft continue to operate side-by-side from forward operating sites until we are an all-P-8A force. This will be harder because traditional maintenance efficiencies will be lost as we introduce a new Type/Model/Series to Kadena. The CTF-72 staff has worked carefully with the Kadena Site Activation Working Group and Commander, Fleet Activities Okinawa to identify the additional beds, spaces, furniture, logistics and IT infrastructure necessary to fully support 24/7 operations. These facilities will be a solid placeholder until the new hangar and Tactical Operations Center (TOC) are complete in late 2015/early 2016.

Having the right foundation in place will allow us to create the conditions for consistent onstation success. Later this summer, CTF-72 will have the opportunity to provide a deployment concept of operations to Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet (C7F). In doing so, we'll identify three areas that will help define our success.



First, to C7F supported commanders, CTF-72 operations will only get better with P-8A. Leveraging higher airframe and mission systems reliability, our ability to rapidly and continuously support the full spectrum of C7F operations will improve when VP-16 deploys.

Second, to our international partners, CTF-72 interoperability should remain the same with P-8A. While we all remain excited about better-integrated INMARSAT and Link-16 capability, it's critically important that we retain the core Link-11 based Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW) interoperability we currently enjoy with our allied and friendly maritime patrol aviation forces.

Last, P-8A needs to maintain P-3C's expeditionary core. The aircraft needs to detach and excel during events spanning from Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief op-

erations; to Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) engagements; and to larger-scale ASW events and exercises. Our operational planners will work closely with VP-16, TOC Kadena, and MTOC 1 to ensure we have the right detachment concept of operations in place. Based on our efforts thus far; our ongoing dialogue with CPRG, CPRW-10, CPRW-11, VP-30, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School, VP-16 and VP-46; and our collective experiences from P-8A's visits to SEVENTH Fleet last year, we are confident we have put the right pieces in place to ensure a successful first deployment. I look forward to reporting back on the War Eagle accomplishments.



By RDML M.J. Carter

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 7th Fleet

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 5th Fleet

Commander, Fleet Air Forward

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WE NEED YOU!

MPA is looking for some potential Board members.

Per the MPA bylaws, we will be electing 3 new board members in May 2013. Nominations for that election will be collected at the MPA General Members Meeting (April 18, 2013) and online via member email communication.

Nominees will be notified and online voting will take place in late May 2013.

Nominees should be current MPA members in good standing and be willing to help make decisions about MPA via board meeting and electronic communications.

Interested? Please email us your bio/resume no later than May 15, 2013 to:
info@maritimepatrolassociation.org

COMMUNITY

'War Eagles' Complete Safe for Flight

On Jan. 30, VP-16 ceremoniously commemorated the completion of their transition from the P-3C Orion – and to make history as the first operational squadron to fly the P-8A Poseidon.

The last time the maritime patrol community held a similar ceremony was in 1962, when the “Tigers” of VP-8 accepted the first P-3A Orion.

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group (CPRG) Rear Adm. Sean Buck was present to offer the “War Eagles” his congratulations and his vision for the future of the community in times much different than those 50 years ago.

Also in attendance were Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven (CPRW-11) Capt. Eric Wiese, VP-30 Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Stevens, Officer in Charge, Fleet Integration Team Cmdr. Andrew Miller, as well as Boeing Site Activation Lead Max Norgart and other representatives from Boeing.

Parked just outside NAS Jax Hangar 511 during the ceremony was VP-16's very own P-8A, side number 429, just recently painted with the new War Eagles tail flash and sporting the squadron designator “LF”.

After presenting special commemorative coins to all hands via representatives of each of the 12 transition combat aircrews and the lead petty officer of each of the maintenance shops, Buck spoke to squadron personnel. He congratulated them on a successful final deployment in the P-3C, the completion of the rigorous transition syllabus, and for their outstanding performance during their recent safe for flight inspection.

Buck also thanked VP-30 for their steadfast work in training the War Eagles over the last six months. After recalling the eight-year history of the development of the Poseidon, Buck explained that it was not yet complete.

“We're still writing the playbook. It's really just the begin-

ning,” commented Buck. The ceremony concluded with Buck presenting the key to Aircraft 429 to VP-16 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Molly Boron.

VP-16 passed a major hurdle Jan.25 with the completion of their ‘safe for flight inspection’ performed by representatives from CPRG and CPRW-11. The inspection focused on the maintenance department, but encompassed a look into the operations of the entire squadron.



Photo by MC2 Gulianna Dunn. VP-16 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Molly Boron receives the key to a P-8A Poseidon from Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Rear Adm. Sean Buck on Jan. 30.



Photo by MC2 Gulianna Dunn. Sailors assigned to VP-16 became the first group to independently operate a P-8A Poseidon for the command.

During the three-day event, all administrative aspects of 41 programs were inspected. The programs ranged from tool control and manpower management to maintenance training and plane captain qualification.

Programs were scored as being on-track, needing more attention (NMA), or off-track. The score given was based on the overall safety, efficiency and effectiveness of each program. Thirty-five of the programs were graded as on-track, and the other six received an NMA, largely due to the infancy of those areas. There were no programs determined to be off-track. One basis for grading programs is a practical, in which a squadron member must demonstrate a particular process of a program.

Fifty-nine practical exercises were performed over the three days with overall outstanding results. In addition, eight different emergency drills were run, including several aircraft mishap drills, a man down first aid drill, and a hazardous material exposure drill. VP-16 successfully and promptly fulfilled all of their duties in response to these situations.

After reviewing the results of the safe for flight inspection, Buck told the War Eagles, “Congratulations for your hard work and dedication. I am confident that you will continue to display the same level of pride and professionalism, and will execute safe operations while maintaining your new aircraft. This historic occasion only happens once in a half century. VP-16 has a solid plan for the P-8A introduction and is ready to execute. Again, congratulations on a job well done.”

After a ceremonial cake cutting to close the event, Buck took a quick opportunity to honor standout aviators and maintenance professionals who excelled during the transition. While to most it was never understood to be a competition, a few select individuals went above and beyond to really embrace the transition training.

Now that VP-16 is in possession of two P-8A aircraft and is qualified to maintain, launch and recover them, they are forging full-speed ahead.

Over the next 10 months, the War Eagles will send all 12 combat aircrews through an Advanced Readiness Program led by the instructors of CPRW-11.

The fleet can expect to see a lot more of the Navy's newest plane while VP-16 personnel train and maintain readiness supporting a wide range of exercises continuing to further develop the tactical employment of the aircraft.

The ultimate goal for the War Eagles is to take six Poseidon aircraft on the first operational P-8A deployment to 7th Fleet at the end of this year.

Accomplishing that feat will not be an easy task, but as the War Eagles have demonstrated in the past six months, there is no task too great.

Boron had this to say to the War Eagles about their performance during this historic transition, “You have every right to be proud of our accomplishment. Thank you for the extra time put into your job, your attention to detail and shining motivation throughout this process. Keep the pack on! Our next challenges lie ahead as we kick off the inter-deployment readiness cycle.”



By LT Amy Crisp, VP-16 PAO

Published in Jax Air News February 6, 2013



Photo by MC2 Gulianna Dunn. The first P-8A Poseidon assigned to VP-16 displays the “War Eagles” logo and tail identification.

COMMUNITY

'Pelicans' Strengthen Bonds at LIMA 2013

The VP-45 "Pelicans" recently displayed their Pelican Pride at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exposition during a recent detachment to Malaysia.

Held on the island of Langkawi, a short distance from Malaysia's northwestern coast, LIMA 2013 offered the opportunity to not only showcase the venerable P-3 Orion in Southeast Asia, but also strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the militaries of Malaysia and the United States.

AWO1 Joshua Turnage summarized the event, "It was truly an honor for us to come here. An invitation to Malaysia to represent the United States is a once in a lifetime event."

The exhibition, which drew more than 160,000 people, displayed aircraft from over 40 countries and allowed the Pelicans to interact with military members and fellow aviators from all over the globe.

While everyone involved agreed there were many highlights

at the air show, the most special moment for the crew occurred when they showed their aircraft to children from a local orphanage.

"We had children at every station talking over the ICS [aircraft communication system] to each other," said AWO2 Emily Simpson, "with all the smiles and giggling, you could definitely tell they were having a blast."

VP-45's Combat Aircrew Seven also interacted with multiple delegations from other countries as well as several VIPs including the United States Ambassador to Malaysia, Paul Jones, and Royal Malaysian Air Force Lt. Gen. Ackbal who presented the Pelicans with a certificate of appreciation for participation in LIMA 2013.

When not hard at work at the air show, the Pelicans were able to explore the island of Langkawi and experience Malaysian culture.

Whether riding the skycab, a cable car system constructed over 2,500 feet high, or relaxing on one of the many beautiful beaches, all the Pelicans can agree that Langkawi earned

its official title of "Jewel of the Kedah." At the end of the five-day expedition, the Pelicans left Lankawi with memories and friendships which will last a lifetime.

At the conclusion of LIMA, the Pelicans flew south to Subang Air Force Base, located near the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur, where they had the opportunity to demonstrate the operability of the P-3 to members of the Royal Malaysian Air force and Navy during a subject matter expert exchange.

Upon their arrival, members of

the crew conducted a symposium with Malaysian military members highlighting such topics as the pilot and naval flight officer training pipeline, maritime ship "rigging" techniques and basic oceanography.

Over the next two days, the Pelicans flew maritime domain assurance flights with Malaysian military riders.

During these flights, the flight crew demonstrated the rigging of several vessels as well as capabilities of the automatic identification mapping camera system.

"In executing these flights, we were able to both demonstrate the P-3 capabilities as well as improve interoperability between our militaries," remarked VP-45 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mike Vitali.

Before departing Kuala Lumpur, crew members were able to get out and experience the capital which included a visit to the Petronas Towers, the highest twin towers in the world. While sad to leave, the Pelicans departed Malaysia confident the friendships they fostered on this detachment.



By Lt. j.g. Joseph Johannes, VP-45 PAO
Published in Jax Air News April 24, 2013



Photo courtesy of VP-45. VP-45 Commanding Officer Mike Vitali graciously accepts a letter of appreciation from Lt. Gen. Ackbal of the Royal Malaysian Air Force during the squadron's recent visit to the country.



Photo courtesy of VP-45. VP-45 aircrew gather with Malaysian military riders after a maritime domain assurance flight.



Photo courtesy of VP-45. LT Christiane Benzing of VP-45 explains her job as a tactical coordinator to several members of the Malaysian Air Force during a flight.



Photo courtesy of VP-45. VP-45 Commanding Officer CDR Mike Vitali shows some Malaysian children from a local orphanage how to use the internal communication system aboard the P-3C Orion aircraft.



Photo courtesy of VP-45. A group of VP-45 "Pelican" aircrew greet a children from a local orphanage who visited the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exposition in Malaysia.

COMMUNITY

'Tridents' Claim Another Battle "E"

The "Tridents" of VP-26 recently added another accomplishment to their 70-year history when they were named the 2012 Naval Air Force Atlantic Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") winner in the VP category.

Since its inception nearly seven decades ago, "Team Trident" has been awarded the Battle "E" award six times.

The Battle "E" recognizes combat readiness and sustained superior performance of a squadron in an operational environment.

VP-26 returned from an arduous U.S. 5th Fleet deployment in June 2012, where Team Trident executed more than 700 combat missions and more than 6,120 mishap-free flight hours in support of operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom – while achieving a 99.5 percent mission completion rate.

According to VP-26 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Erik Thors, Team Trident also recently surpassed 50 years of mishap-free flying, totaling 338,560 hours.

"The guiding principles of pride, professionalism and purpose are the cornerstone of everything we do at VP-26," explained Thors.

"It is with sincere pride that we serve our nation and Navy – and look forward to another seven decades of Trident excellence," he continued.

Grading metrics for attaining the Battle "E" include: operational achievement, training, inspection accomplishments, material and personnel readiness, aviation safety, weapon systems and tactics development, qualification milestones, reenlistment and retention statistics and inspection results. Thor added that VP-26 will display its 2012 Battle "E" award in the squadron's Hall of Heroes.

"It's our way of honoring the many Sailors, chiefs and officers who served, and continue to serve, our great nation as a

member of Team Trident," said Thors.

The Tridents trace their history back to 1943, when the squadron flew the Consolidated PB4Y-1 Liberator, a four-engine, land-based maritime patrol aircraft designed to track and destroy German U-boats.

VP-26 is in the final stages of its 12-month Inter-Deployment Readiness Cycle.

They are currently executing their operational readiness evaluation as they prepare for evaluation by the Fleet NATOPS Evaluation Team before deploying their venerable Lockheed P-3C Orions this summer to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.



By VP-26 Public Affairs

Published in Jax Air News March 20, 2013



Photo by Clark Pierce. VP-26 Flight Engineer AWF1 Andrew Wray checks out the No. 2 Allison T-56 turboprop engine on the P-3C aircraft No. 926.



Photo by Clark Pierce. Two P-3C Orions assigned to VP-26 undergo maintenance and repair procedures in NAS Jax Hangar 511.

COMMUNITY

AWO2 Presented Wings by his Father

VP-5 "Mad Foxes" naval aircrewman AWO2 Chance Passen was pinned with his naval aircrew wings by his father, AWOCS (Ret) Robert Passen during a ceremony on March 5.

Passen was pinned with the wings that both his father and grandfather wore in their Navy careers – continuing a proud family history of service in the maritime patrol and reconnaissance community and to our nation.

The youngest Passen, a native of Pensacola, joined VP-5 a year and a half ago – the same command his father and grandfather once served in.

His father served for 26 years, retiring as the command senior chief of Mobile Tactical Operations Center Three. His commands included VP-17, VP-30, VP-24, TSC Sigonella, Italy, USS Ronald Reagan, Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola, Joint Crew Composite Squadron 1, VP-5, and MTOC-3.

His grandfather flew on a variety of aircraft including the UH-1 Iroquois, C-121 Super Constellation, and P-3 Orion. He retired at VP-5 in 1977.

Passen joins his father as a fully qualified electronic warfare sensor operator on the P-3C Orion and is currently transitioning with VP-5 to the P-8A Poseidon. Electronic warfare operators are responsible for managing the radar, electro-optical camera, and electronic support measures system.

"I am very proud to continue a now three-generation legacy in my family by wearing these wings," Passen commented. "It means so much to me and my father to bring this tradition into a new era by transitioning to the P-8A Poseidon."

VP-5 has been transitioning to the P-8A Poseidon since Jan. 4.



By LTJG Brian O'Bannon, VP-5 Public Affairs

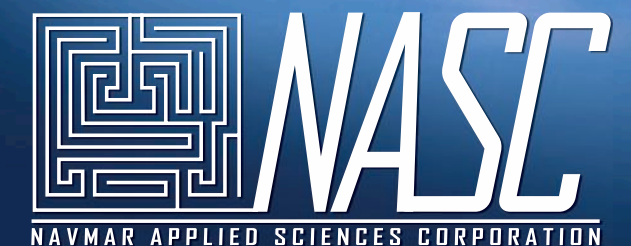
Published in Jax Air News March 20, 2013



Photo by MC3 Douglas Wojciechowski. AWO2 Chance Passen of VP-5 (right) is congratulated by his father, AWOCS (Ret) Robert Passen after presenting his son with his naval aircrew wings during a ceremony on March 5 at NAS Jax Hangar 511.

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COMMUNITY

'Fighting Tigers' Help in Habitat for Humanity Project

The VP-8 "Fighting Tigers" participated in a Clay County Habitat for Humanity community relations project (COMREL) Feb. 21.

According to their website, Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. Today, Habitat for Humanity is a true world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing. Through the work of Habitat, thousands of low-income families have found new hope in the form of affordable housing. Churches, community groups and others have joined together to successfully tackle a significant social problem - decent housing for all.

Eleven Sailors volunteered to help the entity build a three-bedroom home, laying down tar paper and roof panels. The volunteers started early in the morning working as a team to get the job done.

"It feels great and rewarding knowing you are part of a project that is going to benefit and make a difference in a family in need," said LS2 Walter Murillo. "It also helps me appreciate and value more the things that I have."

According to the Clay County Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator Pamela Portridge, the military assistance to the organization is essential to their success. Almost 80 percent of their volunteers come from the military.

The home will be assigned for sale with no interest rate to make the payments affordable for qualifying family.

This is the first of several COMREL projects VP-8 plans to participate in since coming back from deployment last December, leading to a series of future events with different non-profit entities.

"In my opinion, we, in the military are an extremely blessed group of people. Not only is working for others humbling, but also part of our ethos as service members," said AWW2 Mark Willard. "Furthermore, we should strive to be an example for those around us, as we are highly esteemed by the public, youth in particular."

The Jacksonville-based "Fighting Tigers" are currently undergoing deployment readiness workups, in preparation for their upcoming deployment.



By MC2(AW/SW) Pedro Rodriguez, VP-8 Public Affairs
Published in Jax Air News March 6, 2013



Photo by MC2 Pedro Rodriguez. VP-8 members gather after finishing a Clay County Habitat for Humanity project on Feb. 21.

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COMMUNITY

'Broadarrows' and 'Red Lancers' Support San Salvador Orphanage

A VP-62 aircrew arrived at Comalopa, El Salvador at the end of January with several hundred pounds of clothing and toys for a local orphanage. The donations were collected at NAS Jacksonville by members of VP-62 and VP-10 for delivery during a crew turnover mission.

The tradition of bringing gifts for the orphanage began several years ago, as crews rotated in and out of the country conducting counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

"This is something we've been doing for a while," said CWO4 Dan Buechler of VP-10. "It's a wonderful gesture on everyone's part to help out the kids." Members of VP-10 even organized a Christmas party for the orphanage that included an appearance from Santa Claus.

"It's nice to be able to build upon the success of previous VP

squadrons in El Salvador and give back to our host nation," said AWWCS Jason Reimer, a member of VP-62.

Another member said he asked his young children if they wanted to send some toys to children in El Salvador who were orphans. They each picked out a well-loved stuffed animal, kissed them goodbye and said, "go be friends with another little boy or girl."



By VP-62 Public Affairs

Published in Jax Air News February 13, 2013



Photo courtesy of VP-62. AWO2 Michael Cahoe of VP-62 carries a box of toys and blankets from his P-3C Orion aircraft in El Salvador – destined for a local orphanage.

COMMUNITY

Honoring P-2V Neptune LA-9

Members of VP-5 took time to honor their maritime patrol and reconnaissance legacy Jan. 17 by washing the P-2V Neptune on display in NAS Jacksonville's Heritage Park. Through teamwork and initiative, the "Mad Foxes" of VP-5 were able to return the luster to this historic aircraft.

This particular P-2V was assigned to VP-5 at NAS Jacksonville during the 1960s and was placed in the park on Aug. 18, 1993. It is dedicated to the crew of VP-5 aircraft LA 9. It was a P-2V Neptune whose crew disappeared during a routine mission out of Keflavik, Iceland on Jan. 12, 1962. The search went on for a week before calling it off Jan. 19. LA-9 and its crew had vanished – and were declared "lost at sea."

The Neptune's wreckage was eventually discovered Aug. 6, 1966 on Greenland's remote Kronborg glacier. All of the remains were laid to rest in a 2004 ceremony attended by former Mad Foxes who had served with the crew of LA-9.

VP-5 is now beginning its transition from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon.

"It was great to bring so many Mad Foxes come together before we separate into different transition curriculum," commented Lt. j.g. Wes Kang. "Reflecting on our P-2V provided great perspective as we prepare to open a new chapter in our history with P-8A Poseidon."

The P-2V Neptune served between 1945 and 1984 before being replaced by the P-3 Orion. The P-2V is directly responsible for VP-5 obtaining the moniker of Mad Foxes that they use to this day. Before the P-2V, VP-5 was nicknamed the "Blind Foxes," – but due to the Neptune's new magnetic anomaly detector (MAD), they were renamed the "Mad Foxes."



By LTJG Brian O'Bannon, VP-5 Public Affairs

Published in Jax Air News February 6, 2013

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COMMUNITY

Chapters: Hawaii MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament

The first Annual Hawaii MPRA Mini-Symposium was held on the 5th of April in Hangar 104 on Kaneohe Bay.

Operational update briefs were presented by CTF's 57, 67 and 72 and programmatic briefs from PMA-262 and PMA-290. Skippers McDowell (VPU-2), Mattingly (VP-9) and Ellis (VP-47) with XO Erickson (VP-47), LT Dan Ford (CPRW-2) and CAPT Ramsden (CPRW-2) presented community update briefs to the CPRW-2 Ohana. The event lasted 2.5 hours and the briefs were well received by the audience.

After the symposium, the Hawaiian MPRA community reconvened on the Klipper Golf Course for a Golf Outing sponsored by the Maritime Patrol Association. The format was Captain's Choice with mulligans available for a donation to the MPA Scholarship fund. Overall the event raised \$370 for the MPA Scholarship Fund and after 18 holes two teams tied for bragging rights with an impressive round of 54 (18 under par).

The winning teams were Team 4B consisting of James Mullen, Joseph Prather, Pete Dalstrom, and Chris McCall and Team 8B consisting of Dan Collins, Richard Benavides, Jeff Berry and Antoni Valencia.

Following the Golf Outing, the day concluded with an MPA Mixer/Membership Drive open to all MPRA members. This event highlighted the great work and bright future of the MPRA community world-wide...that, coupled with the beautiful atmosphere on Oahu made for an outstanding day!

★ By LCDR Kevin Rice, CPRW-2



Above: CMC William Reed, CMC Bryon Eichelberger, CMDM Kurt Smith, and AWRC Xipetotec Thorngate pause before heading to the 17th Teebox.

Below: LCDR Kevin Rice, LCDR Pat Gegg, LCDR Mark Monahan, and LCDR Dave Browning pause on 13 teebox.



Upcoming Chapter Events

Washington DC Chapter:

CDR Sean Liedman, VP of Region

Join us for MPA Happy Hour on Friday, May 17 from 1600-1900 at Crystal City Sports Pub in Crystal City! 529 South 23rd Street, (2nd floor), Arlington, VA. sean.liedman@navy.mil

Whidbey Island Chapter:

CAPT Steve Deal, VP of Region

Join us for the CPRW-10 MPRF Reunion Events May 16-17: Whidbey MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament, 5K, heritage dinner, family fun day, briefings.

For more information and to register online, visit: www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium/whidbeyregister.html

Or contact LCDR Joe "Tank" Frederick via phone at 360-257-4601 or email at: joseph.s.frederick@navy.mil

Pax River Chapter:

LCDR Chris Artis, VP of Region

Stay tuned for coming events! christopher.artis@navy.mil

Hawaii Chapter:

CAPT Christopher Ramsden, VP of Region

Stay tuned for coming events! christopher.artis@navy.mil

Top: Team 3B (AMC William Bare, AZCS Mike James, AOC Matt Carothers, and AMEC Mike Floate) pause for a group picture on hole #10.

Middle: VPU-2 members including Skipper McDowell (Far Right) enjoy the post golfex MPA membership drive Kalua Pork and Kona Longboard.

Bottom: Taking a break on the 17th Tee Box.



Whidbey MPRF Reunion

May 16-Thursday



MPRF Professional Symposium (0800-1200)

Wing-wide briefings on the incredible MPRF's Family of Systems impact around the world and a historical perspective from our local Heritage groups.

Family Fun Fair (1200-1600) All families of CPRW-10 are invited to enjoy food, fun, games and static displays of local aircraft.



May 17-Friday

Whidbey MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament (0800-1400) \$40 for MPA Members, \$50 for non-MPA Members. \$10 game enhancement package.

MPRF 5K (1500-1600) 5K Fun Run to raise awareness and funds for the MPA Scholarship. \$5.00 Entrance Fee.

Heritage Dinner (1700-1900, NASWI O'Club) Enjoy food, fellowship, Key Note speaker, and awards from the 5K and Golf Tournament. \$50 Dinner include appetizers, salads and two entrees.

****To register, visit www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium/registerwhidbey.html****



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www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/membership.html

COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

Reunion Events

VP-19 "Big Red" Reunion 1946-1991:

May 3-4, 2013 in Las Vegas, NV

Come celebrate the past as well as the rebirth of VP-19 as VUP-19 the first Unmanned Triton Patrol squadron for the Navy!

Info/Register: VP-19 Facebook Page

VP-7 "Black Falcons" and VPB-119/VP-HL-9 "Dragon Patrol Squadron" Reunion 1944 - 1969:

May 5-9, 2013 in Pensacola, FL

Contact: Chief Dick Heintze or Woody Woodruff

Phone: 706-202-7105

Email: heintzer@pohick.org or whw00dy@att.net

Info/Register: <http://beachbumtrolley.com/vp7.htm>

VP-6 Reunion: May 16-19, 2013 in Pensacola, FL

Contact: Steve Ellis

Phone: 706-202-7105

Email: tcomm1@mindspring.com

Info/Register: www.patronsix.com

VP-8 Alumni Association Reunion:

June 3-8, 2013, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton, OH

Contact: Bill Stewart / Carolyn Magee

Phone: 410-661-8377 / 601-731-7600

Email: oldgoat1822@aol.com / cpm38@bellsouth.net

VP-4 Veterans Association Reunion: September 4, 2013,

VICTORIA CITY & BUTCHART GARDENS CRUISE & TOUR

Contact: John Larson

Email: johnlar1@cox.net

Info/Register: www.vp4association.com

VP Association Reunion: September 21, 2013, Weymouth

Elks Hall at 1197 Washington Street in Weymouth, MA

Contact: Bill Hanigan

Email: haniganwilliam@gmail.com

Info/Register: www.vpassociation.org

2013 Patrol Squadrons NW Reunion: September 27-29,

2013, Oak Harbor, WA at the Best Western Hotel

Contact: Edwin Hammond

Email: 67sled@comcast.net

Phone: 360-675-5710

VP-93 14th Annual Fall Muster:

November 1-3, 2013, Selfridge ANGB, Mt. Clemens, MI

Contact: Howard Rundell

Phone: 734-658-7701

Email: g5av8or@aol.com

ANA Patriot Squadron, Boston, MA. This group operates a small naval aviation museum on the site of former NAS South Weymouth called the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A number of members were formerly VP-92 and predecessor reserve patrol squadrons that were based at NAS South Weymouth. The group meets at 11 AM on the last Saturday of the month at the museum and goes out for lunch afterwards. For details see: www.anapatriotsquadron.org.

Get Your Event Listed Here: Have a command ceremony or event, or reunion event that you would like posted in *PlaneSide*?

Email the details to us at:

info@maritimepatrolassociation.org

After your event, be sure to send us a write up and some photos and we will publish those as well!

COMMUNITY

Events Calendar

May

Thursday, May 2
VP-46 Change of Command Ceremony

Friday, May 3
CPRW-11 Flag Nite, hosted by VP-8, Softball Complex at 1600

Thursday, May 9
VP-1 Change of Command Ceremony

Thursday-Friday, May 16-17
CPRW-10 MPRF Reunion Events on board NAS Whidbey Island. For more info, see:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium/register-whidbey.html

Friday, May 17
Washington DC Chapter Happy Hour at Crystal City Sports Pub at 1600.

June

More events coming soon!

July

Saturday, July 13
VP-69 Change of Command Ceremony



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MPA

What's New?

Check out the MPA website for up-to-date community news, member happenings and announcements!

2013 MPA Scholarships!

The first MPA Scholarships will be awarded in May!
Stay tuned for the announcement!

For more information, visit:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/scholarship.html

We need some good candidates!

Interested in joining the MPA Board of Directors? We will be adding three new board members in May. If you are interested in throwing your hat in the ring, email your bio/resume to us no later than May 15 to: info@maritimepatrolassociation.org

Haven't logged on in awhile?

Log-in to our members only area on the Membership page of our website to access the secure member directory and online forums. Also, don't forget to update your contact information in your online profile each time you change locations or positions, or general contact info.

GOT GEAR?

Check out the newest MPA Gear available for sale online by going to the Membership page and Clicking on "Buy MPA Gear!" on the left hand menu.

Questions? Comments?

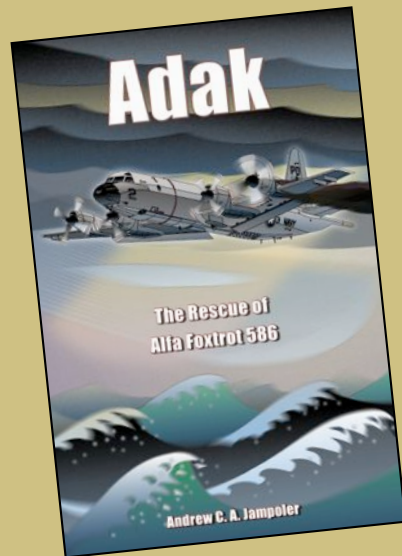
Drop us a line any time at:
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Attention MPA Members,
Command PAOs, and
Corporate PAOs:

We are looking for material to fill
our quarterly newsletters!

To contribute a story, photos or event to
PLANESIDE, please email your materials to:
info@maritimepatrolassociation.org

“Adak, the Rescue of Alfa Foxtrot 586”



The book about VP-9 Crew 6's ditching in a storm off Soviet Kamchatka in 1978, is now available in audio and e-book formats. First published in 2003, and greeted with strong reviews in the Wall Street Journal and on Amazon.com, the award-winning true story is also available in paperback from the publisher, the Naval Institute Press, on line and anywhere books are sold. The author, Andrew Jampoler, commanded Patrol Squadron Nineteen in the 1970s and NAS Moffett Field in the 1980s. He has been writing full time for the past twelve years.

“AF 586 went down with fifteen men on board after a no. 1 prop overspeed on restart morphed into a series of nacelle fires. All but one of the crew escaped the aircraft, and all of those but one (the plane commander) managed to swim to one of the two rafts launched. Ten survived a dreadful night in the rafts to be rescued by a Russian fishing trawler early the next morning. Surprisingly, given that the incident came at the height of the Cold War, the survivors were released a week later to return home. Nine are alive today.”



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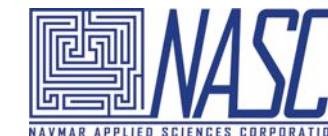
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