

PLANESIDE

The Quarterly Magazine of the Maritime Patrol Association

2017: Issue 4



2017 MPA WHIDBEY ISLAND SYMPOSIUM

In This Issue

2017 Whidbey Island Symposium Recap!

First P-8A Air-to-Air Refuel Flight

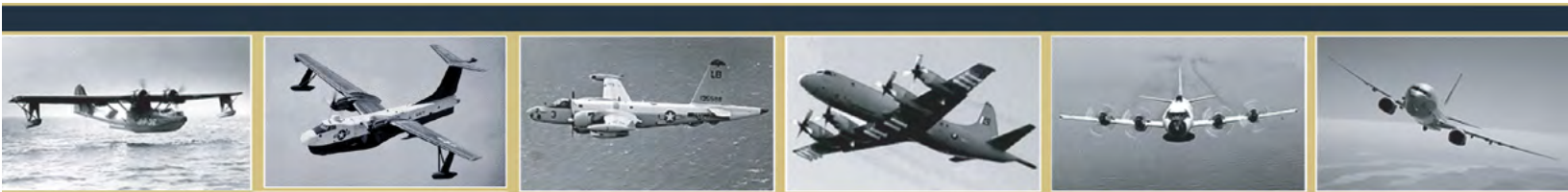
2018 MPA Symposium Dates & Theme Announced

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Cover Photo



The Color Guard from Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) presents the colors at the MPA Whidbey Ball on September 28, 2017 on board NAS Whidbey Island. The flight suit dinner was held in the flightline wash rack and attracted a crowd of more than 200 active duty, retired and civilian guests.



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In this Issue

Features:

Welcome from the President	5
CPRG: Checking On Station	7

In the News:

2017 Whidbey Island Symposium Highlights	10
2018 MPA Symposium Dates & Events	13
Naval Education and Training Command Holds Change of Command	15
VP-30 First P-8A Air-to-Air Refuel Flight	18
Patrol Squadron FIVE Hosts SECNAV in Keflavik, Iceland	19
NAS Jax Assisting Areas Hit by Harvey	20
NAS Jax Continues Assistance Flights to Areas Hit by Hurricanes	22
Royal Air Force Announces New P-8A Squadron Numberplates	24
VP-5 Takes Flight Over Devastated Dominica	27

Community:

VP-9 'Golden Eagles' Complete Final Deployment in the P-3C Orion Aircraft	30
'War Eagles' Return From Deployment	32
'Red Lancers' Showcase Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities	34
VP-26 'Tridents' Home from Okinawa	35
VP-47 Returns to NAS Whidbey Island for Phase III	37
Jacksonville City Council Members Take to the Skies with Mad Foxes	38
VP-16 Participates in Romanian Navy Day	39
U.S. and Royal Malaysian A.F. Strengthen Relationship during SEACAT and MY SMEE Exercises	40
VP-5 Deploys to Sigonella, El Salvador	42
Lithuanian-born Sailor Returns Home While on Detachment	44
Boy Scouts Visit VP-30, ITC	45
Rear Admiral Jones Presents Mad Foxes with Battle "E" Award	47
VP-10 Participates in EAA AirVenture Annual Convention	48
VP-8 'Fighting Tigers' Commemorate 75th Anniversary	49
VP-5 Hosts Florida Baptist Children's Homes of Jacksonville	50
VP-8 Sailors Earn Navy and Marine Association Leadership Award	51
VP-9 Joins Up with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force for a Road Clean Up	52
MTOC Takes Over Flight Operations for Exercise	55
Navy Pilot Competes Against World Athletes	57
VP-4 Brings P-8 to Moffett Field Ahead of Fleet Week	60
Brunswick Naval Museum & Memorial Gardens' Hosts VP-92 Reunion	61
Upcoming Events	63

History, Heritage & Of Interest:

In Memoriam: Rear Admiral Gerald W. "Jerry" MacKay, USN (Ret)	65
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What's New

66



WELCOME

From the President

*M*aritime Patrol Warriors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am thrilled to report the tremendous success of our first ever NAS Whidbey Island Maritime Patrol Association Annual Symposium. On September 27th, we kicked off the festivities with an MPA Flight Suit Social at the NAS Whidbey Island Officers Club. September 28th was a day filled with professional events including a Current Operations Brief, VP Heritage Presentations, P-3C/P-8A Aircraft Tours, P-8A Fleet Training Center Simulator Tours, and an MPA Enlisted and Officer Spouse Symposium. We ended the day in fashion with the Maritime Patrol Association West Coast Ball. Finally, on September 29th, hearty participants ran an MPA Scholarship 5k, and we ended the Symposium with a successful MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament. The symposium was a great success, and I'm proud of everyone who participated and helped make these events happen. Those who took time to attend this historical West Coast Symposium has my sincere gratitude. I would like to especially thank the Heimerle family for making this Symposium a West Coast possibility. My hope is to make this an annual west coast tradition. I encourage you to support this event next year as well.

NAS Whidbey Island recently had two distinguished visitors. These recent visits lead me to one conclusion. The future is bright for MPRF. On September 21st, we celebrated 75 years of NAS Whidbey Island's commissioning. We had the honor of hosting Admiral Bill Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as our guest speaker. Throughout the ceremony, VCNO touched on the importance of the MPA community to NAS Whidbey Island and the US Navy. It was no surprise how much the MPA community has contributed to the last 75 years, and the future is bright for the next 75 years here, as well. It gave me great pleasure to hear the emphasis on the base's commitment to the Navy's newest maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon. These commitments include a new ground control station for the maritime patrol operations that should be complete in three to four years. The ceremony ended with a proclamation from Washington's Governor Jay Inslee, which proclaimed September 21st 2017 as Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Recognition Day in Washington.

On October 17th we had the pleasure of hosting the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Richard V. Spencer. He enjoyed a tour of the P-3C, EP-3 and the P-8A. He was here to grasp an understanding of the base's mission capabilities and a broader understanding of the Boeing production line for our P-8A Poseidon.

Recently, VP-40 along with VP-69 aircrew, maintainers, and support personnel assumed the vigilant watch around the globe. VP-40 departed Whidbey Island in September, flying the P-3C Orion with advanced equipment and capabilities the P-8A will possess in the near future. In October, VP-46 returned safely to their loved ones here in Whidbey Island. Congratulations on a successful six-month deployment.

Our Hawaii squadrons- VP-4, VP-47, and VP-9, have completed their relocation to NAS Whidbey Island. VP-4's sustained superior performance made a presence at the San Francisco Fleet week



CAPT Rob Patrick, USN

October 12th. VP-47 earned their P-8A Safe-for-Flight and completed their first sortie on November 1st. VP-9 returned September 28th from a very successful deployment. I welcome all of you to your new home here at NAS Whidbey Island. CPRW-10 is proud to have you as a part of Team Delemus, and we look forward to continued great success!

Thanks to our legacy platforms and systems, the P-8A has proven itself to be an impressive upgrade and unmatched asset in the MPA community. We are a force to be reckoned with and the future of the P-8A and Triton leave us with endless possibilities. These facts coupled with the unwavering dedication of our sailors give our adversaries significant reason to worry. For my MPRA Warriors, keep striving for excellence and set the maritime standard across the world. Remember, we are the first platform the world calls when there is a problem. As our equipment evolves, we do too, and with your help we will ensure our future remains bright. I have no doubt you will all make the MPA community proud.

All the best and very respectfully,
Rob Patrick
Captain, US Navy
Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN
President, Maritime Patrol Association, Inc. ★

What's In Your Wallet?

During these fiscally constrained times, we are often faced with difficult choices as to what the best use of our dollar, and our time, should be. *Since its inception in 2011, membership in MPA has truly been a incredible value.*

Dollar for dollar, you can't argue with the benefits of membership. A year-long membership at \$35 is more than off-set if you are able to attend the annual symposium events (total member savings in 2015 = \$45). PLUS, the association and its regional chapters (Jacksonville, DC, Patuxent River, Whidbey Island, Hawaii and Norfolk) also hold regularly scheduled FREE member events around the country.

Aside from the monetary benefits, the organization and its more than 1,000 members across the country enjoy a level of comradery anchored in Maritime Patrol history that shares no rival. The association boasts representation that spans the spectrum of pay grades, active and retired, uniformed and civilian, which creates invaluable networking opportunities.

Additionally, MPA has partnered with the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation, which offers college scholarships to dependents of military members from the US Navy's aviation community, and awarded over \$15,000 to a number of outstanding students since 2012.

As time passes and old sea stories of glories past float away in the wind, the Association is a mechanism for the preservation of Maritime Patrol Heritage.

Whether it's the refurbishing of aircraft from a bygone era like the P-2V at NAS Jax or the PBY "Catalina" at NAS Whidbey, members and their dollars are what make it possible. When it comes to money and time well spent, membership in the Maritime Patrol Association stands out as important, beneficial and an *overall outstanding value.*



- 1) Monetary (membership pays for itself after one symposium)
- 2) Camaraderie (Chance to get together in our ever increasingly busy lives)
- 3) Networking (Industry partners are members as well)
- 4) Charity (Chance to make the world you live in better)
- 5) Preserving Maritime Patrol Heritage

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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 2018 award year will open in October 2017.



CPRG

Checking On Station

*M*aritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Warriors, Past and Present,

Admiral Scott Swift's vision for PACFLT is to, "Be where it matters, when it matters to decisively prevail in all contingencies from peace to war."

This warfighter's message is perfectly aligned and reflected in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force's (MPRF) mission and concept of operations. It also explains my focus on increasing "agility" across the entire VP, VQ, and VUP community. The enduring hallmark of Maritime Patrol Aviation (MPA) is that we can and do operate anywhere, anytime with combat ready aircraft and crews. Like our forefathers flying black painted PBVs in WWII, we operate forward every day to engage our adversaries in their backyard before they can get to ours. While it is true the awesome capabilities and over-land success of our P-3s and EP-3s are well documented, we are at our core a maritime force and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) remains our primary mission. ASW is why we exist.

The MPRF is transitioning from the P-3 and EP-3 to the P-8A and Triton MQ-4C. The Golden Eagles of VP-9, the last K-Bay VP squadron, completed their homeport change to Whidbey Island and is the ninth of twelve active duty VP squadrons to transition to P-8A. Moreover, VUP-19 will accept custody of its first Triton MQ-4C this month.

While our new Family of Systems will retain and even improve our already impressive ISR capabilities, the P-8A Poseidon was bought to win the ASW fight and agility is absolutely critical to our success. We must be agile not only in our ability to maneuver our forces to counter today's threat, but we must be agile in the fielding of new capabilities to answer tomorrow's fight. The proliferation and capabilities of new generation submarines among peer and near-peer adversaries is increasing at an alarming rate. The country and Navy rely on the responsiveness and ability of Maritime Patrol Aircraft and crews to maintain the tactical and technical edge to counter this growing threat.

With the significant investment by our Navy to recapitalize the MPRF coupled with the expertise of industry and NAVAIR engineers, we are doing just that.

To most of us I am sure that the resurgence in real-world ASW operations look very much like they did at the height of the Cold War, but they are not. Even though we find ourselves returning to many of the old VP detachment sites, today's submarine threat presents a much tougher problem.

The P-8A is extremely capable ASW platform but it requires significant ground support to mission plan and prepare the



Rear Admiral Trey Wheeler, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group.

aircraft for success. Our TacMobile system, the follow-on to the Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Centers (ASWOCs) and Tactical Support Centers (TSCs) of old, provides the necessary ground support and is a key member of the MPRF Family of Systems.

The Mobile-Tactical Operations Center (MTOC) is the robust expeditionary component of TacMobile that allows us to operate independently for extended periods away from our main deployment hubs. An MTOC provides an incredible capability, but also requires significant logistics support to move from one location to another.

For shorter duration detachments and increased mobility, we worked with industry to deliver a limited capability that can be deployed organically on a P-8. Admiral Swift often comments that in today's operational environment, "If you are not mobile, you are not relevant." That comment absolutely resonates with me - we must improve our operational agility.

To achieve this improvement, TacMobile, together with SPAWAR PMW-750 and industry partners took specific ele-



ments of the MTOC and designed a limited, smaller, mission tailored support package capable of being transported on a P-8A. The smallest portion of an MTOC gear set now includes the scalable option of delivering the P-8A Rapid Response Kit (RRK), which is a limited mobile Command and Control system providing line-of-sight and over the horizon communications for short duration detachments.

In addition to the RRK, MTOC gear sets include the P-8A Fly Away Kit (FAK), which recently deployed as a P-8A portable mission planning and Preflight Insertion Data (PID) system to format media for the P-8A. It also supports post-mission analysis with an embedded Tactical Mission Analysis System (TACMAS) to provide ASW mission replay to validate contacts and provide training. These tools give us the ability to move quickly and appropriately react to the operational situation.

The concept of agility extends itself to the rapid development and Fleet introduction of improved technical capabilities too. From the beginning, P-8A was designed as evolutionary acquisition program to field new capabilities through incremental engineering upgrades. Since its introduction in 2013 the P-8A has evolved to an Increment 2 configuration today and continues to bring improvements with each new lot of production aircraft and software upgrades. However, it is P-8A Increment 3 that will bring truly game changing ASW enhancements.

The new combat systems architecture that is the backbone of P-8A INC 3 will enable us to maintain our warfighting advantage and provide us with greater computing power, flexibility, and agility to rapidly inject future capability upgrades in aircraft and trainers.

But technology alone will not enable us to keep pace with today's ASW threat. Just as was true with our revered "Black Cats," the real strength of the MPRF lies in the resiliency and innovation of our people. Only by leveraging our experience, intellect, and training can we excel in the "art" of ASW. Understanding "Commander's Intent" and applying the concept of "Mission Command" is what sets us apart and empowers even our most junior crews to make sound tactical decisions on station in peace, or war.

We cannot ignore the reality that the enemy has a vote. Better and more advanced technology is always right around the corner; we do not always have the luxury to wait. Until then, Fly, Fight, Lead.

Humbly and with Great Respect,
Trey Wheeler
Rear Admiral
Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Group and Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Pacific ★



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IN THE NEWS

2017 Whidbey Island Symposium Highlights

Oak Harbor, WA – This Hallmark event was met with warm enthusiasm from across the MPRA community, as the 2017 Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) Whidbey Island Symposium celebrated its inaugural event onboard Naval Air Station Whidbey Island from September 27th-29th.

Symposium week kicked off the evening of Wednesday, September 27th with a flight suit social, which brought more than 200 guests together to reminisce and network with former and current shipmates and friends.

The keystone event of the symposium, the MPA ball was held in the flight line wash rack on September 28th, and attracted a crowd of more than 200 active duty, retired and civilian guests. The President of MPA, Captain Robert Patrick, USN started the evening by reflecting on the change and growth experienced by CPRW-10 and MPRA. The theme of “One Team, One Fight” encompassed the strength of the MPRA community as we stretch across multiple platforms to achieve the same goal. “We are the watchers and the guardians. We bring stability and security to the seas so that all may prosper

from it...and we do this much more effectively when we operate as one team.”

MPA members and guests also honored awardees at the dinner, including: the 2016 Wing Ten Combat Air Crew of the Year awarded to VP-1 Combat Aircrew Three; Wing Ten Electronic Warfare Crew of the Year awarded to VQ-1 Combat Reconnaissance Crew Ten; Wing Ten Officer Instructor of the Year, LT Matthew Bunting (VP-46); Wing Ten Enlisted Instructor of the Year, AWFC Paul Mount (VP-1); 2016 Wing Ten Sailors of the Year, AWO1 Billy Swinney (VP-40), AWW1 David Matuska (CPRW-10), AWW2 JAMES FORTNER (CPRW-10); Wing Ten Aircrewmembers of the year, AWW2 MARTIN STELLMACH (VP-1); Wing Ten Support Professional of the Year, PS2 MARYSOL DELACRUZ (VP-4); Wing Ten Ordnanceman of the year, AO1 Justin Whitney (VP-40); Wing Ten Maintenance Professional of the Year, AT1 John Corcel (VP-40); Wing Ten Junior Officer Leadership Excellence Award, LT Tatiana Kish (VQ-1); and The Wing Ten Aviator of the Year award was presented to LT Scott Keelan (VP-46)

After dinner and awards presentation the Guest speaker, Admiral William “Trey” Wheeler, III, Commander, Patrol and



The 2016 CPRW-10 Air Crew of the Year was awarded to VP-1 Combat Air Crew Three, pictured with CPRW-10 CDRE Rob Patrick at the MPA Ball held in the flight line wash rack on board NAS Whidbey Island on September 28, 2017.

Reconnaissance Group, spoke about the CNO's four core attributes of integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness. The highlight of his speech was the recollection of our MPA past, featuring a mission conducted by VP-34, a PB-5 Catalina squadron. The ready launch of this gallant sea plane and crew shined light on our heritage. One of VP-34's aircrews expertly displayed initiative and toughness during a mission rescuing downed aircrew from multiple aircraft, while taking small arms fire. They PB-5 successfully executed multiple water landing and takeoffs in inclement weather and rescued fifteen survivors as part of their ready launch mission. Naval Aviators, Naval Flight Officers and Naval Air Crewman of the past and present enjoyed the touching story about our legacy as Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance.

After ADM Wheeler's remarks regarding the past, present and future of Naval Aviation and the Maritime and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF), the ball was concluded with dessert and dancing. The event was a delight for all who attended.

The MPA Whidbey Island ball capped off a symposium day rich in history and reflection, including tours of the P-8 Fleet Training Center simulators, and P-3, P-8 and EP-3 aircraft. Thursday was an action packed symposium day also featuring a spouse symposium, and hangar lunch. Guests were also able to participate in an industry partner technology expo throughout the day at the hangar.

On September 29, the MPA symposium hosted a 70 -player golf tournament to benefit the MPA Scholarship fund. At the end of the day, there was one winning golf foursome and more than \$4,000 had been raised for the scholarship fund. The winning foursome included, Peter Lauder, Steve Carter, Cooper Nordan and Hester Wyatt. ★

By LT Sarah Combeau, CPRW-10



Squadron spirit on the dinner tables of the MPA Ball on September 28, 2017. Photos by Ryan Shephard Photography.



RDML Trey Wheeler, Commander, Patrol & Reconnaissance Group, addresses the guests at the Whidbey Island MPA Ball on September 28, 2017. Photos by Ryan Shephard Photography.



RDML Trey Wheeler, Commander, Patrol & Reconnaissance Group and RDML Kyle Cozad, Naval Education and Training Command, at the Whidbey Island MPA Ball on September 28, 2017. Photos by Ryan Shephard Photography.



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IN THE NEWS

Naval Education and Training Command Holds Change of Command

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad relieved Rear Adm. Mike White as commander of Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) during a change of command ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola July 20.

One of the largest shore commands in the U.S. Navy, NETC provides training for all Sailors, as well as personnel from the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and international students from allied nations.

Vice Adm. Robert Burke, the Chief of Naval Personnel, was the guest speaker for the event and highlighted the scope

of NETC's responsibilities, ranging from initial accession boot camp training to a broad portfolio of programs that support Sailors in their career and education requirements and goals. "You've led by example, pushed your team to new heights these past three and a half years at NETC, and cared for them every step of the way in this job," said Burke. "In doing so, you've accomplished some incredible things with a team that works together as a well-oiled machine - delivering results at an increasingly challenging time."

Burke commended NETC's team on their technology, invention and innovation efforts to define, develop and produce winning systems.



PENSACOLA, Fla. (July 20, 2017) Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad speaks following his assumption of command of Naval Education and Training Command. Cozad relieved Rear Adm. Mike White during a ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum. (U.S. Navy photo by Carla M. McCarthy/Released)



White told guests that his service at NETC since January 2014 was one of the most dynamic assignments of his 34-year Navy career.

“I’ve spent my time with people who dedicate their heart and soul ensuring that we have the best Sailors in the world which has been incredibly rewarding,” said White. “It’s been your innovation and vision that is delivering Sailors who can operate at new levels and will be the future of our Navy.”

While in command of NETC, White oversaw complex efforts to manage a \$1.87 billion training budget requirement. He was responsible for over 44,450 personnel daily, encompassing a workforce of more than 12,000 personnel at more than 230 activities and commands, serving a daily student population of over 32,000.

One of NETC’s more prominent initiatives under White’s leadership was supporting the Chief of Naval Operations’ (CNO) Sailor 2025 Ready Relevant Learning initiative to transform how the Navy conducts occupational training. Career training continuums will modularize and modernize training delivery and make it more flexible and accessible, providing training to a Sailor exactly when it is needed. This new training approach will streamline initial pipeline training and deliver Sailors to their first operational command sooner with the right skills to enhance overall fleet readiness.

“Ready, Relevant, Learning will deliver and truly revolutionize our ability to tailor and adjust our courses to meet the needs of both the Sailor and the Fleet,” said White. “We have many more initiatives in progress and your commitment to the NETC team has been remarkable as we continue to transform our training.”

After assuming command of NETC during the ceremony, Cozad thanked White and spoke of his plans for furthering the ongoing initiatives and innovation taking place throughout the training enterprise.

“I am incredibly honored and humbled by this opportunity to succeed Rear Adm. White and join this team who literally have an impact on every Sailor in the Navy,” said Cozad. “I have been nothing but impressed by this extraordinarily organization in the midst of change and innovation, all in the



PENSACOLA, Fla. (July 20, 2017) Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad salutes Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke as he assumes command of Naval Education and Training Command. (U.S. Navy photo by Carla M. McCarthy/Released)



PENSACOLA, Fla. (July 20, 2017) Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad shakes hands with Rear Adm. Mike White following Cozad’s assumption of command as commander, Naval Education and Training Command. During the ceremony, White retired following 34 years of naval service. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor L. Jackson/Released)



PENSACOLA, Fla. (July 20, 2017) Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad reads his orders at the Naval Education and Training Command change of command ceremony. Cozad relieved Rear Adm. Mike White as the commander. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor L. Jackson/Released)

pursuit of preparing our Sailors for their challenging duties and ensuring the success of our Navy.”

A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Cozad is a 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and earned a Master of Science in National Resource Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

His career as a naval aviator includes assignments as a P-3 Orion pilot, instructor pilot, squadron commanding officer and wing commander with tours at all four Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance sites.

As a flight deck officer and catapult and arresting gear officer aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), he was awarded the Admiral William F. Bringle Award for inspirational leadership. He served ashore at the Navy Personnel Command in a variety of capacities; as the 22nd Senior Director of the White House Situation Room; and as a CNO Fellow on the CNO’s Strategic Studies Group (XXXII) in Newport, Rhode Island.

As a flag officer, Cozad’s most recent assignment was command of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, Norfolk, Virginia. His previous flag tours were as vice deputy director, Regional, Force Management and Future Operations (J-35), The Joint Staff in Norfolk, Virginia, and as commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

For White, NETC was his final tour of duty with the event also serving as his retirement ceremony. As a naval aviator, he was an attack and strike fighter pilot, flying more than 3,800 flight hours and making more than 1,000 carrier-arrested landings. Prior to NETC, White served as commander, Carrier Strike Group 11.



By Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

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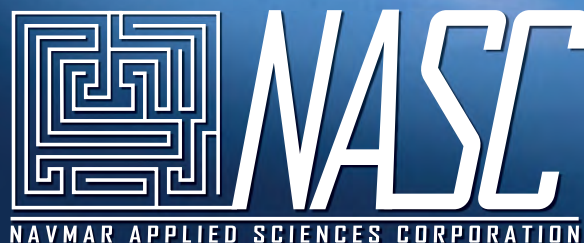


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IN THE NEWS

VP-30 First P-8A Air-to-Air Refuel Flight

*P*atrol Squadron (VP) 30 completed its first ever P-8A Poseidon air-to-air refueling (AAR) flight Aug. 1.

This marks the first time in maritime patrol and reconnaissance history that this has been attempted outside the test community.

The five-man crew, conducting the refueling consisted of Lt. Cmdr. Jacob Magan, Lt. David Christenson, Lt. Cmdr. Eric Martin, Lt. Mark Hume and Lt. Andrew Brown.

The crew departed Naval Air Station Jacksonville to rendezvous over eastern Tennessee with an Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker from the Tennessee Air National Guard 134th Air Refueling Wing. They spent an hour practicing contacts and other training for both units. Fleet training is set to begin Sept. 5 as VP-45 begins their AAR training.

In-flight refueling enables the P-8A to remain airborne for extended flight times, allowing increased on station time for present and future sensors.

The P-8A Fleet Introduction Team has spent two years working closely with Naval Air Systems Command and the test community to plan for the integration of this new capability to the fleet. The first AAR capable P-8A squadron is expected to deploy in 2018.



*By Lt. Nick Wilharm, VP-30 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News August 10, 2017*



Pilots from VP-30 conduct it's first P-8A Poseidon air-to-air refueling with an Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker from the Tennessee Air National Guard 134th Air Refueling Wing Aug. 1. Photo courtesy of VP-30.

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IN THE NEWS

Patrol Squadron FIVE Hosts SECNAV in Keflavik, Iceland

KEFILAVIK, Iceland - Patrol Squadron (VP) FIVE had the honor of hosting the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), The Honorable Richard V. Spencer, for a tour of the P-8A Poseidon in October. The SECNAV took the opportunity to visit the 'Mad Foxes' on the final leg of his trip to Norway and Iceland before returning to Washington D.C.

Keflavik was known previously as a hub of military activity during the 1970s and 1980s, but U.S. military presence there had been scarce for the last few decades. Recently, however, Keflavik has reemerged as an important detachment site, one of the key aspects of the SECNAV's visit.

Although he had previously toured and flown a P-8A simulator during a visit to NAS Jacksonville, this was SECNAV's first opportunity to see in person what capabilities the P-8A

brings to the mission on-station. The static display started with a brief tour of the flight station led by pilot Lt.j.g. Alex Cleaveland.

"It was a great opportunity to familiarize the SECNAV on how we fly and operate the P-8A tactically on station, 200 feet above the water," said Cleaveland.

As a prior Marine aviator, the SECNAV was particularly impressed by the heads-up-display (HUD) and all glass display cockpit of the multi-mission P-8A, which is the Navy's newest maritime, patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

As the tour continued, Combat Aircrew Ten's (CAC-10) Tactical Coordinator (TACCO), Lt. Ali Hussain, gave the SECNAV an up-close look at the mission crew workstations and he explained how the combat crews operate as a team to execute



KEFLAVIK, Iceland (Oct. 12, 2017) Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Richard V. Spencer tours a P-8 Poseidon aircraft assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 during a visit to Keflavik, Iceland. Keflavik is Spencer's last stop in his first official trip abroad since being sworn in on Aug. 3, 2017. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jonathan B. Trejo/Released)

IN THE NEWS

NAS Jax Assisting Areas Hit by Harvey

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville is assisting the devastated Texas and Louisiana coasts with P-8A Poseidons flying search and rescue (SAR) and reconnaissance missions in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The P-8s are equipped with infrared cameras that can locate survivors in the water and life-saving equipment that can be dropped from the aircraft if survivors are found.

The aircraft and its crew of nine spend about four to six hours patrolling the Texas and Louisiana coastlines after flying two hours to reach their destination.

"They will check in with a controlling agency over Texas and then go from there to establish a good position to give us an overall picture of the damage to start assessing where things are at," said Lt. Cmdr. Joe Snyder, training officer with VP (Patrol Squadron) 45.

The aircraft would then fly two hours back to Jacksonville, for a total of eight to 10 hours flying time for each mission.

"They are capable of operating anywhere in the world," Snyder said, "but today the call came to support our fellow countryman here in the states."

"We were tasked to head over to the eastern Texas area and Beaumont to help the Air Force and Coast Guard noting areas of flooding, trying to isolate individuals who might be stranded somewhere," said Lt. Marcus Costa, VP-45 patrol plane mission commander of the flight on Aug. 31.

"They currently have a huge relief effort in Houston, whether that be locals out there on boats or Houston police department or Coast Guard helicopters, so was quite a showing out there today."

The mission flights are part search and rescue and part recon-



Lt. Laura Ibarra of Patrol Squadron 45, inspects the search and rescue (SAR) kits in the weapon's bay of a P-8A Poseidon before take off on a mission to Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey Aug. 29. This is the first time a SAR kit has been used in a live mission. The kits are large inflatable life rafts with basic survival equipment that are dropped if storm survivors are found in the Gulf of Mexico. Photos by Reggie Jarrett

naissance.

"A big portion of what we were looking for was making sure basic infrastructure like bridges were holding up and dams were not being over-run," Costa said.

"Luckily, with most of the weather heading out of the Houston area, we didn't see too much of that. We did see portions of highways shut down, roads leading into neighborhoods shut down that were no longer accessible by trucks or cars."

VP-45 is not the only command participating in the relief operations.

"All Wing 11 squadrons here have been supporting hurricane relief efforts or will over the next few days," Snyder said.

"The devastation is significant, we can all see that. It is quite possible we will do this for one to two weeks. We will be there to provide eyes with a broader view, a 10,000 foot view," he said.

"The mission is designed primarily for surveillance, so there will be heavy use of the onboard MX-20 camera and we will man the observer windows for the entire time on station."

The MX-20 camera is an electro-optical and infrared camera.

The P-8s were also equipped with potential life-saving equipment if rescue operations were needed. Loaded in the aircraft weapons bays were two newly developed SAR kits, which consisted of inflatable life rafts that could be dropped if survivors were spotted offshore. These missions are the first time the kits are being used by the U.S. Navy.

"The SAR kit is new to our community," said Snyder. "It is dropped at roughly 500 feet. It deploys with a lanyard and expands out."

The kits also contain basic life-saving items. "The contents are tweaked for each mission," said AO2(AW) Reyna Thomas of VP-45. "They usually contain water, food, medical supplies and signaling equipment."

The kits are not the best option to rescue people at sea. "It is kind of a one-shot opportunity," Snyder said. "We hope that for anyone in the water that there are more capable assets, like a Coast Guard ship or helicopter, but we can deploy them if need be."



AWO3 Timmy Dang of Patrol Squadron 45, cleans off the MX-20 camera on the P-8A Poseidon before take-off on a search and rescue mission to assist survivors of Hurricane Harvey Aug. 29. The camera will be used to find storm survivors in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Reggie Jarrett.

The kits were not used in the missions to Texas, and the Poseidons were not called upon to undertake rescue operations, but the crews did see large rescue operations on the ground being conducted by ordinary people and local and federal agencies.

"They had a huge relief effort in Houston," Costa said. "Whether that be locals out there on boats or Houston police department or Coast Guard helicopters, there quite a showing out there. People trying to help their community."

That spirit of wanting to help storm victims extends back to NAS Jacksonville.

"We all are called to serve. We are a volunteer force, so everyone on this flight line is willing to go," said Snyder. "We had phone calls from people saying, 'I am willing to go. I am assigned to a staff job, but if you need help, I am ready to go.'"

"It is a simple thing," Snyder said. "Human life is precious. This is one of the most significant disasters the U.S. has seen in a long time, if not the largest. It is important that we all pitch in to help our country out."



By Reggie Jarrett, Jax Air News Editor

Published in the Jax Air News, September 6, 2017



IN THE NEWS

NAS Jax Continues Assistance Flights to Areas Hit by Hurricanes

A P-8A Poseidon from Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville flew a reconnaissance flight to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands Sept. 21.

“Our tasking was to primarily take pictures of the infrastructure and assess the damage in the region,” said Lt. James Pearson, flight commander.

“We were looking at airports, ports, radio towers, communication centers, plus anywhere that could be potentially used as a shelter. We looked at large structures, such as schools, gymnasiums and government buildings.”

The flight had to go northeast around the hurricane before they could get to their destination. The mission took about nine hours of flying time, spending about two and a half

hours over St. Croix.

“Some areas we looked at today were hit quite hard,” Pearson said. “Our thoughts and prayers definitely go out to those families.”

The crew took photos of the impacted area, which were sent in a live stream from the plane back to the United States.

“Those pictures were sent back to the decision makers that can get the proper resources down there in the most timely fashion,” Pearson said.

In addition to taking pictures, the plane provided communications to ships, helicopters and other fixed-wing aircraft in the area. Lt. Stephanie Mondloch, the flight’s tactical coordinating officer has flown on similar missions after Hurricane Irma and said it was difficult to compare the two.



A P-8A Poseidon is directed by the ground crew at Naval Air Station Jacksonville after a mission to provide assistance to St. Croix in the Virgin Island Sept. 21. Photos by Reggie Jarrett.

“We were just down there in the same area after Irma, but we were over St. Johns and St. Thomas,” she said.

“It is tough to compare, not knowing what the infrastructure is like. With Irma, we saw a lot of sunken boats and overturned boats and piers. We didn’t see as much of that this time.”

The P-8A Poseidon aircraft is well suited to fly this type of mission.

“One of the unique capabilities of the P-8, is it the only platform that has the range to go out on one tank of gas, fly over 1,300 miles, loiter on station, provide all the services we can provide and then came back to that same base and land,” Pearson said.

“So that long-range over water capability makes us very unique.”

NAS Jax is averaging one flight per day to provide support to areas impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

“We, here in the Navy, are here to support them throughout this entire ordeal, just like we were during Hurricane Irma,” Pearson said.

“We are definitely doing good service down there, coordinating everything and getting that information back to the people who make the decisions in real time.”



By Reggie Jarrett, Editor, Jax Air News
Published in the Jax Air News, September 27, 2017



A P-8A Poseidon touches down with a puff of smoke at Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 21 following a flight to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands to assist the hurricane-damaged island. Photos by Reggie Jarrett.



IN THE NEWS

Royal Air Force Announces New P-8A Squadron Numberplates

The Royal Air Force has announced that the new P-8A squadrons will be numbers 120 Squadron and 201 Squadron. The announcement was made at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland where the RAFs nine P-8As will be based; the RAF receives its first P-8 in 2019.

No. 120 Squadron RAF was a squadron of the Royal Air Force which was established as a Royal Flying Corps unit late in World War I, disbanded a year after the end of the war, then re-established as a RAF Coastal Command squadron during World War II. Although disbanded again a month after Victory in Europe Day, during and after World War II it operated almost continuously, with maritime patrol aircraft; most recently with the Hawker Siddeley Nimrod, based at RAF Kinloss in Scotland until the type's withdrawal in March 2010. The squadron was disbanded again the following year. 120 Squadron will stand up again in April 2018 as the first squad-

ron equipped with the P-8A anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft.

No. 201 Squadron of the Royal Air Force, until March 2010, operated the Nimrod MR2, based at RAF Kinloss. It is the only squadron affiliated with Guernsey, in the Channel Islands. This affiliation started in 1935 and is commemorated in the museum on Castle Cornet. Its history goes even further back than the RAF itself, being formed originally as No. 1 Squadron RNAS on 17 Oct 1914. 201 Squadron will stand up again in 2021 as the second squadron equipped with the P-8A aircraft.

4 members of the RAF Seedcorn detachment on VP-30 were able to attend the announcement, Sqn Ldrs Mark Faulds, Ian Tuff and Master Aircrew Flash Utting and Mick O'Flaherty. A P-8A from VP-16 provided the backdrop to the ceremony when Wg Cdr James Hanson was announced as the first squadron Commanding Officer. Air Commodore Dean Andrew, Force Commander ISTAR said, "this is indeed a momen-



In preparation of the ISTAR Force Commander Visit to RAF Lossiemouth on the 13 July 2017, Wing Commander James Hanson (Officer Commanding First P-8A Poseidon Squadron) and his crew had a group and individual photograph in front of the US Navy P-8A Poseidon Aircraft which arrived at RAF Lossiemouth on the 11 July. Pictured Left to Right: Master Air Crew Mark Utting, Squadron Leader Mark Faulds, Wing Commander James Hanson, Squadron Leader Ian Tuff, Master Air Crew Paul O'Flaherty.

tous day, for the RAF, RAF Lossiemouth and the UK and her allies”.

After the announcement and press interviews, the Seedcorn personnel and Wg Cdr Hanson flew to the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, England with the VP-16 crew, for the 3 day airshow. The RAF and USN crew displayed the aircraft on the static display. During the airshow, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier presented MACr Utting and O’Flaherty with their 1000 hour P-8A badges.



By Squadron Leader Mark Faulds, VP-30 RAF Seedcorn



Royal Air Force aircraft and personnel are on show at the Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Fairford, from 14-16 July 2017. This year the RAF is celebrating the 21st-century partnerships with global allies that underpin security throughout the world, as well as promoting the RAF’s many careers in science, technology, engineering and maths-related trades. As usual the RAF is supported by a team of more than 1,000 young people from the Air Cadets, who help make the Air Tattoo a success.



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the wide-ranging mission set of the P-8A. These missions range from anti-submarine warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, to VP-5's recent humanitarian assistance and disaster relief flights in wake of the devastating hurricanes striking the United States and Caribbean.

The SECNAV was very impressed by VP-5's continued excellence on station across two areas of responsibility as they begin their second dual site deployment. The 'Mad Foxes' of CAC-10 are currently on detachment along with three other CACs and conducting missions out of Keflavik, Iceland in support of Command Task Force 67 (CTF 67). VP-5 is currently patrolling the waters of the U.S. 4th Fleet from El Salvador and the U.S. 6th Fleet from Sigonella, Italy.

QUICK FACTS:

- VP-5 is homeported out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

- VP-5 is deployed to Commander, Task Force 67 out of Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily.

- This is the first deployment for VP-5 to C6F with the P-8A.

- VP-5 is deployed with 6 P-8As to C6F and 1 P-8A to C4F.

- VP-5 was last deployed to CTF-67 in 2011 in support of OPERATION Odyssey Dawn.

- U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of Joint and Naval operations, often in concert with allied, joint, and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.



By Lt. Michael Pierce, VP-5 Public Affairs



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IN THE NEWS

VP-5 Takes Flight Over Devastated Dominica

*P*atrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5) took part in the search and rescue efforts in Dominica after the island nation was devastated by Hurricane Maria in mid-September.

One of VP-5's P-8A Poseidons flew the three and a half hour, 1,850 mile flight from an airfield in El Salvador to the island of Dominica, where the crew got a first eyes-on look at the scale of the disaster below along the twisted coastline.

"We saw the coastline first, and it was devastated," said AWO2 Tiffany Escoffrey. "Buildings all along were without roofs, leaving just the bare frame and there was so much debris in places we couldn't see the beach sand."

Located in the Eastern Caribbean, Dominica was the first Island to be hit by the category-five force of Hurricane Maria, and the island's remote location mixed with lack of search

and rescue capabilities made damage assessment extremely difficult. The storm had already claimed 32 lives and the need for overhead imagery was vital to identifying possible helicopter landing zones and assessing damage to facilities like roads, airports and hurricane shelters.

Stepping up for the first ever P-8A mission supporting the SOUTHCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR), VP-5 took full advantage of the plane's speed, staying power and integrated technology suite to tackle this mission. The powerful, rotating camera in particular was vital for the mission, giving the crew a 360-degree field of view to assess the breadth of the damage, and also zooming down to reveal the situation at ground level.

"The soccer fields being used for helicopter evacuation were usually clear of debris, but the ability for people to move around the island was severely restricted – roads were either obstructed by fallen powerlines or washed out completely,"



Photo courtesy of VP-5

said AWO2 Adam Huszar. “We only saw two cars driving, everyone else was walking.”

With rescue missions still underway, the P-8A's imagery was sent back to the Intel team in El Salvador for analysis and quick dissemination direct to decision makers. Knowledge is power in Dominica's long road to recovery and VP-5 is proud to be called on to help.

“I feel like these missions are really fulfilling,” says AWO2 Rachel Slate. “Like I'm giving back to people and having a direct impact on their lives.”

VP-5 has just begun a split-site deployment in the SOUTH-COM and EUCOM AOR.

★
*By Ensign Chris Siegel, VP-5 Public Affairs
Published in the Jax Air News, October 18, 2017*



Homes damaged by Hurricane Maria on Dominica. Photo courtesy of Sky News UK.



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COMMUNITY

VP-9 Golden Eagles Complete Final Deployment in the P-3C Orion Aircraft

Oak Harbor, Wash. -- Banners waved and excited families cheered as the last Sailor from the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 stepped off the plane at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. on October 4th, following a seven month dual-site deployment to Japan and El Salvador.

"Despite the challenges of an arduous Inter-deployment Readiness Cycle (IDRC) and the potential distractions of an upcoming homeport change and aircraft transition, the Sailors of VP-9 were primed and ready to take the fight to the enemy across our assigned areas of responsibility in defense of our national interests," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Bowman, VP-9's commanding officer. "I am very proud of the way our Sailors handled themselves throughout these seven months, meet-

ing every challenge and executing every mission with precision, pride, and professionalism."

The "Golden Eagles" were deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility at Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador, since February 24th. During this time, they met all operational objectives and executed over 700 sorties encompassing 4091 flight hours. Acutely focused on the importance of international relations and Theater Security Cooperation, the Golden Eagles displayed superb flexibility and excellence throughout multilateral exercises and operations with eight partner nations, including the Republic of El Salvador, Japan, Malaysia, Commonwealth of Australia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of the Philippines, and the Kingdom of



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 03, 2017) Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Lindsey Curles, assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, reunites with her family during the homecoming of the squadron at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. VP-9 returned after a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility at Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador. This was the last deployment for VP-9 with the P-3C Orion. In November, VP-9 will begin their transition to the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Released)

Thailand.

During the last seven months, Sailors and families have had to balance a multi-theater operational deployment and a permanent duty station change (PDSC) from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii to NAS Whidbey Island, where the squadron was originally commissioned on March 15th, 1951.

“While I was on deployment, my wife kept busy with moving and I feel it made this deployment go a little faster for both of us,” said Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 2nd Class Andrew Siereveld. “It was strange stepping off the plane in a new location, but I’m excited to see what Washington has to offer.”

Motivated and eager to tackle the next challenge, in November VP-9 will begin their transition from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. Following completion of the transition in May 2018, the Golden Eagles will enter an 11-month IDRC in preparation for the squadron’s inaugural P-8A deployment in 2019. ★

From VP-9 Public Affairs



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 05, 2017) Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class Amvee Devaturda and Aviation Machinist Mate 3rd Class Coby Savage, assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, direct the last P-3C Orion aircraft at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Roy Duran/Released)



OAK HARBOR, Wash. (Oct. 03, 2017) Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Rob Camacho, assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, reunites with his son during the homecoming of the squadron at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. VP-9 returned after a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility at Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador. This was the last deployment for VP-9 with the P-3C Orion. In November, VP-9 will begin their transition to the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Released)

COMMUNITY

'War Eagles' Return From Deployment

The "War Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 begin their transition back to Naval Air Station Jacksonville this week after a highly successful seven-month deployment to the 6th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR), attached to Commander Task Force 67.

While the squadron primarily operated out of Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, Italy, VP-16 also supported 43 detachments across 15 countries including Spain, Scotland, Iceland, Norway, Greece, France, Germany, Denmark, Lithuania, and Ukraine.

VP-16 worked to improve interoperability with NATO allies and deter aggression across the AOR, as well as supported the USS George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike group in its execution of strike missions from the Eastern Mediterranean in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Twelve combat aircrews conducted missions involving anti-

submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, and maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, totaling more than 4,500 flight hours, and supported by an outstanding maintenance team which completed over 19,200 maintenance actions over the course of 47,500 man-hours.

"I'm extremely proud of the way our Sailors stepped up when the nation called on them," said Cmdr. Amanda Hawkins, VP-16 commanding officer.

"We provided an unprecedented level of maritime domain awareness to deter aggression in the European theater."

Jacksonville will be a welcome sight for the Sailors from VP-16, of which six became new fathers during the deployment.

"Our Sailors are looking forward to some well-deserved time off to reunite with their families and friends," said Hawkins. "Their hard work and dedication are what made this deployment so successful."



Patrol Squadron 16 Executive Officer Cmdr. Troy Tartaglia points out the P-8A Poseidon on approach to Naval Air Station Jacksonville to his daughter, Gabriella, 2. Two planes brought deployed personnel home on Oct. 4. Photo by Julie M. Lucas

After seeing his wife and children for the first time in seven months, AWO1 John Hermann said, "This is the reason we do what we do. To come back home and see what we are protecting."

The VP-5 Mad Foxes are relieving the War Eagles in Sigonella.



From VP-16 Public Affairs

Published in the Jax Air News, October 11, 2017



AO2 Colin Lucas of Patrol Squadron 16, is welcomed home by son, Troy, and wife, Lastella Oct. 4 after returning home from deployment to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy. photo by Julie M. Lucas



Nathaniel Lovelady, 3, waves American flags as he waits for his father, Lt. Kenny Lovelady of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 to return home to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Oct. 2. VP-16 returned from a seven-month long deployment to NAS Sigonella, Italy.



Patrol Squadron 16 "War Eagle" family members welcome home their Sailors Oct. 4 aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Photo by Julie M. Lucas



COMMUNITY

'Red Lancers' Showcase Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities

The Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 "Red Lancers" flew Vice Adm. Joseph Tofalo, commander, Submarine Force Atlantic, on a P-8A Poseidon demonstration flight out of Naval Station Norfolk, July 17. The Red Lancers demonstrated anti-submarine warfare tactics and the submarine-finding capabilities of the aircraft to Tofalo on the four-hour mission flight.

"I think both the aviators and submariners learned a lot from each other during the flight," said VP-10 Tactical Coordinator Lt. j.g. Jordan Stills. "We were able to refine specific tactics for localizing a submarine while demonstrating our own capabilities."

The Red Lancers departed NAS Jacksonville picking up Tofalo, Rear Adm. William Wheeler, commander, Patrol

and Reconnaissance Group, and several other passengers in Norfolk.

From there, they flew off the eastern coast to drop a pre-planned sonobuoy pattern, then locate and track a submarine. Throughout the demonstration, the aircrew on board answered questions and discussed tactical considerations for sonobuoy deployment.

"The vice admiral asked a lot of questions, many of which generated tactical discussions between the aircrew and submariners," said VP-10 Patrol Plane Commander Lt. Brad Stevenson. "We gained a significant amount of knowledge from this experience. I look forward to partnering with other Navy communities in the future."



By Lt. j.g. Stephanie Palacheck, VP-10 Public Affairs
Published in the Jax Air News August 10, 2017



Rear Adm. William Wheeler, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, Capt. Douglas Perry, chief of staff to Commander, Submarine Forces and Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT) and Capt. Scott Luers, operations officer, Operations and Special Operations Directorate at SUBLANT look on as Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Michael Albus greets Vice Adm. Joseph Tofalo, commander, SUBLANT before a demonstration flight, July 17. VP-10 showcased the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the P-8A Poseidon to Tofalo during a mission off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia. Photo by AW1 Michael Toenies



COMMUNITY

VP-26 'Tridents' Home from Okinawa

The 'Tridents' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 26 returned home to Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) following a routine six-month deployment to the western Pacific in support of U.S. 7th Fleet. The squadron is led by Commanding Officer Cmdr. Andrew Klosterman.

The mission of VP-26 is to deliver combat ready Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aviation aircrews and aircraft to the military's combatant commanders when called upon.

After a successful transition from the P-3C "Orion," the Tridents completed their first P-8A "Poseidon" operational deployment. It was a busy six months for the Tridents, flying more than 700 sorties totaling over 4,000 flight hours and

11,000 maintenance man hours to keep the aircraft operating.

Missions in theater included anti-submarine warfare, maritime domain awareness, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as search and rescue.

VP-26 supported numerous U.S. and allied forces throughout the Pacific, including USS Nimitz, USS Carl Vinson, and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups.

The squadron also participated in several international, multi-lateral naval exercises, air shows and engagements interacting with foreign navies from around the world to include Japan, Australia, Fiji, Guam, India, Republic of the Philippines,



Family and friends welcome home Patrol Squadron 26 to Naval Air Station Jacksonville Oct. 6. The "Tridents" were on a six-month deployment to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. Photos courtesy of VP-26.

Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

During a homecoming of two aircraft on Oct. 6, Nicole Gonzalez happily met her husband, AWO3 Chris Gonzalez on the NAS Jax flight line.

“My birthday is on Sunday and this is the best birthday present ever!”



By VP-26 Public Affairs

Published in the Jax Air News, October 11, 2017

Right: Lukas Montilla, 4, rushes into the arms of his father, AWO2 Jadhriel Montilla at the homecoming of Patrol Squadron 26 aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville Oct. 6.



Lt. Mason Bailey hugs his wife, Natalie and daughter, Marra at the homecoming of Patrol Squadron 26 to Naval Air Station Jacksonville Oct. 6.

COMMUNITY

VP-47 Returns to NAS Whidbey Island for Phase III

The “Golden Swordsmen” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 recently completed the second phase of their three-phase transition to the P-8A Poseidon, the U.S Navy’s premier maritime patrol aircraft.

The month of March marked the final deployment for VP-47 in the P-3C Orion after 52 years of operation. Their deployment to 7th Fleet included detachments to El Salvador, New Zealand, Djibouti, Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines.

It concluded with the squadron’s final return to Hawaii before they bid their former island home farewell and made their homeport change to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island in Washington.

After only a month of being fully settled in, the transition to their new aircraft began. Phase I consisted of extensive classroom and simulator training for aircrew and maintenance personnel.

VP-30 instructors and aircraft were relocated from NAS Jacksonville to help get VP-47’s training get off to a good start.

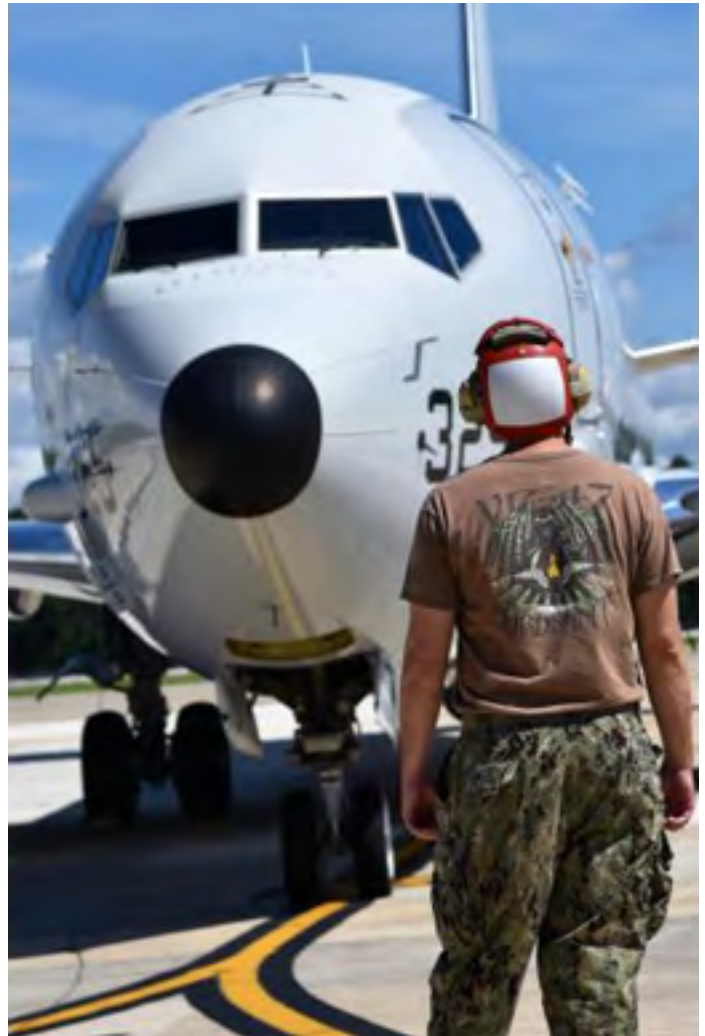
In June, most of the squadron boarded a transport plane headed to NAS Jacksonville where Phase II would immediately begin.

Maintainers were given on-the-job training as part of a fully functioning P-8A squadron and quickly started earning their qualifications while aircrew were put through the rigors of multiple flights and simulator events culminating in the qualification of all of the pilots.

Families and friends of Golden Swordsmen now eagerly await the return of their loved ones to Whidbey Island where they will continue to excel on their new platform.

Phase III will be a big step in achieving operational readiness as flight crews will be working together for the first time as combat air crews (CACs) on their new aircraft.

VP-47 is projected to obtain their “Safe for Flight” this fall and will hit the ground running as an operational squadron as they prepare for their Hawaii Homeland Defense Detachment, Rim of the Pacific exercise and every major evaluation



A member of the VP-47 ground crew directs a P-8A Poseidon. Photo by Lt. Joseph Petry

that comes along with home cycle. All of this culminates in the true test of their skill and professionalism - VP-47’s first deployment in the P-8A Poseidon.



*By Lt. j. g. Richard Guevara, VP-47 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News August 16, 2017*

COMMUNITY

Jacksonville City Council Members Take to the Skies with Mad Foxes

On August 21st, Patrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5) had the distinct pleasure of showing off the P-8A to several members of the Jacksonville City Council. The day began at pre-flight, when Naval Aircrewman Operator 2nd Class (AWO2) Andrew O'Brien described the variety of mission sets in which the airplane and its crew can be called upon to perform.

"I always enjoy talking about the P-8 and our mission, but there is an extra sense of camaraderie talking to the City Council since this city does so much to support us. It feels like we're on the same team," said O'Brien.

AWO3 Austin Varney spent time discussing how he employs his mission systems to locate and track submarines during anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations.

"Very few people are really familiar with airborne ASW, so it's always fun to show the public what we actually do with this aircraft," said Varney.

The familiarization flight showcased the wide range of the P-8A's capabilities and began with a low-level fly-by of a merchant ship.

The aircraft commander, Lt. Cody Berreman, explained to the guests that the fly-bys are used to collect imagery intelligence on vessels of interest. The council members were visibly impressed as Lt. Berreman brought the aircraft down two hundred feet over the water, giving our guests an up close look at some of the local shipping traffic.

As luck would have it, the day's flight coincided with the total solar eclipse giving the City Council a spectacular view of a once in a lifetime event. Lt. Mike Pierce guided the P-8A through downtown and up the St. John's River before returning to NAS Jacksonville. The VP-5 Mad Foxes are always happy to host military supporters from our local community and are glad to have provided an experience the Jacksonville Council Members will not soon forget.



By Lt. Kenneth Flannery, VP-5 Public Affairs



City council members prepare to board the P-8A Poseidon for an exhilarating flight over their city of Jacksonville with VP-5's "Mad Foxes". While on board, the council members got a spectacular view of the total solar eclipse. Photo courtesy of VP-5.

COMMUNITY

VP-16 Participates in Romanian Navy Day

A P-8A Poseidon from Maritime Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 arrived in Constanta, Romania, Aug. 14, in support of a Romanian Navy Day celebration.

The “War Eagles” of VP-16, based out of NAS Jacksonville, provided tours of the P-8A maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft to their Romanian counterparts and also conducted a fly over on Aug. 15 for a crowd of more than 12,000 spectators gathered to wish the Romanian Navy a happy birthday.

“It was a fantastic opportunity for my crew to meet with Romanian Gen. Nicolae Ciuca, chief of general staff, Romanian Vice Adm. Alexandru Mirsu, chief of navy, Rear Adm. Canel Capatina, fleet commander, and their staff to discuss the U.S. commitment to our NATO allies in the region, specifically our interoperability with Romanian forces,” explained Lt. Michael Reindl, VP-16 tactical coordinator.

“Further, it was a complete pleasure seeing the enthusiasm that the Romanian midshipmen had for their ASW (anti-submarine warfare) training program.”

The presence of VP-16 in Constanta for Romanian Navy Day demonstrates the shared commitment between the nations to promote safety and stability within the region.

The P-8A from VP-16 is one of seven P-8As operating throughout the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, adding enhanced, long-range ASW, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities to support our allies and partners in the region.

This is the first time VP-16 has brought the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to Romania for the Navy Day Celebration. The “War Eagles” of VP-16 are forward-deployed to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.



By Lt. Michael Reindl and Lt j.g. Nicholas Senecal
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa/U.S. 6th
Fleet Public Affairs

Published in the Jax Air News, August 30, 2017

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COMMUNITY

U.S. and Royal Malaysian A.F. Strengthen Relationship During Exercises

SUBANG, Malaysia (September 1, 2017) – Sailors assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 participated in two interoperability activities with the Royal Malaysian Air Force, August 27 – 31.

The two exercises, Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) and Malaysian Subject Matter Expert Exchange (MY SMEE), were designed to enhance cooperation between U.S. and Malaysian forces through lectures, professional knowledge exchanges and demonstration flights.

SEACAT is a multilateral exercise focused on maritime domain awareness and information sharing involving 11 nations

in South and Southeast Asia. Training activities associated with SEACAT occurred in several regional nations including Malaysia. During the same period, U.S. and Malaysia forces conducted their quarterly subject matter expert exchange, in which the two militaries held discussions, provided briefs and conducted tactical orientation flights to improve interoperability and combined mission effectiveness.

Patrol Squadron Nine’s Combat Aircrew 4 (CAC-4) briefed members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force on P-3C Orion aircraft capabilities and limitations. They also discussed Due Regard operations and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) procedures during the first day of SEACAT. Royal Malaysian Air Force members shared information about their aircraft capabilities, and provided an overview of operations in the



SUBANG, Malaysia (August 28, 2017) – Sailors assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 exchange gifts with members from the Royal Malaysian Air Force during exercise Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) and a U.S.-Malaysia subject matter expert exchange. SEACAT and regular expert exchanges use lectures, professional knowledge exchanges and demonstration flights to enhance cooperation between the U.S. and Malaysian forces. VP-9 is deployed in Okinawa, Japan, at Kadena Air Base supporting the U.S. 7th Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/ Released)

Strait of Malacca.

“These briefings provided an integral insight into the capabilities of the Royal Malaysian maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. Knowing what they are able to bring to the table will prove invaluable for any future endeavors,” said Lt. Eddie Rostetter, CAC-4 mission commander.

On the second day of SEACAT, three Royal Malaysian Airmen embarked on a P-3C with VP-9 aircrew to observe methods to improve real time coordination and the use of various tactics.

“The U.S. and Malaysia Subject Matter Expert Exchange and SEACAT provide our officers and aircrew an opportunity to demonstrate to our partners the skills and techniques we work so hard to master. In exchange, we receive a different perspective and approach to the same operations. Best of all, it’s a chance to build relationships and forge bonds between operators,” said Cmdr. Jeffrey Bowman, VP-9 commanding officer.

On the third day of SEACAT, four Royal Malaysian Airmen rode on a maritime domain awareness indoctrination flight.

VP-9 crew members trained the riders on related procedures, including the Automatic Identification System, rigging procedures, still imagery and flight profiles.

“This flight allowed us to build upon the subject matter exchanges given on deck and implement them in the aircraft,” said Rostetter.

VP-9 operates the P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft capable of conducting antisubmarine warfare, antisurface warfare, maritime patrol, reconnaissance, and search and rescue missions. VP-9 will be returning to Whidbey Island, Washington, following their six month deployment, at which time the squadron will transition from the P-3C Orion to the P-8A Poseidon.

VP-9 has crews currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations at Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador.



By VP-9 Public Affairs



SUBANG, Malaysia (August 28, 2017) – Sailors assigned to the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 pose with members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force during exercise Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) and a U.S.-Malaysia subject matter expert exchange. SEACAT and regular expert exchanges use lectures, professional knowledge exchanges and demonstration flights to enhance cooperation between the U.S and Malaysian forces. VP-9 is deployed in Okinawa, Japan, at Kadena Air Base supporting the U.S. 7th Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/ Released)



COMMUNITY

VP-5 Deploys to Sigonella, El Salvador

The 'Mad Foxes' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 departed Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 21 for their second P-8A dual site deployment, including the first-ever operational P-8A deployment to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

The 'Mad Foxes' are relieving the VP-16 "War Eagles" in Sigonella, Italy and VP-9 'Golden Eagles' in El Salvador in support of Commander, Task Force (CTF) 67 and CTF-47, respectively.

Leading up to deployment, the 'Mad Foxes' have demonstrated their ability to overcome the challenges that a dual site deployment presents, including completion of the Advanced Readiness Program and Operational Readiness Evaluation. Additionally, VP-5 aviation ordnancemen have been hard at work completing the Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection and achieving a perfect score.

The squadron's maintenance team led the charge of qualifying the first enlisted servicemen to turn the engines of the P-8A without the presence of a pilot on board.

VP-5 also ensured 100 percent completion of the Fleet Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization evaluations, a multitude of combat air crew (CAC) mission qualifications and overseas training courses and requirements.

The efforts of VP-5 were recognized by Commander, Naval Air Forces, as they were presented with the 2016 Battle Efficiency award last month.

While deployed, the 'Mad Foxes' will be tasked with several different warfare missions worldwide to include anti-submarine warfare missions, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions as well as counter-drug operations. Additionally, the CACs operating out of El Salvador will be conducting missions alongside the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S.



The Patrol Squadron 5 "Mad Foxes" depart Naval Air Station Jacksonville for 4th and 6th Fleet dual-site deployments. Photo by MC2 Nick Bergman

Customs and Border Patrol.

“Our mission is to destroy submarines when directed. Successful completion is dependent on the efforts of every Sailor. The Mad Foxes have been putting in phenomenal effort on every level with outstanding results over the past year in preparation for this deployment and we are ready to deliver,” said VP-5 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Will Toraason.

“VP-5 is fully prepared to represent this nation across the globe and excited for the challenges ahead.”



*By Lt.j.g. Mary Carter Jordan, VP-5 PAO
Published in the Jax Air News, October 4, 2017*



AWO2 Troy Apodaca of Patrol Squadron 5 helps prepare P-8A Poseidon for departure on a six-month deployment to Sigonella, Italy and El Salvador. Photo by MC2 Nick Bergman



COMMUNITY

Lithuanian-born Sailor Returns Home While on Detachment

*P*R3 Simona Kaminskaite of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 returned to her native country with the squadron as part of a detachment of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft to Šiauliai International Airport in Lithuania, July 29.

Kaminskaite, a native of Birzai, Lithuania, left her hometown in 2013, moving to Buffalo Grove, Illinois, before her 17th birthday to begin a new life with her father. After graduating high school, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

In January 2016, she joined the “War Eagles” of VP-16, based at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, for her first deployment. The detachment to Lithuania is part of her second deployment with the squadron, and the first to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

“I never expected to visit Lithuania with the Navy. When I heard we were going, I was very excited,” said Kaminskaite. When asked what she was most excited for her shipmates to experience, she said, “The food is very good, and our rural countryside is beautiful this time of year.”

This marks the first time a U.S. Navy P-8A has operated in Lithuania. The two-week detachment is part of the U.S. Navy’s forward presence for continued support to NATO allies in the Baltic region.

Kaminskaite’s contributions are unique within the squadron.

“She has been instrumental to the success of the detachment, using her language skills and cultural knowledge to act as an ambassador for the squadron and the U.S. Navy,” said Lt. Josh Phillips, officer in charge of the detachment.

Kaminskaite has used some of her down time to reconnect with family and friends in her hometown, located 60 miles northeast of Šiauliai.

“I am very appreciative for the time to visit my family,” she said of the opportunity. “They are very proud of my accomplishments since joining the Navy.”



R3 Simona Kaminskaite, a native of Lithuania, on detachment with Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 in Šiauliai, Lithuania, Aug. 7. U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied, joint and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa. Photo by Lt. j.g. Justin Sabelhaus.



*By Lt. j.g. Justin Sabelhaus, VP-16 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News August 23, 2017*



COMMUNITY

Boy Scouts Visit VP-30, ITC

Approximately 30 members from Boy Scouts of America Troops 17, 32, 33, 217 and 506 based out of Orange Park, Florida visited Naval Air Station Jacksonville's P-8A Poseidon Integrated Training Center (ITC) and took a tour of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30's P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft July 28.

The boys and their parents were given guided tours by VP-30 and VP-45 personnel of the ITC, a facility that houses simulators for the Navy's new P-8A multi-mission maritime aircraft. After touring the ITC, the group headed to VP-30 for a static display tour inside the P-3C and P-8A aircraft.

"VP-30 and VP-45 did a phenomenal job," said David Rochester, leader of Troop 33. "Lt. Wilharm and his VP-30 crew did a great job on the static displays and simulator coordination."

During the static display, the Boy Scouts were able to get a firsthand look at the day-to-day operations in the aviation community.

"The general public really doesn't have a good idea of what their military counterparts do on a daily basis," said Retired Cmdr. Kurt Bair, former VP-62 Reservist and father to one of the Boy Scouts.

"For these young men, getting the opportunity to see all that is required to fly maritime aircraft as well as hearing of all the capabilities of aircraft and aircrews was an eye opening and educational experience."

The visit was coordinated by Lt. j.g. Skyler Barger, a VP-45 pilot.

"The Boy Scouts of America was vital to my development as a



Boy Scouts board a P-8A Poseidon aircraft during a static display tour of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30's P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. VP-30, the "Pro's Nest," is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron. Photos by AWOAN William Mark.



young man and I had many leaders help develop me into who I am today,” said Barger. “They put time, effort and skill into me so doing something like this is my way of giving back to an organization that did so much for me.”

Those who attended the tour said they were able to gain a greater understanding of naval aviation.

“They walked away with a greater idea and appreciation for what is required for them to pursue a career in the maritime aviation community,” said Bair.

“We would like to express our gratitude for the participation of all who helped make this experience possible.”



By MC2 Tyler Fraser, VP-45 Public Affairs

Published in the Jax Air News August 10, 2017



AWO1 Bryan Bishop explains characteristics of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft to visiting Boy Scouts during a static display tour of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30's P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. VP-30, the "Pro's Nest," is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron. Photos by AWOAN William Mark.



Members from Boy Scouts of America Troops 17, 32, 33, 217 and 506 gather for a photo during a static display tour of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30's P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. VP-30, the "Pro's Nest," is the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet Replacement Squadron. Photos by AWOAN William Mark



COMMUNITY

Rear Admiral Jones Presents Mad Foxes with Battle “E” Award

Deputy Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Rear Admiral Scott Jones recognized Patrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5) with the Battle Efficiency (Battle “E”) Award for their distinguished performance in 2016.

“This award is a product of last year’s deployment efforts, this year’s home cycle performance and is an indication of what is to come for VP-5,” said Jones. “The Battle ‘E’ is a measure of excellence from a group of people towards specific goals.”

The Battle “E” is an annual award recognizing a command for its display of exceptional performance, efficiency, and mission readiness throughout the year. VP-5 was one of six patrol squadrons competing for the Battle “E”, and is the first P-8A squadron to receive the award.

“The superior performance and success of the Mad Foxes is driven by every day efforts of the squadron working together at every level as a team,” said Commander Will Toraason, Commanding Officer of VP-5.

During their successful dual-site deployment to Japan and

Southwest Asia last year, the Mad Foxes achieved a 99 percent mission completion rate while executing 5,016.5 flight hours in some of the most demanding conditions around the world. This included 1,430 hours in the first P-8A deployment to the desert environment of 5th Fleet.

Leading up to their 2016 deployment, the Mad Foxes demonstrated their professionalism during various inspections such as the Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven Maintenance Program Assist, and Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTP). The inspection cycle culminated with the CNAF Aviation Maintenance Inspection. The Mad Foxes have continued this success through 2017, recently receiving a perfect score during CWTP.

The Mad Foxes are committed to safety, process improvement and excellence on station. The Battle “E” -- their ninth in 69 years -- sets a high standard of achievement for the squadron to repeat as they prepare for their next deployment to the 6th Fleet area of responsibility this fall.



Lt Steve Mehr, VP-10 Public Affairs



Patrol Squadron 5 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Will Toraason, right, holds the Battle “E” plaque he received from Deputy Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Rear Adm. Scott Jones Aug. 31. The “Mad Foxes” received the award for outstanding performance in 2016.



COMMUNITY

VP-10 Participates in EAA AirVenture Annual Convention

A detachment of 17 Patrol Squadron (VP) 10 “Red Lancers” arrived at the Wittman Regional Airport in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin July 24 to participate in the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture annual fly-in convention.

The convention ran from July 24-30 and featured daily airshows, aerobatic demonstrations, nightly concerts, night airshows, workshops and static displays. This year, the convention hosted more than 10,000 aircraft and 500,000 visitors from more than 70 countries.

The Red Lancers flew to Osh Kosh to display the P-8A Poseidon, the Navy’s newest maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. The static display of the P-8A drew a lot of interest since many convention attendees had never toured the new military aircraft before.

“We gave thousands of P-8A tours to aviation enthusiasts over the week at the air show,” said Lt. Brian Young of VP-10. “As soon as we finished answering questions from one group, another interested party would be waiting for a tour.”

The Red Lancers also enjoyed interacting with other active and retired military personnel at the convention. Throughout the week, they enjoyed answering questions about the P-8A as well as touring other military aircraft.

“I answered a lot of questions from military personnel who were curious about the differences between the P-3C and the new P-8A that is replacing it,” said Lt. Fiona McCoy, of VP-10. “They were very impressed by the technological updates that accompanied the new aircraft.”



*By Lt.j.g. Stephanie Palacheck, VP-10 PAO
Published in the Jax Air News August 23, 2017*



A line of guests flock to the a Patrol Squadron 10 P-8A Poseidon for a tour of the aircraft. Photos courtesy of VP-10.



COMMUNITY

VP-8 'Fighting Tigers' Commemorate 75th Anniversary

The "Fighting Tigers" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 celebrated its 75th year of operational excellence with a ceremony at Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 6. Cmdr. Edward Kribs and Cmdr. Zac Stang commemorated the storied history of VP-8, and challenged all VP-8 Sailors to carry on the traditions of service and achievement in the years to come.

VP-8 was originally commissioned as VP-201 in September 1942 in Norfolk, Virginia. During World War II, the squadron flew the sea-based PBM Mariner in combat missions against German submarines that threatened allied shipping throughout the Atlantic. In September 1948, the squadron received its current designation, VP-8. From 1962 through 2016, the Fighting Tigers deployed the P-3 Orion in multiple conflicts and operations in support of American interests around the world. Throughout its history, VP-8 has answered the call to serve in a number of capacities, from monitoring Soviet submarines during the Cuban missile crisis, providing 24-hour support to two carrier battle groups in both maritime and overland combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to conducting direct support of relief operations in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2010 Haitian earthquake. For over 50 years flying the P-3 Orion, the Fighting Tigers and other maritime patrol squadrons successfully demonstrated their pre-eminent anti-submarine warfare,

surface warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in every ocean of the world.

In detailing VP-8's notable history, Stang emphasized that "in 75 years, VP-8 has flown five different aircraft from nine different homeports in support of every major conflict since World War II. VP-8 Fighting Tigers have been there in some of the United States' most challenging days, from the Gulf of Tonkin to the shores of Haiti after the deadly 2010 earthquake, our Sailors have sacrificed to serve the American people."

In March 2016, VP-8 began its inaugural deployment in the P-8A Poseidon, one of the newest aircraft in the Navy's war-fighting arsenal. During this deployment, VP-8 successfully completed 608 sorties totaling 3,568 flight hours, with a 100 percent completion rate. This history of operational excellence is underscored by the 200,000 hours of mishap-free flying VP-8 has completed since 1978. With committed war-fighters and the newest technology at its fingertips, the Fighting Tigers will continue their dedication to excellence and service to the world's greatest Navy for years to come.

VP-8 is currently preparing for their upcoming deployment to the 7th Fleet area of operation.



*By Lt. J.G. Danielle Tatchio, VP-8 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News, September 27, 2017*



Patrol Squadron 8 Executive Officer Cmdr. Zac Stang addresses the squadron during the 75th anniversary celebration. Photo by MC2 Clay Whaley



COMMUNITY

VP-5 Hosts Florida Baptist Children's Homes of Jacksonville

This month, seven foster children and parents from Florida Baptist Children's Homes of Jacksonville had the opportunity to experience military life for a day with Patrol Squadron FIVE (VP-5).

The children were getting back-to-school haircuts at a barber-shop off base when they noticed Lt. Mike Pierce in uniform, and they began asking questions about what it was like to be in the Navy. When he asked if they would like a tour of the base and squadron space, they eagerly agreed.

Lt. Pierce began the tour in the VP-5 hangar, which included an explanation of the functions of maintenance and flight crews. He showed them around the hangar space, introduced them to crews working on the P8-A Poseidon and demonstrated the importance of each air crewman's role in the squadron. He then led them to the P8-A for a tour of the aircraft.

For many of the children -- ages 12 to 17 -- this was the first time they had ever been near an airplane. Lt.j.g. Bryan Mullins, Petty Officer 2nd Class EJ Gasmen and Petty Officer 2nd Class Rachael Slate led the tour, which included a demonstration of the flight deck, a look at the mission crew workstations in the body of the aircraft, as well as a brief overview of the type of missions the squadron and P8 support.

Lt. Pierce also showed the group the VP-5 squadron office space, where the children learned about day-to-day operations of aircrew and were able to see the Officers' wardroom and operations office. He spent time explaining the different career paths, enlistment and commission requirements and educational opportunities available to those considering a career in the Navy.

Before escorting the group off base, Lt. Pierce handed out VP-5 baseball hats and took them to the Aircraft Heritage Park across the street to show them other static displays of past and current aircraft.

"Getting an opportunity like this was really special," said Lt. Pierce. "I hope we were able to show these kids what kind of career and life the Navy can provide. Who knows -- we might see some of them here in a few years."



By Lt. Steve Mehr, VP-5 Public Affairs



Foster children from Florida Baptist Children's Homes of Jacksonville tour a P-8 cockpit. Photos courtesy of VP-5.



LT Mike Pierce gives the Foster children from Florida Baptist Children's Homes of Jacksonville a tour the hangar and flightline. Photos courtesy of VP-5.



LT Mike Pierce and tour group pose in front of a VP-5 P-8. Photos courtesy of VP-5.



COMMUNITY

VP-8 Sailors Earn Navy and Marine Association Leadership Award

Three Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) “Fighting Tigers” recently received the 2016 Navy and Marine Association (NMA) Leadership Award, having been chosen by their peers for exhibiting the highest levels of excellence in leadership.

Cmdr. Christopher Wood, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Steffens, and Lt. Ryan Duffy were nominated by their peers and selected for three of the four leadership awards presented by NMA to Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11.

NMA sponsors more than 400 awards annually for presentation by the Commanders of Naval Air Forces, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic and Pacific and the Superintendent of the US Naval Academy to those officer and enlisted personnel who have been selected by their peers as outstanding leaders in their respective communities.

The NMA Leadership Award is an award recognizing the most outstanding leaders within Commander, Naval Air Force’s operational aviation commands and onboard aircraft carriers.

Wood served as the commanding officer of VP-8 from April 2016 through May 2017, during which time he oversaw the squadron’s first deployment of the brand new P-8A Poseidon. In this deployment to the 7th Fleet Area of Operations (AOR),

VP-8 successfully completed 608 sorties totaling 3,568 flight hours, with 100 percent mission completion rate. The Fighting Tigers were recognized for their outstanding performance with the 2016 Capt. J. A. Isbell ASW Trophy and the 2016 Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy Award.

Steffens has served as the VP-8 training officer, carrier task group operations officer, maintenance officer, and currently serves as the operations officer. In the course of his tour with VP-8, he completed detachments to Norway and Canada as well as the Tigers’ maiden P-8A deployment to the 7th Fleet AOR.

Duffy joined the Navy in 2002 as a naval aircrewman, deploying to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. After earning his commission as a naval aviator in 2014, Duffy joined VP-8 and currently serves as the pilot training officer.



Cmdr. Christopher Wood was one of three Patrol Squadron 8 “Fighting Tigers” presented with the 2016 Navy and Marine Association Leadership Award. Lt. Cmdr. Michael Steffens and Lt. Ryan Duffy also received the award. Photo by MC2 Clay Whaley

“It’s an honor to be recognized, but it means so much more to have been chosen by my peers in this community,” Duffy said. “In the end, patrol and reconnaissance aviation is a group effort — on the plane and amongst the force — and I’m proud to support the team to be successful.”



*By Lt. j.g. Danielle Tatchio, VP-8 Public Affairs Officer
Published in the Jax Air News, October 4, 2017*



COMMUNITY

VP-9 Joins Up with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force for a Road Clean Up

OKINAWA, Japan (March 22, 2017) -- Sailors assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 worked alongside Japanese and American volunteers for a road race clean-up project March 22 near Uruma City.

VP-9 teamed up with commands from around Okinawa, including Fleet Activities Okinawa and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Sub Area Activity Okinawa, picking up approximately 36 bags of debris along the portion of the sea road connecting the outer islands of Henza and Hamahiga to the city of Katsuren on mainland Okinawa for the Ayahashi

Marine Road Race on April 5.

"Everyone seemed enthusiastic to be helping out," said Naval Aircrewman (Operator) 3rd Class Morgan Campbell. "I enjoyed spending time outdoors and making the beach area look better than we found it."

The U.S. has had a longstanding presence in Okinawa and community service projects such as this help to enrich and strengthen our relationship as we demonstrate our commitment to our host country here in Japan.

"My motto is two nations, one team," said Kazunori Tagashi-



Uruma City, OKINAWA (March 22, 2016) – Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Man Xu, far right, and Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Desirae Charlez, both assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, participate in a community relations project (COMREL) road side cleanup with Kimiyo Ikee from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Sub Area Activity Okinawa. VP-9 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility at Kadena Air Base supporting U.S. 7th Fleet operations in the Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Not Released)

ra, Command Master Chief, JMSDF Sub Area Activity Okinawa. "The more we work together, the deeper our relationship."

Held annually, the Ayahashi Marine Road Race includes a family-friendly 3.8k fun run, a 10k and a half marathon. A large event, the anticipated number of participants this year is about 8,500 runners.

VP-9 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and to the U.S. 4th Fleet AOR at Comalapa, El Salvador.



By VP-9 Public Affairs Office



Uruma City, OKINAWA (March 22, 2016) – Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Brian Ware, assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, participates in a community relations project (COMREL) road side cleanup with Kanki Yamashiro from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Sub Area Activity Okinawa. VP-9 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility at Kadena Air Base supporting U.S. 7th Fleet operations in the Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Not Released)



Above: Uruma City, OKINAWA (March 22, 2016) – Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Oscar Cabillaje, assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, participates in a community relations project (COMREL) road side cleanup with members from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Sub Area Activity Okinawa. VP-9 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility at Kadena Air Base supporting U.S. 7th Fleet operations in the Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Not Released)

Left: Uruma City, OKINAWA (March 22, 2016) – Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Man Xu, assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, participates in a community relations project (COMREL) road side cleanup with Yusuke Kubo and Noda Hiroto from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Sub Area Activity Okinawa. VP-9 is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility at Kadena Air Base supporting U.S. 7th Fleet operations in the Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Amber Porter/Not Released)

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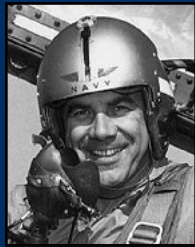
Submissions for consideration in the 2018 Hall of Honor will close on November 15, 2017.

To view the candidate list and submit additional nominees, visit:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/hallofhonor

PAST HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS



Captain
Michael E. Lopez-Alegria



Captain
Vince Anania



Captain
Fernald Anderson



Mr. Jay Beasley



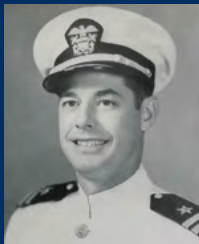
Air Commodore
Leonard Joseph Birchall
Royal Air Force



Squadron Leader
Terrence Bulloch
Royal Air Force



Commander
Scott Carpenter



Lieutenant Commander
Louis Conter



Chief Petty Officer
Carl Creamer



Flight Lieutenant
John Cruickshank
Royal Air Force



Rear Admiral
Thomas Davies



Captain
Arnold J. Isbell



Commander
Paul Lloyd Milius



Captain
Norman "Bus" Miller



Admiral
Thomas Mooror



Rear Admiral
Paul J. Mulloy



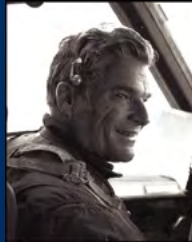
Master Chief
John Rosa



Captain
Byron "Jake" Tobin



Commander
Kenneth D. Walker



Vice Admiral
Edward Waller



Commander
David Weisbrod



Rear Admiral
Daniel J. Wolkensdorfer

COMMUNITY

MTOC Takes Over Flight Operations for Exercise

Last week, all flight operations for the P-8A Poseidon and the P-3C Orion aircraft from Naval Air Station Jacksonville were handled out of a cluster of tents during a Mobile Tactical Operations Center (MTOC) exercise July 24-26. The event was a joint exercise for MTOC units Three and Seven.

"MTOCs are units that are forward-deployed with their corresponding flight squadron," said CWO4 James Hawkins, who coordinated the exercise. "It is an extension of the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), which is the main site. There are multiple TOC sites around the world. The mobile units are the ones that are deployed to wherever the aircraft need to go to do whatever mission they need to do."

"They handle anything from briefings to data collection to flight following, which is keeping in contact with the planes," Hawkins said. "They also do post-mission products, which are the results of the mission. This is put out to the fleet to let them know how successful the mission was or if there were any issues."

The exercise or Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) is designed to mimic being deployed.

"We conduct exercises for the two MTOCs about to deploy to get them ready for that deployment," Hawkins said. "The squadrons work with us because our job is to support them. We are married up to the squadrons and when they go out the door, the MTOC associated with that particular squadron goes out with it."

MTOC-Three supports Patrol Squadron (VP) 5 and MTOC-Seven is associated with VP-8.

The ORE evaluated both units together to save time and money.

MTOCs consist of four connected main tents, each about 28-feet by 12-feet. The first tent houses the technicians and most of the gear. "It is the brains of the operation," Hawkins said.



The Mobile Tactical Operations Center holds an exercise on Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Photos by Reggie Jarrett.

The next tent is the watch floor, or operation's control. It is where the watch officers monitor missions and create specific mission briefs on site.

Adjacent to the watch floor is the briefing tent, where air crews are briefed on their upcoming missions. The fourth tent is a general area where people take breaks and relax.

There is no external power source for the MTOC. Power for all the computers, communications equipment and environmental control units comes from four 30,000-watt generators. All of the tents, computers, radar dishes, communication equipment and generators must be set up within 96 hours.

Lots of coordination and planning goes into these exercises including preparing the site and getting proper documentation. It also includes setting up funding for fuel, trash, dumpsters, port-o-lets and dig permits.

"I ensure everything is ready to go as soon as they get here," said Hawkins.

The MOTC handled about six or seven flights per day during the exercise.

"The TOC is not in operation during the MTOC exercise," Hawkins said. "Everything happens out of these tents. It is 24/7 operation."

The exercise is set up to mimic deployment as closely as possible.

"We try to tailor the exercise to the operational-type flights they would see in the area of responsibility where they are going," Hawkins said. "To prepare them for what they might see. They train the way they are going to fight."



*By Reggie Jarrett, Jax Air News Editor
Published in the Jax Air News August 2, 2017*



Lt. Cmdr. Ron Williams (left) checks out the Automated Data Systems Tent with ET1 Brett Bielak (center) and ETC James Brown during the Mobile Tactical Operations Center exercise on Naval Air Station Jacksonville July 20. Photos by Reggie Jarrett

COMMUNITY

Navy Pilot Competes Against World Athletes

*A*t 5 a.m. most of the U.S. population is fast asleep or possibly rolling out of bed to start their day. For one Burke, Virginia, native, his first workout is coming to an end - a short five-mile run to start the day. The Jacksonville heat makes it nearly impossible for this dedicated triathlete to train other times of the day.

Lt. Kyle Hooker, 30, a P-3C Orion pilot and advance weapons and tactics instructor for the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, is the Armed Forces' National Triathlon champion for three years running.

"I took first overall again this year," said Hooker.

"This is my third consecutive year winning the open division. It was a really good race. I finished in an hour and 50 minutes, about 30 seconds in front of the second place guy."

Hooker headed out of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM), French for International Military Sports Council, World Military Triathlon Championship Aug 1. First stopping in Virginia for a short training camp before continuing on to Warendorf, Germany where this year's competition was held Aug. 5.

"Worlds is a very different competition," said Hooker.

"You get the Olympic level athletes who are technically in the military, but they train 24/7 for their respective sports. There are probably going to be 10 legitimate Olympic athletes at the race and at least another 10 developmental athletes. So you're looking at a pretty intense competition."

"The plan is to always identify someone on your team who is strong in each leg and work together," said Hooker.

Hooker didn't get to this competition by himself. His coach, Jim Felty, keeps him on an intense schedule of two workouts a day. Hooker runs early in the morning and bikes in the evenings on a stationary trainer.

"So ideally I am done running before the sun comes up, or right after it comes up, otherwise it's just too hot," said Hooker.



Lt. Kyle Hooker comes in first overall during the Armed Forces Triathlon at Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California June 10. Photo courtesy of Lt. Kyle Hooker

"At lunch, the pool is open on base, so I swim Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Then I cycle on a stationary trainer at home after work."

"Weekends, it's game on for lots of training," he continued.

"Usually I'll meet up with a group and ride down by the beach and hammer it out for two to three hours in the early morning. Sunday is usually a long run day. I wake up early and go for a 10 to 12-mile run."

According to Milsport.one, CISM was created in 1948 with the desire amongst the five founding nations, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, to meet in the sports arena, not on the battlefield. The U.S. joined in 1951. Over the years, membership has increased to 133 na-

tions. It is recognized as one of the biggest sports institutions in the world.

The sports council consists of 24 sports ranging from basketball to sailing. It also has events such as orienteering, aeronautical pentathlon and parachuting that are unique to the military.

Hooker started his triathlon endeavor at the U.S. Naval Academy, joining the collegiate team in his junior year. A week after graduation, he joined the Navy Sports team, qualifying after he graduated.

"It's not difficult to get into Navy Sports," said Hooker. "The application is online as well as a calendar of national championship events. Some sports have a training camp associated with them and a bunch will have a world championships.

"My advice is to keep track of when an application is due, talk to the identified coach (on the website) and that will start the process. Some sports, like triathlon, you have to prove that you're quick enough for the team. Usually you submit race results."

"Sometimes it becomes difficult while on sea tour or if your command deploys but operational commitments trump Navy sports," said Hooker. "But stay proactive, keep your command informed and hopefully they will support you like my command has."



*By MC1 Charles Panter, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School
Published in the Jax Air News August 10, 2017*



Lt. Kyle Hooker (left) and Lt. Thomas Brown are first and second to complete the one-mile ocean swim during the Armed Forces Triathlon at Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California, June 10. Photo courtesy of Lt. Kyle Hooker



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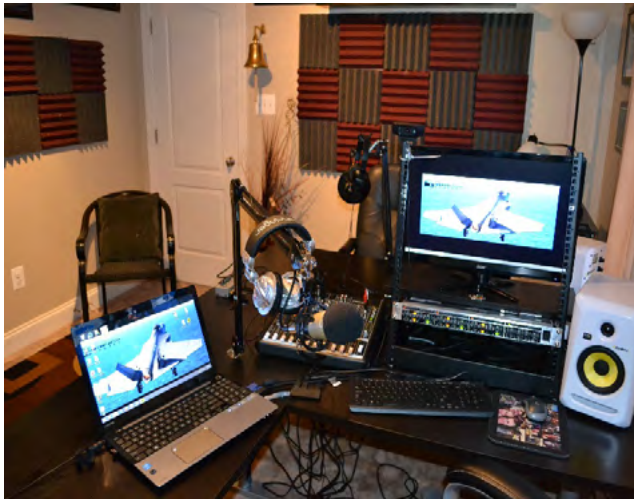


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Contact us:
Pitchlockpete@thehangardeck.com



The Hangar Deck Podcast Crew

'Pitchlock' Pete Bruno - Creator and Host of the Hangar Deck Podcast is a retired US Navy Chief Petty Officer and Graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Pitchlock Pete has over 5,000 flight hours as a P-3C Flight Engineer and SH-3D/H Crew Chief and Rescue Swimmer. He currently is an Aviation Subject Matter Expert and Maintenance Engineer in the Defense Industry. He specializes in Aviation Instructional Systems Design, Computer Based Training and Aircrew and Maintenance Operating Procedures and Technical Manual Development.

'Fast Eddie' Simila - Permanent Co-Host of the Hangar Deck Podcast, Fast Eddie is a US Naval Academy graduate and retired USNR Commander and US Navy Pilot. Fast Eddie has accumulated over 9,000 Flight Hours in US Navy P-3C, C-130T and various Commercial and Training Aircraft. As a United Airlines Pilot, Ed's specific experience is with the Boeing 737 and Airbus A-319/320 Type series aircraft. He currently is an Aviation and Aerospace Analyst specializing in Flight Operations, Aircrew Flight Manuals, Flight Clearances and Crew Resource Management Standards.

'Raging' Rick Pretsch - Permanent Guest Host of the Hangar Deck Podcast, Raging Rick is a retired USAF Fighter Pilot USAF Test Pilot and retired American Airlines Captain. Raging Rick has accumulated over 14,000 Flight Hours in USAF F-4, F-16 and numerous Commercial, Training and General Aviation Aircraft. As an American Airlines Captain, Rick has flown the Boeing 737, 757, 767, 777 and the MD-80 type series aircraft. He currently is an Aviation and Aerospace Analyst specializing in Flight Operations, Aircrew Flight Manuals, Flight Clearances, Electronic Flight Bag Technologies and Crew Resource Management Standards.

COMMUNITY

VP-4 Brings P-8 to Moffett Field Ahead of Fleet Week

The 'Skinny Dragons' of VP-4 brought their new P-8 Poseidon to the former NAS Moffett Field as their staging point for being part of the Air Show at the annual San Francisco Fleet Week. The crew displayed their P-8 on Saturday after returning from their performance to a large crowd of Navy VP veterans.

At the same time, the P-3A in front of Base Operations was open for all to compare the vast differences between the vintage VP aircraft and the Navy's latest and greatest. Then the VP-4 crew were guests at a Happy Hour and a BBQ hosted by the Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum. Veterans showed the crew around the Moffett Museum and VP stories, old and new, were shared.

Many of the crew traveled up to San Francisco to experience the festivities and hospitality that the city by the Bay shows to visiting Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel during this annual event.

The newly established MPA Moffett Chapter used the festive opportunity to host a chapter event with had 22 MPA members attending.



By CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret)
VP of the MPA Moffett Chapter



Members of the MPA Moffett Field Chapter gather for a BBQ lunch during fleet week. Photos courtesy of Tom Spink.



Members of the MPA Moffett Field Chapter tour the VP-4 P-8. Photos courtesy of Tom Spink.



A P-8 crew from VP-4 poses with their aircraft will staging at Moffett Field. Photos courtesy of Tom Spink.



COMMUNITY

Brunswick Naval Museum & Memorial Gardens' Hosts VP-92 Reunion

The “Minutemen” of VP-92 held their 10th annual squadron reunion at the Brunswick Naval Museum & Memorial Gardens on Saturday, August 26th.

It was truly “a great Navy day” that kicked off with the retirement of CAPT Sean Reid after 30 years of service to our Navy, followed by watching the Blue Angels of the U.S. Navy’s Flight Demonstration Squadron, and copious amounts of reminiscing about the treasures of serving at NAS Brunswick.

RDML Tom Reck, Reserve Director for Warfare Integration (OPNAV N9IR) and a former commanding officer of VP-92, presided over CAPT Reid’s retirement ceremony. After the ceremony, the Minutemen alumni and their family and friends proceeded to the parking lot of the museum to enjoy a catered reunion with a perfect vantage point for the Great State of Maine Air Show on a classic summer day in Maine.

The Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens looks forward to hosting more squadron reunions in the future. The NAS Brunswick Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of August 10-12, 2018; squadrons are welcome to host a reunion in conjunction with that reunion or at any time of their choosing.

Located in the former base chapel onboard Brunswick Landing in picturesque mid-coast Maine, the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens was established in 2009 and seeks to preserve the rich heritage of maritime patrol aviation and NAS Brunswick’s contribution to America’s security. For nearly seven decades tens of thousands of Sailors and their families were stationed at Brunswick in a wide variety of roles from Patrol Squadrons to Fleet Logistics Squadrons and numerous support organizations.

More information can be found on our Facebook page (@bnmmg) or website at www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org. ★



VP-92 “Minutemen” alumni enjoying the camaraderie of their 10th annual reunion at the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.



Rear Admiral Tom Reck presenting his remarks as he presides over the retirement ceremony of Captain Sean Reid. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.



CAPT Sean Reid (l) presenting his remarks at his retirement ceremony at the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens with Rear Admiral Tom Reck (r) presiding. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.



Rear Admiral Tom Reck presenting his remarks as he presides over the retirement ceremony of Captain Sean Reid. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.



The "Blue Angels" performing their precision flight demonstration maneuvers amidst the beautiful backdrop of summer in Maine. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.



The "Blue Angels" performing their precision flight demonstration maneuvers amidst the beautiful backdrop of summer in Maine. Photos courtesy of BNMMG.

COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

Reunion Groups & Events

NAS JAX Fall Golf Tournament & Social

Join us Friday, November 17th on board NAS Jacksonville for our fall scholarship golf tournament and Fall Flight Suit Social! Register online now at:

www.maritimepatrolassociation.org/symposium/registerjax.html

2018 MPA Symposium - SAVE THE DATE!

Join us April 24-27, 2018 for the 2018 MPA Symposium on board NAS Jacksonville. More information and registration to come in January!

2nd Brunswick Naval Air Station Reunion

The 2nd Brunswick Naval Air Station Reunion will be held on the weekend of 10-12 August, 2018. More information will be posted on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/191708631780/

To join/renew your **VP-1 POPS (P-3 Orion Pioneers)** Membership, check out membership information at: www.vp1pops.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.

Chapter Events



Jacksonville Chapter:

Happy Hour at the T-Bar, last Thursday of each month at 1600!

LCDR Stephen Williams & LT Sergio Ibarra, VPs of Region, stephen.v.williams1@navy.mil and Sergio.l.ibarra@navy.mil



Memphis Chapter:

Stay tuned for coming events!

LT Tim Coennen, VP of Region, tcoennen@gmail.com



Norfolk Chapter:

Stay tuned for coming events!

CDR Brian Solano, VP of Region, brian.solano@cvn73.navy.mil



Pax River Chapter:

Stay tuned for coming events!

CDR Molly Boron, VP of Region

molly.boron@navy.mil



San Diego Chapter:

Stay tuned for coming events!

CDR James Johnston, VP of Region

james.p.johnston@navy.mil



Washington DC Chapter: Chapter Happy Hour on Thursday, 16 NOV at 1730 at the Crystal City Sports Pub in Arlington, VA. **CAPT Bill Pennington, VP of Region**, billkatep@hotmail.com



Whidbey Island Chapter:

Join us at 1600 on Thursday, November 16th for a MPA Happy Hour at the NAS Whidbey Island O'Club.

CAPT Kevin Long, VP of Region

kevin.long@navy.mil



Moffett Field Chapter:

Stay tuned for coming events!

CAPT Tom Spink, USN (Ret.), VP of Region

tom.spink@att.net

November / December

Thursday, November 16:

Join us at 1600 on Thursday, November 16th for a MPA Happy Hour at the NAS Whidbey Island O'Club.

Thursday, November 16:

Chapter Happy Hour on Thursday, 16 NOV at 1730 at the Crystal City Sports Pub in Arlington, VA.

Friday, November 17:

NAS Jax Fall Golf Tournament & Fall Flight
Suit Social. Register online at:
www.maritimepatrolassociation.org

January

**REGISTRATION OPENS FOR THE 2018 MPA
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Stay tuned for emails with more information
about the upcoming symposium, including
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HERITAGE

In Memoriam

Rear Admiral Gerald W. “Jerry” MacKay, USN (Ret) lost his battle with cancer on August 10th.

RADM MacKay started out his career in Naval Aviation in VP-16, flying the P-2 Neptune. He was an instructor and Department Head in VP-31, Commanding Officer of VP-6 and VP-31. Next he was Commander Patrol Wing ONE in Japan. Upon selection for flag, he was Commander, Patrol Wings U. S. Pacific Fleet at NAS Moffett Field from July 1980 to September 1982. Then he was assigned as Commander, Naval Forces Japan. His aide was then LT Harry Harris, who is now the four-star Admiral in charge of the Pacific Command.

Admiral Harry Harris delivered the eulogy for Rear Admiral MacKay at a mass attended by hundreds of former shipmates and friends. The full eulogy can be found on the PACOM web-site at:

<http://www.pacom.mil/Media/Speeches-Testimony/Article/1320641/eulogy-for-rear-adm-ret-gw-jerry-mackay-us-navy/>

Here is a small portion of that eulogy:

Admiral MacKay taught me that integrity, accountability, and reputation were worth more than promotion, medals, and treasure, - in fact, they counted for everything. I watched as he conducted complex negotiations with the Japanese over the future of our alliance. I watched as he managed the Navy's response to the Soviet-shootdown of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 over the Sea of Japan. And I watched as he expertly finessed the demands from Washington, the imperatives from Honolulu, and the petitions from Tokyo. I felt as if I was getting a Ph.D. in international relations, negotiations theory, and balance-of-power politics. I learned to operate in the rarefied air of Flag officer business. All skill sets that would serve me well down-range.

After the mass, a Celebration of Life was held at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA. Friends and Family spoke of Admiral MacKay's dedication to the Navy and the many organizations that he supported.

The next day, Admiral MacKay's internment took place at the Gates of Heaven Cemetery in the Cupertino hills. As a P-3 from Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN at NAS Whidbey



Rear Admiral MacKay with Aide LT Harris. Photo courtesy of ADM Harris.

Island, Washington, orbited around the internment ceremony, our nation's flag was folded, 21-gun salute, and Taps were performed. The flag was presented to his wife of 49 years, Linda, and Admiral Harris' wife Bruni Bradley read the poem, “The Watch”.

How appropriate, because Admiral MacKay was a mentor to so many. Then Admiral MacKay was piped ashore and the P-3 made a low pass with its left wing dipped to the Admiral and all his family and friends.

The Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum will display Rear Admiral MacKay's Dress Blue uniform in a glass case as our way of honoring his memory and for all that he did to improve our facility as a member of our Advisory Board.

He will be missed by all who knew him. ★

MPA

What's New?

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Attention MPA Members, Command PAOs, and Corporate PAOs: To contribute a story, photos or event to PLANESIDE, please email your materials to: info@maritimepatrolassociation.org



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